CoLABORER

March • April 2004

Blanketing the World with Prayer

Praying the Desires of Our Hearts

PRAY FOR ME, BUT DON'T PUSH

Parenting a Prayer Warrior

PreEaster Week of Prayer for World Missions

Expectancy in Prayer

WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Labor of my heart

Sarah Fletcher

BY GOD'S GRACE, WE WILL

At a recent commissioning service, I watched as eight missionaries signed on the dotted line, committing themselves to God's service under our FWBFM board. Four young families, well aware of dangers, obstacles and unstable world conditions, stood ready to begin a ministry among followers of one of the world's largest and most militant religions. And my heart was sobered.

More than names in a directory, or just picture cards in the pile, these were familiar faces—individuals who have shared a piece of my life. Four are from my home state. Three of them came through the youth camp ministry there. One grew up in the church we now attend. Another served as my assistant in fifth grade Sunday school. Still another taught my daughter's Wednesday night class. And my heart was touched.

Each couple gave testimony of God's leading in their lives. Each answered an unashamed "yes" to the question, "Will you faithfully share the gospel?" publicly accepting the challenge before them. And my heart was encouraged.

Then the challenge changed courts. Foreign Missions Director James Forlines asked if we as a church would personally uplift and uphold each of these families in prayer. As they faced difficult days and situations, entering strongholds of Satan, would we engage in spiritual warfare on their behalf? We stood and corporately answered, "By God's grace, we will." And my heart was convicted.

Missions is not a solo effort. The task belongs to us all. Lorene Miley, in the April feature, describes it as a partnership. Prayer is the connecting fiber between us, the missionary, and God's throne.

Warren and Ruth Myers, in *31 Days of Prayer,* call this type of intercession "royal praying" or "giving prayers." As we intercede for others, we actually "become prayer partners with Christ...where our prayers embrace His deepest longings as well as our own." Praying the desires of our hearts (and His heart) then becomes not a personal wish list, but a powerful kingdom privilege.

Though prayer is a privilege, it requires practice. Praying is a determined act of the will; prayer involves discipline. True, God has given some the spiritual gift of intercession, but *all* of us can and should pray. Devotional writer S. D. Gordon said:

> "The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer, nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important, and pressing, but still less important than prayer."

Where are you in your prayer life? Are you convicted, as I, honestly desiring to pray, yet inwardly wondering if you will consistently carry out those intentions? "By God's grace we will." Recalling His love and sacrifice for us on Calvary should remind us of our partnership responsibilities and motivate us to remember others. Hopefully, the contents of this issue on prayer will inspire and assist you.

Who's depending on your prayers? Which servants of God share a piece of your life? Will you accept the challenge? By God's grace, will you also pray?

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Editor
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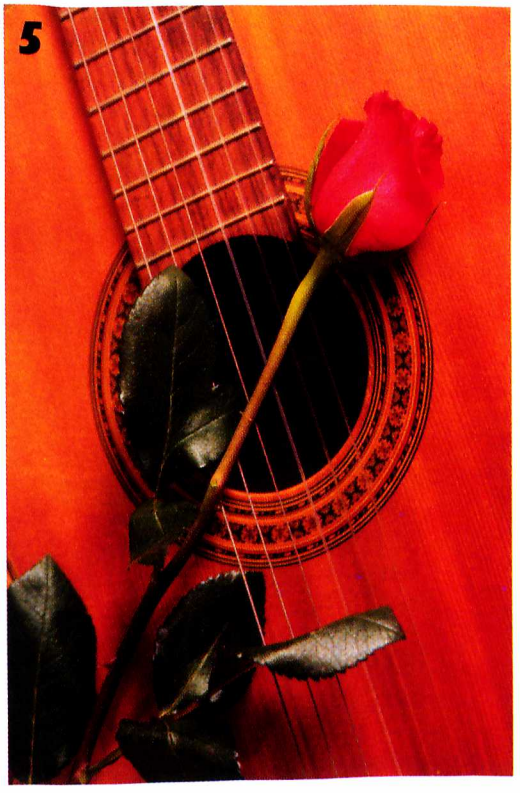

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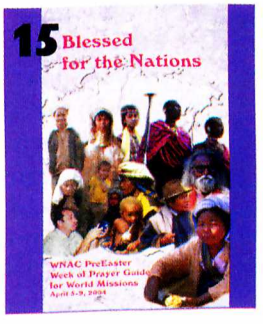

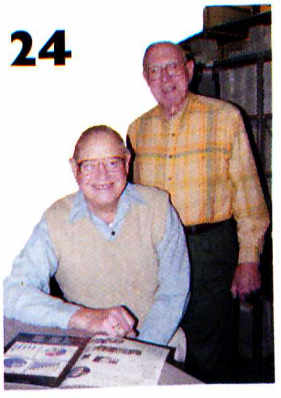

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Does your child have the gift of intercession?

Parenting a Prayer Warrior

"Mommy, will you pray for me?" That's the question my then five-year-old daughter Bailey asked on the way to church four years ago. She then asked me to have my Sunday school class pray for her also. When I asked her what she wished for us to pray, her answer was simple, "I want a baby brother or sister and I think it's time."

Since her father and I had not discussed this, imagine how odd it felt to ask others to pray for her request! However, ask I did. The reason was simple. Bailey is a prayer warrior and God hears her prayers and answers them.

I know that He hears us all when we are in His Word, but some have the spiritual gift of intercession and supplication. Bailey happens to be one of those people.

Children also possess spiritual gifts and amazingly enough, God gives us an opportunity to help mold those gifts so our children will be useful to the kingdom. Unfortunately, many of these gifts go unnoticed by adults because we are just not looking for them in our children. Or we believe that their gifts are not apparent until they are grown up.

Ask yourself these questions about your child. If you can answer yes to them, then your child may possess the spiritual gift of intercession.

RECOGNIZING A GIFT

1. Does my child often volunteer to pray?
2. Does she most always have a specific request for someone else?
3. Does she acknowledge when a prayer has been answered?
4. Is she willing to pray out loud when called upon to do so?
5. Does she remember other people's prayer requests and pray for them?

Here are a few suggestions that will help your child use her ability for God's kingdom.

—Allow her every opportunity to pray.

—Help her keep a prayer journal (Include both prayer requests and answers.)

—Encourage other people to ask for her prayers.

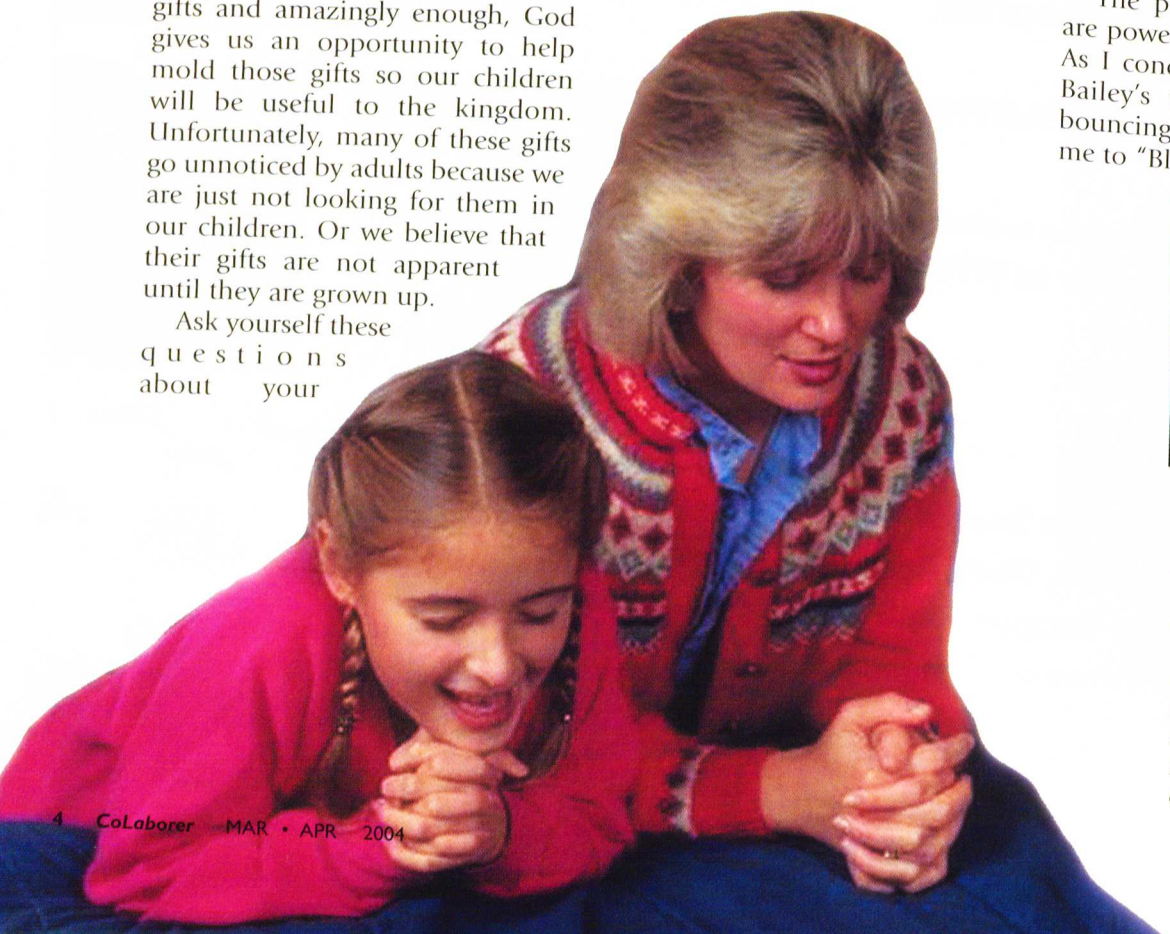
—Enlist her prayers for you.

—Celebrate answered prayer together.

—Invite her to attend prayer meetings with you.

—Give her missionary cards and challenge her to pray weekly for the missionaries.

The prayers of a child warrior are powerful and effective. I know. As I conclude this article, Mason, Bailey's two-year-old brother, is bouncing up and down and asking me to "Blow bubbles, Momma."



Sonia Briggs, (pictured with daughter Bailey) is co-director of SIS (Sisters in Service), her church's women's ministry. A real-estate and travel agent, Sonia works out of her home-based business in Bellevue, TN. She, her husband Marvin, and their two children attend Cofer's Chapel FWB Church.

The Desires of Our Hearts

by Susan Henderson

Let's be honest. Women pray differently than men. We carry our burdens differently; we express our emotions, desires and needs differently; we communicate with our Lord differently.

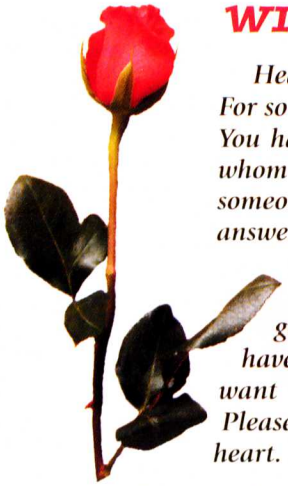
No, neither gender can claim superiority in prayer. However, even as we read James' words regarding the prayer of a righteous *man*, who comes to mind when we think of effectual, fervent prayers? A dear mother? A saintly Sunday school teacher? A beloved grandmother? A best friend?

Women tend to take the Apostle Paul quite seriously when he admonished believers to "*. . . come boldly unto the throne of grace . . .*" (Hebrews 4:16). We bring our sorrows, our hopes and our dreams to our Lord. We lay bare our souls. We confide in Him; we plead with Him. We ask of Him our hearts' desires.

What can we expect to find at the throne of grace? What can we expect to receive? What can we expect to give? Let's join three different women as they approach the throne. Eavesdrop on their journeys of faith, and perhaps we'll find within our own hearts a fervent desire to pray effectually.

For presentation helps, see the 2004 Program and Plan Book, pp. 28-31.

SOMEDAY MY PRINCE WILL COME (Psalm 37:4)



Heavenly Father, how long must I wait? For so long I've dreamed of finding the one You have made just for me; someone with whom to share my life; someone to love; someone with whom to grow old. You've answered this prayer over and over in the lives of my friends. I'm tired of being a bridesmaid, Lord. I'm not getting any younger, you know. I have so much love inside my heart; I want to share it with someone special. Please, Lord; grant me the desire of my heart. Please send me a husband! Amen.

The story is as old as Adam and Eve. Men and women were created to be together. What little girl hasn't planned her wedding, right down to the color of frosting on the cake? What teenager hasn't dreamed over and over of finding her one true love?

Although her family probably arranged her betrothal to Joseph, Mary, no doubt, held dreams in her heart about her future life with her beloved. No, she didn't have to petition Jehovah for a husband, but surely she prayed about her upcoming marriage. While wedding bells rang in Mary's head, the heavenly choir was rehearsing a different tune. Mary soon found her dreams of marriage interrupted by the Messiah Himself.

Was Mary angry with God for choosing a strange, new path for her? Did she lose faith in her God when He seemed to be shattering her dreams of a life with Joseph? Ponder the words that poured from this young woman's heart. *"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word"* (Luke 1:38).

What kept Mary from losing hope? How can single women hold onto their own hopes and dreams? The key is found in Psalm 37:4: *"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."*

Mary's young heart surely found great delight in thoughts of Joseph, but Scripture indicates that Someone else held her heart in His hands. Listen again to Mary's words. *"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour"* (Luke 1:46, 47).

Mary delighted in God. Her heart's deepest desire wasn't the man of her dreams, but the Lord of her life, and she got Him.

Are you single? While you're on your knees, praying for a mate, pray also for a meeting with your Messiah. Delight yourself in Him, and He will become the desire of your heart. It's a no-risk relationship. You've already won His love and devotion. Talk about a match made in Heaven!

Still longing for an earthly mate? Trust God with your desires. Remember, Mary got both Jesus and Joseph! However, if God has chosen a different path for your life than that which leads to wedded bliss, you can rest assured that He Himself will accompany you.

PRAYERS FOR THE PRODIGALS (Proverbs 22:6)

Oh, Lord, he's been away from You for so long! Will he ever return? I remember the day he invited You into his heart; I would never have imagined his boundless love for You would wax cold. Was it something I did? Did I say the wrong things? I surely didn't pray enough. Well, I'm praying now. Please bring him back to me, back to You. I beg You, Father. Restore my child to Your grace. Amen.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Many parents of prodigals have wondered exactly what that verse promises. Do you suppose the mother of the prodigal son in the Bible wondered at its meaning?

The Biblical account of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-24, speaks volumes about a father's passion for his wayward son, but says nothing about the mother. Perhaps when Jesus told the story, He assumed that everyone knew what the mother was doing—praying effectually and fervently. Surely, while the father scanned the horizon day after day, longing for his son's return, the mother knelt quietly in a corner of their home and cried out to God. What else could she do? She'd raised him right; he knew the way home. All she could do was pray. When you feel you can't pray another prayer or muster another hope, get off your knees and join the Father as He scans the horizon. You won't want to miss that first glimpse.

THE BEST IS YET TO BE (Psalm 37:5)

Lord, I'm feeling tired today. I can't seem to keep up with the younger ones anymore. They're so full of energy and ambition. They always want to change things. I'm just getting used to life the way it is! Maybe it's time for me to step back and let the young ones do it. Does Christianity offer a retirement plan? It makes me a little sad to think of it, Lord. You and I have been working together for a long time now. Is there anything left for me to do? Amen.

"Grow old along with me;
the best is yet to be.
The last, for which the first was made."
—*Robert Browning*

No, it's not in the Bible, and no, God doesn't grow old. But He extends the invitation to you just the same. Grow old with the Savior by your side. Why? The best is yet to be. Just ask Anna.

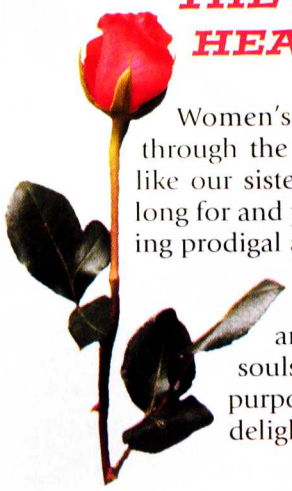
Anna's story appears in Luke 2:36-38. According to Scripture, Anna certainly hadn't retired when in her twilight years, she met the Christ. She served her Lord night and day. How? She prayed.

Anna's effectual, fervent prayers paid off. She saw Jesus, not in the glowing years of her youth, but at the end of her life. No doubt, she considered that moment in the temple—when a baby's cry pierced the air and a holy tremor made its way down her spine— the most precious in all her life.

Like Anna, most women will find that they see Jesus most clearly at the end of their earthly journey with Him. They've walked through the fire and found Him faithful. They've loved Him and never once been betrayed. They trust Him completely.

Older women, you have so much to teach those of us who are just beginning our journeys. Please keep serving. Please keep sharing. Above all, please keep praying effectually and fervently. You will be rewarded with a beautiful Savior who will walk with you through the best days of your life.

THE DESIRE OF OUR HEARTS (Psalm 73:25)



Women's desires haven't changed much through the ages. Neither have our prayers. We, like our sisters of the Old and New Testaments, long for and petition God for a true love, a returning prodigal and a purpose in life. Come to think of it, the answer to our prayers hasn't changed either. Jesus. He is the answer. He will be the lover of our souls, the redeemer of the lost, and the purpose of our life if we allow Him, if we delight in Him.

Susan Henderson lives in Purdy, MO, with her silky terrier, Rudy. She is a member of the Macedonia FWB Church, where she has taught Primary Sunday school for 16 years. Susan works as a secretary for Purdy Elementary School, and leads a Youth Alive student group. Her free time activities include freelance writing for Randall House and reading a good book.

Do you find it difficult to surrender your deepest desires to your Heavenly Father? PRAY!

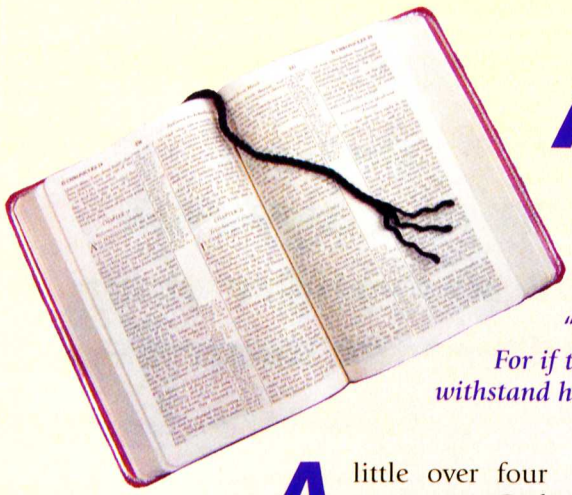
Present your request. Offer your desires to God. He cares about them, because He cares about you.

Reassure yourself. Read a few prayer promises from the Bible. A few suggestions:

Psalm 91:15;
Isaiah 65:24;
Jeremiah 29:13;
Luke 11:9;
John 15:7.

Affirm your faith. Choose to trust God, even when it seems as if God has not answered your prayer. Tell a trusted friend of your prayer. Expect an answer!

Yield to God's answer. His plan may not be the same as yours. Guess what? His is better. Read Isaiah 55:8 & 9.



A Cord of Three

by Sherry Sifers Coyle

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow…if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes. 4:9-10a; 12)

A little over four years ago, God clearly intertwined my life with two spiritual sisters. Though friendship developed in this relationship over time, the initial bond was birthed out of a longing—a longing to see God's hand move in the lives of our own families and some other families we knew. It began like this…

While my children were napping one Sunday afternoon, I got on my knees and poured out my heart's desires to my Father.

Hearing these was nothing new to Him because time and time before I had approached His throne regarding these petitions; however, on that particular afternoon, He very emphatically laid it on my heart to fast and pray about these requests. Then as if almost in an audible voice, He whispered, "Invite Tammy and Stephanie to join you."

Wanting to make sure I had clearly heard God correctly and not one of my own fleeting thoughts, I simply asked Him to confirm to me through His word that He was indeed compelling me to fast and pray with these two individuals.

For the next hour or so I searched the Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, reading several passages dealing with fasting and praying. Then magnified on the page in front of me was 2 Chronicles 20.

As I began reading I could sense the influence of the Holy Spirit upon me guiding me into truth. I knew, just simply knew, that this powerful chapter about great need and corporate prayer and fasting was God's confirmation to me.

The "icing on the cake," though, came when I listened to a long message my mother had left on my answering machine earlier that morning. As I heard her voice expressing concern about certain matters, I was absolutely stunned with chills, from the tips of my toes literally to the top of my head, when I heard her say, "Sherry, I read something today in the Word you just have to read. You need to read 2 Chronicles 20!"

God in His wisdom and sovereignty was clearly letting me know without a doubt that He was orchestrating a relationship and an experience into which He was calling me.

What took place over the next three weeks still simply amazes me. Each of us fasted during a certain period of time each day, one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, so the entire day was covered. We also met as frequently as we could (a big feat considering there were seven children among us) at each others' homes and in our church to petition God's throne.

We fed off God's Word, eager to know what He was about in our lives, often times rising as early as 4 a.m., long before our children awoke. Our individual quiet times, our corporate prayer times were truly Spirit-led. I cannot tell on how many different occasions, one of us would read a verse or passage in the Word only to find out later that same day that another or sometimes both had been directed by the Holy Spirit to read that exact same principle or truth. God's Spirit developed a "one mind, one accord" unity among us.

This drive, this energy was simply fueled by God. He, through such an intimate and powerful experience, invited us to *"taste and see that the Lord is good."* Our part in this divine fellowship was just to come along with Him.

"Each of us fasted during a certain period of time each day, one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, so the entire day was covered."

During the initial weeks of fasting and praying and even over the next two years as we met and prayed on a regular basis, I have to say we did not witness miraculous answers to all we petitioned God for. Though there were some incredible breakthroughs of God's power in the lives of some of the families we were interceding for, the true miracle that we personally witnessed was the way God began a process of changing and teaching us through this time of earnest seeking and asking.

There's no quick way to recount all that God began to graciously reveal to each of us about our own inward person, or all the truths He began to instruct us in. But the most impacting lesson God experientially taught me was this. When we earnestly seek Him and His power through fasting and praying, it significantly sharpens our ears to hear His voice through His Spirit and His Word; it also enters us into an arena of authentic worship. Even in subsequent times, as I have fasted and prayed privately or unified with other believers, this is the one reality God confirms over and over.

What is so ironic to me now and so like God, is that this very principle can be seen in the bedrock chapter God used to confirm his purpose for me to fast and pray with Tammy and Stephanie: 2 Chronicles 20.

with the people, [Jehoshaphat] *appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord for his mercy endureth forever"* (vs. 21).

The rest of the story is amazing. God did exactly as His words to them promised. And if that was not enough, it took them three days to collect the plunder (vs. 25). What an awesome story of the power of fasting and praying to usher God's people into the presence of hearing God and worshiping Him.

Two New Testament passages, Luke 4:1-13, and Acts 13:2,3, testify to this principle. In the account of Jesus' temptation in Luke's Gospel, Jesus who was fully God yet fully man was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast and be tempted. Though greatly weak from hunger, after fasting for forty days, Jesus was so in tune to his Father's voice that He knew the combative weapon to use against the devil—God's Word. Furthermore, when Satan tempted Christ to worship him, Jesus had a resolved response of worship. He answered Satan, *"It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"* (vs. 8).

Acts 13 accounts the beginning events of Apostle Paul's first missionary journey. Verses two and three state, *"As they* [certain prophets and teachers] *ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."*

These verses clearly establish again the same principle that seeking God through fasting and praying helps us to hear His voice and worship Him.

I am so grateful that God placed me in a cord of three with my sisters, Tammy and Stephanie. Two years ago I returned to teaching for a year, then had my third child. These factors along with some other things halted the three of us from praying on a regular basis. Just recently, though, God began drawing us back together again to establish a weekly time of prayer. We are very eager to see what God has awaiting us.

I am also so grateful, so very grateful for this other cord of three: fasting and praying, hearing God and worship

God began drawing us back together again to establish a weekly time of prayer.

I have read this passage again and again over the past four years. What is so clearly transparent when studying this story is that after inquiring of the Lord regarding the emergency situation Jehoshaphat's community was facing, he *"proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah"* (vs. 3). Then verse 4 states, *"Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD."* What follows is incredible. After praying one of the most powerful prayers in all of Scripture, the Word states that *"the Spirit of the Lord"* came upon Jahaziel. He then clearly communicated the message God wanted his people to hear: *"Ye shall not need to fight this battle: Set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem"* (vs.17).

After the people heard and began to obey God's voice, the Word says that when they marched out the next morning to face the enemy that *"when he had consulted*

In Luke's gospel the Jews questioned Jesus about fasting and why his own disciples did not fast and pray as John's disciples did. Jesus answered, *"Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast in those days"* (Luke 5:34-35).

Those days are now.

Sherry Coyle serves as a women's ministry prayer committee member and is the contact person for her church's prayer chain. An Ohio native, Sherry lives in Old Hickory, TN, with her husband Darin and their three children: Alexandra, 8, Ashlee, 5, and Luke, 1 1/2. The Coyles attend the Donelson FWB Church.

FEATURE

We've Got You Covered...

Blanketing the World With Prayer

by Lorene Miley

On his departure for India, William Carey told his friends, "Yonder in India is a gold mine. I will go down and dig, but you must hold the ropes."

Missions is a partnership. We don't merely help the missionary in his work; we are his partner. Paul told the Philippians, *"I thank my God...for your fellowship [partnership] in the gospel from the first day until now"* (Phil. 1:3-5). Our roles may differ, but we each have equal responsibility for the business at hand. They go, we stay. They work, we pray.

This concept of partnership keeps the missionary covered as we blanket him in prayer. Let's examine some ways we can do this and then focus on the results of this dual relationship.

PARTNERSHIP I

Today we pray for David and Annette Aycock in Brazil, and we pray from Philippians 1:9-12.

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER,

I thank You for the privilege of praying for this missionary family. I ask that their love for You will increase more and more and never stop until they are full of knowledge and wise insights.

May they be able to recognize the highest and the best and make right choices.

Today would You help them live sincere and blameless lives, filled with the fruit of righteousness that only You can give.

AMEN.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

Our physical and emotional
life is restored.
God touches our bodies
with manifold more
Our strength is renewed
and our spirits soar
As we run toward the challenge
of the Open Door
all self be slain
Depression fades
as you humbly implore.

THANK YOU, FRIENDS, FOR PRAYING.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

For presentation helps and suggestions, see the WNAC website and the 2004 Program and Plan Book, pp. 24-27

Prayer Card Praying

I love prayer cards, don't you? You can use them in so many ways.

Some families place them in a napkin holder and pray for one missionary before the evening meal.

Some make the cards a game. Hold up a card and the one who identifies it first (begin with last name only) is given a bean. At the end, the one who has the most beans wins a prize.

Place a card in the window above the sink, on the bathroom mirror, or attach to the fridge with a magnet as a reminder to prayer. Keep a stack in the car and pray while you're stuck in traffic.

Another suggestion is to insert a pack of sheet protectors in a looseleaf notebook, using one sheet for each prayer card. Other information, such as correspondence, news releases, or *Heartbeat* articles, is included and updated regularly. A clip at the top of the sheet marks your missionary to pray for that day.

World Map Praying

One of the best ways to blanket the world with prayer is by using a world map. It helps us see that the world is not just a few countries here and there, but a vast area of lost people for whom Christ died. A push pin above the picture marks the missionary for prayer that day.

Notebook Praying

I have found that a small notebook keeps me on target in blanketing the world in prayer. The pages are divided by tabs for each day of the week. Then the mission fields are divided by five and placed according the day of the week. For example, on Monday, pray for missionaries in Brazil and Uruguay; Tuesday—Panama, Mexico and Cuba; Wednesday—Spain, France and Russia; Thursday—Ivory Coast; Friday—Japan, India and Korea. Saturday is devoted to Home Missions and Sunday we pray at church.

The names of the missionaries are written on the pages and each is prayed for on her assigned day. If a missionary retires or resigns, the name is not removed, although a line is drawn through it. Often the Holy Spirit will prompt prayer for one of these persons.

PARTNERSHIP 2

Today we pray from Ephesians 3:14-21.

DEAR LORD,

I pray for Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman in Panama. Thank You that they were willing to carry out Your plan to save a lost world.

Flood their hearts with Your power so they will experience the inner strength of the Holy Spirit.

May You be allowed to occupy every corner of their hearts so all doubts and discouragements will melt away.

May they be rooted and established so deeply in Your love that they will experience just how wide and long and deep and high it really is.

AMEN

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

Our spiritual life
and growth are maintained.
Dear Lord, burn our hearts
with love unfeigned
Quicken Your Word
until truth engrains
Into every fiber,
all self be slain
And Christ enthroned
reigns unrestrained.

THANK YOU, FRIENDS, FOR PRAYING.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Partnership Praying

It's not easy to cover our missionaries in prayer, especially when we don't know them and never hear from them. Too often our prayers degenerate into "God bless our missionaries. Amen."

Sometimes it helps to narrow in and focus on one particular missionary, outreach or ministry. If you have children, choose a family with children the ages of yours. Learn all you can about their personal lives, location and ministry. Encourage your children to be pen pals. Direct your prayers to specific areas of need. Send them small expressions of your love. Call occasionally and send email messages. Invite them to visit you when they return for stateside assignment. Establish a warm relationship.

The missions hotline, updated each Wednesday from the Foreign Missions office is another tool for blanketing our missionaries with prayer. We can actually make a difference as we pray with our missionaries through crisis experiences.

When we don't know how to pray, we can always pray Scripture.

PARTNERSHIP 3

Today we pray from Colossians 1:9-12.

DEAR FATHER,

I pray for our missionaries in Europe today, those in Spain, France and Russia. We ask that You will fill them with your perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding so they will know Your great purpose.

Help them lead a life acceptable in all pleasing with their outward lives bringing credit to your name. May they bring joy to your heart by producing spiritual fruit.

I pray that they will be strengthened by Your glorious power so they may experience whatever You send and endure it with joy and thanksgiving.

AMEN

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

Interpersonal relationships
are improved.
Conflicts in family and
team workers diffuse
Shortcomings of others
we can humbly excuse
The path to the altar of
forgiveness well used
As we strive hour by hour
to be workers approved..

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND, FOR PRAYING.

TEACH ME TO PRAY

A WEEKLY CYCLE OF PRAYER TOPICS

Day 1

THE MISSIONARY'S OWN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

—Feeding on the Word
—Prayer life
—Filling with the Holy Spirit
—Maturity, growth in grace
—Victory over Satan and the flesh

Day 2

THE MISSIONARY'S PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL LIFE

—Adaptation to climate
—Health in the midst of disease
—Safety in danger
—Victory over loneliness, depression

Day 3

THE MISSIONARY'S FAMILY

—Husband/wife relationships
—Children
—Relationships with others
—Family life as a model to nationals

Day 4

THE MISSIONARY'S ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE

—Language study
—Continual improvement in fluency
—Cultural adaptation and understanding

Day 5

THE MISSIONARY'S MINISTRY

—Teaching, preaching, witnessing
—Boldness, open doors
—Prepared hearts, fruitfulness

Day 6

HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH FELLOW WORKERS

—Other missionaries
—National evangelists, pastors, teachers

Day 7

HIS COUNTRY OF SERVICE

—Government—national and local
—Political situation
—Visas, continued open door
—Outreach to cities, villages, tribes

—Overseas Missionary Fellowship

PARTNERSHIP 4

Today pray from Ephesians 1:15-23.

DEAR LORD,

Bless our missionary family today. Thank you for their faith in You and love for their people. Grant them spiritual wisdom and insight to know more about You,

to receive the inner illumination of the Spirit,

the greatness of the hope of their calling,

the magnificent splendor of their inheritance,

and to experience that tremendous power that brings the dead to life.

I ask, Father, that they will witness that power in the lives of those to whom they minister today.

AMEN

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

Sin-blinded souls
are now saved.
Dwellers in darkness who
were once held enslaved
By sin chains and ignorance
lost and depraved
God touched our lips
to His message emblaze
Bonds snapped like kindling
as He freely forgave

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, FOR PRAYING.

WILL YOU PRAY?

We are partners with the missionary in seeing that the Great Commission is fulfilled. May someday a missionary say of each of us: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel."

Pray One For Another

(James 5:16)

I cannot tell why there should come to me
A thought of someone miles and miles away
In swift insistence on the memory,
Unless a need there be that I should pray.

Too hurried oft are we to spare the thought,
For days together, or some friends away;
Perhaps God does it for us, and we ought
To read His signal as a call to pray.

Perhaps, just then, my friend has fiercer fight,
And more appalling weakness and decay
Of courage, darkness, some lost sense of right;
And so, in case he needs my prayer, I pray.

Friend, do the same for me. If I intrude
Unasked upon you, on some crowded day,
Give me a moment's prayer as interlude;
Be very sure I need it, therefore, pray.

— Marianne Farningham

Lorene Miley, former missionary and CoLaborer editor, is a pray-er, encourager, and active participant in her church's women's ministry. Mrs. Miley enjoys quilting and collecting Nativities. She and her husband, Dr. LaVerne, were featured speakers at the recent Prayer Summit 2004.

Stenches.

The smells of a heathen religion
are stenches
rather than fragrances.
Inseparable smells and sounds—
Try to sense them.

Sense first, fear—
fear so imbedded that you can taste it,
because it permeates every area of Lobi life.

Decisions about marriage, family, food, problems of sickness,
money—whatever—the fetish must be consulted:
...the tinkle of the bell, calling the spirits
...the bleating of a goat or sheep, or the squalking of a chicken—
their "farmy" odors—as one is chosen for the sacrifice
...the warm smell of blood as the neck is slit
...the clacking of the cowrie shells as they are shaken and thrown
down to determine the verdict
...the monotonous chanting of the fetish priest
as he consults with the spirits.

Someone dies—a frequent event in Lobi life:
...the heart-rending wailing and crying out to the ancestors
...the hollow melody of the balafon calling the mourners
...the ear-splitting blast of homemade guns announcing the funeral
...the shaking of the hard ground
from scores of gyrating, dancing, perspiring bodies...
...the choking stench of sweat and dust and baby urine
that makes you feel as if you need to spit
...the millet beer brewing over a wood fire
...the fire's rustic, nostalgic smell
...the sour breaths of the beer drinkers
...the frenzy of the drums calling out to the untiring dancers

These are the bitter and hopeless smells and sounds of a
heathen religion—people waiting
for the sweet fragrance
of hope and life.

—Lynette Morgan

Lynette Morgan grew up as a MK (daughter of Lorene Miley) in Cote d'Ivoire where she has served as a FWB missionary for 27 years. She and her husband Clint are presently involved in FWB missionary efforts in Central Asia.. The Morgans have four grown children and three granddaughters.

Traveling Tortilla Towels

When Sister Felicitas de Pachecos, pastor's wife of the Mahanaim FWB Church in Altamira, Mexico attended the National Convention in Tampa last July, she traveled with tortilla towels. Sister "Fela" sought to sell these and an assortment of other handmade items in order to raise funds for a new church kitchen.

Though she sold a few pieces during the week, at the close of the convention a healthy stack of items remained. Missouri missionary Ruth Bivens asked if she might keep the unsold articles in the U.S. and try to sell them.

Packed in her suitcase, the tortilla towels traveled from Florida back to Missouri.

During the next few months, Ruth challenged women at the Missouri State Retreat and the Oklahoma State Meeting to take home one of the towels or other items and use it as a fundraiser for the Mexican church kitchen.

Tortilla towels traveled throughout the midwest as groups accepted and creatively contributed to this project.

One group sold lunches at an auction and dedicated their dessert sales to the project. Another group sponsored a Mexican day complete with ethnic food and Spanish background music.

Women from the Beacon FWB Church, Raytown, MO, took home a towel, beautifully embroidered with purple grapes and organized a burrito sale. The group took orders for two weeks. Each burrito purchase entered the buyer's name into a drawing for the tortilla towel. One woman prepared all the burrito mix. Others gathered on a Saturday morning to roll and wrap dozens of burritos—over $220 worth! The winner of the towel? One of the preparers, who incidentally collects grapes.

Sister "Fela" helps make concrete for use in the construction of the church.

So far, the traveling tortilla towels have netted nearly $700, and some of them are still traveling.

For years, the women of Altimira have worked, sponsoring dinners, selling plate lunches and tamales, raising funds for a new church building. Yet like most church women, they wanted a church kitchen with four walls, and a secure roof—one with a sink, running water, a refrigerator, and a nice, tile floor. How thrilling to help these hard-working women reach this goal.

THURSDAY

Praise God for the steadfastness of Ivorian believers and the growth of the church in Côte d'Ivoire in the midst of unrest. Pray the difficult times will prove an impetus for believers' faith to increase and their lives will be testimonies to the joy and peace to be found in Christ. Pray for Ivorian leaders and ask God to grant continued freedom to preach the gospel.

Molly Barker, Dennis and Trena Owen and Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster serve in Uruguay. Please pray for the believers in Uruguay as they step forward and take on more leadership responsibilities. Ask God to call more people to missions service in this needy country.

Pray for Clint Morgan, Stan Bunch and Dale Bishop as they continue to adjust to their new roles as regional directors. In addition to their usual missionary roles each man is responsible for the missionaries in their assigned areas.

Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment, and his assistants are helping the E-TEAMs and overseas apprentices prepare for summer ministries. Pray for Eddie, Judy Lytle, and Angela Emerick as they work through the multitude of details involved. Ask the Lord to keep His hand upon each person serving in short-term missions and that some will answer the call to career missions.

FRIDAY

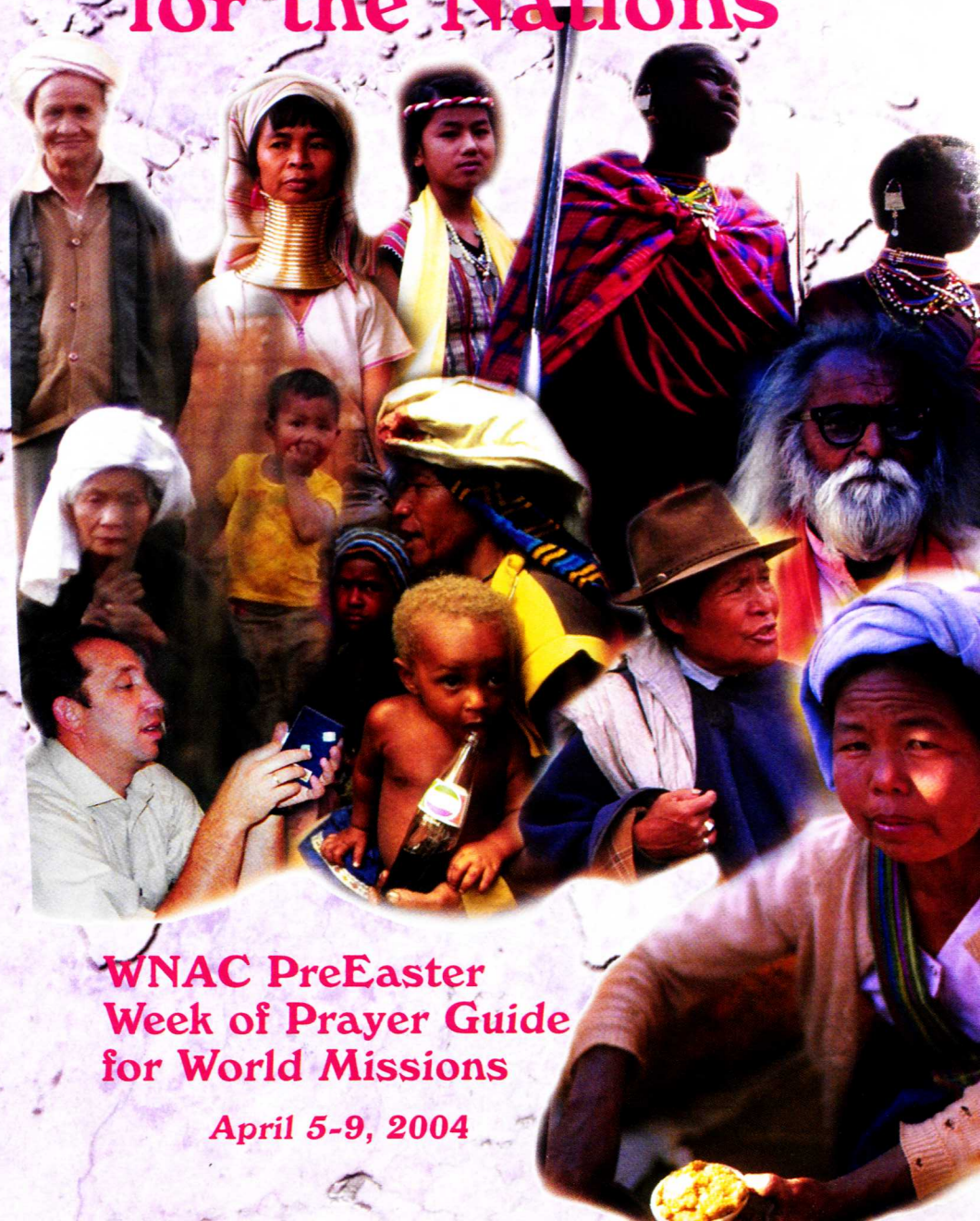
The Board of Foreign Missions will meet April 19-21. Pray God will grant unity as board members seek His will, gain wisdom and follow His direction.

Pray for Tom and Nancy Hughes and Andy and Andrea Moore as they minister to and with believers in Uberlândia, Brazil. Pray many visitors will attend the Easter program (April 11) and the Mother's Day program (May 9). Ask God to use the various presentations to touch hearts.

Pray for Brian Ellison (video coordinator), Cheri Ham (computer media coordinator) and Deborah St. Lawrence (print media coordinator) as they work in public relations. Ask God to give them creativity and direction as they develop audiovisual presentations, improve and update the Foreign Missions Web site, and prepare publications and literature.

The missionary team in Spain is working to plant a church in Alpedrete. As the Edgmons and Johnsons live out their lives in the community, pray that God will prepare hearts to receive the gospel message. Several unsaved people are studying the Bible with team members. Pray for understanding of spiritual things and for their salvation.

Blessed for the Nations



WNAC PreEaster Week of Prayer Guide for World Missions

April 5-9, 2004

MONDAY

A group of 16 will work in four summer camps in two Central Asian countries in June and July. Pray the teams will be effective servants as they prepare meals, clean dorms, and do groundskeeping. Also, pray for safety as they travel and minister in these difficult areas.

The "M" Team (Sean and Jill Warren, Tim and Di Keener, Micah and Becky Derby and Darren and Dana Portell) began language school in Albertville, France, in January. Pray they will continue to acclimate to the French culture and become proficient in the French language. Pray for a safe delivery for Di who is expecting a baby in May. Ask God to be with the other four children of team members as they enter French schools and daycares.

Steve Lytle is director of field operations. Pray that God will give him special wisdom and insight as he works with missionaries to develop field strategy.

Doug Little, director of stateside development, and his assistant, April Bybee, work as liaisons between missionaries and stateside supporters. Ask God for open doors for Doug to more effectively serve pastors and missionaries. April assumed her position in January, so pray she will become familiar with her responsibilities and comfortable working with pastors and state leaders.

Neil Gilliland, director of member care, counsels with missionaries and MKs. Ask the Lord to give him wisdom and spiritual discernment for each situation that arises.

Pray for Bible institute students in Uberlândia, Brazil. Pray especially for Rui Xavier, a ministerial student being groomed to pastor the Garden of Palms FWB Church.

Pray many churches will show the *Embracing the Vision IV* video and individuals will be challenged to greater personal involvement in missions.

TUESDAY

Bobby and Geneva Poole have ministered in the Bible institute in Reiberão Preto, São Paulo, Brazil, for 34 years. Pray for students, teachers, national pastors and lay leaders. Ask God to call more individuals into ministry as pastors, missionaries and teachers.

Although Easter is a week later in Russia than in the United States, it is a traditional holiday and people who ordinarily do not attend church will attend on Easter. Pray the Word of God will penetrate the hearts of Russians who make their yearly trip to church. Pray the Lord will bless major evangelization programs to children's homes and communities.

Rolando and Keila Delago and their family emigrated from Cuba to Panama as missionaries. Pray for Rolando as he pastors the First FWB Church in Panama City. Ask God to help the family adjust to the many cultural differences and responsibilities of the pastorate.

Pray for General Director James Forlines and his new assistant, Tracy Jennette. Ask God to give James direction, wisdom and vision as he oversees the Foreign Missions department. Pray for Tracy, who assumed her position in February, as she handles many details each day.

Pray for the Russian church planters supported by Free Will Baptists. Ask God to give them wisdom and strength for the task He has given them. Pray for the Bible institutes in Chelyabinsk and Krasnodar. Ask God to bless Mike and Cathy Corley as they minister in Russia.

WEDNESDAY

Bobby and Sue Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, are grateful for the Lord's blessings on their work. They have overseen the construction of three church buildings as works began to mature. Other outreaches are under way. Although nearing retirement, Bobby and Sue have some goals they would like to accomplish. Pray that their ministry will continue to be fruitful as they appropriate the Lord's grace daily.

A construction team will travel May 10-17 to Tajikistan to make improvements and perform routine maintenance on a youth camp. Ask God to use the trip to strengthen relationships with Central Asian Christians, provide opportunities for future ministry and demonstrate Christ's love to many who have never heard of Him.

Pray for Rob Conley, director of financial operations, and his staff: Gladys Gragg, bookkeeper; Geneva Walker, accounting clerk; and Nancy Jones, part-time accounting clerk. Ask the Lord to guide Rob in the various aspects of financial administration for Foreign Missions.

Carlisle Hanna continues his ministry in India. Ask the Lord to give Carlisle strength for his days and wisdom for the work. Pray that God will bless the faculty and students at the Bible institute in South India.

The World Missions Offering will be received on Sunday, April 25. This special offering undergirds the Foreign Missions office, enabling missionary support, providing for expansion, mobilization of the denomination and recruitment efforts. Pray for a generous offering from churches and individuals.

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

January

Time for my first appointment with my obstetrician. I 've had one little scare. After working out at the gym, I noticed a little spotting. I decided I could do without working out. Okay, maybe it's an excuse to take it easy, but I 'm not going to take any chances either. I went January 9 for more lab work and all the family history, background, etc. I did like the nurses and office workers. My estimated due date is August 28. I was a bit nervous, going to a new doctor. My primary care doctor recommended her, but I didn't know anyone else who had used her. I didn't get to see the doctor until the 23rd. She checked me out to make sure everything looked okay. Something didn't feel right to her, so she brought in the ultrasound. I was not too concerned. I was just glad to get to see the baby. She didn't think my uterus felt the right size but with the ultrasound she found that an ovary was getting in the way. I was able to see the baby and its heartbeat. This was really awesome, especially since you can't really tell there's a baby yet. Yeah, there's the nausea, heartburn, tiredness, heartburn, multiple trips to the bathroom, and did I mention, heartburn, but there's nothing to really say this is a baby. To actually see it there is incredible even though all the parts are not quite formed or discernable.

I am now nine weeks pregnant. I think I am going to like this doctor. She seems to know that I am not very good at asking questions. She kept saying, "Do you have any more questions?" I'd ask a few questions. Then she'd ask me again if I had any questions. We went through this process several times.

I've told some people at church and most everyone at work knows I'm pregnant, but I haven't made any public announcements. (I want to make it through the first trimester.) News spreads quickly by word of mouth, especially since a lot of people have been waiting for me to make this announcement. My grandma says I should have the baby on my dad's birthday. I'm sure I wouldn't mind that, but I think babies have minds of their own when it comes to being born. Oh yeah, more big news. My cousin who said she had to get pregnant, is! She was actually pregnant at Christmas; we just didn't know it.

February

Everything continues to go well—actually better than I expected. I remember how sick my sister was her entire pregnancy. I haven't been sick once so far, just nausea and heartburn, and I'm very, very tired! I am keeping really busy too with work, school, and church. My next doctor's appointment is February 21. I am 13 weeks pregnant. The doctor says everything looks fine. I have been looking at baby stuff. I am a bit overwhelmed at this point. I don't even know what to get. Since I don't know whether I'm having a boy or girl, that leaves an unknown too. Having nine months to prepare is probably a good thing. I think it might take that long for my mind to sort everything out. I had more blood tests. Everything came back fine. It's always good to get positive reports.

grandmother

My Dearest Grandbaby,

Today we saw your first sonogram picture. Your mommy is six weeks along now. You are only six millimeters in length, yet I can see your little head and the curve of your body. You are so tiny – I think I'll call you Peanut for now. I wonder if you are a boy or a girl...

I know that you already have a pulsation of a heartbeat. In just a few weeks, the doctor will hear that heartbeat and your fingers and toes will be formed. It is difficult to imagine all that development taking place in such a tiny being.

I can't imagine what it will be like to be a grandma! Everyone tells me it's the greatest privilege in the world! When I meet people who are grandparents, I see their face illuminate as they talk about their grandchildren, and talk, and talk, and talk...

I can't wait to talk about you as a...

Nana

The average first-time grandmother is 47 years old.

31% of adults or 60 million, are grandparents.

Statistics from online review of Off My Rocker by Gracie Malone, Nav Press.

SPRINGBOARD

SERVICE

CONSIDER an Easter service project in your community.

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

PRAY. What greater expectation than that of prayer? That's the theme throughout March and April. Preparing women's hearts to pray will reap a harvest of blessings. As a leader, spend special time in prayer for your women's group, asking God to strengthen each individual woman's commitment to the Lord of the Harvest.

CHALLENGE. Did your group take the "One More in 2004" Challenge? Remind women of this commitment. Have each woman write down one idea for enlistment.

SURVEY. If your group has not completed the February Forum for the Future Survey, there's still time. Find it online at www.nafwb.org/wnac.

PLAN. Need inspiration and ideas? These 2004 National WNAC events—the WNAC Convention in July and the WNAC National Retreat at Ridgecrest in October offer encouragement and help for all women (especially leaders).

PLEASE, WOULD YOU DO IT AGAIN?

Due to a processing error, all online surveys completed before December 25 were not tallied. If you completed the survey then, would you please consider doing it again? Because we value your participation and your comments, we want to include you.

NEEDS

PROVISION CLOSET. Full size mattress pads, gift cards or phone cards.

WNAC OFFICE. Funds to purchase a G-4 or G-5 Macintosh Computer, Quark XPress software, color laser printer, and an electric stapler.

MONTHLY FAITH PROMISE support for WNAC ministries.

STUDY

SHARE a book talk about *Over Mountain or Plain or Sea*, by missionary Trula Cronk. This book is available for purchase from WNAC.

ENCOURAGE women to read the resurrection account from all four Gospels.

PRAYER

PLAN now for the PreEaster Week of Prayer. If your group does not receive an information packet by March 1, please contact WNAC at 1-877-767-7662.

BLANKET the world with these reminders. Cut fleece squares. Pin or velcro a list of various nations to each.

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

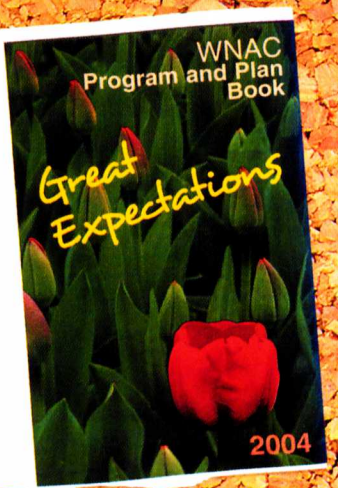
MISSIONS

SHARE "Traveling Tortilla Towels" with your group. Discuss ways you could help women within a mission work.

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

DISTRIBUTE FM maps and directories to each of your women in preparation for the PreEaster Week of Prayer and World Missions Offering.

FIND MORE IDEAS



FEEDBACK...FEEDBACK...FEEDBACK...

Dear WNAC,

We would like to express our appreciation for almost thirty years of being blessed through you. You have prayed for us, backed us financially and provided for our needs through the Provision Closet. We have kept our food in Tupperware containers you provided, cooked and baked in cookware and baking pans you gave, eaten on dishes and with silverware you sent, made our beds and kept warm with sheets, washed and dried dishes (and our bodies) with towels and dish towels you bought, and decorated our home with other provisions from this "magic closet." We've seen our children's eyes light up over toys, games, clothing, etc., lovingly provided by YOU.

How can we say thank you enough? We can't but we will try and we pray that God will bless you greatly. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Sandra and Dale Bishop
Japan

Dear WNAC,

We are thankful for all of you in the office. We appreciate our magazines, materials and *CoLaborer* friends.

First Bible WAC, IN

Dear WNAC,

We are thankful for your prayers and gifts. It does make a difference in Sierra Vista, AZ. We hit a snag with the city on building plans *($45,000 extra)*. Keep praying. God is able.

Jerry Rayburn
Sierra Vista, AZ

Dear WNAC,

Jut to let you know how much we enjoy *CoLaborer.* It's always a blessing to our women

Eleanor Cutler, President
Greater St. John's WAC, FL

Dear WNAC,

I trust the ministry in your office is going well. We're looking to the Lord for His blessings on the Christian bookstore here in Nantes. I just wanted to express my thanks for the latest gifts to the French Bookstore Fund.

Patsy Vanhook
France

Dear WNAC,

...We are already making plans for Ridgecrest, Fall 2004, and our state's hosting the National in 2005. I pray for you often. I appreciate you and all work done for the glory of our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ

Judith Goble
Pikeville, KY

Dear WNAC,

Just a note to say thanks for all you do. I appreciated seeing Mr. Tchoukite's letter (NOV/DEC 03). Thanks for caring and for your prayers and many helps. Continue to remember the African believers as you pray.

Carol Pinkerton
Cote d'Ivoire

Dear WNAC,

Just a note to let you know that I really like the new lettering/logo on the *CoLaborer* magazine this month [*Jan/Feb 04*]. It looks great—more youthful, more inviting, more motivating, more joyful!

Wendy Ashdown
Nashville, TN

Dear WNAC,

My thanks to WNAC for their recent gift. I don't know the circumstances, but I am thankful for the gift, just the same. My time with ELIC in China was very special, but now it is good to be stateside for a while. Thanks again for your financial support.

Darla Kirby
Nashville, TN

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for the joy of going through the Provision Closet. I got some much needed items to set up housekeeping again for this year's furlough. Thank you for your ministry to us.

Deleen Cousineau
Cote d'Ivoire

Dear WNAC,

Just a note to say thank you for the gift to our account earlier this year. It was such a boost for us and we appreciate the gift. We are continually reminded of the generosity of our women—with these monetary gifts to our account, but also in the numerous items we use everyday from the Provision Closet.

Sam and June McVay
Spain

Dear WNAC,

I received my Jan/Feb *CoLaborer* on Tuesday just before Thanksgiving and as usual, I had to read it through. It was a veritable Thanksgiving feast. The articles were outstanding, as a table set before me that fed my soul. I just had to write and tell you of the enjoyment I received. The color is wonderful—like a magnet pulling you to read and absorb every article. God has really blessed Free Will Baptists with women who are not afraid to write from their heart. Thank you Diana Bryant for taking the time to write, "Can You See the Future." Thank you, Marjorie Workman; your article on computers and the application sure struck home. Sometimes I wish I had a book for dummies, but thankfully, throughout my life in Christian work, God has been that source of help. Debe Taylor's article, "Plug Into the Power," made me feel that I need a power surger to keep me plugged in. Thank you Debe Taylor. The "Help I am a Mom," "The Hedge" poem,...of course, there was so much more. God delivered the *CoLaborer* at the right time for me. Thank you.

Yvonne Brown
Fresno, CA

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. Illinois missionary wives (l-r) Joy Davison, Dana Portell, Becky Derby and Bonnie Doggett with Sarah Malone 2. First FWB Sylacauga WAC members pose with Odessa Ledlow and Doug Little at the AFWBWAC Missions Banquet. 3. Florida State Line District Missions Chairman, Cynthia Knowles, (third from left) presents baskets to (l-r) Melissa Lunsford, Sally Cash, and Janie Aldridge. 4. (next page) Women of Cheyenne FWB Church, Cheyenne, WY.

❋ The First FWB Church WAC, Sylacauga, AL, under the leadership of Barbara Ellison, hosted the AFWBWAC Missions Banquet, November 6, 2003. Eighty men and women feasted on music by Ed and Odessa Ledlow, and a message and song by Foreign Missions Representative, Doug Little. Alabama's Executive committee also met on this date and discussed plans for the upcoming 2006 WNAC Convention in Birmingham.

❋ Sarah Malone, an Illinois native presently serving with English Language Institute in China, addressed over 80 women and teens this past September at the Illinois WAC Prayer Retreat at Camp Hope. Her topic, 'Discovering the Patterns of Life's Grace and Beauty" expanded the retreat theme, "Quilted with Love."

❋ Florida State Line District, AL, sponsored their annual Cookout for Missions this past August at the Goodwater FWB Church. After a meal of fried fish, chicken and trimmings, the 150 attendees gathered in the church auditorium for a program with Jimmy Aldridge as keynote speaker. Guests included the Jeff Lunsford family from Mongolia, State Promotional director Rick Cash and wife, Sally, and former missionaries, Jimmy and Janie Aldridge and Fred and June Hersey. Door prizes included gifts from Japan, Russia, and Mongolia. Offerings totaled $3290 for the Acts 1:8 Plan.

Cheyenne Women Active for Christ, WY, have been involved in some major fundraising efforts. This newly-organized group recently sent offerings for Emphasis month, Rest of the Family, the MIR house, the organ fund, and some gift cards for the Provision Closet. The group is now gathering funds to attend the 2004 National Retreat at Ridgecrest.

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

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

Q How do you combat prejudice?

A

SELF-EXAMINATION

Examine your own heart. Are there identifiable areas of prejudice in your life? Do you value, treat or look at others differently because of their race, financial status, or physical appearance? Beware. Your children will pick up even the smallest traces of prejudice within you.

Go to God's Word. A valuable study text is the Book of James. James asks Christians some searching and pointed questions about this very issue. Answer them honestly. Ask God for wisdom to teach your children by example that God values all people and gave His Son for each and every one.

All of us exhibit prejudice in some form. Only when we recognize this as sin, and realize that through Christ alone can we overcome, will we be able to combat prejudice and teach our children to properly respect and care for all peoples.

Here are some practical suggestions for combatting several types of prejudice.

RACIAL PREJUDICE

Pray and ask God for a friend of another race or nationality. Encourage your children to establish friendships with children of other races in your community.

Adopt a Compassion child or sponsor an international child through another Christian relief agency.

Host an exchange student from another country.

Forbid racist statements, slurs, and ethnic jokes in your home.

FINANCIAL PREJUDICE

Do not make money an issue in your relationships. Daily teach children to value eternal treasures. Never display a "poor-me" attitude in front of your children. All of us are rich in Christ, no matter our material wealth. Welcome all children into your home, no matter their background. True, you may have to guide and intervene if your child is influenced negatively, but an open door speaks volumes to children—even your own.

Pray with your children for a variety of people from political leaders to the homeless. Remind children that we are blessed to be a blessing.

PREJUDICES CONCERNING PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OR INTELLECTUAL ABILITY

Emphasize Psalm 139:14. Appreciating God's handiwork in human formation puts things like race, nationality, and physical character in perspective.

Forbid any negative remarks or jokes about a person's size, physical features or intelligence.

Read or encourage your children to read Bible stories and biographies of people with these difficulties whom God used—Elijah, Gladys Aylward, Joni Eareckson Tada, etc.

THE KEY

The key to overcoming prejudice is a proper view of God's grace. It is only by God's grace that any of us can claim anything.

NEXT ISSUE: Bedwetting, nailbiting, thumbsucking. Help!
Send us your input and questions. sarah@nafwb.org or P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

DEBE'S DELIGHTS

"thy commandments are my delights."
Psalm 119:143b

by

Debe Taylor
WNAC President

I just want to please

please: to be agreeable, give pleasure, satisfy.

I used to be a people-pleaser. Even though someone once said, "You can't please everybody," I sure would strive to do just that. I wanted to please my parents, my teachers, my friends, my in-laws, my employers, the congregation—and the list went on. It became an enormous task.

Now, don't get me wrong. There are times when we should please others. Even the Bible tells us to "please your neighbor," to "please your husband," to "please your wife," to "please one another." So we are to work at pleasing others, but not to the point that we forget the ultimate goal: *"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; **that he may please him who** hath chosen him to be a soldier"* (2 Timothy 2:4). Guilty! I was trying so desperately to please others that I did not leave myself time or energy to "please Him."

In the movie "Mary Poppins," Jane and Michael Banks appear to be incorrigible children. In truth, they just want the approval of their father. The problem is, they do not know how to go about getting his attention or his approval. Mary Poppins teaches them the way to please their father—"be practically perfect in every way."

As a child of God, I too must please the Father—be practically perfect in every way! *"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God"* (Leviticus 20:7). Romans 12:1 states, *"...present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable** unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

I need to work harder at pleasing God than I do at pleasing others. In pleasing their father, the Banks children found that others were pleased with them as well. The same principle works in the Christian realm. If I please the Lord, then others will be pleased. No, not everyone, but "you can't please everyone."

Paul wrote, *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ"* (Galatians 1:10). Who are you trying to please?

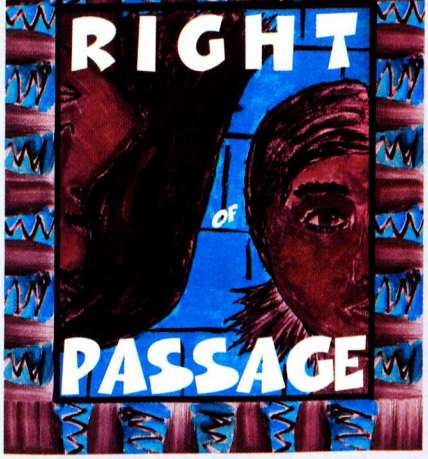
I just want to please the Lord,
Be in His will in every way;
Lost in His presence,
Found in His likeness;
To hear Him say "Well done,"
Some day!

Re-TREAT yourself this HALLOWEEN

WNAC National Retreat
Ridgecrest, NC
October 29-30, 2004

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

Dynamic. Humorous. Encouraging. Inspiring. Nationally known author and speaker Carol Kent is sure to warm your heart and treat your soul. A former radio show co-host, and director of women's ministries, Carol's books include *Becoming a Woman of Influence, My Soul's Journey,* and *Detours, Tow Trucks, and Angels in Disguise.* She has been featured in *Focus on the Family, The Joyful Woman,* and *Today's Christian Woman* magazines.



Visiting churches, seeing friends and family, shopping at Wal-Mart, eating a lot—now those days are over. What's it like when a returning missionary teen is...

on the MOVE

by Autumn Aycock

"Praying always...for me, that...I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,"
Ephesians 6:18,19

9:00 Monday morning: Rise and Shine! Yeah right! Who wants to shine when you are about to go to a busy airport, say goodbye, then travel overseas in a fairly uncomfortable position for nine hours? Not us four Aycocks for sure. But, I assure you we did our best to shine. After a fun trip to Atlanta, we checked in and enjoyed our last Wendy's Frosty. Our luggage was inspected—including the pepperoni! *(I guess they thought if it was expired, it could blow up or something.)* We said goodbyes, cried a little, then loaded up.

8:00 Monday night: Boarding time. We stepped on the plane, carefully observing the first class area, thinking about those comfortable lazy boy seats. After struggling through the small aisle, we found our seats in the very back, still thinking about first class. Lift off. I started to enjoy my seat, forgetting about first class. Supper was pasta with chicken—pretty good for airplane food. After supper, sleep was desired, but my current position wasn't. As I squirmed around, I looked over at Breeana—sound asleep. How did she do it? After hours of restlessness, sunlight appeared through the windows, a sign of hope that I had made it through the sleepless night.

9:00 Tuesday morning: We stepped into the airport, our home for the next nine hours. Daddy collected our luggage. Picture the Brady Bunch: each family member pushing a cart filled with luggage, venturing through a foreign airport in single file. Everyone stares. Yes, that's my family. Embarrassing, but it worked. We found some chairs, and sat, sat, waited, sat, sat, waited some more, sat, sat, sat. We all looked dead. And of course Daddy captured it on video. After awhile, we decided to visit a piece of home. Yes, the airport had a McDonalds. I ordered a #2 and found a seat in the very back of that wonderful place. Now this was more like it. We decided to confiscate the table, and sit, sit, and wait some more in this place of rest and sweet peace, not to mention the wonderful smell of cheeseburgers. We played games and took time to recognize how truly good the Lord had been to us during our trip. Sure, we could complain about a lot of things, but God was good. He had brought us to McDonalds.

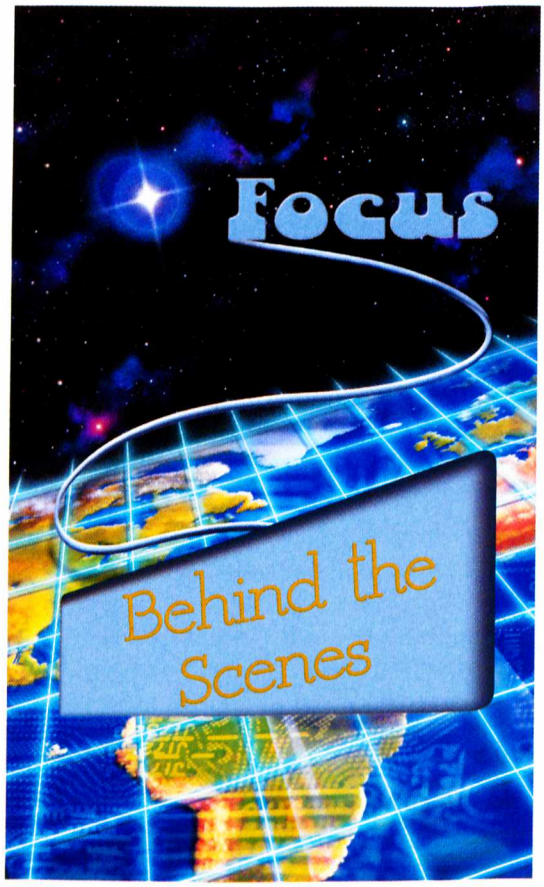
6:00 Tuesday night: Boarding time for our last airplane ride. After my Quarter-pounder with cheese, I felt refreshed and ready. The ride was beautiful and I drank in the surroundings—Brazilian surroundings. This was weird at first, still is I guess, but that's to be expected. I talked to God along the way about a lot of things.

7:30 Tuesday night: We arrived in Belo. Jim and Vicki Sturgill, and my grandparents, Bobby and Sue Aycock, came to pick us up. Bump, bump. "Wow, watch that pothole." Bump, bump...our car ride home began. Was it just me, or had the roads got worse? Not that I was conscious for most of the ride. I leaned on Destanie and dozed off. Next thing I knew we were home and I was in bed. My bed! I slept...comfortably for the first time in almost two days.

12:30 Wednesday morning: Breeana woke me up. Yes, I'd slept a long time. It felt good! Little did I know this good feeling would soon be gone. She'd just got a phone call. Carol, one of my good friends from school, was in an accident. Her dad had died, her mom was in critical condition, Carol had broken two legs, and her little sister had a broken leg. Just waking up, this was too much for me to take in. I finally got a hold of myself and realized what had happened. Carol is one of my friends whom I had been witnessing to at school. I love her a lot. Now she might be paralyzed. Her dad was not a Christian as far as we know. He grew up playing with my dad. Her mother used to be part of the youth group before she grew up and away from the Lord. This is a tragedy, but God can use it to bring them closer to His open arms. We've just arrived and the Lord has already given us an opportunity to do His work.

Thursday: We continue to unpack, see friends, and get Portuguese "stuck back" in our heads. Please continue to pray for us as we get back into our daily routine, attend school, and minister to this family who needs the Lord's healing.

Autumn Aycock is fifteen. She and her family serve as missionaries in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.



Pray:

—for smoothness and unity during this time of job changes and employee transitions.

—for adequate financial gifts to FM to fund these needed support ministries.

—for retiring staff member, Shirley Lauthern, as she enters a new phase of life and ministry.

—for daily focus as support personnel perform numerous, varied and oftentimes, tedious tasks.

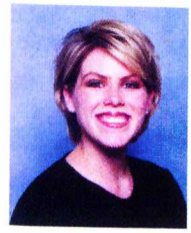
FM Support Staff: (back, l-r) Geneva Walker, Deborah St. Lawrence, Judy Lytle, Angela Emerick, (front, l-r) Gladys Gragg, Nancy Jones, Cheri Ham.

YOU WON'T FIND THEIR PICTURES ON MISSIONARY PRAYER CARDS. You probably wouldn't recognize their names. Yet, day after day, these servant missionaries help fulfill the Great Commission. They are members of the Foreign Missions Support Staff. Each is active in local ministry—eight different churches. All have a passion for FWB missions and a heart for the world.

GENEVA WALKER, Accounting Clerk, handles FM donations, printing and mailing checks, and data entry for accounts payable. A pastor's wife for over 50 years, Geneva and her husband Billy, now retired, attend the Corner Stone FWB Church, Murfreesboro, TN, where Geneva teaches preschoolers. Active in her local WAC, Geneva is Tennessee's WAC State Treasurer.

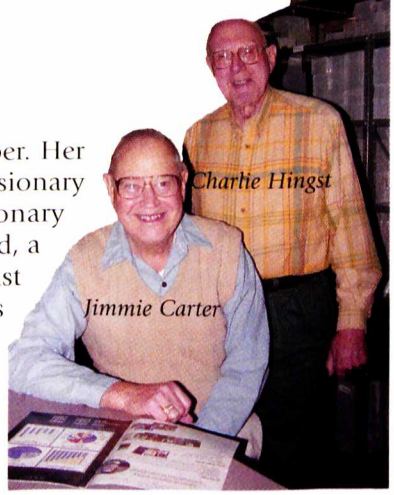
DEBORAH ST. LAWRENCE, serves as Print Media Coordinator. She's the editor of *Heartbeat*. Prayer cards, posters—all FM printed materials make for an almost overwhelming task. Married, with four children (two at FWBBC, one in Christian school, one she homeschools), Deborah still finds time for WAC at Cross Timbers FWB Church. She also coordinates Bible Memorization and Sword Drill.

JUDY LYTLE, Candidate Coordinator, is contact person for those interested in short-term or career missions. She guides candidates through the approval process, handling paperwork, arranging meetings with the board. Judy also obtains tickets and visas for staff and missionaries. Missionary to Panama for 24 years, Judy is now Women's Ministry Prayer Chairman at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, where she also teaches, sings in the choir and coordinates an ESL program. She and her husband Steve enjoy family—three sons, two *(soon three)* daughters-in-law and two grandchildren.



ANGELA EMERICK, Student Missions Coordinator, oversees all high school and college missions programs such as E-TEAM and Go & Be. Angela has worked with a local Kurdish family for nine years. Originally from Virginia Beach, VA, Angela boards in Nashville with a Christian family as she awaits final approval as FWB career missionary to Central Asia.

April Bybee (top) and Tracy Jennette.



Charlie Hingst

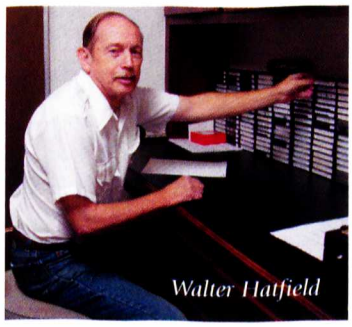
Jimmie Carter

GLADYS GRAGG serves as Bookkeeper. Her many responsibilities include missionary insurance and deposits to missionary accounts. Gladys and her husband Ed, a bivocational minister, attend the East Nashville FWB Church. She serves as local WAC president and district WAC treasurer. Gladys loves reading, gardening, and quiet time.

NANCY JONES, (part-time) Assistant Accounting Clerk , records contributions, updates mailing lists, and handles prayer card packet requests. Widowed, Nancy is a faithful member at Cornerstone FWB Church in Nashville.

CHERI HAM, coordinates all Computer and Web Media, designing and maintaining FM websites and PowerPoint presentations. Cheri answers missionary computer questions. She is Missions Chairman at Cofer's Chapel and Cumberland District WAC Vice President. Cheri and her husband Jim have three grown children.

CHARLIE HINGST and JIMMIE CARTER, volunteers, run the FM mailroom, sending and sorting missionary mail, filling requests for literature, and warehousing prayer card packets and books. Charlie, an octogenarian, has "worked" at FM for 18 years. His cohort Jimmie has been around for 10 years. Both are active in their churches. Charlie, a widower, is a greeter at Donelson FWB. Jimmie and his wife Doris attend Cofer's Chapel where he is a deacon and an usher.

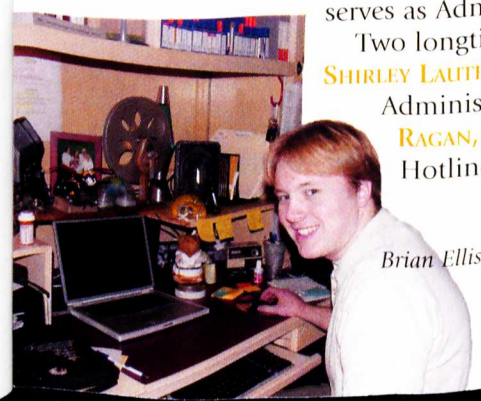


Walter Hatfield

WALTER HATFIELD also volunteers. This Michigan native, helps with filing and cataloguing. He is active in Nashville's Cornerstone Church.

BRIAN ELLISON, Video Producer, takes all video projects from concept to completion. He's responsible for *Embracing the Vision*. He also travels to the fields to do film shoots. He spent a month last fall with missionaries in France and Spain. Brian says he lives "in over his head," so God *has* to be part of his life. "The credit has to go to Him, because I can't do it." A 24-year-old single from Cleveland, Ohio, Brian works in inner city outreach at Grace FWB in Nashville.

New employees TRACY JENNETTE and APRIL BYBEE bring a variety of credentials and skills to the department. Tracy holds a Master's degree in Missions, a plus for her role as James Forlines' Executive Assistant. She tutors Kurdish friends and leads a FAITH team at Donelson FWB. An active single, she enjoys travel, hiking and softball. April hails from Dickson, TN and attends the United FWB Church. She recently completed a degree in Mass Communication/ Journalism at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma. April serves as Administrative Assistant to Doug Little.



Brian Ellison

Two longtime servants in FM deserve recognition. SHIRLEY LAUTHERN, retired in January after 35 years as Administrative Assistant to the Director. CAROLE RAGAN, the voice and pen of the Missionary Hotline for 18 years, retired this past October.

Other Prayer Concerns

—Pray for missionaries currently involved in language studies in Albertville, France, (M-Team) and in Texas (Nichols).

—Pray for continued growth of the church in Cote d'Ivoire despite its government's unstable climate and for a peaceful resolution enabling our missionaries to return.

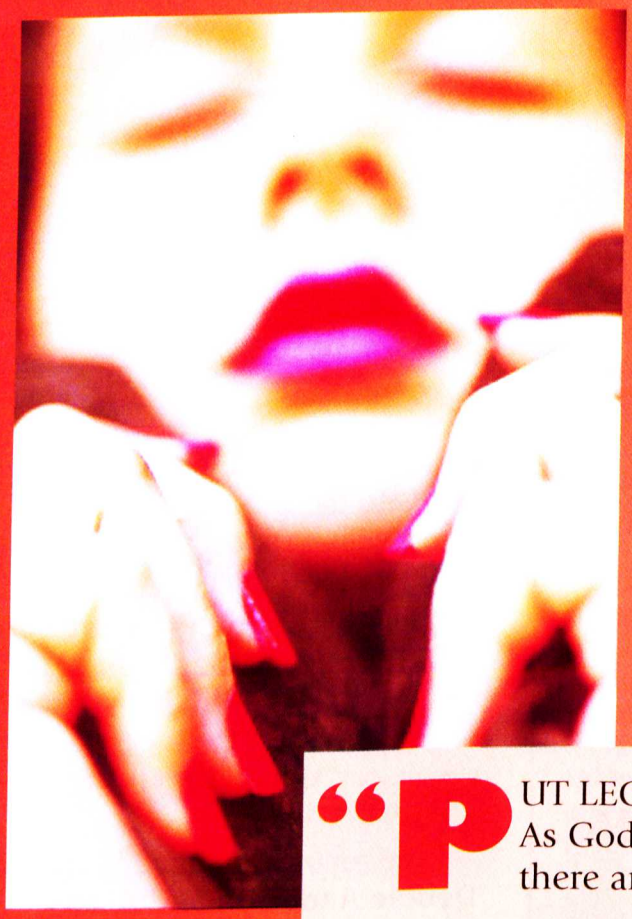
—Pray for missionaries Verlin and Debbie Anderson and Alice Smith as they seek to enter and begin a Community Heath Evangelism ministry within a nearby West African nation.

—Pray for continued safety of chaplains and military personnel serving around the world. Pray for strong marriages during prolonged separations.

—Pray that recent governmental crackdowns on evangelical efforts in restricted access countries will not hinder growth of FWB ministries there.

—Pray for Jason and Melissa Taylor, new missionaries to Yuma, AZ.

—Pray for needed monthly financial support for missionary appointees awaiting departure.



pray for me, but don't push

by Ruth Bivens

"PUT LEGS ON YOUR PRAYERS," I've always heard. As God leads, we should go and help others. But there are times when prayer requires a hands off.

Would you come and let our church pray for you?

While serving as a missionary in Puerto Rico, I faced an urgent medical crisis. On Monday evenings, I had been keeping our neighbors' children while they attended a special Bible class. When the neighbors heard of my problem, the husband asked, "Do you believe God can heal you?"

"I certainly do," I told him.

"Would you come and let our church pray for you?" he asked.

Though we were certainly praying fervently, I wouldn't refuse anyone's prayer. "Yes, I would," I answered. "When is your next prayer meeting?"

Tuesday evening, we traveled down the mountain, loaded in the van with the couple and their five children and headed off to their church. We drove a winding road up another mountain into a housing addition. There, in a carport of a house, we met with a little group of believers.

The small sign over the carport identified the group as an Evangelical Church. The men sat on one side of the carport, the women on the other. A quiet hush blanketed the small congregation. People gave greetings in quiet tones; many knelt beside folding chairs to pray before the service began. I noticed that the leaders of the congregation wore robes of rough burlap cloth. Large round lace scarves folded in half and anchored on top adorned several of the women's heads. When they prayed, they pulled the folded half of the scarf down over their face and shoulders.

The meeting opened with a couple of choruses. One man read a Bible passage and led the group in prayer for a specific request. Another man stood, read another chapter and prayed. We felt the sweet presence of the Spirit as one after another prayed about particular needs.

As the service drew to a close the pastor called us to the front. He explained that our neighbor had

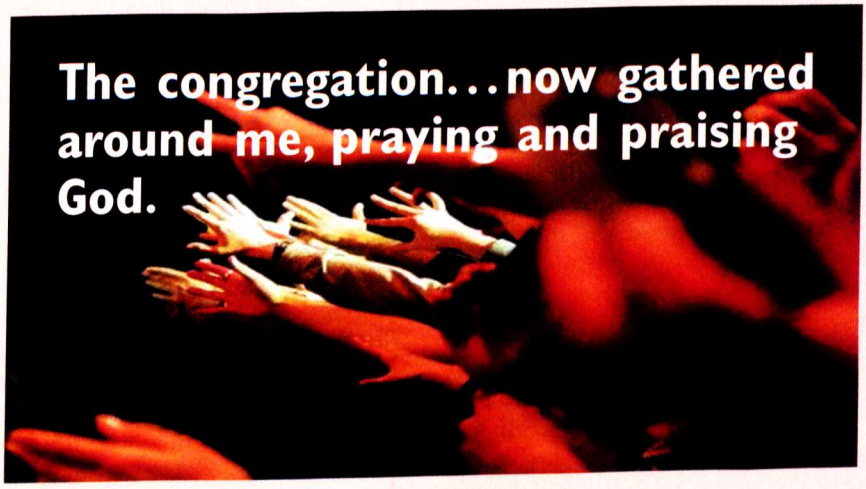
brought Bud and me for prayer about a special need. Bud briefly shared the specifics of my problem and told the congregation something of our mission work. The pastor then asked us to stand to the right of the pulpit.

The pastor's wife, a large woman, also dressed in burlap, joined us at the front. As she stood facing me, I couldn't help but notice the gaudy, inch-long, fingernails so popular among Puerto Rican ladies with any money to spare. She took a small vial of olive oil and dabbed it on her thumb. She gently spread it on my forehead then placed her hands on my shoulders. The pastor stood at my right and laid his hand on my right forearm. He told Bud to stand behind me.

The pastor began a heartfelt, confident prayer. He thanked God for His wisdom and for bringing us to this needy field, asking God to bless our ministry and make it fruitful. He asked for protection from our attackers and healing for my body so that we might be able to continue serving Him. As he prayed, his wife began to slowly push me backwards. Bud stood immediately behind me. I could not move my feet to gain more stability. After two back surgeries, with stainless steel rods and screws in my back, I am always careful, taking every precaution to avoid falling. As the pastor prayed and she pushed, I struggled to keep my balance.

The pastor leaned over to me and whispered, "Don't resist, don't resist," then picked up his prayer right where he had left off. The wife continued pushing until I fell backwards. Thankfully, Bud caught me. The pastor told him to lay me down. Bud just backed up and placed me on the cold, concrete floor.

The congregation, on their feet praying loudly, now gathered around me praying and praising God. I lay with my eyes closed and prayed for wisdom as I heard their jubilant praises for my healing. When the crowd quieted, I sat up and Bud helped me to my feet. Soon we were on our way home. A couple of days later I left Puerto Rico for Texas to see my specialist. The crisis passed without complication. The chronic problem, an incurable illness, remains with all of its endless aggravations.



Our prayers for our son never stopped, but we quit pushing.

I have since pondered this situation at length. Pray, yes, but push? I remember how we prayed for our younger son when he was running so hard from the Lord. I tried not to alienate him, but I frequently urged him to go to church. There was no need. We'd raised him in church and Christian school and taught him at home. He knew what he needed to do. Finally the Holy Spirit taught me to leave our son alone so that He could work.

It was hard for me to hush, but I didn't need to say anything else. Our prayers for our son never stopped, but we quit pushing. The Spirit did His job so well. Today our son is serving the Lord with all of his heart.

I've thought of other occasions when we, as a church, tend to push. Too often young converts become completely discouraged when the minute they get up from their knees, we ask them to lead in prayer. We frequently "bless" them with a Sunday School class to teach or give them some other responsibility far beyond their knowledge or maturity. Often, they leave those jobs completely overwhelmed, and many times, never return to church. What they need is encouragement and nourishment, not a shove in the wrong direction.

I went to our friends' church for prayer. I never turn down prayer. I beg people to pray for us all the time. I am constantly aware of our inability to deal with the day-to-day trials and tasks without the specific, fervent prayer of those who love and support us. Yet, being pushed to the floor did not bring about my healing. I wonder if the little congregation suspects the truth—that it was the pastor's

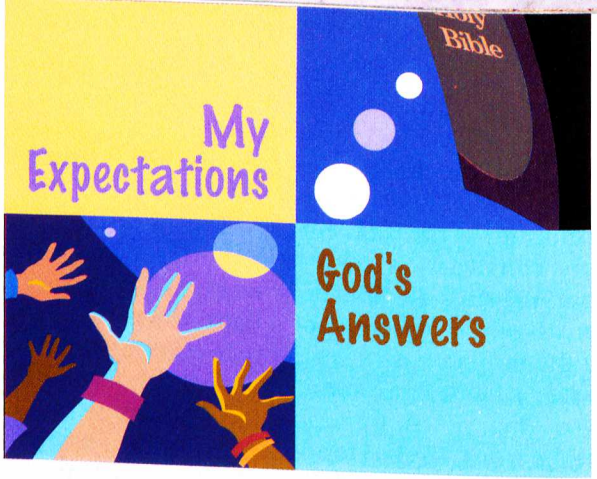
wife and not the Spirit who caused me to fall.

People sometimes say, "Why don't you pray for your healing?" I want to answer, "What do you think we have been doing for these past several years?" Or, at times, I just feel like being tacky and saying, "Wow, that's a good idea. Why didn't I think of that?"

I pray, I have prayed, and I won't stop praying. I pray knowing that God is able to heal me. I also pray, understanding that He has purpose in the things He allows. Nothing comes to me that has not first passed through His hands. How do I know this? Satan could not attack Job without God's permission. I am no Job, but I know that God loves me in the same way, and He has a perfect plan for my life. I trust Him to do what is best for me—not just for today, but for eternity.

So, I ask you, pray for me. Please pray for me to be wise and not waste a single opportunity to serve Him. When you see me, give me your hand. Hold me up. Let the Lord accomplish His purpose in my life. Pray for me, but please don't push me down.

Ruth Bivens and her husband Bud minister in Monett, MO, at the Palabras de Vida Eterna FWB Church, which they started in 2003. A frequent speaker at WAC meetings, banquets, and retreats, Ruth also writes a weekly column for her hometown newspaper.



God, Hear My Prayers

"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer" (Psalm 4:1).

Who among us has not groaned in our spirit: "O God, have mercy...hear my prayer"?

"The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry" (Psalm 34:15).

Can we truly expect God to hear us when we pray?

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry" (Psalm 40:1).

Not only does He hear, He leans over, cupping His hand to His ear to catch our faintest cry. He is ever listening. Do you believe that? I do. Let me share a recent incident.

While browsing a Christian bookstore, I picked up a colorful book and leafed through it. As my husband Tim walked past, he noticed my interest and asked if I would like to have it. "Maybe," I shrugged. "I'll let you know."

I looked once again at the book lying open in my hands. Tears came unbidden. I blinked them back in surprise.

The next morning I emailed a friend. "I find myself struggling today. Yesterday while looking at a book in a Christian bookstore I broke down and wept. I am not one to cry. Would you and your wife please pray for me today? I just need a little guidance, a little reassurance that I'm on the right track, and knowledge whether or not the Lord wants me to continue on the course He has set for me."

My friend wrote back: "You can count on our prayers. I will pray that you have assurance about that. God has His hand on you, so do not fret."

That afternoon while on a hospital visit, Tim stopped by that same bookstore. Upon returning home, he placed the book I had wept over in my hands and said, "I thought it might inspire you to keep on...."

He was not aware of my tears or the email I had sent. But, God was aware. And the book was God's visible answer to my cry.

"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because He hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." (Psalm 116:1,2)

Suzan Hutchison, Colquitt, GA, attends the New Salem FWB Church where her husband Tim serves as pastor. Suzan is the mother of two grown children, Timothy and Amy.

One woman's gift brightens the day

Making the Rounds

Recently, my husband and I made a pre-dawn jaunt to a Dothan, AL, hospital. One of our church members was scheduled for a heart catherization.

At 6:40, we entered the waiting room. I gave it a cursory glance. Large enough. Enough chairs. Drink machines and coffee pot. Restroom. Television. No newspapers. No magazines. None! And, I had brought nothing to read.

Wonderful. My hands weren't loosened up enough to do any writing. It would be a long day indeed!

Several family members were already there, so I sat near the door, close to them, and made small talk while my husband went down the hall to check on the patient and his wife.

Just before 7:00, a woman dressed in hospital attire stopped in the doorway and gave a brief glance around. She smiled sweetly, placed three magazines on a table nearby, then continued through the room and out the other door.

Soon friends and family unfamiliar to me arrived. I sat quietly with my daughter who'd accompanied us, trying to listen to the various conversations, and wishing I had something to read.

The coffee pot was empty, I'd eaten no breakfast, and I wasn't sure I had change for the drink machine. I was feeling the effects of getting up before the sun, and thought I would surely fade before noon.

I looked up and noticed a familiar magazine on the table across from me. I nudged my daughter and pointed. Her face lit up. It was a *Focus* magazine, the issue we were using on Wednesday evenings when we'd moved from our last pastorate. Curious now, I got up to investigate the other two magazines.

To my great joy I discovered they were *CoLaborer* magazines. And, they were issues I had not read: Sep/Oct 2001 and July/Aug 2003—an issue I'd missed in the midst of our move.

I was delighted. I thanked the Lord for the dear woman who had found a way to reach out and make a difference in her world and in my morning.

That's what WAC is all about, isn't it? ...women finding a way to reach their world for Christ.

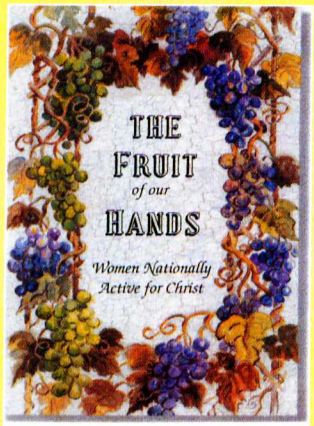
When we left that evening, I noticed that several of the magazines had been read. (She'd placed additional *CoLaborers* on other tables in the room.)Some had apparently been claimed by new owners.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading those magazines from cover to cover. They were just what I needed that morning. It was wonderful to watch my daughter also become engrossed in good, godly articles.

I have no idea who the woman was who gave such a wonderful gift, but God knows. And He will reward her.

Should CoLaborer be making the rounds in your community?

Celebrate Easter with an International Flair



Find more international recipes in the WNAC Cookbook

Over 1200 recipes from 800+ contributors

$20 *(plus $3 shipping)*

DI SAN XIAN
(Three Fresh Things) (Northeastern China)

Monica Bryan
Garner FWB
Garner, NC

3 sm. green peppers
1 clove garlic
1 T. sugar
1 lg. potato
2 T. chopped onion
½ c. water
1 T. starch, corn or potato
1 med. eggplant
½ tsp. ginger
2 tsp. salt
2 T. soy sauce

Cut pepper into bite-size pieces; eggplant and potato into wedges. Mix starch with 2 tablespoons water and set aside. Deep fry potatoes 6 minutes. Remove. In same oil, deep fry eggplant for 4-5 minutes. Remove. Deep-fry green pepper for 1 minute. Remove. Stir fry ginger, onion, garlic, then add sugar, water, salt and soy sauce. Add potatoes, then another ½ cup water. After water is heated, add peppers and eggplant. Quickly stir starch mixture; then add. Serve with rice.

KEDJENOU
(African Chicken and Rice Dish)

Lynette Morgan
Missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa

1 med. chicken
1 lg. onion
6 med. tomatoes, quartered
Salt and pepper to taste
3 sm. red hot peppers or Tabasco sauce
2 lg. chicken bouillon cubes

Pressure for approximately 35 minutes in 3 cups of water. Remove chicken and skin and bone and put meat back into broth. Serve over rice or cook 1½ cups of rice in broth mixture.

MARVIS EAGLETON'S PUDIM DE LEITE MOCA
(Condensed Milk Pudding)

Norma Teague
First FWB Church
Henderson, TX

1 can sweetened condensed milk
2 cans milk (use condensed milk can to measure in)
3 eggs

Beat all in blender and set aside. Caramelize 1½ cup sugar (in caramelizing, the sugar first melts, then becomes a golden brown). Add 2-3 tablespoons water and stir. Pour into baking dish. Add blended ingredients. Place pudding dish in a shallow pan of water. Place in oven. Cook, uncovered, at 350° until done. Cool and turn out on dish large enough to hold caramel that runs down the sides.

PIROSHKI

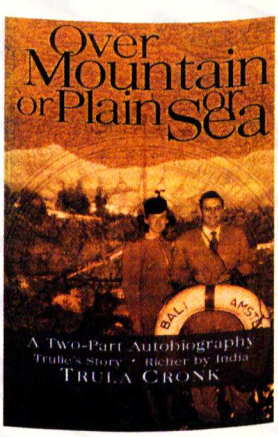
Judy Bailey
Missionary to Tokyo, Japan

1 c. chopped canned corned beef
¼ c. grated cheese
3-6 drops Tabasco sauce
1 sm. chopped onion
1 T. butter
Biscuit dough (about 4 c.)
1 egg, beaten

Heat oven to 450°. Mix first five ingredients. Roll biscuit mixture into rectangle, 12 × 6 inches wide. Cut into 3-inch squares. Place filling in center of each square. Fold sides up, pinch and seal to form a boat. Brush with egg. Bake about 10 minutes. Serve with catsup or chili sauce. Makes 8 boats.

TUCK THIS TITLE IN SOMEONE'S EASTER BASKET

"If I had another life to live, I would choose to live it as a volunteer for Christ. Frankly, I get "trembly" when I think what I would have missed if I had never been willing to say yes when the Lord impressed on my mind in my early teens that I ought to be a missionary."
—Trula Cronk



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Words for Women

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Marjorie H. Workman

Training Our Children:

A Bent Toward Missions

I can never remember not believing in God. My parents were Christians who were very faithful to the church. They were also very hospitable. I was born the second of five children to a sharecropper's family in eastern North Carolina. Our home, though meager in furnishings, was always open to others. My church, unlike most churches in the area, did not provide a parsonage. Thus, finding a place for the preacher to eat on Sunday, taking care of evangelists during revival meetings, and keeping a missionary overnight became a prime function of the Ladies Aid (the earlier name for Women Active for Christ). My family kept and fed many ministers and missionaries.

Having these special guests for dinner turned our home into a frenzy. Our most memorable etiquette lessons were rehearsed: "Remember, chew with your mouth closed; don't spill your tea; keep one hand in your lap; pass the food to the right; say 'thank you;'" on and on went the lectures. Having company made us do things differently. Mother brought out her special dishes—the ones collected from the local grocery's "china promotion." White linen tablecloth and napkins were freshly ironed. Flowers picked from the yard were arranged in our only vase to give pizzazz. Excitement. Anticipation. Nervousness. We experienced all three emotions, but every visit became a memorable occasion.

Since we did not have a telephone, guests frequently caught us by surprise. Our pastor would just drop by with the missionary who needed a bed. My parents never turned anyone away. It was through one of those drop-by visits that I met my first missionary—a life-changing event and the beginning of my search to find God's will for my life. I hung onto the conversation around the table and learned much about the lost world. Looking back, I realize that my parents were putting into practice, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6), a verse frequently quoted in parenting seminars and sermons on the family.

In rearing my own children, I believed this was a promise from God. If I would do my part, He would take care of my children. Matthew Henry says, "Train them up in the way they should go, the way in which, if you love them, you would have them go." "Good impressions will abide upon them all their days," said Henry. Interestingly, I found myself repeating my Mother's etiquette lessons to my daughters as my husband and I opened our door to whoever needed a meal, a bed, or a cup of coffee. But I could have done more.

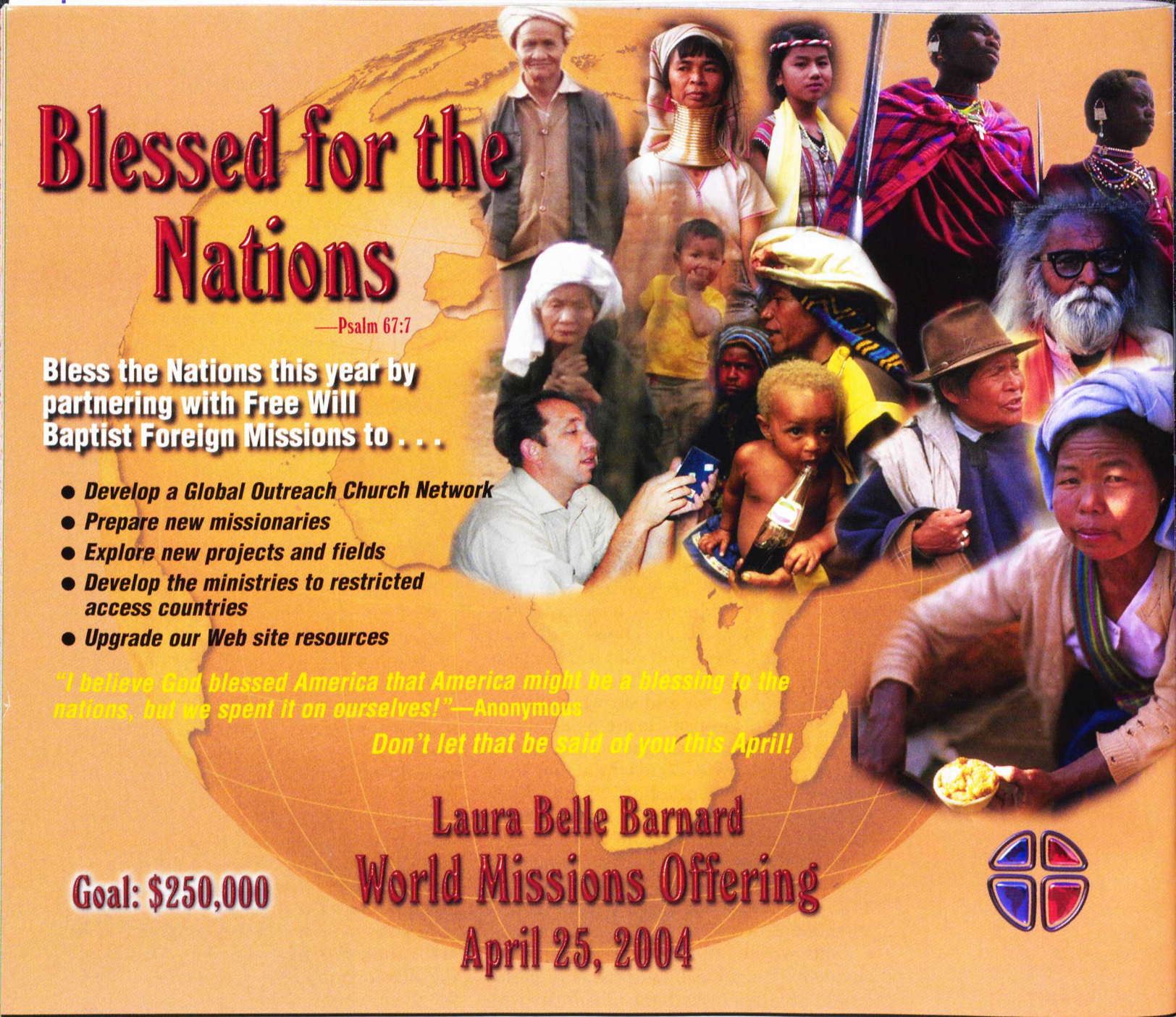
Foreign Missions Director James Forlines puts a challenging spin on raising your children for God. He makes a strong plea to parents, mothers in particularly, to "make the necessity of world evangelism a part of the warp and woof of the fabric of our children." Most of us would be smugly pleased if our children reach adulthood and remain somewhat faithful to church. How can we lead them toward total commitment to impacting a lost world?

For starters, expose your children to peoples of the world. Help them face and overcome prejudice early in life. We readily send missionaries to other countries but have difficulty inviting those same nationalities to our worship? Children can see through this double standard.

Do you enjoy reading to your children? Read missionary stories. Have you shared *First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field* by Lorene Miley? (ORDER FROM WNAC.) Make a "big deal" over special services in your church or area. Let your children see and handle missionary trinkets. After meeting missionaries, lead your family to pray for them. Keep up with them by email or newsletters. Children pick up on what is important to parents.

One final way to direct your kids toward global evangelism is to see that they learn another language. I wish I had gleaned this truth when my girls were young. Forlines presses the issue. He reminds parents that we are quick to sign up our kids, even our preschoolers, for all types of sports. Why not sign them up to learn another language?

We have an awesome responsibility in training our children for expectations of future ministry. We must train them biblically to see the world as Jesus sees so that when they grow up they will not depart from the ways of the Lord?



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