

The background of the cover is a photograph of a purple flower, possibly a lilac, covered in a thick layer of white snow. The flower is in sharp focus, while the background is blurred. The title 'COLABORER' is at the top, with 'CO' in white on a green background and 'LABORER' in blue. A red cross symbol is integrated into the design, with a vertical bar to the left of the 'L' and a horizontal bar above the 'O' in 'CO'.

COLABORER

January • February 2004

One More in 2004

**Can You See
the Future?**

Growing Close and Staying Close

MIA's: WNAC Search and Rescue

BRAND NEW LOOK

NEW WRITERS AND COLUMNS

Great Expectations

WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

FRESH STARTS



Sarah Fletcher

Newlyweds and Bible college seniors, my husband and I quickly developed a bent for bargain hunting. One day Keith brought home a remarkable find—a full case of small bottles of Fresh Start detergent powder. For over a year, I gained a fresh start each time I did the laundry. Amusing? Sometimes I long for another case of Fresh Start.

I love the motto of Anne of Green Gables. "Every day is fresh and new with no mistakes." In colorful escapade and adventure, this fictitious heroine epitomized fresh starts. Surely creator Lucy Maud Montgomery borrowed the concept from another writer. In Lamentations 3, the prophet Jeremiah said of His creator, "...his compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness." Interestingly, we often overlook the verses prior to the one which inspired the famous hymn. They deal with remembrance. It's God's past faithfulness that gives us hope for a fresh start. Amazing isn't it? God loves us so much that in spite of yesterdays mistakes and failures, He chooses to renew His compassions every morning.

Though our days may begin fresh and new, keeping them that way requires discipline. Time spent in the Word, in prayer and in planning will *"teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12).

Fresh starts can change our way of thinking. Romans 12:2 urges us to renew our mind. *"Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me,"* the Psalmist prayed. How can we change destructive thought patterns, wrong spirits, and sinful tendencies? Begin with Philippians 4:7,8. Want a fresh start? Think on these things.

Maybe you desire a fresh start as a parent or spouse. "You only get one chance with children." I've heard this cliché all too often. As an almost empty-nester, I'm daily discovering its trite truth, realizing things I should have done differently—too late. "You'll always be a mother"—that's another gem. This one gives me hope. Fresh start parenting includes committed prayer and support. Rob Morgan, in his book *Moments for Families of Prodigals* suggests that parents, "Plead the promises of God and learn to prayer-a-phrase Scripture. In other words, find some verses that you would like to pray and put your child's name in them."

Perhaps your marital relationship needs a fresh start. "Let's begin again. Trust our heart and not our feelings," one Christian song encourages. God gives the plan for beginning again in Ephesians 5.

Have you ever felt worn-out and ragged? Do you need a fresh start in service? Now's the perfect time to sort and save. Evaluate those tasks that have become burdensome. Are they really God's best for you? Were they ever? Will eliminating them restore and revive a lost joy? Will keeping these commitments draw you closer to Him?

Do you long for a fresh start? Fresh starts are central in God's plan. What could be fresher than a new birth? God offers us the ultimate fresh start in a new life through faith in His Son. 2 Corinthians 5:20 declares that *"in Christall things are become new."*

Thankfully, fresh starts are not limited to bargain hunters, soap boxes, or hotel chains. For believers, they are reachable goals, learned disciplines, daily desires.

January February 2004

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**FRESH NEW LOOK
for the
NEW YEAR**

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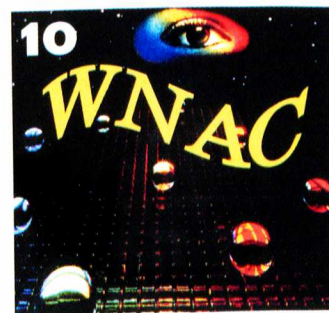
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ONE MORE

IN 2004

by Janice Banks

F O R W A R D

“I’ve made a resolution to...” How many people around you have recently uttered those familiar words? Maybe you’ve spoken them, too.

Every year about 100 million Americans voice their intention of weight loss, increased exercise, less spending, wiser use of time, or other worthy endeavors. Two months later, over 60% are still sticking to this goal.* What propels us to promise? What prevents us from keeping them long-term? What exactly is a resolution?

For many, it’s just a glib phrase, a good idea, a yearly ritual. That’s a far cry from its true definition: “something that is decided; a settled determination.”**

How should Christians view resolutions? Eagerly and prayerfully. Our resolutions encompass a new life, not just a new year. As believers, we possess far more than mere determination. We have the Holy

Spirit of God living within, empowering and enabling us.

So, what’s your resolution? The Apostle Paul proclaimed one of his resolutions in Philippians 3:12-14.

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, if that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV).

Clearly, Paul let it be known that He had not yet achieved everything in store for him. He envisioned

*Study: UConn Health Center Psychology Department.

**Webster’s Third International Dictionary.

much to do and much to experience in his own life as a believer. Obviously, Paul looked ahead and continued to reach forward, to press toward the goals God had for him. As we consider the year ahead, we would do well to follow Paul's example.

One More in 2004. This resolution challenges us to take *one more step toward* Christian maturity. Growth as a Christian involves purposeful effort on our part, and not just a continuation of our current level of commitment. The challenge calls for more than our present amount of effort in service. *One More* requires moving forward.

FOLLOWING THE MODEL OF JESUS MORE CLOSELY

(*Philippians. 2:5-6*) Paul admonished the Philippian Christians to internalize the mindset or attitude of Christ Jesus. This mindset took Him from the wealth of glory and all that was rightfully His to the depravity of earth and a life of service, obedience, and humility. Are you following His example? Meditate on this passage of Scripture and ask God to show you how you can more closely follow the model of Jesus during the coming year.

OBEYING CHRIST'S COMMANDS MORE DILIGENTLY

(*Matthew 28:19-20*) Think of missions and what verse comes to mind? "Go ye into all the world..." The Great Commission—it's the core of WNAC's purpose statement. Sometimes, however, we don't grasp the full implication of these important words spoken by Jesus. It's a perpetual commandment, given and meant to be followed down through the ages. As Christ's followers, we should be obeying all that the early disciples were taught to do. The question is, what did Christ tell them to do? Going into all the world to reach men and women for Christ is certainly a necessary part. But, there's much more that we should be heeding. This year, take a closer look at all the commands of Christ recorded in the Gospels. Ask Him to help you obey those He intended for people of all generations.

**For presentation helps,
see the 2004 Program and Plan Book,
pp. 20-23.**

READING HIS WORD MORE CAREFULLY (*2 Timothy. 2:15*)

Surely, as Christians, we understand the importance of regularly reading our Bibles. But, do we underscore the importance of reading God's Word correctly? Sometimes, people read the Bible with their own agenda, inserting their own intended meanings. Others tend to skip valuable portions in their quest to find words they like to read. Occasionally readers ignore the full counsel of the Word because of the effect it could have on their lives. Still others read the Bible simply as a good history book, applicable only to people living in Bible times. What is your view of the Bible? Do you approach God's Word with the sacred honor it deserves? Before you read, do you invite the Holy Spirit to enlighten and open your eyes to "wondrous things out of [His] law"?

WORKING FOR CHRIST MORE FAITHFULLY (*Ephesians. 2:8-10; James 1:22-25*)

Faith in Christ for salvation can never be associated with human effort. Christ completed the necessary work when He died on the cross. After salvation, however, Christians are expected to do the will of God. This does include working for Him. We should never be guilty of saying, "There's nothing I can do." Through diligent Bible study and the Holy Spirit's direction, each of us can find a suitable area of service.

Once we've identified the area(s) in which God has gifted or enabled us to serve, we should serve faithfully. This means keeping commitments and putting genuine effort into doing our best at all times. This kind of service blesses others and gives us the peaceful assurance that we are pleasing God.

FOLLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT'S FRUIT TO RIPEN

(*Galatians 5:22,23*) All nine of these qualities are the natural fruit of the Spirit. That means the Holy Spirit produces these qualities in the believer's life. Sometimes all of these qualities are evident in a person's life, but more often, some parts of the fruit are not fully ripe. What is needed for ripening? The best way for fruit to ripen is to leave it on the vine, connected to the source of life. Fruit also needs sunshine and proper nourishment. Likewise, for the fruit of the Spirit to fully ripen in our lives we must keep a vital connection to Christ, the

source of life. We need plenty of *Son-shine* and nourishment from His Word. Will you allow the Spirit to produce His fruit, rich, ripe, and fully mature?

R **EACHING THE LOST MORE PURPOSEFULLY** (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8) Thank God for disciples down through the ages who were obedient to Christ's command to take the Gospel to the lost. Had they not been faithful, would we have heard the message of Good News? Now the responsibility to reach the lost belongs to us.

We live in a very busy time, with many demands. Family needs and wants, regular church activities, work, and civic responsibilities leave us little time to "get out there and witness."

The truth is, reaching the lost may be easier than you think. It begins by developing relationships with other people and sharing the "Love" of your life. People next door, at work, on the P.T.A., at the Senior Citizens luncheon, in your carpool—these individuals who make up your circle of acquaintances may be the very ones God wants you to reach. Will you purpose in your heart to reach out with love and concern? Will you help point someone to Jesus this year? You'll be glad you did.

D **EVELOPING A MORE CONSISTENT PRAYER LIFE** (Hebrews 4:14-16; James 5:13-16) Those who study a foreign language know that you never fully learn it until you speak it. Prayer is the same for us. In order to pray more effectively, we must pray. Bring up prayer in a church meeting and watch even pastors, deacons and other strong church leaders admit a lack of consistency. Why is this discipline so hard to master? Is it because the greatest power experienced in the believer's life is found in prayer? If that's the case, no wonder Satan tries to keep us from it.

ONE MORE IN 2004. How about it? Will you make one more resolution? Will you reach FORWARD and press onward to be all you can be for Christ?



Janice Banks is a pastor's wife at Kingsview FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK, and a faculty member of Hillsdale FWB College. A former missionary to Japan, she and her husband Jerry have two grown children.

Take the
ONE MORE
challenge.
These helpful
suggestions
below will
keep you or
your group
moving
forward
all year.



FOR MORE STUDY

Following—Search the Gospel records to learn more about Jesus so you'll be better able to follow His example.

Obedying—Search the Gospel records to discover the commandments of Jesus that were meant to be kept down through time. Ask Him to help you understand and obey those commandments. (Example: John 15:12; Matthew 22:37-39)

Reading—Consider using one of the following guides for further progress in your Bible reading, understanding and application:

How to Study Your Bible: The Lasting Rewards of the Inductive Approach by Kay Arthur

Understanding and Applying the Bible by Robertson McQuilkin.

Working—Study the following passages and ask God to help you find your "calling" and more faithfully fulfill it: Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:1-8; 1 Peter 4:10

Allowing—Study the following passage and ask God to ripen the fruit of the Spirit in your life: James 3:17, 18. Do a topical Bible study on each of the different qualities (fruit) mentioned in Galatians. 5:22, 23.

Reaching—Scripture is clear in *what* we should do, but sometimes it helps to get some advice on *how* to do it. A good book for women who really want to reach out is:

Reaching Your World: Disciplemaking for Women by Beth Mainhood.

Developing—Do a topical study on "pray" and "prayer." An excellent Bible study for women is:

Becoming a Woman of Prayer by Cynthia Heald.

These three women share one common bond. Bible study is their passion. Ask them. Ask others. Their enthusiasm for God's Word is contagious. And the ripple effect of women studying God's Word together has changed their churches.

How did you personally get involved in women's Bible study?

TERRI: I had been actively leading teen Bible studies for about five years. As I challenged these students to really get serious about Scripture, their common excuse was, "My parents don't do Bible study, why should I?" The Lord led me to confront that truth. As God 's plan is always perfect, and His timing purposeful, He led another lady in our church to take over the teen studies which have exploded with growth, and I began a ministry to the women in our church.

RHONDA: I knew God was calling me to get into a Bible study. I went to another church that offered one. After that, I began doing them on my own.

CAROLYN: It had been on my heart to do this. The door opened through a weight reduction program we were having at our church. The author's enthusiasm got us going. The women were already meeting. I wanted to do the same with a Bible study. It just caught on like wildfire.

How has Bible study changed your life?

RHONDA: It's helped me really experience God, really know Him. One of my favorite passages, Jeremiah 17: 5-8, says the person who trusts in the Lord is like a tree whose roots are planted deep. He gave me roots.



It changed our church



Three women share the impact of women's Bible studies

I was never discipled as a teenager. Through Bible study, He came alive. He gave me a hunger to really know Him.

TERRI: There is no describing the difference in focus. I was very active in church, always busy. But I did not have an intimate relationship with Jesus. I was a Christian, but I constantly felt the need to busy myself with duty rather than to work on a relationship with my Father that would make the service meaningful. God allowed a physical trial in my life, and He, in His perfect plan, made it an amazing blessing. I was so physically depleted, all I could do was pray, calling out to Him for answers. God began to show me that truly knowing Him and His Word was the only source of victory. That truth has changed the focus of my life from the temporary to the eternal.

CAROLYN: It put something in me that I'd never had. The enthusiasm is contagious. Almost like a thermometer, I could feel His working power in me begin



to rise. Bible studies have just made me fall in love with Jesus—made me enjoy loving the Lord.

How did Bible studies come about at your church?

RHONDA: It was God. He used the vision of one woman, Georgia Hill, to organize a women's ministries program with Bible study as the major focus. Even before this, a group of twelve women had started meeting for Bible study at my house. I think people were at a place where they were hungry for the Word.

TERRI: Another precious woman in our church began leading Saturday morning studies. Those studies piqued my interest. But the real inspiration for indepth studies came from a small group of teens in our church who attended a Precept Ministries Boot Camp in Chattanooga, Tennessee; a ten day camp for teens centered around intense Bible study. The changes in the lives of those teens, including my daughter, were truly contagious. I went for leadership training and began leading the studies in my church.

How long has your church had a women's Bible study group?

TERRI: Basically for years. Women led neighborhood Bible studies for several years. But as far as indepth studies go, we've offered them for about eight years.

CAROLYN: We've had Bible studies now for about six years.

RHONDA: We started in 1997-1998 and we've continued to grow since then.

Tell us about your Bible studies.

CAROLYN: We meet on Wednesday nights for two hours. This way, childcare is available. If we didn't have childcare, we wouldn't have many women. Ours is an ongoing program. During the summer, we do a lighter-type study. Presently eighteen are involved in the studies. That's roughly half the women in our church.

TERRI: Presently, I lead two separate studies. The Wednesday evening group has about 20 members, and we are doing *Precept upon Precept* studies. I have found that these studies teach the skills of knowing how to understand Scripture better than any I have ever tried. They are inductive, based on observing the text to see what it says, interpreting the passage to see what it means, and applying the truths learned to your life specifically. We have one study a year spanning about 15 weeks.

Secondly, I lead a Sunday morning class with about 20 members that runs on an ongoing basis. We have done several different studies, but right now we are going through a Beth Moore study. We plan to start another *Precept* class on Tuesday evenings involving women and teens. A separate teen study already meets on Monday nights in the leader's home with approximately 40 teens attending!

RHONDA: We have close to 100 women involved in several studies. Women can choose the type study and the time they prefer. Two groups meet on Tuesday evening; one is a couples Bible study led by my husband and me. One group meets on Thursday morning. All the others meet on Wednesday evening. We provide

childcare for all studies. Women's studies begin in September, February, and June. The couples study is ongoing. The Bible studies are interactive, but with varied approaches. Some are verse by verse, others are topical. Sometimes we use videos, depending on the study.

How has women's Bible study changed your church?

RHONDA: The most exciting thing has been seeing people get excited about coming into a real relationship with God. So many women have a distorted view of God. Bible studies have made a difference.

For example, one older woman came with her daughter to a Wednesday night study. An Italian "war bride" and lifelong Catholic, she had never studied God's Word. That first night, she went home and did a whole week's worth of studies. She called her daughter, all excited, and said, "The Bible is coming alive!" Mimi continued, eager to learn, eager to love her Lord. Who could have known that God would take her home less than a year later?

A weekly prayer group came out of another study. These women began meeting at the church to pray for spouses and families in the church. They've seen marriages restored, husbands surrender to Christ. It's changed families; it's changed lives. Our church staff has realized the difference these studies have made in our church.

Bible studies have also broken down age barriers among our women. Since most groups are multigenerational, this has created

A Donelson Wednesday night study at Donelson attracts different ages.



a wonderful mentoring experience. Because our church is larger, it's not always easy to connect with those outside your circle. Bible studies give women opportunities to interact and share with others whom they probably wouldn't meet.

Bible studies are so contagious because people start experiencing God. Numerous men and women realize they don't have this, and it creates a real hunger and thirst for righteousness.

CAROLYN: It has brought personal revival, with a concentration in the areas of prayer and obedience. We began praying for revival and we have seen personal revival in the lives of both men and women in our church. The Lord has given us something special. People have been taught the Word. It's brought truth. One woman had never viewed herself as "sinful or wicked." After studying the Bible, she was able to identify her needs. Truths from a Bible study kept one woman from leaving her husband. Inner needs are being met. In our church, we were already close, but now it's like we are eating at the same table.

TERRI: I asked this question to the members of one of my classes. They shared that the most apparent result was simply spiritual maturity, and this will always spill over into the church. As we learn more and more about the heart of God, we share His love and concern for His church. Our prayer life for others increases as we begin to see others needs and not simply our own. As we study God's Word, our reactions to life change. We feel a need to be peacemakers; we guard our sisters and brothers in Christ. There's also a call to accountability among Christians, not based on personal opinion, but on Scripture. This can only strengthen the church. Standing in truth leads us to a place of joy and victory. And as one precious lady shared, knowing God's heart

through His Word will ultimately take you to a place of service.

In your opinion, what are the greatest benefits of a women's Bible study?

TERRI: Your purpose becomes eternal. There is a oneness, a focus on what truly matters. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 tells us that Scripture is inspired and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. Its truths make us adequate, equipping us for every good work. Bible study equips us for life. It teaches truth, exposes error in thoughts and actions, corrects us, and show us how to pursue righteousness.

RHONDA: It becomes your life, your strength. The Word speaks.

CAROLYN: This is both a benefit and a drawback. Our women are so excited about Bible study, the men just don't understand. But that's good because it's creating a thirst in them.

What advice would you offer to a church or a woman who's interested in starting a group?

TERRI: If you truly feel God leading you into this ministry, first and foremost, training is a must. You need to be prepared to lead. Secondly, don't become discouraged if you start small. Six to ten women is really a great number with which to begin. You will find that the personal testimony of a few changed souls will affect many, and the ministry will grow.

CAROLYN: If your women are interested, put out the plea and see whom the Lord sends. It just takes one or two to begin. I think you'll find that women are hungering for the Word.

RHONDA: Just do it. Look at your women and determine their needs. To begin, find a study that is not too intense or too long. Advertise it. See how many God sends.



Locust Grove women study together.

Could you recommend some good studies?

TERRI: Anything put out by Precept Ministries in Chattanooga. Their format teaches us how to know God's Word simply by looking closely at Scripture. These studies are not based on opinions of writers or commentaries. You learn what Scripture means on its own merit, truth upon truth, comparing Scripture with Scripture and doing word studies in the original language of the text. This requires a lot of discipline, but the benefits are too numerous to name. Study is work, a work the Lord called us to pursue. Our ladies have also really enjoyed the Beth Moore studies.

CAROLYN: Some good studies are *Breaking Free*, *Beloved Disciple*, and *A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place* by Beth Moore; *In God's Presence* by T.W. Hunt, and *Our Covenant God: Learning to Trust Him* by Kay Arthur.

RHONDA: There are so many good studies available. My favorite study is usually the one I'm doing now. Any of Kay Arthur's "Lord" series are good. I'd also recommend studies by Cynthia Heald. Some that have especially ministered to me have been *Women Making a Difference in Marriage* by Lana Parker, *A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place* by Beth Moore, and *Spiritual Warfare* by John Franklin and Chuck Lawless.

Can you see the future?



WINVAC

by Diana Bryant

At the risk of sounding like someone's grandmother, "What changes I've seen in my lifetime!" Remember when phones had dials and were attached to the wall? Most people now own a phone that fits in their pocket and goes wherever they go. Several steps occurred between those two ends. We call it progress. Progress gives us more choices. We can choose to be *reachable* anywhere, anytime, or we can just turn the phone off and retrieve messages when we want. Some people are excited by progress and change; others lament it. No matter how we feel, one thing is certain—change is inevitable. The key, then, is to look ahead, see it coming, and manage change to our best advantage. Change is probably most frustrating when it seems to run over us, leaving us no choices. Why not have a hand in the plans and be a part of the progress?

WNAC groups today are not the "auxiliaries" of our grandmothers. They could only imagine what far-off mission fields looked like. Their "current" prayer requests from favorite missionaries were at least two weeks old. Today, we can see a digital photo of a missionary baby born on the field just hours after she arrives. That's progress!

Women's lives have changed too. Jobs and schedules dictate when and how often we meet and how many participate in our meetings on a regular basis. Many women manage such packed schedules. Despite their good intentions and genuine concern for causes, most will not attend meetings that are not well organized or don't seem to accomplish anything.

Most busy women would rather let officers take care of routine business so that their precious time can be spent in actual service or in uplifting worship and instruction. Women seem to want their limited time to be profitable—either to themselves or to others. Women today will work, they will listen when taught, they will worship together—but they *won't* waste time.

Our mothers and grandmothers had time to visit over the clothesline. Most women today have never *met* a clothesline. They listen to dryers that buzz incessantly until someone answers. Times have changed; women's lives have changed. That's the truth, whether we like it or not.

How then can we manage these changes and use them to our best advantage? Women today face situations that would amaze our predecessors. Our world is a different place than the world of only a few years ago. The needs of the world have not changed—the needs in women's hearts have not changed—but our circumstances and the needs in our day-to-day lives have changed. In order to continue to fulfill the Great Commission, we must face these changes.

Many women today were not raised in church. They must be taught and must grow into their Great Commission responsibilities. Our WNAC purpose states that we strive to "help *each* woman find *her* place in the Great Commission..." There are many ways to go into all the world and make disciples. We must be flexible enough to provide help and opportunity for as many of those ways as possible. Winning lost women, discipling saved women, and growing women to the point that they in turn win other women, is as much a part of the Great Commission as giving a missionary offering. Women must be won

and disciplined so that they will be there to give those missionary offerings.

The future of WNAC will look different than its past. The God we serve will never change, and our purpose should never change. But just as we use new ways to make the same phone call, we find new ways to accomplish our purpose. As women deal with new circumstances and problems, we must explore new ways to meet those needs.

Could we utilize new ways to handle our giving? Many women call an automated line to check their bank balance or to see if a particular check has cleared. They may pay bills online or use direct deposit for their paychecks. ATM's give them money in an instant. These same women may question the lengthy time lapse and the three or more stops their missions offering makes before it gets to its final destination.

Could we employ new methods to support our national office? Funding from our women is the only support source to keep our office running. Maybe the future will yield abundant giving to the office out of love and a sense of ownership, so much that dues will not be necessary.

Imagine new ways to communicate and share ideas. Would you like to see our web site maintain a bulletin board for suggestions, questions, and sharing ideas that have worked for local groups? How about a live, online chat with a missionary or retreat speaker that you've learned from and enjoyed?

Can we discover more ways to serve? Wouldn't it be great to participate in trips to visit our sisters in other countries and actually help minister to the women our missionaries serve? Untapped service opportunities in our communities would allow women to share Christ's love with hurting women. Could we sponsor more projects like the Missionary in Residence House which allow us to *colabor* for a visible result?

What efforts can we make to reach our young women, then teach them about stewardship? Can we offer teen girls opportunities to serve in a way that maximizes their abilities and addresses the problems of the world in which they live?

Should we sponsor more retreats and seminars that inspire women to grow spiritually so that

**Women
today
will work;
they will
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For presentation helps and suggestions, see the 2004 Program and Plan Book, pp. 24-27.

this work continues? Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a tape series available—solid teaching from our women that could be shared from group to group?

How can we help young mothers raise their children to love the Lord? Does the Great Commission include helping mothers grow the next generation of missionaries, pastors, and lay people who support those works?

I believe the answer to all these questions is a resounding, "Yes!" and I hope you do too. One thing I have observed about change. When we don't do things the way our grandmothers did them, we don't view change as a troublesome thing. It's only when our granddaughters seek change from the way we do

things that we balk. Our responsibility to the Lord is to carry the Gospel into all the world and make disciples. To accomplish this, we must widen our vision. It's a big world with lots of women and lots of needs. We have an even bigger God who's gifted lots of women with compassion, talent, and creative ideas. Can we all serve together? Let's be CoLaborers and get busy!

Diana Bryant is president of Florida Women Active for Christ. She attends Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church, where her husband Randy serves as pastor. Diana enjoys playing the piano and reading.



FEBRUARY FORUM FOR THE FUTURE

DEMOGRAPHICS

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. My age is: | 18-29 | 30-45 | 46-59 | 60-69 | 70 and over |
| 2. My church is | rural | urban | suburban | small town | |
| 3. I am a member of a local WAC group. | no | yes | (if yes, complete the next three statements) | | |
| Most women in our group are ages: | 18-29 | 30-45 | 46-59 | 60 and over | |
| Attendance at our group's meetings is | less than 5 | 6-12 | 13-19 | 20 and above | |
| We use CoLaborer for our programs | never | rarely | occasionally | regularly | |

COLABORER MAGAZINE

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4. I receive my CoLaborer through: | the mail | my church | my WAC | |
| 5. I read CoLaborer: | features | articles | missions news | editorials |
| 6. My favorite part of CoLaborer is _____ | | | | |
| 7. I would like to see more _____ | | | | cover to cover |

WNAC OPPORTUNITIES

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 7. I have participated in the Creative Arts Contest | never | at least once | regularly |
| 8. I have attended a National Retreat | never | at least once | several times |
| 9. I have attended a WNAC National Convention | never | at least once | regularly |
| 10. I am interested in future | | | |
| —overseas WNAC missions trip | not at all | somewhat | very much |
| —regional retreats or one day seminars: | not at all | somewhat | very much |
| —other _____ | | | |

WNAC MATERIALS

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 11. I order or purchase materials from WNAC: | never | seldom | sometimes | regularly |
| 12. In the past I've used (circle all that apply) | manual | program/plan book | record books/forms | plays |
| 13. I currently use (circle all that apply) | manual | program/plan book | record books/forms | plays |

FINANCES AND FUNDING

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 14. I am satisfied with our present processing system. | yes | no | (if no, why? _____) |
| 15. Dues should be: | eliminated | increased | kept at present level |
| 16. Currently, monies from gifts, dues and magazine subscriptions are insufficient to fund the WNAC office. What funding method(s) would you recommend? | combined with magazine cost | | |
| 17. How can the WNAC office better serve you? _____ | | | |

Please copy, complete and mail to WNAC P. O. Box 5002, Antioch TN 37011-5002
or complete online at www.nafwb.org/wnac Announcements **WNAC SURVEY**

Mini Bible Study

My Future in His Paths

In Leadership (Proverbs 11:14; Titus 2:3-5)

According to these passages, what are the key requirements for leadership?

In Fellowship (1 John 1:3; 2 Corinthians 8:4)

What is the basis for all Christian fellowship?

In Ministry (Ephesians 4:7, 1 Corinthians 16:15, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) Are all Christians called to ministry? How?

Missions (Acts 1:8) How can I best reach my Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and uttermost parts of the world?

Service (Ephesians 6:6-8; Romans 12:11) How would you rate your motivation for service?

Study (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:11) Have you ever been ashamed of something you did for Christ?

Quietness and working with hands may seem unusual courses of study. Why do you think Paul commanded Christians to study these?

Prayer (2 Corinthians 1:11; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18)

Paul said that other's prayers helped him. Can you name a specific prayer that helped someone else? How has someone's prayer helped you?

Giving (2 Corinthians 9:7, 8; James 2:15, 16; Luke 6:38)

What kind of giving is cheerful giving?

Would you describe your giving as sparing or bountiful?

Have you ever experienced the principle of Luke 6:38? How?



God, Make Me Happy

"If I could lose this weight, I'd be happy." "If I could land this job, happiness would be mine!" "I would be so happy if I could just..." Sound familiar?

Happiness isn't dependent on whether we reach a set goal. Happiness is a prize we can all obtain if we follow God's foolproof plan. "Happy is that people, whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 144: 15b).

Happiness is a state of mind—being content. It's not something God gives us. It's something that *happens to us* as we yield to God and to His Word. It's a by-product of holy living.

Proverbs 3:13 says, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." God's Holy Spirit enables us to understand God's Word. As we study and yield to God's Word and will, we are blessed (happy). Jesus said so in John 13:17—"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

In Acts 26:2, Paul stands before Agrippa and says, "I think myself happy..." Happy? How could he be happy in light of all that was taking place? Paul embraced God's Word and His will. His goal is found in Philippians 3:9-14: to "... be found in him... that I may know him... being made conformable unto his death... forgetting those things which are behind... reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." And the result is seen in Philippians 4:11, "... I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." True happiness is found only as we conform to the image of Christ. God doesn't make us happy. He will, however, make us holy. Then we, like Paul, can say "I think myself happy."

"Behold, we count them happy which endure"

(James 5:11).



Suzan Hutchison, lives in Colquitt, GA, where her husband Tim pastors the New Salem FWB Church. Suzan enjoys writing, gardening, reading, and collecting seashells.



IN EVERY WAR,
families wait at home.
They wait for their soldier to return;
they wait to receive a telegram.
Some are still waiting.
1,956 men are still considered
Missing in Action from the Vietnam
War alone. CIA files prove
that many of these men are
actually prisoners of war.
Congressmen are convinced that
some may still be alive in captivity.
Yet little is being done about it.

Members of WNAC

are also fighting a war, a spiritual war against darkness. As we strive to meet our purpose of understanding and fulfilling the Great Commission, we find many who are Missing in Action. Responsibilities to our families, our church, our community, and the world, often go unmet because laborers are missing. And little is being done about it.

Paul faced a similar situation. (Titus 2:3-5) He left Titus in Crete to help solve the problem. There are many reasons why women are missing in action. Looking at these reasons is not enough. We must also examine our plan and procedure. Are we providing ample opportunities? Are we doing enough to find and reclaim these MIA's?

M.I.A. #1 The Working Mom

Six a.m. finds her on her feet, rushing to get her family ready for the busy day. It's not just herself and her work that she must ready, but also her small child and all his stuff. An extra change of clothes, cough drops, tissues, backpack—all are packed and handed over to the daycare worker. After putting

in a full eight hours, she rushes to pick up her child. By the time they arrive home, it's time to start supper, followed by dishes, bath time, family devotions, laundry, and finally bed, hopefully by 10 P.M. The alarm will sound obnoxiously again at six.

One night a week the routine changes. Supper becomes a sandwich from home, fast food, or a frozen dinner. With no dishes to wash—forget the laundry and bath—just maybe the family can

make it to midweek service. After the service, as the clock ticks and this tired mother makes her way to a classroom to pick up her child yet again, she's cornered in the hallway. Why doesn't she come to the Women's Active for Christ meeting? She'll get a lot out of it, they promise. Weary, this mother smiles and says she'll try. By the time she gets home, it's already thirty minutes past her child's bedtime. Getting him up tomorrow will be difficult.

M I A

WNAC Search and Rescue

**by Monica
Bryan**

We know why this mother is missing in action. How can we provide opportunities for the over-worked mom? How can we help her find a way to be active without requiring her to come and sit through another meeting, causing her to neglect biblical duties to her family?

SUGGESTIONS

Assign a member to develop a children's devotional and prayer guide about the missionaries your church supports. (*Hint: include details about their children, grandchildren, pets, etc. along with prayer items.*) Include activities the local WAC will be doing. This way both mother and child can pray and support activities without having to attend a meeting.

Post all projects on the church's bulletin board or in the church's newsletter. A working Mom can easily pick up a few items at a grocery store for a care package or a fruit basket even if she doesn't have time to deliver them herself.

M.I.A. #2 The Elderly

Darkness comes quickly in the winter, making it difficult for an elderly woman to see to drive. The few times she rides to WAC with another person, the meetings last long and the driver stays afterward to talk. Pain medication is long overdue by the time she gets home. She's not physically able to help with projects, and her limited income makes it almost impossible to financially contribute. She feels she has no reason to attend because she finds no feasible opportunities.

Soldiers who cannot physically keep up are often left behind during the battle. How can we prevent losing our falling soldiers?

SUGGESTIONS

Include variety in projects throughout the year. Not everyone is passionate about the same things, or capable of helping with every project.

Streamline meetings.

Give women a detailed list of missionary and church needs. Praying costs nothing except time and energy, yet prayer is vitally needed. For those unable to attend meetings, make sure they receive the good news when a prayer is answered.

M.I.A. #3 The Wounded

Soldiers get wounded in battle. Yet the most devastating wounds come from friendly fire. Gossip, snide remarks, petty attitudes, making light of someone's needs—these are leading causes of such wounds. Just as soldiers must seek medical help before they can return to battle, so must every wounded WAC member receive the touch of the Great Physician before she can return to action.

SUGGESTIONS

Follow the procedures outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.

Pray for the women involved; practice Galatians 6:1.

M.I.A. #4 The Disillusioned

Women Active for Christ sounds great! It's easy for people to say they don't have time, the meetings are too long, etc. But what happens when a woman offers no excuse or simply says, "I can't come"? Perhaps the problem is not with the individual, but with the

group. Evaluating a local WAC is not a bad thing, but it may be painful. Soldiers who are fighting for a purpose become disillusioned with troops who are not interested in fighting at all.

In Titus 2:5, Paul shared the rea-

SUGGESTIONS

Evaluate your local WAC critically and honestly at least once a year. Ask: Have we met our goals or fulfilled the WNAC purpose? What worked? What didn't work? What are the variables that could have made a difference?

Pray earnestly for God's guidance and direction in your group. If changes need to be made, ask that He will make these known to all members.

Recognize that change happens slowly. Disillusioned members will not run back to your meeting because you changed one thing. They may wait and watch for a year or more before rejoining, if they come back at all.

soning for his advise concerning women: *"so the word of God will not be blasphemed."* When we allow women to remain missing in action, we disregard part of the Great Commission—making disciples. Providing opportunities for women to understand and fulfill the Great Commission demands creativity and care. We must search and rescue our MIA's, then restore them to the troops, strengthening front lines in the battle.



Monica Bryan is WAC project coordinator and keyboardist at Garner FWB Church, Garner, NC. Former ELIC teacher to China, now wife and freelance writer. Monica enjoys reading and quilting.



a baby? a grandbaby? Wishing, waiting, wondering. WNAC invites you to join the journey of two women. Experience the great expectations of a first-time mom and a soon-to-be grandmother as they journal through the months.

mother

"So when are you going to have a baby?" I guess I should expect that question. We did tell people we would probably start trying after we'd been married a year, and that time is quickly approaching. We have begun, but I'm not necessarily ready for this to be public information, especially since there's no guarantee we won't face difficulties. I know lots of people who've had struggles. I just keep telling my friends, "When I have something to tell you, I'll let you know."

December 19

I'm beginning to have suspicions that it hasn't taken us too long. I'm barely late, but I have been experiencing heartburn and other "not usual" feelings. I'm going to wait until tomorrow to take any tests. I'll pick one up on the way home. No one really knows that I even suspect yet except for my husband. Also, I did share my suspicions with a lady at work who was trying to help me figure out why the heartburn.

December 20

I took the home test first thing, really early this morning. It was positive. I had plenty of time to go back to sleep, but of course, I couldn't. I was excited. I just had to wake up my husband and tell him. I'm not sure he was quite as excited as I at 5:00 a.m. He doesn't think the day should exist before noon. I called my doctor before work to ask when I should find out "officially." The nurse said to stop by this morning. According to the doctor, if the home test is positive, then most likely I am really pregnant, but he has to do a blood test for the insurance and before he can send me to an obstetrician.

December 21

It's official! The nurse called this morning. I am about four weeks pregnant. I'm going to tell my family first at Christmas.

December 25

I've been home a few days. It's been difficult not to tell anyone. I don't really want to publicize it everywhere yet since it's still so early and a miscarriage could happen. But I do want my family to know. I am a bit apprehensive because two cousins have been trying unsuccessfully to get pregnant for some time. I planned to tell my immediate family before everyone else got there but I never could get them in the same room at the same time. Some of them were late. Finally, I attempt to get everyone's attention and tell them that next year we will have an addition to the family. A few pick up on what I am saying right away. My dad is too involved in a conversation, probably involving deer hunting. My sister says, "Dad, do you hear what she is saying?" Everyone seems to be excited, congratulating me. I don't really have to tell anyone else. As family arrive, they get the news at the door; thanks to nieces and nephews. One of the cousins who's been trying to get pregnant says, "Okay, now I *have* to get pregnant so your baby has someone to play with." I hope it happens for both cousins. We could use some more little ones in our family. Now there's one on the way.

grandmother

My dearest Grandchild,

I was so excited today! Your daddy called my work and left a message, "Give me a call, Grandma." I thought, "Could this be what I think it is?" I called your dad and he confirmed that you're finally here!

You see, your mommy and daddy have been married for almost four years and I have been hoping and looking for you for quite a while. Last Christmas, I made a stocking for your uncle's new puppy and made the comment, "Maybe next Christmas I'll get to make a stocking for a baby instead of a dog!" Grandmas just have to hint every once in a while—it just sort of erupts unexpectedly.

I want you to know that I've been praying for you even before you were conceived. Your mommy is very tiny, (she wears a size 0), and your daddy weighed nine pounds, three and one half ounces at birth. So I've been praying that from the moment of conception that your mom will have a healthy pregnancy and a safe delivery. I know that God already knows who you are, if you are a boy or a girl, and He knows your name.

I love you already and I can't wait to meet you! I think I want to be called...

Nana

THE HEDGE

A living hedge protects the world from God's consuming fire—
A growing hedge, all lush and green, like boxwood or sweetbrier.
A prickly hedge, replete with thorns, surrounds the harvest field,
A barrier to keep the fox from plundering the yield.

It's not a fence of wood or wire that Christians are to form.
Instead we're called to be a hedge, a shelter from the storm.
We're not a wall of brick or stone that's lifeless, cold and hard.
We make a hedge that blooms and bears some fruit while standing guard.

Perhaps the flower of a smile across a coffee cup,
Perhaps the fruit of tenderness to one who's given up,
Perhaps a thorn of sharp rebuke is what the hedgerow needs
To hinder Satan when he tries to sow his bitter weeds.

From palaces and governments to tenements and shacks,
From Cote d'Ivoire to Tokyo to whites and browns and blacks,
Around the world, around the clock, around our homes you'll find
This beautiful embroidery God intricately designed.

It forms a web of stems and leaves, so thick they intertwine,
Until each branch supports a branch in one unbroken line.
Well-pruned and tended daily with no stray or ragged edge,
Selfishness surrenders to the oneness of the hedge.

Impregnable! Unscalable! When Satan dares to try.
Unless, somehow, a plant should wither, curl its leaves and die.
Unfit for lack of nourishment or some unsightly blight,
We sometimes let a breach occur and never even fight.

But we can grow and flourish in the hedgerow of the Lord,
Sustained by Living Water and the sunlight of His Word.
So Christian, may we never fail to intercede in prayer
For those who have not heard as yet, and those who do not care.

Until the grain is gathered in, until the vineyard's dressed,
Until our loved ones walk in truth with every sin confessed,
Until the blessings of God's grace extend to every land,
"Stand in the gap." "Make up the hedge"—hand in hand in hand.

—Brenda Shores

Brenda Shores is a minister's wife from Alma, AR. Brenda wrote this poem at the request of Vivian Jeffcoat, first president of Zion Hope #2 District WAC, now with the Lord. This poem received First Place in the 2003 Creative Arts Contest.

SPRINGBOARD

SERVICE

BRAINSTORM ideas for community service. Focus on one or two this year.

PARTICIPATE in your district, state, or a national project. Contact state leaders or the WNAC office for suggestions.

INVOLVE teens and young women in your service projects.

LEADERSHIP

INSTALLATION? Check out the installation program in the *2004 Program and Plan Book*. This highlights Bible women with Great Expectations.

ENLISTMENT. Use the "One More in 2004" January program as an enlistment effort. (See Extra Helps in the *Program and Plan Book*.) The "For More Study" sidebar gives challenging suggestions for the year.

OPTIONS. February options include the mini-Bible study, the "Can You See the Future" feature, and the February Forum for the Future. Another program option for either month is "MIA WNAC Search and Rescue," pp. 14-15.

SURVEY. Encourage 100% participation in the survey on p. 12. Complete, collect and send to WNAC. Or complete it online at www.nafwb.org/wnac.

PLAN 2004. Meet with officers to create a big picture for the whole year: How can your group best encourage women to fulfill the Great Commission? Encourage women to seize 2004 WNAC opportunities—WNAC Convention in July, WNAC National Retreat at Ridgecrest in October as well as district and state meetings and retreats.

NEEDS

PROVISION CLOSET. Gift cards or funds to purchase pillows. Phone cards.

WNAC OFFICE. Funds to purchase a G-4 Macintosh Computer; Quark XPress software, color laser printer; and an electric stapler.

MONTHLY FAITH PROMISE support for WNAC ministries.

STUDY

SHARE "It Changed Our Church" (pp. 7-9). Discuss present or future group Bible study possibilities.

READ. Encourage women to purchase and read *Over Mountain or Plain or Sea*, by missionary Trula Cronk. (review on p. 30). Plan a book talk during April.

PRAYER

PLAN now for the PreEaster Week of Prayer.

UPDATE prayer lists, prayer chains, and prayer contacts. Check out current missionary requests each week on the WNAC website.

GIVE women a take-home prayer reminder—bookmark, list, picture, etc. at each meeting.

MISSIONS

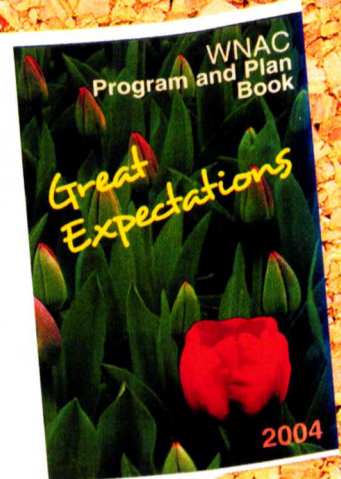
UPDATE. Do your missionary maps and directories belong in the historical archives? Order current materials. (See form on p. 22.)

ADOPT an E-TEAM participant from your area. Provide both encouragement and support.

DISPLAY. Create a new pictorial display or bulletin board highlighting all missionaries your church or group supports.

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

**FIND
MORE
IDEAS**



: FEEDBACK... FEEDBACK

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for the gift card to Wal-Mart and the invitation to the Provision Closet. I really appreciate it; it was very needed.

Autumn Morgan, MK
FWBBC

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for the enlightening tour (of the WNAC office.). We thoroughly enjoyed meeting your staff and seeing the work you do for the enhancement of His work. May God richly bless each of you.

Canton FWB SAM's Club
Canton, NC

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. We greatly appreciate it.

Todd Smith family
Aiken, SC

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for being so prompt with my order. We enjoy the books you all have made available to us in our auxiliaries. We love the *CoLaborer* magazine...

Joyce Taylor, 1st FWB
Brunswick, GA

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for the Wal-Mart shopping cards you sent each of us. They will be a real help. Thanks for

your prayers. You have been a great encouragement to us MK's. We love you all.

Rachel, Becky, and Steve Lloyd, MK's
Southeastern FWB College

Dear WNAC,

I thank those who have given to my college career. You may not realize how much you all have helped. Every dollar anyone gives is less time I can spend at work and more time I can spend studying. It means a lot that those I have never met and probably never will show interest in what I'm trying to do for the Lord. Thank you.

Andy Rayburn, MK
FWBBC

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for the Wal-Mart card and phone card. I have already used the gift card on some much needed items. I will use the phone card quite a bit calling Spain. I really appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. You are doing such a great work for missions and for the Lord

Suzanne McVay, MK
FWBBC

Dear WNAC,

Thanks for your part in making this 2003 (Marriage Enrichment) Conference a success.

Randy and Linda Ryerson
Harrah, OK

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

Q How can you instill in children the importance of a daily quiet time?

We asked several mothers this question. All of them gave the same answer: by example. Prioritizing your own devotional quiet time will encourage your children to value theirs. Here are some of their ideas.

Have a quiet time with your child. Mirror this behavior and they will see how important it is. In my own life, it was doing it daily before them. This meant getting up early and making it a priority. (Satan will definitely provide distractions.)

--Dianna Yandell, minister's wife.

Example is number one. Having teenagers, it's now a requirement. We're living under the law! We pray daily that God will give them a passion and zeal for His Word.

--Tammy Gentuso, former missionary

As a homeschooling mom, I make this part of their daily curriculum. It's not always been easy keeping good devotional materials at hand, especially with several age levels, but I consider it a high priority.

--Donna Mayo, deacon's wife

We have a daily checklist that includes Bible reading among other things. Before chil-

dren can play they must accomplish these goals. We want to establish this as a habit.

--Teresa Snow, missionary

The Christian school my daughters attended contributed by making them journal their Bible reading. This reinforced home teachings.

With small children we used a daily chart with three columns: BED, BIBLE, JOB. Doing all three earned them stickers, praise, and privileges. This way, Bible reading remained a positive, not a have-to-chore or possible punishment.

--CoLaborer staff

NEXT ISSUE: How do you combat prejudice?

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



PICTURED: 1. Hokkaido church women display crafts at their missions bazaar. 2. Canada mission church establishes a new women's group. 3. Praise team members Gina Meyers, Jennifer Harper, and Sherri Hanna lead worship at the OK ministers' wives retreat.



✿ Serenity FWB Church, Fredricton, New Brunswick, Canada, now has a women's group that meets on Wednesday nights. This eager group of eight women collected a generous WNAC Emphasis offering before they were ever officially organized as a WAC. Home missionary Donna Crabtree leads the women.

✿ Oklahoma ministers' wives enjoyed their first retreat at the Williams Learning Center in Tulsa, September 19-20. Fifty-seven women heard speaker Sharon Hoffman address issues vital to preachers' wives. A music praise team and small prayer and discussion groups highlighted the event. Plans are already underway for a 2004 retreat.

✿ The women's group from the Hokkaido church, Japan, recently sponsored a bazaar. The event coincided with a children's carnival, giving mothers an opportunity to "shop." Over 200 children attended the carnival and the women raised approximately \$800 for Japanese home missions efforts. "This is the first time our ladies have come together to work on a project like this," states missionary Debbie Griffin. "I think they enjoyed it."

✿ Missionary Mirial Gainer taught a study course on "Sparks Into Flame" August 9, for women of the Immanuel (Santee), Liberty (Manning), and Low Country (N. Charleston) FWB churches in South Carolina. Hosted by the Immanuel Church, the event provided opportunities to learn of WNAC, fellowship with fellow believers, and give an extra boost to Miss Gainer's account. Besides pledging monthly support, attendees gave an offering of \$425 to offset extra shipping expenses caused by the generous gifts of FWB women. What an interesting dilemma.



✿ WAC members at First FWB, Ashland City, TN, added a new twist to their Christmas party. Women brought wrapped gifts, not for each other, but for the Missionary Provision Closet. "We had a lot of fun opening the gifts and seeing what we were going to give to the Provision Closet," reports leader Sherry Biggs. This is the second year the group has sponsored this project.

✿ Shelby FWB WAC, NC, put their convictions into action. They drafted a petition stating their opposition to same sex marriages, gathered signatures and mailed the letters to eight government officials. *Ed: WNAC encourages all groups to act upon this 2004 WNAC Convention resolution.*

✿ Georgia women both mourn and celebrate the passing of longtime WAC supporter Ocie Ella "Nany" Cauley on September 14. (See CoLaborer, Sept/Oct 03, p. 28.) A member of the Pine Level FWB Church, Nany was known for her hospitality and genuine spirit. Nany was 101.



PICTURED: 1. South Carolina women transform *Sparks into Flame* into shipping funds for Mirial Gainer. 2. Ocie Ella "Nany" Cauley, GA, is promoted to glory at age 101.



Is your group involved in **LABORS OF LOVE?**
Send us your news and photos today.

R & R

**New
two-day
format**



at
Ridgecrest

Mark these dates.

October 29-30, 2004

WNAC NATIONAL RETREAT
Ridgecrest, North Carolina
With author and speaker
Carol Kent

FEBRUARY IS

**Foreign Student
Scholarship Month**

**Your gift makes Christian
education possible for**

- students at Marie Wright Hanna Bible Institute in South India
- students at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Cuba
- Pastors Robert and Paul in Cote d'Ivoire

Earmark gifts: Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.

2004 WNAC ORDER FORM

BOOKS

QUANTITY:

- _____ MI11 ***The Fruit of Our Hands*** WNAC Cookbook with over 800 recipes. 438 pp./ \$20.00
- _____ SB22 ***Over Mountain or Plain or Sea*** Autobiography of Trula Cronk. 217 pp./ \$12.95
- _____ GE18 ***Beyond the Gate*** Autobiography of Mabel Bailey Willey with Mary R. Wischart. Hardback 146 pp./ \$19.95
- _____ GE16 ***They Deserve A Second Chance*** by Shirley Roberts Combs. Rescuing Brazil's street children. 127 pp./\$ 6.50
- _____ GE15 ***First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field*** by Lorene Miley. 80 pp./\$5.00
- _____ GE28 ***Inside Afghanistan*** by John Weaver. 201 pp./ \$14.99
- _____ GE14 ***Reaching Muslims for Christ*** by William J. Saal. 223 pp./ \$12.99
- _____ SB21 ***Daughters of Islam. Building bridges with Muslim women*** by Miriam Adeney. 224 pp./ \$14.00
- _____ GE05 ***Sparks Into Flame: A History of WNAC from 1935—1985*** by Mary Wischart. 154 pp./\$4.00
- _____ GE12 ***Study Guide for Sparks Into Flame.*** \$1.00
- _____ SB01 ***10 Things I Want My Daughter to Know*** by Annie Chapman. 177 pp./\$9.99
- _____ SB02 ***Losing You Too Soon: Hope after Miscarriage*** by Bernadette Keaggy. 189 pp./\$9.99
- _____ SB03 ***Run With the Vision*** by Bob Sjogren and Bill & Amy Stearns. 288 pp./\$11.99
- _____ SB09 ***Lies Women Believe*** by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. 284 pp./ \$12.99
- _____ SB07 ***Touching the Untouchables*** by Laura Belle Barnard with Georgia B. Hill. 170 pp./ \$4.00
- _____ SB18 ***Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti*** by Bill and Pam Farrell 253 pp./\$9.99
- _____ SB19 ***When Women Walk Alone*** by Cindi McMenamin. 202 pp./\$9.99
- _____ SB20 ***Finding a Mentor, Being a Mentor*** by Donna Otto. 248 pp./\$9.99

HELPS

- _____ MI09 ***Parliamentary Procedures.*** Guide for conducting business properly and quickly. \$2.00
- _____ NM01 ***Manual for Free Will Baptist Women's Organizations.*** Guidebook for organizing and operating women's groups. \$12.00
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Paid Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541	8,052	8,212
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In-County as stated on Form 3541	75	65
Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	25	40
Free Distribution Outside the Mail	155	120
Total Free Distribution	405	347
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Marjorie Workman 10-20-03



DEBE'S DELIGHTS

"thy commandments
are my delights."

Psalms 119:143b

by

Debe Taylor

WNAC President

PLUG INTO THE POWER

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7

During a seminar at the Michigan Women's State Prayer Retreat, Donna Locklear shared that we often times do not know the fullness of God's power because we are plugging into the Power Source with a two-prong plug. In order to know God's great power, we need a three-prong plug. A three-prong plug? Interesting!

Three-prong electrical plugs give grounding stability, providing a stable path through which current can flow. The same works with God. A three-prong spiritual plug provides a path for consistent continual current—God's power flowing through us. One of my favorite Scripture passages lends support to this principle. *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"* (Ephesians 3:17-20).

Preachers and teachers alike implore me to share the gospel with family, friends and coworkers. I can make every excuse in the book as to why I can't. If I am willing to plug-in with a three-prong plug, God has promised me the power I need to witness to others. Holy Spirit grounding makes it possible. *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

"I can't teach." "I'm not a Bible scholar." "No one will listen to me." All excuses I've often used to explain

why I am not using the gift God has given me. Moses had excuses—God had an answer for each of them. If I am grounded in the Word, I can realize the promise of Philippians 4:13, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* See the importance of the three-prong plug?

"What are those ladies thinking?" "They want me to be their leader?" "Oh, I don't have the ability to lead others." Believe me, I've been there—used that reasoning. Within my own power I do not have the ability to lead. The words of Isaiah act as a three-prong plug into the power of God which can work through me. *"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength"* (Isaiah 40:29).

"How much more physical pain can my body endure?" "How long must I suffer?" "Why doesn't God just heal me?" All valid questions. Even Job questioned the suffering he was experiencing. Paul asked God three times to heal a physical infirmity. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 gives us proper grounding to help us face suffering. *"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*

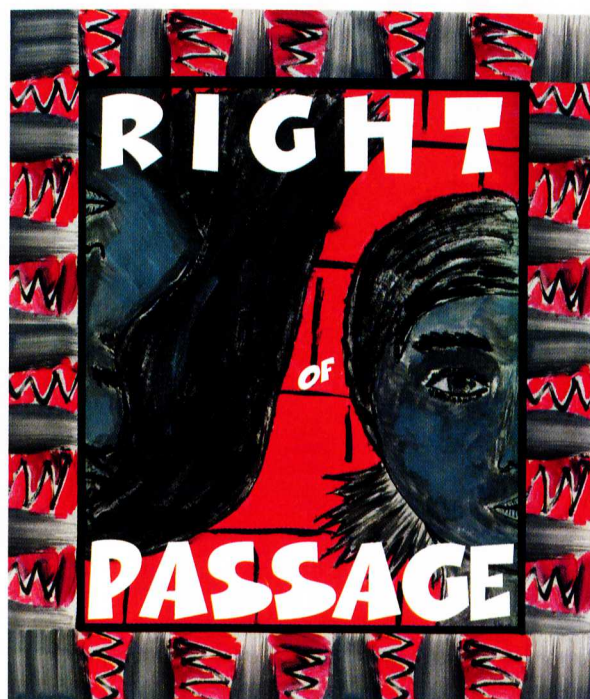
What a mighty God we serve! His great power is available to all. Yet power without a path can prove dangerously unstable. Ground yourself in His Word, His love, His grace, His strength. Use a three-prong plug!

"Finally...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).

“...What doth the Lord require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?”
Deuteronomy 10:12-13

THE BIG A.

by Jennifer Bryan



KATIE groaned as she rolled over to look at her alarm clock. She sat straight up in bed when she saw the time, 7:30. She ran into the bathroom to take a cold shower and hurried for twenty minutes to finish getting ready. Running out of the door she argued with her younger brother and rolled her eyes at her mother's instructions. Adding to her already hectic morning, she forgot her breakfast and lunch. As Katie hurried to get to school, she realized she had also forgotten to grab her science report that was due. So worried about the project, she arrived at school two minutes late. Mrs. Watson, the secretary handed her a detention slip. Katie reached her peak of frustration and stormed out of the office.

In Katie's mind, this was already a bad day. And it was not even 8:15 in the morning! What do you think?

For most of us, our attitude would correspond with Katie's. I can see Katie storming around the rest of the day, arguing with teachers and friends, and getting snappy over little details. This sounds a little too close to home.

What does God say about attitudes? How would He want us to handle this

situation? First of all, in Deuteronomy 10:12-13, God requires that we fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, and serve Him. How does this affect our attitudes in daily life? Well, to do these things, we have to keep our attitudes in check. When we lash out with hurtful looks and hateful words, we do not express our fear, devotion, love, or service for Him.

Second, sin is expressed as falling short of the glory of God. Bad attitudes do not bring Him any glory. They can possibly damage any testimony we have for Him.

Third, in 1 Peter 4:1, we are called to "arm" ourselves also with the same attitude as Christ. In the New Testament, we never see Jesus pouting because He was having a bad day or things were not going His way.

So, what should we do when a day like this happens? Look to the positive. Thank Him for bringing us this far. Then ask Him for help to stay upbeat.

Jennifer Bryan is a graduating junior at FWBCC. Jennifer spent this past summer in Spain as part of the Go and Be Team. Future plans include nursing school and a role in medical missions.



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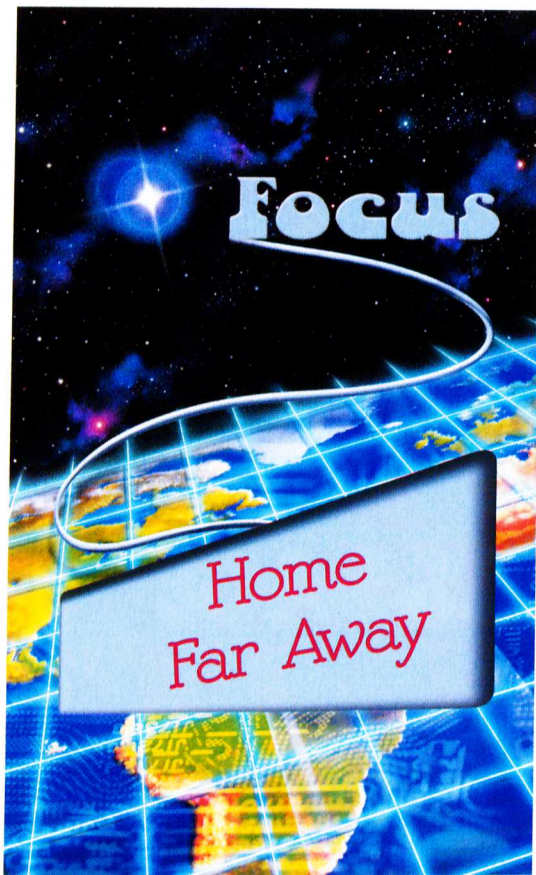
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Pray:

ALASKA

—for continued growth of believers in the Northern Lights Church.

—for soon completion of the facility without added building delays.

—for continued financial support for the Wallaces.

HAWAII

—for daily Bible studies in the Reiters' home.

—for spiritual growth among young believers.

—for continued unity in the church.



Northern Lights FWB Church, Fairbanks, Alaska

ARTIC WONDERLAND OR TROPICAL PARADISE may not describe your home. However, Alaska and Hawaii, the 49th and 50th United States comprise a vital and growing part of the FWB home front. God is building His church and strengthening His people in both of these far away home places.

ALASKA

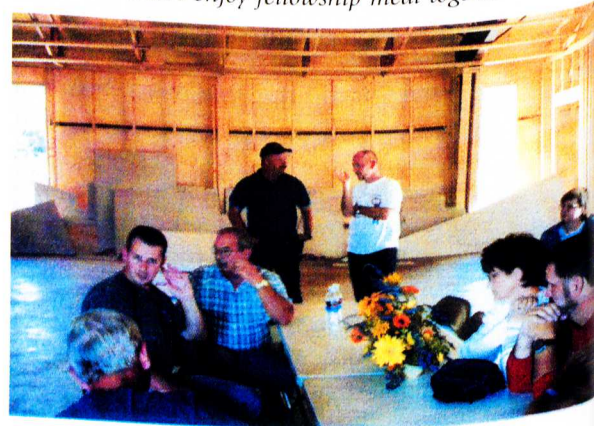
"It's clear to me that God wants a Free Will Baptist work in Fairbanks, Alaska," says missionary Ron Wallace. He and his wife Janice are committed to that task.

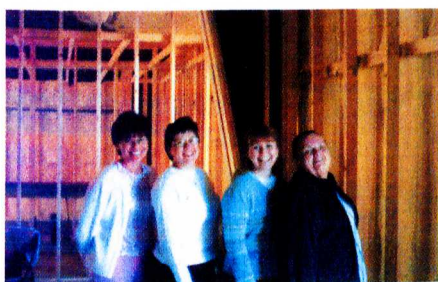
The Fairbanks church began in the 1960's, but faded away with time. Later, others sought to revive and continue the work. In 1997, when the work was ready to close, individuals appealed in faith to the Home Mission Board for a missionary. The Wallaces responded, leaving the lower forty-eight for a higher purpose—"to establish a ministry that will continue until Jesus comes."

Part of that ministry involves a new church facility. Building for the Northern Lights FWB Church began April 26, 2003. Construction continued throughout the long spring and summer days. In August, a group of ten workers from "down below" arrived to help and encourage. Led by Master's Men director Ken Akers, these individuals volunteered a week's worth of labor.

Winter in Alaska means six months of snow-covered ground, making outside work difficult. Thankfully, by the first snowfall in September, the building was up, dried in, weather tight, and ready for finishing inside. Much work remains. The project has

Workers enjoy fellowship meal together.





Women also came to help.

been hampered by delays and inspection requirements. Still, the church rejoices in how much God has accomplished and the Lord's amazing ways of working things out for good. For instance, one insistent inspector who had imposed certain demands just happened to be on vacation when the church plans came up for approval.

Northern Lights FWB church requests the constant prayers and continued support of believers.

HAWAII

Waipahu FWB Church boasts a rich history. The church began in 1959, the same year Hawaii became a state. Fifteen people met in a local high school to hear home missionary Luther Sanders. For the next few years, the church met regularly in his home. The congregation purchased property in 1962 and built its present building.

In 1966, a man visited the church. Within the year, Fitu Tafaoa and his family received Christ as Savior. The Tafaoa family became a core part of the Waipahu church. In 1994, the church called Brother Fitu Tafaoa as its sixth pastor. Brother Tafaoa served the church until his death this past year.

Kenneth W. Reiter, Jr. now serves as pastor. Brother Reiter is no stranger to island ministry, having moved to Hawaii from the Virgin Islands. He and his wife, Melinda are excited about this new field.

Currently, the church numbers about 50. Over half of the congregation is under age twenty. That's not a difficulty, since Hawaiian culture is very family oriented. Adults and children both work and play hard together. The church property, now 40 years old, needs repair. The whole church is eagerly working together to make God's house presentable.

The Waipahu Church is truly a house of prayer for all nations. The congregation includes Western and American Samoans, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, and Mainlanders (from the continental US).

Bible studies hallmark the church's ministry. Nine different studies held weekly in the pastor's home offer opportunities for growth. For many church families, English is a second language. Wives attend studies during the day, then give the lesson at home to their families in their native tongue.

As a congregation, they are working on relationships. First, personal relationships with Jesus Christ, then family relationships, and finally relationships within the church family so they can have a right testimony within the community. Many are new Christians saved less than five years who are growing in the Lord. The church is growing as well. In just four weeks this past fall, they saw nine saved and fourteen baptized.

Located on the island of Oahu, just twenty minutes from the Honolulu airport, the church invites all island visitors to "feel the love of Christ and the friendliness of the Polynesian culture."

Due to electronic transmission problems, Waipahu Church photos were unobtainable.

Other Prayer Concerns



—Pray for continued safety of chaplains and military personnel serving in Iraq. Pray for their marriages and families during these prolonged separations.

—Pray for missionaries entering language study this term.

—Pray for ministry direction and safety of missionaries now returning to war-torn Cote d'Ivoire. Pray for continued growth of the Ivorian church.

—Pray for home missionaries Wayne Wilson and Terry Hardison who both recently underwent surgery for cancer.

—Pray for FWB missionary efforts in restricted access countries.

—Pray for retiring FM employees, Don Robirds and Carole Ragan as they enter new roles in world evangelism.

—Pray for needed monthly financial support for missionary appointees.

—Pray for the persecuted church around the world, especially those in Islamic controlled states.

Growing Close and Staying Close

NATIONAL MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
September 19-21 2003





TENNESSEE'S SMOKY MOUNTAINS provided a tranquil setting for *Growing Close and Staying Close*. Forty-nine couples from 12 states converged in Pigeon Forge for the 2nd National Marriage Enrichment Conference, September 19-21.

WHO CAME? This joint effort by Master's Men and Women Active for Christ attracted younger and older, newlyweds and not-so-newlyweds—from Chad and Jennifer Donoho, married only two months and 22 days, to Fred and Cathy Green who'd celebrated 42 years together. Pastors and their wives, ministry leaders and lay couples all found common ground.

WHO LED? Speakers Don and Jan Harvey, Christian marriage therapists from Nashville, Tennessee, offered helpful advice for couples in all stages of married life. No matter what stage, couples must make their marriage a priority. According to Dr. Harvey, "God's plan for marriage is simple; it's just not always easy."

Sessions covered a variety of topics from conflict to passion. "Each of us brings something to the marriage," the Harveys commented, and invited couples to spend time alone interacting and determining how these "brought" qualities and traits have affected the marriage. Other couple tasks concerned communicating needs and establishing goals. Master's Men director Ken Akers emceed the event. WNAC Executive Secretary Treasurer Marjorie Workman and her staff assisted with door prizes and decorations. Music by Chad Donoho, TN, and John Gorrell, WV, added to the weekend.

WHAT WILL WE REMEMBER? Highlights included table time with other couples and a candlelight banquet on Saturday evening. "It was a laid-back sort of weekend—nice," one attendee reflected. Couples took advantage of the added free time. Crisp, clear autumn weather, shopping malls galore, and the Great Smoky Mountains provided a host of opportunities.

Unanimously, couples indicated a desire for future conferences. A tentative date is Spring 2005. "This was good," commented one couple from Ohio. "It's what every married couple needs to hear." WNAC and Master's Men are committed to make the 3rd National Marriage Enrichment Retreat even better.

PICTURES: (p. 28) LEFT TOP TO BOTTOM: Speakers Don and Jan Harvey, staying close; romantic touch for couples rooms; looking out on the crowd; laughter is good for a marriage; RIGHT TOP TO BOTTOM: Rick and Janie Stone, KY converse with the Harveys; table time—creating a winning masterpiece. (p. 29) CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT TOP: Some of the couples: Whites, Weidemanns, Wagners, Clays, Bakers, Fowlkes, Greens, Warnocks, Bransons, Fannins, Saverances, Lovewells, Johnsons.



"...you cry, you rejoice and just know
you are right there with her."

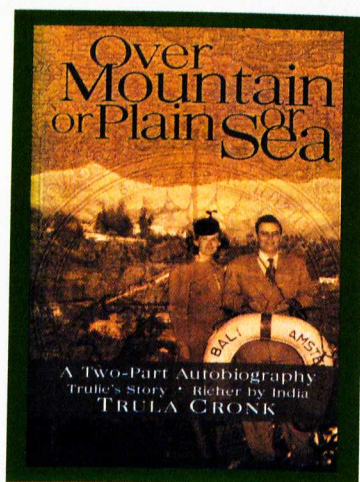
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Trula Cronk

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From the depressed Appalachians of the 1920's to the Taj Mahal, God sent Trula Gunter Cronk on a long journey she never thought possible. **Over Mountain or Plain or Sea** records her steps.

As Trula walks readers through her early life in the hills of Greene County, Tennessee, they sense her despair and loneliness. With few material possessions, her family lived off the things they could make or grow.

When Trula was three, her mother died and her dad took her to live with an aunt. She didn't see or hear from him again until her eighth grade year. Yet God placed key people in Trula's life who influenced her to reach beyond her circumstances for her dreams.

Readers are kept on the edge of their seats as she shares her years in India. Her difficult growing-up years equipped her with needed versatility. During those early pioneer years in India she lived in tents, rode bicycles, cooked outside, and survived an attack by a jackal.

She paints such vivid word pictures, you cry, you rejoice and just know that you are right there with her. It's a book you'll hate to lay down until you've turned the last page. *Over Mountain or Plain or Sea* is delightful reading for anyone with an interest in missions and a must read for every Free Will Baptist.

—reviewed by Geneva Walker
Smyrna, Tennessee



TACO SOUP

Delores McDougald
Christian Home FWBC
Blountstown, FL

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 lb. hamburger | 1 can Ro-Tel tomatoes with green chile |
| 1 chopped onion | 1 pkt. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing |
| 1 can corn | 1 pkt. taco seasoning |
| 1 can hominy | |
| 1 can red beans | |
| 1 can black beans | |
| 1 can diced tomatoes or Mexican stewed tomatoes | |

Brown hamburger with onion; drain fat. Add 1 packet taco seasoning; add 1 can each of drained corn, drained hominy, 1 can each of red beans, black beans, diced tomatoes, Ro-Tel and 1 packet of Hidden Valley Ranch dressing. Simmer to blend flavors in oven or in crockpot. Top with sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese.

Variation: Pinto beans may be used in place of red & black beans.

LOADED POTATO SOUP

Amy Taylor Head
Heads FWB Church
Cedar Hill, TN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 4 med. potatoes | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1/2 lb. bacon | 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper |
| 1/2 c. green onions | 1 c. sour cream (can use light if preferred) |
| 1 (14 1/2-oz.) can chicken broth | 2 oz. shredded cheddar cheese |
| 1 1/2 c. milk | |

Peel and cut potatoes into small chunks. Boil until tender and drain. Cook bacon until crisp and let cool. Crumble and set aside. Keep 1/2 teaspoon drippings for later. Thinly slice green onions and set aside. Combine chicken broth, potatoes, milk, onions, salt, pepper and drippings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes. Stir in sour cream and bacon. Add cheese and stir. Serve hot. Yields 4 servings.

CHICKEN SAUSAGE GUMBO

Margie Trull
Harmony Free Will Baptist
Eupora, MS

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 chicken | 1 T. salt |
| 1 lb. smoked sausage, sliced | 1 T. pepper |
| 2 1/2 qt. water | 4 T. flour |
| 1 lg. onion, chopped | 4 T. grease |
| 4 cloves garlic or minced | 1 sm. can tomato sauce |
| 1 qt. canned tomatoes | 3 T. liquid smoke |

Cook chicken, take off bone and save broth. Cook sausage until tender. Put all ingredients in pot, except last four and cook until onions are tender. Make gravy with flour and grease. Add to other ingredients. Add the rest of the ingredients. Add more water if necessary. Simmer. Serve hot over rice.

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Words for Women



Executive Secretary-Treasurer

*Marjorie H.
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“CUSTOMIZE... TO WORK THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO—explained in plain English.”* Now,

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Recently while learning some new things on my PC, I got so frustrated. When repeated attempts failed to make a particular formula work, with desperate, almost audible voice I screamed, “Get the book.” Not just any book. This wasn’t the time for the program manual overloaded with technical details that I’ll never understand. I needed the simple, easy-to-understand version of *Excel 97 for Windows for Dummies*.

Why did I wait so long to reach for help? Pride. I let it rob me of precious time and cause me great frustration. I thought I could do it by myself. Help was available, within reach, and in understandable terms. All I needed was the book.

All too often, I find myself acting the same way in my walk with God. I want to figure out life on my own rather than going to the source of help—the Word of God. The Psalmist said, “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path,*” “*Order my steps in thy word.*” Psalm 119:125, 133.

If you’ve ever experienced frustration with your computer, you’re probably familiar with the ... *For Dummies* computer book series from IDG Books Worldwide. These books claim an audience of “**computer users who know they aren’t dumb but find that PC hardware, software, and indeed the unique vocabulary of computing make them feel helpless.**”^{*} *Dummies* books are to computer users what the Bible is to all people. In my pilgrimage through life, I’m glad that my Heavenly Father gave me a source I could understand, “*The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple*” (Psalm 119:130).

“Our books are written by experts who understand and care about our readers.”^{*} Our claim for the Bible is even stronger. The Scriptures did not come to us “...by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). They were given “...for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” that we might know how to live. The Author also cares. Peter tells us to cast all of our “*care upon him; for he careth for you.*”

“**We devote special attention to details.**”^{*} Sometimes I think I know more than the source. I don’t want to ask for help or consult the instructions. This spells trouble. Wisdom dictates that I am not wiser or more knowledgeable than the experts. When I read Job 38-41, I’m reminded just how little I know of our awesome God. The building of the Ark (Genesis 6-7) and the construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus 36-40) plainly reveal God’s deliberate design. He divinely devotes special attention to details.

“**These books are a perfect survival guide for anyone forced to use a computer.**”^{*} So, true. But the best book for survival is the Bible. Its great truths reveal how to survive death, escape hell, and live eternally in Heaven.

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^{*}Quotes from *Excel 97 for Windows for Dummies* by Greg Harvey

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