

CoLABORER

January • February 2005

**WE WANT
TO KNOW**

**Go Ye
and
Make
Friends**

**I FOUND
LOVE**

**KUDZU
RELATIONSHIPS**

*The Widow's
Plight*

Women Nationally Active for Christ



Sarah Fletcher

COOL OLD PERSONS

COOLOLD PERSON. My teenagers coined this phrase several years ago for any elderly they admired. Like most teens, their definition of elderly included a wide age span—anything older than parents. Yet, the phrase intrigued me. I asked for a list.

Who were these cool old persons? Three were Free Will Baptist missionaries who'd visited in our home. One was a retired preacher who told funny stories, kept an interesting box of toys in his closet, and composed a riddle from the letters in my son's name. A fellow church member also qualified as cool. At age ninety, he still drove his ancient orange Mercedes to church every Sunday to serve as a greeter. Great-grandmas made the list. One tended a garden and constructed a picket fence in her eighties. The other read at least one book a day. When this more than thirty-year routine became impossible, she still worked the daily crossword puzzle and remained current on world affairs. A couple in our church now rates. Every time they cross the parking lot, he holds her hand. My daughter thinks the growing romance between this widow and widower is "just too cool." As my children reach adulthood, their Cool Old Person list continues to expand.

The Psalmist must have had these persons in mind when he penned Psalm 92. Verses thirteen and fourteen declare, *"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age..."* Charles E. Cowman, African missionary best known for his *Streams in the Desert* devotionals, wrote, "Some lives, like evening primroses, blossom most beautifully in the evening of life."

Like most virtues and character qualities, cool doesn't just come. It's the result of lifelong practices and pursuits. The Psalmist hints at the formula for cool in the first verses of the same chapter. *"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: to show forth thy loving kindness in the morning and thy faithfulness every night."* Continual praise keeps the soul alive and flourishing.

Every cool old person on our family's list possesses two commonalities: a love of learning and a lot of friends. These two pursuits, knowledge and friendship, are the focus of this issue of *CoLaborer*.

A great philosopher once said, "A man who is always living in the midst of his studies and labors does not perceive when old age creeps upon him." A godly pursuit of knowledge keeps us in the Word and in the know.

Charles Spurgeon described friendship as "one of the sweetest joys of life." Our Lord himself designated his followers, not as servants, but as friends. Nothing is more precious than a praying, encouraging friend. Often, our friendships with the unredeemed build a bridge for salvation.

The Psalmist also wrote, *"O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us:"* (Psalm 90:14,16, 17a.)

Someday, I want to be a cool old person. I've determined to practice praise and pursue the qualities of knowledge and friendship now. Will you?

**LET US
PURSUE
IN 2005**

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

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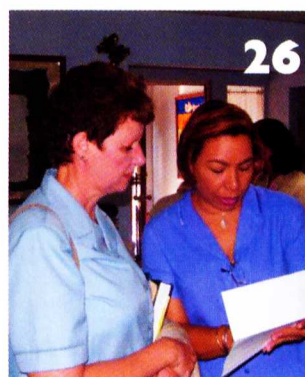


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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

NEARLY EVERY YOUNG WOMAN GROWING UP IN THE twenty-first century absorbs the idea that knowledge is power. Reading any secular women's magazine, we learn that by pursuing knowledge we can gain freedom—that independence is within our grasp. The more knowledge we can attain, we're told, the more power we will have as women.

A recent early morning news show featured several high-achieving, vibrant women in their early thirties. They shared their secrets to success. When asked what was the one essential factor to their success, they replied in unison, "Knowledge—knowledge and education are the key to success for the modern woman." One of the women elaborated that knowledge pursued is self-reliance gained. Neither the pursuit of money nor fame was these women's achieving glory. Instead, the attainment of knowledge was their measure of success.

THE WORLD'S APPROACH

Much of the propaganda we read and hear about the lofty pursuit of knowledge rings true with us. After all, Scripture implores us to pursue knowledge. And according to Scripture, knowledge gained can lead to happiness, and yes, even freedom. But this knowledge, happiness, and freedom are different from what the secular culture offers us.

The pursuit of knowledge advocated in our current social context arises from a non-Christian context. It begins with a fear of nothing, for fear disables self-fulfillment. The world's approach to knowledge presents a woman who defines her own values, beliefs, and definition of success. The secular woman of today operates in self-isolation. She achieves her success without responsibility to a family or larger community. In fact, not having responsibility outside the self allows her to succeed, by freeing her of relationships that inhibit her and interfere with her personal freedom.

In this view of knowledge, God, if He does exist, does not play a role in her day-to-day pursuit of knowledge or what she does with the knowledge she gains. If God is there, He is called upon as a comforter in times of personal loss. The God of the universe is silenced in the modern woman's daily routines of life. In essence, self is promoted. Self is on the throne. Life is lived for the kingdom of self. Her primary knowledge is self-knowledge.

GOD'S APPROACH

God's approach to the pursuit of knowledge, on the contrary, begins with the fear of the Lord. The Christian approach to knowledge presents a woman whose values, beliefs, and definition of success are created through a diligent study of God's Word. Through knowledge of Himself, God enables her to realize her potential as a woman made in the image of God as she discovers His will for her life. This is her definition of success. Far from limiting women, God's approach to knowledge lifts up

WE WANT TO KNOW

by Melinda Pinson



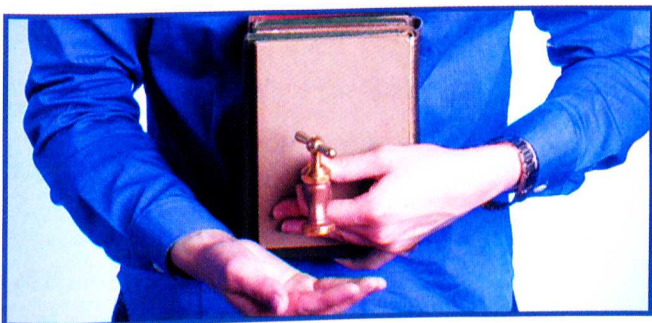
and ennobles women. The virtuous, godly woman lives and works in relation to God and others, not merely to her self.

Any instruction we receive on the pursuit of knowledge can be tested for truth by the maxims of the book of Proverbs. God granted Solomon the gift of wisdom, working through his writings to provide us with universal knowledge that provides truths for truly successful living. In chapter two of Proverbs, we learn the value of wisdom and knowledge. Verses 1-6 read, "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto **wisdom**, and apply thine **heart** to **understanding**; Yea, if thou criest after **knowledge**, and liftest up thy voice for **understanding**; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou **understand** the **fear of the Lord**, and find the **knowledge** of God. For the Lord giveth **wisdom**: out of his mouth cometh **knowledge** and **understanding**." These six verses contain all of the necessary components for a godly pursuit of knowledge.

KNOWLEDGE ALONE CAN'T BRING SATISFACTION

As much as anyone, Solomon knew from personal experience whether or not the pursuit of knowledge results in personal satisfaction. Solomon exhausted every avenue for acquiring knowledge and wisdom. So what did he conclude? Some of our contemporary female seekers might be surprised. The king's search for success and personal fulfillment in the acquisition of wisdom and knowledge resulted in "much grief" (Ecclesiastes 1:18). With increased knowledge came increased sorrow.

What does God desire to teach us through Solomon's failure? Solomon pursued knowledge outside of the context of godly priorities. For us today, knowledge pursued outside of the context of godly priorities results only in misery and discontentment. Of course, this does not mean that we are to pursue only biblical knowledge. All truth is God's truth. Yet when we gain knowledge from God's universe, we must always measure it against the truth of Scripture.



KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND TRUTH

KNOWLEDGE: regarded as true beyond doubt. Familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience or study.

—American Heritage Dictionary

WISDOM: Wisdom is bound up with doing the will of the Lord (Deuteronomy 4:6): to forsake his Word is to forfeit one's wisdom (Jeremiah 8:8-9).

—New International Dictionary of the Bible,
ed. J. D. Douglas and Merrill C. Tenet

WISDOM: the understanding of what is true, right, or lasting.

—American Heritage Dictionary

TRUTH: (1) the interrelated consistency of statements and their correspondence with the facts of reality, and (2) the facts themselves...integrity of character...reliability...the exact opposite of the concept of lying.

—New International Dictionary of the Bible,
ed. J. D. Douglas and Merrill C. Tenet

TRUTH: Fidelity to an original or standard. Conformity to fact.

—American Heritage Dictionary

TRUTH: And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

—Jesus, John 8:32

THE CHAIN OF GODLY KNOWLEDGE

Proverbs 1:7 says that the fear of the Lord, or reverence, is the *beginning* of knowledge. Yet, as J. P. Moreland has said in his book *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, "reverence alone will not bring wisdom. Wisdom results when a respectful heart is united with a disciplined mind." In other words, we begin our pursuit of knowledge with reverence, fear of the Lord. We then apply our mind to understand Him and His truth. Knowledge is a direct result of study (Moreland's disciplined mind), and knowledge is a prerequisite for wisdom. Edith Schaeffer has for years advocated the pursuit of knowledge for women. In her book *Common Sense Christian Living*, she says that we

LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF GODLY KNOWLEDGE

REVERENCE
fear of the Lord

**STUDY OF
GOD'S WORD**
and writings that
proclaim His truth

KNOWLEDGE
the fruit of study

WISDOM
understanding and
applying knowledge
(prayer and the
leadership of the
Holy Spirit enable
the application)

OBEDIENCE
doing God's will

**HAPPINESS
FREEDOM**



must "disciple the mind." Wisdom, then, comes from understanding and internalizing godly knowledge. When we live wisely, our lives will be characterized by obedience—doing God's will, which will in turn bring us true happiness and freedom.

OBSTACLES TO KNOWLEDGE

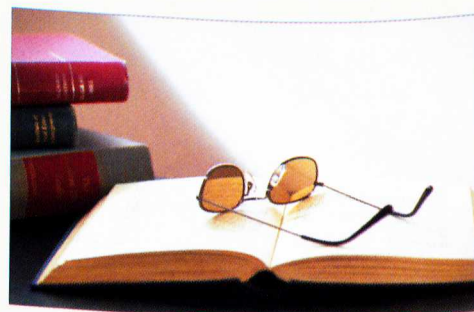
INTELLECTUAL EMBARRASSMENT. Fear of others knowing that we are ignorant of a particular subject matter can often paralyze our growth in godly knowledge. Rather than become more informed on a topic, we may avoid situations that reveal our ignorance. We must resist the temptation to let fear control us. One doesn't have to have a high IQ to be knowledgeable. Many people with great intelligence are not well-informed and are poor decision makers.

INTELLECTUAL PRIDE. First Corinthians 8:1 admonishes us to abandon prideful knowledge. God is omniscient—all-knowing. When we obtain knowledge, we must do so with the utmost humility, realizing that God alone encompasses all truth. This should cause us to desire to know His truth with the sense that we will never fully know or understand all there is to know about Him or His vast universe. We must resist the temptation to fail to acquire more knowledge because we think we know so much.

FALSE IDEAS/MISINFORMATION. The media today—television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, the Internet—are full of misinformation and false ideas. Subtle—and often not-so-subtle—approaches to reality that are inconsistent with a Christian worldview are constantly marketed to women. A recent poll showed that a female talk show host was one of the top three most admired women in America! We must resist the temptation to be enslaved by media. We must train ourselves to read and think and study in

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR PURSUING KNOWLEDGE

- ✧ When reading or studying, always have a dictionary available. Your mind will only be stretched.
- ✧ If you are reading Scripture, some helpful tools include a study Bible, Bible dictionary, and Bible commentary. The Bible is filled with truths easily understood, yet there is so much to know and so much to be gained from the diligent study of others.
- ✧ Pray God to illumine His Word.
- ✧ Take notes and review them. Underline key ideas.
- ✧ Develop good critical thinking skills. Question and examine what you see, hear, and read to determine how it accords with truth. Rather than allow the world to shape the way you think, apply God's truth to your world.
- ✧ Be involved in Bible study with a partner or group. This gives you accountability and others with whom to share what you are learning.
- ✧ Subscribe to a reliable Christian news magazine, such as *World*, that discusses current ideas and events in light of biblical truth.



Bible Study Tips and Tools

WE ALL KNOW BIBLE STUDY IS IMPORTANT. As Christians, it's the way we grow—the means to know God and His will for our lives. But knowing and consistently doing are not the same.

EXAMINE YOUR ATTITUDE:

How do you feel about Bible study?

What is your present purpose in studying God's Word?

Do you have a definite goal for studying God's Word this year?

HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL TIPS AND TOOLS FOR
BIBLE STUDY BEGINNINGS IN 2005.

TOOLS

Many wonderful Bible studies are available. Or you can tackle the Word on your own. Either way, consider these helpful tools.

Concordance: a complete listing of where words are found.

Commentary: Use this for things you can't grasp or want to study further and only after you've allowed the Word itself to speak to you. Find one that's biblically solid, yet easy to read.

Journal or Notebook: record your findings to help you remember the truths you discover.

List tools you have now.

List tools you'd like to obtain.

TIPS

DAILY. Carve time each day (even a minute here, a minute there) for reading and meditating on the Word.

DILIGENT. If you miss a day, don't give up. If you don't always get something out of what you read, don't despair. Keep reading.

DIG AND DIGEST. Reading God's Word (though good) is not the same as studying, memorizing and meditating. Go deeper; know more.

DECIDE. Many women join Bible study groups. Many use a printed study. Others study alone, using only a notebook and Bible. Because we each learn differently, it stands to reason that personal Bible study won't be a cookie-cutter approach. Find a style that fits, then

DO IT. Select a friend to hold you accountable. Share your progress.

BIBLE STUDY METHODS

BOOK. Mark and underline. Outline. List characters. Select key verses to memorize from each chapter. Record teachings to obey and promises to claim. Focus on qualities of the Trinity revealed in the book.

INDUCTIVE (VERSE BY VERSE) Ask yourself these questions. What does the verse say (paraphrase)? What does the verse teach (principle or truth)? How does this apply to my life (personalize)? Write down your response. Sometimes it's easier to phrase this as a prayer.

TOPIC. Choose a theme or characteristic (LOVE, JOY, GRACE, etc.) If topic is broad, limit your focus. Use a concordance or computer program to find related verses. Record your findings and meditate on these truths.

BIOGRAPHY. Choose a Bible personality (2,390 of them to choose from). Write down life lessons and principles (good and bad) gleaned from the character's experiences. Apply these to your situation.

Which method interests you most?



a disciplined, creative way and free ourselves from the bondage of today's media. The way to correct misinformation is to fill our minds with truth. Informing our minds on a particular matter—let's say the biblical view of marriage and family—will help us articulate our beliefs and enable us to teach others, even if we are not gifted at memorizing facts.

INTELLECTUAL LAZINESS. The reason we are often so chained to television and other media is our own intellectual laziness. If, as the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12:2, we are to be "transformed by the renewing of [our] minds," then we must be diligent, "study[ing] to show [ourselves] approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). We must take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). All these scriptural commands demand action. Cultivating a Christian mind requires hard work and diligent study. It involves spiritual discipline.

WE WANT TO KNOW

As Christian women in a world that is not concerned about truth, let's recommit ourselves to godly knowledge. Let's dedicate ourselves to diligently studying God's Word—understanding and acting on the knowledge we gain. Only then will we be able to resist the world's approach to knowledge and embrace the true happiness and freedom that is to be found in Christ.



Melinda Pinson is the wife of Matthew Pinson, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, in Nashville, Tennessee. A stay-at-home mother, she enjoys her four-year-old daughter, Anna, and two-year-old son, Matthew. She is a member of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church.

Some information taken from *10 Basic Steps to Christian Maturity*, www.basicsteps.org, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International.



Are you missions minded? How many of these questions about FWB International Missions can you answer correctly? (Answers are listed below.)

1. Who is the General Director of International Missions?
2. Name siblings who are missionaries.
3. Name father and son missionaries.
4. Where does E-TEAM get its name?
5. Which missionary has been on the field for the longest period of time?
6. What is the M&R department and who is its director?
7. What is the difference between a career missionary and a short-term missionary?
8. Where do missionaries get household items needed for the field?
9. Who is the Director of Member Care for International Missions?
10. Who makes up the International Missions Support Services and why is it important to fund this team?
11. What role do you play in Foreign Missions?

—Gladys Gragg

ANSWERS: 1. James Forlines. 2. Judy Bailey and Jeff Turnbough; Nathan and Jonathan Snow. 3. Bobby and David Aycock; Ken and Benjamin Bailey; Jeff and Matthew Turnbough. 4. TEAM stands for Teens Equipped and Active in Missions. The E was added to honor Ken Eagleton, Sr., who organized the first team. 5. Carlisle Hanna in India (54 years). 6. Mobilization and Recruitment; Eddie Payne is director. 7. Career missionaries plan longtime service (a career) while short-term missionaries usually serve two years or less. (Most short-termers return as career missionaries). 8. Where else but the WNAC Provision Closet. 9. Neil Gilliland directs this valuable counseling ministry for hurting missionaries and MKs. 10. The team includes directors and office staff who "stay by the stuff" and serve as the missionary's right hand. 11. Only you can answer this question.

PREPARE YOUR MIND FOR ACTION

In *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, J. P. Moreland presents a logical case for the role of the mind in spiritual transformation. He challenges us to develop a Christian mind and to use our intellect to further God's kingdom through evangelism, apologetics, worship, and vocation. Here's what readers say:

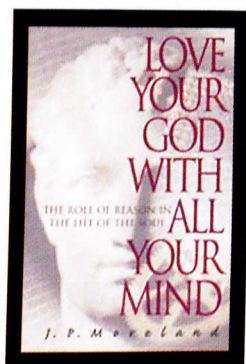
"...I was extremely encouraged, challenged, and motivated to serve God with my mind. I recommend all to read this book because it tactfully, truthfully, and appropriately addresses the sad loss of the intellect in today's church. It is an extremely refreshing and well-needed book...."

"...the truths and knowledge I have found in it have been outstanding. It is a must read for every Christian. It will give you the knowledge you need to stand against false teaching in both the world and the Christian church."

"... In an era of feel-good Christianity, this book lucidly instructs us how to love God with one part of our being that the church has not only forgotten, but has attacked."

"This book is absolutely essential for every Christian who wants to thrive spiritually and be able to not only stand against all the attacks upon one's Faith in Christ but as well be bold and confident in sharing one's Faith, being light in a world full of darkness heavily under deception.... A must read."

Review courtesy www.navpress.com



**Love Your God
with All Your Mind**
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NavPress



PURSUE FRIENDSHIP PURSUE FRIENDSHIP PURSUE FRIENDSHIP PURSUE FRIENDSHIP PURSUE FRIENDSHIP

by
Tracy
Jennette

and make

in the park

I FOUND MYSELF sitting on a picnic blanket in Dragon Park in Nashville, TN, eating lunch with a young lady from Hong Kong, China. We had met just minutes prior. Andrea (her American name) is a PhD student at Vanderbilt University. She will be in Nashville for several years pursuing her degree. How did I become acquainted with Andrea?

Desiring to form friendships with internationals (the *nations* and *tribes* mentioned in the Book of Revelation), I sought ways to do so in my own community. I surfed the web for ministries to international students. Vanderbilt University offered one such program, uniting American families with international students, giving these students an opportunity to experience genuine American culture during their stay here. I, along with many other Americans and internationals, signed up. And based on our interests, Andrea and I were chosen as partners.

Did you know that China is sung about in the book of Revelation? In heaven, the elders

will sing this song to Jesus, "Thou art worthy to take the book... and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Revelation 5:9). Jesus has purchased for His Father people from China and from all other nations. Internationals will be included in this great multitude one day in eternity.

So what does an all-American, Christian, Caucasian, "born and bred in the country" girl like myself have in common with a metropolitan, highly educated, non-religious, young woman from China—a country that is an enemy to the proclamation of the gospel? We have plenty in common. We both love other cultures. We both love good food and thought-provoking books. We both love our families and desire to do good on this earth.

Why would I want to spend time befriending an international? I want to because God asks us. He commands us, His servants and friends, to go and tell the nations the Good News. And He's taken an extra step. He has literally brought them to our doorstep in America. God

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has made it possible for us to simply go right outside of our own home—no overseas traveling required. He has brought the nations to us. Many come from countries where the gospel cannot be preached; to do so would mean death. But now we find them in democratic America...free to hear and free to choose.

on the floor

I found myself sitting on the floor of a Middle-eastern home enunciating English vowel sounds to Maideh. Who is Maideh? She is a middle-aged, female refugee whose family was relocated to the USA ten years ago as a result of war in her country. She has nine children. Yes! She is a busy woman. But Middle-easterners love to have company; so she willingly invites me into her home to study English together. Plus, she desires to learn more English so she can function better in America. Can you imagine going to the grocery store and not being able to read any of the labels? Or going to the doctor in horrible pain, unable to communicate your problem? Can you imagine how humiliating, shameful, immature, and non-confident this would make you feel? This is real life for many refugees who've been relocated to our country through no effort or desire of their own. These individuals were literally ousted from their own homes and countries and farmland. They would, of course, rather be in their homeland working their own land. Yet the evils of this world have devastatingly altered their world. Or has the providential circumstances of God beautifully altered their world? Here they have more access to the gospel. Will we be faithful to share?

Do they need help? Do they need encouragement? Do they need practical training, i.e. English lessons, help with governmental papers, help going to the grocery store? Certainly. Would Christ see them in their crisis and turn his cheek? Would our Savior see them and continue attending four church events a week instead of carving out time in His schedule (even in His church schedule) to visit them in their home? You answer.

not in center field

I found myself not in center field. Yes, I quit my church softball team. I made a conscious choice to free my weekly schedule, using the time required for softball to meet with an international friend instead. For years I had intended to teach English to my friend Maideh. But not until I removed an item from my busy schedule was this really possible. Teaching Maideh has become my weekly ritual—instead of playing ball with those who already know Christ. A friend in Atlanta recently shared how her church formed the framework for a softball team; church members could only play if they brought an unsaved

on the web

Several groups work with refugees & internationals. Despite any theological or philosophical differences, these organizations can put you in touch with the needs of internationals in your area.

World Relief

<http://www.wr.org/>

Catholic Charities

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

Jewish Family Services: <http://www.jfs.org/>

Your local university

Your local community school for Adult-Education

Language schools in your area:

Foreign Language Institute (TN only)

<http://foreignlanguages.org/>

person along to play with them on the team. Why shouldn't our recreation be evangelistic? Especially our church recreation.

Does some of this seem harsh? Yet, how long will we continue our busy, self-pleasing, church-event-filled schedules while the nations whom He's brought to us die all around us? How long will we be unfaithful to the call?

All of us are guilty; this includes me. I recently agreed to help an 18-year-old Middle-eastern girl with her driver's license test. But I've let other things crowd her out of my schedule for a month now. I *must* make her a priority.

Such great friendship is formed by helping someone in need. Such trust is begun—trust which serves as plowed, fertile ground in which the gospel can be later sown. Will we take the time to build these relationships, to till this ground?

in your community

Where do you find yourself? Are there persons from other countries in *your* community? Do Mexican migrant workers cultivate the fields or fire the tobacco in the barns of your rural area? Are there refugees in your city who need a helping hand or a refrigerator? Has God placed some of these Book of Revelation

immigrants

Do migrants work in your area?

Consider these possibilities

Locate a farmer who hires migrant workers.

Schedule a time to invite workers to your home.

Plan a church fellowship meal together with these workers.

Hire a migrant worker to do small things around your home.

Lodge (rent a room to) a migrant worker during his stay in your area.

check your list

On a separate sheet of paper, list all current weekly commitments and scheduled events. Analyze.

How many are purposefully evangelistic?

How many involve unsaved individuals?

Does your schedule need an overhaul?

nations into your particular sphere of influence? Will you go? Jesus said that *"this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come"* (Matthew 24:14). Will we be involved in this activity on earth which will inevitably occur (because God has willed it)? Or will we sit idly by and wonder why no one is starting a church among the Spanish-speaking of our community?

in your church

As you worship God this Sunday, visualize yourself in heaven standing with a multitude of believers from every ethnicity possible. Picture a literal sea of skin color and culture before the throne of God. As a believer, that's what you will be a part of one day. John describes it this way: *"...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes...and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb"* (Revelation 7:9, 10). Oh! To be a part of this great harvest. He has redeemed us for this purpose. What a privilege. Go ye and make friends with the nations.

Tracy Jennette lives in Nashville, TN, and worships at Donelson FWB Church. She currently works for FWB International Missions and finds herself most enjoying gardening, hiking, traveling, and ministering to internationals.



A small rural church extends care and God's love

I FOUND LOVE

My name is Xin Ya Zhang and I'm Chinese. My home church is Oak Valley Free Will Baptist Church, near Geff, IL. I

am glad I have a chance to share my testimony. God has blessed and taken care of us as Christians, and I am proud to be God's family member. I love God's family.

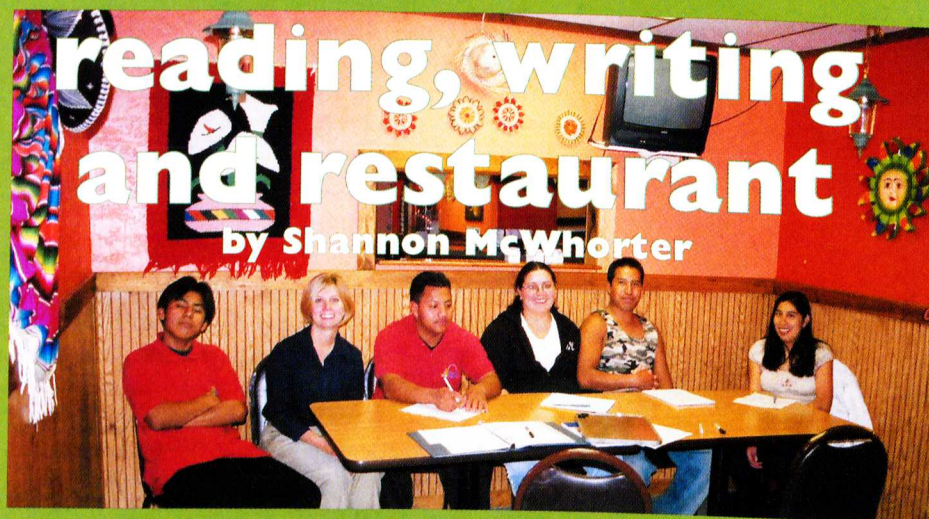
I was looking for love and came to America to marry an American man. But I was unfortunate. After only one year, I was divorced because he abused me. Though I lost that love, I came to know God's love. He has saved me from that hurt and from sin. Now, He is making a new life for me here. I want to thank Him.

After I divorced, I got lots of help from God's family at Oak Valley Free Will Baptist Church. In my personal life, they helped me in many ways. They helped me learn English; they helped me in the courts; they helped me find a house; and they helped me set up housekeeping. They even helped me get a driver's license and mowed my grass. In my spiritual life, they not only introduced me to Jesus, but they encouraged me. My first minister, David Burgess, gave me a

Chinese Bible so I could study God's Word. Now Pastor David Shores is helping me understand the Bible and make a better life. When I have a problem, help comes from God through my good Christian friends. I know God loves me and never leaves me. He tells me what to do for Him and He is making me whole. As a new Christian, I am learning to lean on Jesus more every day.

Now I am looking for ways to share my new love for Jesus with others and for ways to help others, like God's Word says. Sometime, I plan to go back to China to see my parents. When in China, I want to do something for Jesus Christ. I intend to go to the Chinese Christian church, tell them about the American Christians, give my witness, and share with them what I have learned about the Bible. God is everywhere—in China and in America. His Holy Spirit guides no matter where we are. He is helping me walk with Him all the way.

Xin Ya Zhang shared this testimony at the 150th anniversary of Oak Valley FWB Church where she is now a member. Active in WAC, Xin Ya loves to sing about her Lord.



reading, writing and restaurant

by Shannon McWhorter

I WANT TO BE A MISSIONARY. However, my husband and I have not sensed God telling us to go, at least not yet. But a couple of years ago, God began working in my heart concerning international people in our area. Suddenly, I saw hundreds of international college students attending the nearby university; I noticed international women—wives of American men—now living in our country.

I counted about twenty international restaurants (mostly Chinese and Mexican) within our local area. As I read that 80% of international college students *never* see the inside of an American home, I realized that these international restaurant employees who work so hard nearly every day of the week, wouldn't either. I observed that most international women, trying to learn the language and raise their families as well, didn't have many friends. They seemed nervous about meeting people because of the language barrier. I began praying that God would use me to reach these people.

I currently teach conversational English classes at one of the Mexican restaurants in our town. (How I came to do this is completely a God-thing. I am still amazed at the way He brought it all about.) Along with two other people, I meet with restaurant employees each Monday evening from 10:00-11:30 p.m. (after closing). I work with the pre-beginner group

while my ministry partners teach the intermediate and advanced students. We are not just teaching English; we are also building relationships. We often have students over for dinner, take them with us to soccer games, and go on field trips together in nearby St. Louis, MO. We also frequent the restaurant as patrons. My church is beginning to get involved as well. Not long ago, our young adults/singles sponsored a Hispanic Rec Night. About forty people attended, including nine of the guys from the restaurant.

Our first purpose in this ministry is to show our Mexican students the love of Jesus. We desire to bring them to a point where we can share His message of salvation with them as well. We recently expanded our restaurant teaching ministry, offering workers a Bible study in Spanish. In order to facilitate this, we added another ministry partner, a Bolivian pastor who moved into the area to minister to Hispanics. We are very excited about this new venture, especially as we see our students asking probing questions and responding to the Word of God.

Last spring, I began praying that God would lead me to other people who need to know Him. The next week, I enrolled my children in a new session of story time at the library. When we arrived, two

God at Work

Before 2001, I had no desire to learn Spanish, know anything about Hispanic peoples, or have anything to do with them. However, in June 2001, two things happened. My husband and mother went on a mission trip to Honduras, and a new Mexican restaurant, Tequila's, opened in our area.

In 2002, I read the book, *Unveiled at Last*, which opened my eyes to God's plan for the world. Over those two years, God grew in me a burden for Hispanic people. I began looking for ways to reach out to them. I had a desire to teach them English, but I didn't know how to go about getting it started.

In June 2003, I went on a mission trip to Honduras. This increased my burden for Hispanic peoples. All this time, our family was eating at Tequila's three or four times a month, getting to know the workers there. I continued to pray.

Last Thanksgiving, we invited the workers to our home for dinner. George, Benito, Vicente, and Jose came. We enjoyed a fun afternoon in spite of the language barrier. Only one spoke good English. Another spoke broken English; two spoke no English at all.

When we discovered that two of our guests were soon returning to Mexico, my husband Mark made arrangements to take them to the bus station. The day of their departure, Mark sensed a great burden for them and their lostness. On the way, Mark, who knew no Spanish, shared the gospel and prayed together with the men. He wasn't sure how much they understood, but trusted God to work in their lives.

Our Thanksgiving company also revealed that a couple had started English classes at the restaurant. I had to know more. The teachers, I discovered, were Richard and Teresa Clouse, a local pastor and his wife whom I had met earlier at a Christian school function. I was thrilled. God had taken care of my concerns by letting someone else start the class. Now it was up to me to get involved.

When I first approached the Clouses with my desire to teach and join their ministry, they were reluctant. This was a ministry their church had begun; they weren't



mothers caught my attention. One was Chinese and the other was Korean. During craft time, God placed our children at the same table. We were able to chat a little. Since that time, we have visited each other's homes; we are getting to know one another better.

Raised in Communist China and now being married to an unchurched American, Angel (her American name) has never been to a Christian church nor has she read the Bible. Neither have her two daughters. I believe God answered my prayer, bringing Angel into my life, so I can be a witness of His love to her and her family.

Our team is also exploring ways to reach the many international students who attend the university only ten minutes away from my church. We want to team up with other churches in our area and sponsor a free lunch for international students each month. From this opportunity, we are hoping to get to know some internationals and invite them into our homes. We would like to offer conversational English classes for them as well. Eventually, we'll be able to share Jesus.

I don't know where God will lead us in these ministry opportunities. I do know that these needs exist everywhere. Within every geographical area of America, there are internationals who need to know Jesus.

The programs I'm involved in are not difficult. Any Christian with a burden for internationals could participate in similar outreaches.

I continually ask God to open doors. I pray for the day when Free Will Baptist people (men and women alike) all across our nation are involved in international outreach. I dream of training people in other churches, helping them start such ministries. Until then, I will remain faithful in the opportunities He has given me.

sure about adding *outside* people. But as I shared my burden and they shared with me theirs, it became evident that God had been working in our hearts simultaneously. I had prayed for God to open doors at Tequila's; God had been working through them to begin classes. While Mark and I were getting to know the workers, they were also. Turnover at the restaurant is high (a commonality among Hispanic eateries), with new workers arriving from other countries. This couple had been praying concerning how to integrate these new beginners into their present intermediate level classes. As we spoke together, we felt a common bond. We knew God's timing and planning had brought us together. I joined the *team* in February and have been teaching ever since.

God continues to give us confirmation that this is His work. One of the men Mark took to the bus station returned to work in the restaurant. During one of our classes, he began asking questions about salvation. When Richard explained the plan of salvation, Benito remarked that he had already done that with Mark. He just wanted to know more, so he could grow in his Christianity. He *had* understood. Praise the Lord.

Shannon McWhorter attends Bethel FWB Church, South Roxana, IL. Active in WAC, she also coordinates her church's missions conferences. A former high school math teacher, she now homeschools her three children, Elisabeth, Grant, and Elaine. Shannon's husband Mark shares her interest; he is currently Missions Director for the church. This past summer, the McWhorters served as E-TEAM leaders in Hokkaido, Japan.

To the child in India



I saw you naked on TV,
So hungry, cold and alone,
So much sadness in your eyes.
I wanted to go and help you,
Serving in missions far away.
But I don't know the language...
I'm too old...
I'm needed at home...
Besides,
I didn't receive God's call.
So I prayed and prayed and prayed
And sent money for food and clothes.
I prayed and prayed some more,
Then sent money to dig a well.
I felt a sense of guilt
Because I couldn't go and serve.
Then the Holy Spirit said,
"When I was naked,
You clothed me.
When I was hungry
You fed me.
When I was thirsty,
You dug a well.
You don't have to go far away
To do My work for Me.
When you've helped
The least of these,
You've done it unto me."

—Judy Martin

Judy Martin is active in WAC at Grace FWB Church, Arnold, MO. A widow and retired teacher/librarian, Judy is involved in various prison ministries.



KUDZU RELATIONSHIPS

My 20-year-old daughter's new love is bonsai.

With great care, Amy chooses each plant. Tenderly she hovers, pruning roots and branches, as she coaxes conformity to bonsai standards. She recently mentioned a desire to create a kudzu bonsai.

My response? "No way! You know how kudzu is."

She said, "It's aggressive and hard to kill, and that's what I need." She assured me she would keep it pruned and watch it carefully.

Right.

Kudzu bonsai is a contradiction. Kudzu's nature is to overwhelm boundaries, break through barriers, intrude, take over, smother and wreak havoc on everything it touches. Tangled vines trip anyone trying to break through. Dense growth shuts out all views—both into and out of the jumbled mass.

Kudzu degrades and defeats other plants—smothering them under a leafy blanket, choking woody stems and trunks, breaking branches, uprooting entire trees with its weight.

Thirty vines may spin off each root crown. Each vine can root if it touches the ground.

Kudzu sends out runners beneath the surface that produce more vines, more roots and more rapid, rampant growth. Snakes, rats and small animals call it home.

Kudzu can only be eradicated the hard way—by cutting, digging out and burning roots, vines, seeds. This is an enormous task—the taproot (an established planting will have many) often grows six feet long and can weigh over 400 pounds. Seeds can survive several seasons before germinating.

by
Suzan
Hutchinson

Why would anyone cultivate something that so easily becomes a burden and hindrance? It promises difficult, frustrating work to those who care for it. Look the other way (it can grow over a foot a day) and you face a nightmare that takes years to repair.

Kudzu bonsai bears a striking resemblance to something we all have. Relationships.

Unhealthy, unwise, ungodly friendships or relationships are kudzu. No attempt to turn kudzu relationships into something contained and cute works. It doesn't matter that we might want them, feel we need them, think they fill some emptiness within us.

Kudzu bonsai relationships won't conform to our desires. They develop a life of their own.

They overwhelm boundaries, break through barriers, intrude, take over and wreak havoc. They entangle. Shut out all views. Degrade and defeat. They smother, choke, break down and uproot. Unbearably heavy, they exact a horrific price.

Kudzu relationships fill everything with their presence and will. They encroach in areas that do not pertain to them and support themselves by using others. They put down roots and work beneath the surface—unseen and unknown—until they spring up and establish themselves. Self-serving, they proliferate their own agenda. They grow large, powerful and overbearing, overshadowing those trying to grow alongside.

We nurture and cultivate a variety of relationships, some that become burdens and hindrances to our spiritual growth and the peace and safety of those we love. We think we're in control and can cause the relationships to produce good for us. But eventually, inevitably, kudzu relationships spiral out of control, ignore boundaries and require years of heartbreaking work to repair the

damage—if the relationship is repairable at all.

Eradicating kudzu relationships requires hard, diligent effort. They must be exposed for the noxious, emotionally destructive weed they are. Then they must be cut out, dug up and utterly destroyed. Nothing can be left—no roots, no entanglements, no seeds. The attachment must be broken and anything that might cause it to regenerate, removed.

Kudzu's very nature demands that it expand its boundaries.

Are kudzu relationships hampering your spiritual growth and welfare?

Relationships forced on us—uninvited, and unwelcomed—by family members, church members, coworkers, neighbors and others with whom we come in contact are kudzu.

That relationship you've covered up, explained away and defended—it's kudzu and won't be kept as a bonsai.

That friend draining your time, resources, and energies may be kudzu.

That attraction you feel for a coworker is kudzu in bonsai form.

That risky relationship you're involved in can't be confined within boundaries. It will grow large and cumbersome. You think you're doing a good job, erecting boundaries, pruning impure thoughts and desires, watching carefully for any breach. But, the truth is, this type relationship can't be kept as a bonsai. Its nature demands growth, encroachment and infiltration, sowing seeds that spring up as stumbling blocks in areas we never expect.

That need you have for attention, worth, companionship or _____ (you name it) is kudzu if you seek fulfillment from anyone apart from God.

That unhealthy relationship, uninvited or forced upon you, is kudzu.

That relationship—whether family, fiend or friend—that does not affirm you, acknowledge your worth or encourage you is kudzu.

That abusive relationship is kudzu.

Friendship with the world is enmity with God—and it's kudzu.

"...That's what I need," is no excuse for allowing kudzu to be a part of your life.

Not sure what to do about your kudzu relationships? Or how to escape the tangled maze? God's Word has the answer. Find a Christian counselor. Talk to godly friends. Enlist your pastor's help. Take the first step toward clearing out the kudzu and ending harmful relationships. Remember—you don't have to go it alone. Help is available.

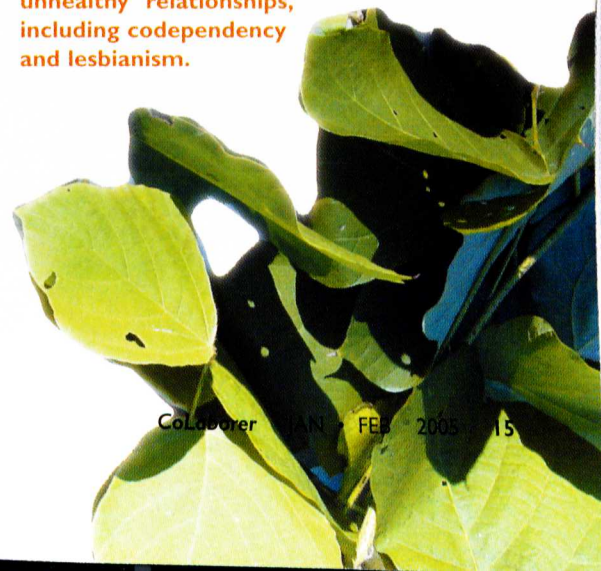
Don't delay. *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices"* (2 Corinthians. 2:11).

So, what are you cultivating in the private greenhouse of your heart?

Suzan Hutchinson lives in Perry, GA. Wife to Tim, mother to Amy and Timothy, and aunt to Audrey, Suzan attends the Cornerstone FWB Church.



Craving for Love by Briar Whitehead (Monarch Press) is a valuable Christian resource for individuals involved in unhealthy relationships and those who seek to help them. The book offers sound biblical and practical advice for a plethora of unhealthy relationships, including codependency and lesbianism.



Great EXPECTATIONS

13th WNAC NATIONAL RETREAT

OCTOBER 29-30, 2004



SHORT. QUICK. POWERFUL. These words describe the 13th WNAC National Retreat at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, October 29-30, 2004. Nearly 500 women poured into the Lifeway Retreat Center nestled in the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains. They came from as far away as California and Arizona and as close as Swannanoa, North Carolina. In all, twenty-two states were represented and four foreign countries. They came to browse and shop. They came to establish and renew friendships. They came to learn more about WNAC and related ministries. They came eager to hear Carol Kent speak of Great Expectations, the theme for the overnight gathering.

The squeezed, short format (less than twenty-four hours) didn't seem to hinder attendance. In fact, it may have helped some women attend. One mother expressed gratitude that she only had to leave her kids one night.

Friday's opening session began with a two-minute video challenge concerning the 50/50 National Project. A Saturday morning PowerPoint presentation by Angela Emerick highlighted the faces of Central Asian women. WAC women rallied to the challenge, giving \$3,400 in the Saturday morning offering. Attendees also gave \$2,600 Friday evening for eight missionary accounts.

Worship leader Debbie Burden pointed hearts to the source of expectation, reading Psalm 62:5-8. Scripture set the tone for worship throughout the retreat. Japan missionary Debbie Griffin stirred hearts with her beautiful solo, "Broken and Spilled Out." The White Oak Hill Ensemble (first time attendees) from Bailey, North Carolina, and the Pugh family from Millington, Tennessee, added more special music during the Saturday morning sessions.





RIDGECREST, NORTH CAROLINA

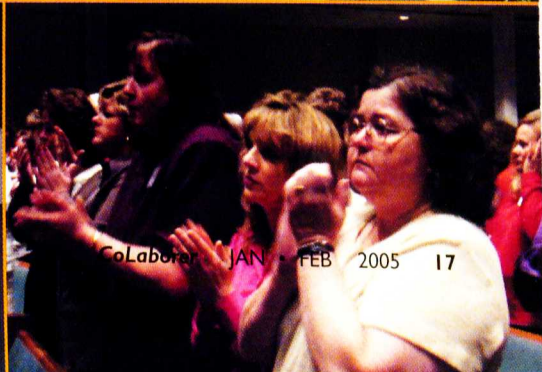
Well-known, gifted speaker Carol Kent, founder and director of Speak Up With Confidence seminars, delivered three powerful messages filled with Biblical principles and applications. She took the audience through her personal journey of unthinkable circumstances and heartache as she told the story of her only son Jason, who committed murder and is now serving a life sentence in prison. "God is never closer than when your heart is aching," she affirmed. Quoting Richard Exley, she said, "We can hug our hurts and make shrines out of our sorrows or we can offer them to God as a sacrifice of praise. The choice is ours." She noted Abraham's sacrifice as God called him to lay down his Isaac upon the altar.

Using Luke 5:17-36, (the man let down through the roof by his friends) Carol challenged listeners to be stretcher-bearers in order to show the power of community. A stretcher-bearer is a friend who is there for you—to sing hymns, read Scriptures, make a notebook of letters or give you a Bible, highlighting the word hope.

Carol enumerated the ten most common fears of women. She suggested that women face fear head-on and let God transform it into greater faith. "All fears start with a triggering factor or event," she said. Jumping to wrong conclusions causes fear. Using Peter's impulsive conduct of jumping in the water to walk to Jesus, (Matthew 14) she powerfully demonstrated the desperate call and the immediate calm that came when Peter looked to Jesus. This transformation of fear into faith enables ministry. She concluded, "I hope one of your great expectations is to lead someone else to Christ this year."

Her final address challenged attendees to become women of influence. She told attentive listeners, "We all have God-given opportunities to influence others for good." Claiming Corrie ten Boom as a mentor, Carol emphasized the importance and power of the Holy Spirit. A professional speaker, Carol admits she would be an ineffective communicator apart from the Holy Spirit's working, preparing hearts, and using her as a vehicle. The Holy Spirit's power and work were evident during the retreat. Two women received Christ as Savior. Numbers of women came to the altar to face their fears and to lay down their Isaacs.

Many consider the weekend a spiritual highlight of the 2004 year. WNAC anticipates another great weekend of blessing in Branson, MO, March 3-5, 2005, as women pause to *Pursue His Heart*. This gathering will feature FWB missionary personnel as speakers. Plan now to attend this upcoming event.



SPRINGBOARD

LEADERSHIP

READY. Prepare for the whole year with the 2005 PROGRAM AND PLAN Book. Balance your year's agenda by including opportunities to minister in the home, the church, the community and around the world.

RESIST. Avoid the tendency to merely read a lesson together as a group. Incorporate the meeting styles mentioned on p. 31 into your WAC.

RETREAT. Promote and preregister for the 2005 Retreat, March 3-5, in Branson, MO. See p. 21. Registration deadline is January 31.

RESPOND. Encourage your group to adopt the WNAC 50/50 National Project, giving a \$100 gift to support women's ministries worldwide. \$50 allows one woman to attend the Sisters Prayer Fellowship for Revival of the Nations of Central Asia. \$50 goes toward the current indebtedness of the WNAC office, enabling WNAC to continue helping each woman find her place in the Great Commission. Monies must be received by January 15.

NOW AVAILABLE

\$8.00

PLUS SHIPPING AND HANDLING
Order yours today!

LET US PURSUE

**2005 WNAC
PROGRAM &
PLAN BOOK**

MISSIONS

TAKE the Missions Minded quiz on p. 8. Go over answers together.

PROMOTE the 50/50 project. Send a Central Asian sister to the first ever Prayer Fellowship.

SHARE the FOCUS article about the International Women's Encounter (pp. 26, 27). Consider adopting a sister women's group in another country.

PLAN to attend the 2005 WNAC FFWB missionary speakers.

STUDY

OUTLINE the various Bible study methods presented on p. 7. Encourage women to find one that fits and incorporate it into her daily schedule.

HIGHLIGHT the book review on p. 8. WNAC offers a study by Carol Kent, Six Keys to Lasting Friendship to expand the February focus.

NEEDS

PROVISION CLOSET. Bath towel sets. Please no phone cards at this time.

WNAC OFFICE. Funds to purchase a G-4 or G-5 Macintosh Computer and software necessary to produce CoLaborer magazine.

SERVICE

PURCHASE Christian books, easily understood commentaries, or Bible study helps for your church library or Sunday school. Help women know truth.

DROP off recent CoLaborers (or other Christian resources) at offices and waiting rooms. Be sure to ask permission.

READ "Reading Writing and Restaurant" p. 13. Is ESL a possibility for your group?

MAKE friendship baskets for international, newcomers, or unchurched individuals.

PRAYER

PRAY for ESL efforts involving FFWB workers. Pray for teachers serving worldwide with English Language Institute.

FOCUS on educators at FWB Colleges. Write John 17:17 and professors' names on book-shaped prayer reminders.

SEND a representative to the World Prayer Summit 2005, March 31-April 2. Call FFWB International Missions (1-877-767-7736) for information.

MAKE a list of first names of unsaved friends. Copy the list and give to each woman. Encourage her to pray for one name each day.

OUR WEBSITE
www.nafwb.org/wnac
Contact us:
wnac@nafwb.org

DOWNLOADABLE MISSIONS STUDY COURSE

LOOKING FOR A MISSIONS STUDY? *Path to God's Glory* comes with a leader's guide and session sheets. It's free; it's downloadable. (Adobe Acrobat Reader required). It's for individuals or small groups.

Find the study at www.pathtogodsglory.com under the Path to God's Glory menu. This is a non-FWB church website.

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

Dear WNAC,

Where would FWB missions be without the faithful prayers and financial support of our dedicated women? Matt and I are grateful once again for your gift to our account. Thank you for the encouragement you have been to us. May God bless you for your faithfulness.

Matt and Cristina Price
Spain

Dear WNAC,

Your prayers and financial support make (our) ministry possible. Our goal is to provide a quality Christian education for the young men and women from our churches in Mexico. I appreciate your interest in them and in their preparation for ministry...Please pray regularly for our students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Thomas Marberry
El Seminario Biblico la Cruz, Mexico

Dear WNAC,

Thank you all for a great *CoLaborer*. One suggestion: if you print over a color picture, make it dark and big for those who are having trouble seeing small print (ME). Thanks for understanding.

Annette Tomlinson
Enterprise, AL

Dear WNAC,

Thank you for the recent designated support for our account. It helps us so much, and we want our donors to know. Hurricane Jeanne did only a small amount of damage (1 sign, 2 trees, 1 office flooded, and power out for a day). Praise the Lord. Thank you ladies for all the hard work you do. We appreciate you so much.

Ken and Paula Dodson
St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Dear WNAC,

I wanted to write and thank you for the monthly support you have so faithfully been giving to my account and the work here in Japan. God is using that to spread His glory and love to all the world. Just a few weeks ago, a new heart was opened to the truth of Jesus Christ. My friend, Mika Sasaki, who has been attending church and Bible study for over a year now, accepted Christ into her heart. Praise the Lord for His work. Thank you for having such a great part in this. We have a new sister in the family.

Joni Thomas
Japan

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

How can I handle sibling rivalry?

God's Word gives many examples of sibling relationships. However, all siblings mentioned are not necessarily examples to follow. Study them. See their strengths and weaknesses; then apply the good to your situation. Consider:

CAIN/ABEL (Genesis 4). This is first and probably foremost sibling rivalry mentioned in the Bible. Cain's own disobedience caused resentment toward his brother's righteous worship. **LESSONS:** Accept the consequences of your own actions. Don't blame others. Be your "brother's keeper."

JACOB/ESAU (Genesis 25-33). These twin brothers began their rivalry before birth. For many years, Jacob, the younger, longed for what Esau, the older, had—his father's approval. Jacob learned his lesson at the river Jabbok. When he came face to face with Christ and sought Him as the source of blessing and approval, he then saw the face of God in his brother. **LESSONS:** True approval only comes from God. Brothers can "kiss and make up." Deceit is never

the right path. Don't play favorites with your children.

LEAH/RACHEL (Genesis 29-35). A parent's ploy played into this sister dual. Father Laban's trickery, substituting Leah for bride Rachel, caused years of pain and heartache and fueled the fire of jealousy. Conflict became competition for a husband's affection and for children. Leah found God enough. She also discovered joy in her children and in life in general. Unfortunately, her sister Rachel, who appeared to have it all in love and looks, lived in longing and envy her entire life. **LESSONS:** Accept your situation even if you didn't create it. Find joy in what you have. God made you special. Things are not always as they appear.

ADONIJAH/SOLOMON (1 Kings 1-2). Rights to the throne came down to these two sons of David. Adonijah declared himself king and took measures to make it so. Solomon, the Lord's choice, was made king instead. The rivalry of Adonijah pushed the envelope a little too far. Solomon extended kindness and grace

to his brother. Later, this same Adonijah, who had usurped the king's authority, had the gall to ask Solomon for a special favor. He pushed too far. **LESSONS:** Know your limits. Don't let children take advantage of each other.

MARY/MARTHA. Rivalry between these two very different sisters seemed to center around their brother Lazarus. At his death, each handled grief in her own way. Martha server vs. Mary listener has inspired many sermons. Yet each loved the Lord and were loved by Him. Both grew in their faith. **LESSONS:** Accept differences. Keep priorities in order.

JAMES/JOHN. This fisherman brother team packed a fiery punch. They were more comrades than rivals, together known as the "sons of thunder." They were both part of Jesus' inner circle. Yet one wonders, in all the disciples' discussions, if the "who's the greatest" question originated with these two. (Their mother definitely played into this request.) **LESSONS:** Work as a team. Watch your temper. Avoid unhealthy comparison.

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



❁ Women Active for Christ nationwide realized a long-time labor of love in the recent acquisition of a new Rodgers organ at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Over half the funds for its purchase were given in honor of Dr. Mary R. Wisheart, former WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer in lieu of a retirement gift. The college held a special dedication ceremony and premier concert on October 12, 2004. Current Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman gave a dedicatory address. Concert organist Dr. Ronald Boud demonstrated the organ's features in both religious and classical pieces. President Matt Pinson offered praise and thanks for the generosity of Women Nationally Active for Christ.

❁ Women's Outreach of First FWB Church, Joplin, MO, honored birthdays with a Birthday Bash. Women invited the entire church family and guests to a potluck meal. They

baked twelve birthday cakes and decorated twelve tables, each for a different month. Persons sat at their birthday month table. The group took a birthday offering and gave it to the local Police Officers' Benevolent Fund. (A recent explosion injured one police officer and took the life of another.) Lynda Mitchell, president of the group, commented, "Not only did we support our community, but we also visited with new friends we wouldn't normally have sat with at a church dinner."

❁ A group of Missouri Women Active for Christ recently brought a Provision Closet of their own to the WNAC office. The cardboard structure contained individually boxed gifts of cash, WalMart cards and phone cards from various churches throughout the Show-Me state. Collectively the women gave \$2,827 for Provision Closet ministries.



PICTURED: 1. Dr. Mary Wisheart, FWBBC President Matt Pinson and Marjorie Workman at organ dedication. 2. Organist Dr. Ronald Boud in concert. 3. (l-r) Dr. Boud, Dr. Wisheart, Mrs. Workman, Music chairman James Stephens and President Pinson with organ. 4. Missouri women with provision closet gifts. 5. Dana Brown, Lynn Midgett, and Marsha Rennick at Lawnwood (OK).

* Missionary Lynn Midgett shared her ministry and needs in Spain with Lawnwood WAC, Tulsa, OK, on October 24, 2004. This group collected items and filled 18 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. The group is also collecting funds for the FWB Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama.

Is your group involved in a special project or noteworthy endeavor?

Share your

LABOR OF LOVE

Send news and photos to:

P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
EMAIL: sarah@nafwb.org

Got Ideas?

We'd love to hear from you. At WNAC we're always looking for new ways to minister and to motivate. Share your methods, your successes and your vision.

PURSUE HIS HEART



2005 WNAC NATIONAL RETREAT

MARCH 3-5, 2005

Chateau on the Lake Resort Hotel Branson, MO



THURSDAY EVENING: *Pursue His Heart in Intimacy (Part 1)*
Debbie Griffin, missionary to Japan



FRIDAY MORNING: *Pursue His Heart in Worship and Praise*
Doug Little, Director of Stateside Development for Free Will Baptist International Missions



FRIDAY MORNING: *Pursue His Heart for the World*
Angela Emerick, Student Missions Representative
Vicki Sturgill, missionary to Brazil
Fern Phillips, former teacher in Brazil



FRIDAY EVENING - *Pursue His Heart in Intimacy (Part II)*
Debbie Griffin



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Marjorie Workman 11/4/04



IT'S FOR OUR GOOD

DEBE'S DELIGHTS

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

Debe Taylor
WNAC President

Debe Taylor has led WNAC as President since 1997. She attends Lake Hills FWB Church, Hot Springs, AR, where her husband David serves as pastor. Pray for Debe and other WNAC leaders preparing to attend the Central Asian Fellowship.

Bailey had been warned several times not to pour out her milk at mealtime. Yet this night found her wanting to leave the table to play.

"Mommy, do I have to drink my milk?" she questioned.

"Yes, Bailey, you are to drink every bit of it," was her mother's response.

"But, there is just a little bit in the cup."

"Good, it won't take you very long to drink it then, will it?"

Bailey's mother continued a conversation she had been having with Bailey's dad at the dinner table. She noticed that Bailey had left the table and turned just in time to see Bailey pouring her milk in the kitchen sink.

"Bailey, you go straight to your room and wait for me to come in and spank you."

Down the hallway went Bailey to await the impending punishment. Just a few minutes passed before a little voice was heard asking, "Mommy, does it have to be a hard spankin'?"

Oh how like Bailey I so often am. I disobey what God has told me to do or not to do. Sometimes it is planned disobedience and sometimes it is not so premeditated, but either way I have disobeyed. Punishment is sure because God is a holy God and cannot allow disobedience. He also is a loving God and wants to correct the erring child. *"For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth"* (Proverbs 3:12).

Bailey knew the rule—she had been told, "Don't pour out your milk." Although she knew punishment would come with her disobedience, she was hoping it would not be full punishment. I, too, have been warned. I know the rules; God made sure they were written down. Yet, all too often, I don't want the punishment due me. I don't want a hard spankin'.

When she asked if the spanking had to be a hard one, Bailey was trying to negotiate her punishment. I do the

same thing. I want to discuss the punishment with God.

"God, couldn't You just go over those rules one more time with me? I promise I'll do better."

"Lord, I think I just didn't quite understand that the punishment would be so severe. Wouldn't You be willing to negotiate?"

"Tell You what, Lord. If you will let me off this time with a strong scolding, I won't ever do that again."

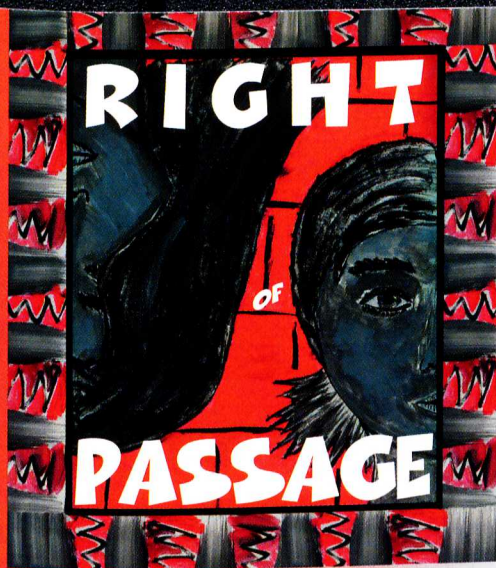
Try as I might to divert, change or soften the punishment, God's Word says I should accept my punishment and learn from it. *"...My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth"* (Hebrews 12:5b-6).

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11). Bailey was thinking only of that moment when the punishment would be meted out and not about the profitability of the punishment afterwards. I'm just like her, looking only at the present. What I must remember is that ultimately, the correction is for my own good.

**Women in Central Asia
anticipate your response.**



**Your WNAC NATIONAL PROJECT
gift enables women such as these to
attend the Central Asian Sisters
Prayer Fellowship, April 2005.**



MEET THE VILLALBA TEENS

AMAYA, 15

FAVORITE VERSE: 1 John 1:9

WANTS TO BE: Undecided

SERVES THE LORD BY: Assisting in Children's Church

DANI, 15

FAVORITE VERSE: Revelation 4:11

WANTS TO BE: Journalist

SERVES THE LORD BY: Playing the violin; assisting in Children's Church

ELIZABETH, 18

FAVORITE VERSE: Joshua 1:9 ("This verse has helped me a lot this past year with my studies.")

WANTS TO BE: Elementary Teacher

SERVES THE LORD BY: Playing the piano & assisting in Children's Church

GUSTAVO, 13

FAVORITE VERSE: Psalm 19

WANTS TO BE: Pilot

SERVES THE LORD BY: Assisting in Children's Church

KEVIN, 12

FAVORITE VERSE: Psalm 19

WANTS TO BE: Computer Programmer

SERVES THE LORD BY: Assisting in Children's Church

MICHELLE, 16

FAVORITE VERSE: Isaiah 42:1

WANTS TO BE: Translator

SERVES THE LORD BY: Playing the drums; singing; assisting in Children's Church

GROWING UP CHRISTIAN IN SPAIN

Studying for exams. Hanging out with friends. Worrying about the opposite sex. These are the things most teenagers around the world have in common, including Christian teens in Spain. What makes them different? They are living their teenage years for the Lord in a place where Christians are a minority. (Less than 1% of the population are Evangelical Christians.)

We asked teens in the Villalba church youth group about their Christianity. Here are their responses.

1. Do you have any Christian friends in your school?

AMAYA: I don't think there is another Christian in my school.

DANI: Two or three. One is my sister and the other is Gustavo.

ELIZABETH: I just finished high school and I'm soon to start at the University. I have been told that there are two Christians in my department of study.

KEVIN: I have two Christian friends at school.

2. Have you experienced any difficulties being a Christian?

AMAYA: I have had difficulties with my father because he is not a Christian. My father and my friends don't understand why I wanted to be baptized.

DANI: Yes, sometimes with my friends when they don't always understand why I won't do certain things.

ELIZABETH: I think there are always difficulties. For example, my friends who don't believe the same way as I do, want to do things that I won't do as a Christian. If I say no to something, they want to know why. I believe that if you know what you believe, it doesn't matter what they say.

GUSTAVO: When I try to talk with my friends about the Lord, it is difficult because they are not really interested.

MICHELLE: I can't really talk about the same things with my friends. When I try to talk about these things [spiritual things], they change the subject.

3. Do you have anything to say to encourage other Christian teenagers?

AMAYA: Always stay with the walk. The Lord is always with you and you can confide in Him anytime.

ELIZABETH: Believing in God is not boring! Many times your friends might think you are boring because you don't do certain things, but I have a lot of fun. Maybe in different ways than they but still I have fun.

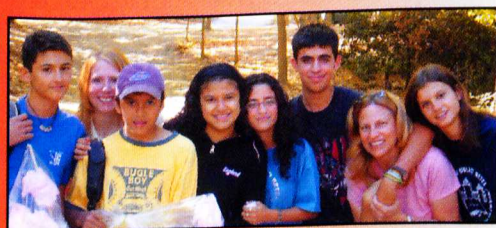
GUSTAVO: Whatever difficulties you might have, God will always be with you.

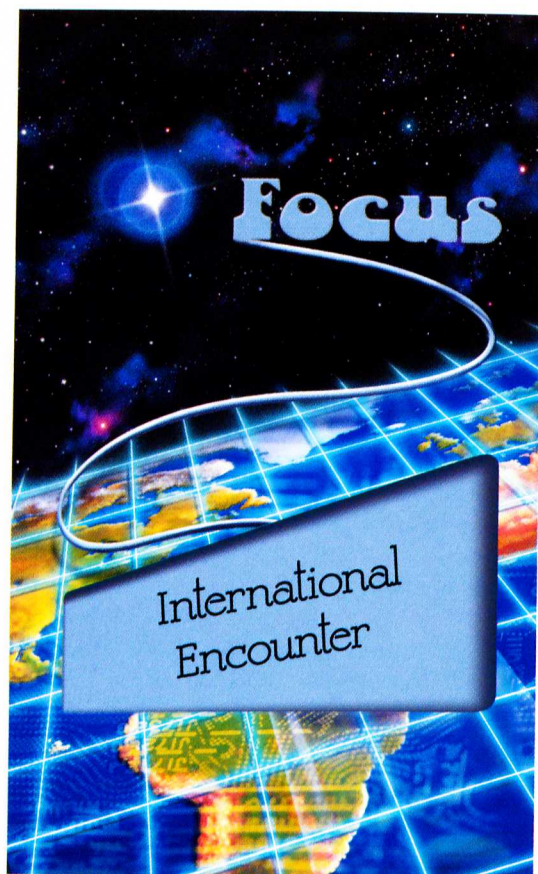
MICHELLE: Talk with your friends about who Jesus is and what He did for us. Pray for your friends and for yourself—to have strength.

*A same vision for a new century.
A generation that lifts up Christ
and is united in song and prayer for Spain.
Our possessions, our hearts,
Belong to the Lord of Lords.
The price does not matter, please save our Spain.*

"A SAME VISION," sung by Marcos Vidal is the youth group's theme song. These teens pray every day for Spain that many will come to know Him.

—BROOKE TURNBOUGH





Pray!

—for Lina Dorati as she leads the Sociade Damas (Women's Society) of the Free Will Baptist churches in Panama.

—for Women Active for Christ affiliates throughout the world. Organizations exist in Canada, Cuba, Cote d'Ivoire, Japan, Mexico, and Panama.

—for the upcoming Sisters Prayer Fellowship for Revival of the Nations of Central Asia, and for organization and mobilization of this group of women.

—for sufficient funds enabling at least 500 women to attend the Central Asia Prayer Fellowship.

—for the future of Women Internationally Active for Christ.

JOINING HEARTS AND HANDS ACROSS THE GLOBE



International representatives: Judy Lytle (USA); Sandra Bishop (JAPAN); Lina Dorati (PANAMA); and Lynette Morgan (COTE D'IVOIRE)

**Encounter of International Free Will Baptist Women
Saturday, October 9, 2004
Panama City, Panama**

by Judy Lytle

I'm always amazed how God uses our plans and dreams to bring His will to pass. Women in Panama getting together for a conference or meeting is not an unusual occurrence. For the past sixteen years, Panamanian Free Will Baptist women have held an annual retreat. Other events periodically bring women from the various churches together for fellowship. What *was* unusual about the about. Brainchild of Lina Dorati, National Women's Society president, the conference started small.

Panama would be hosting the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches, a meeting held tri-annually in different locations. All countries with Free Will Baptist churches and mission works were invited to send a representative. I planned to attend along with my husband, Steve. Since I was going to be there, Lina asked me to speak to the Panamanian women.

We'd served as missionaries in Panama for some 24 years. I was looking forward to catching up on the lives of so many people from our ministry years there. Meeting with the women seemed like a perfect way to see my Christian friends from several of our churches.

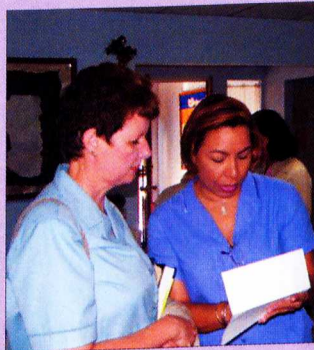
However, after Lina heard that some of the other representatives' wives would be coming, she thought it would be good to hear from everyone. The idea of an Encounter of International Free Will Baptist Women was born. Panamanian women enthusiastically planned the entire event.

The Saturday women's meeting began at nine. First, Anne Worthington (USA), wife of former FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington, shared about her life as a retired person. Her words inspired us as she talked about the many ways God is still using her in His service. Sandra Bishop, missionary to Japan, brought insight into the difficulties of taking God's Word to the largest unreached people group in the world—the Japanese. Lynette Morgan spoke representing Cote d'Ivoire. The 90 women in attendance heard firsthand about the

Other Prayer Concerns




PICTURES:
 1. Women enjoy a mid-morning coffee break.
 2. Missionary guests eat lunch
 3. Brenda Bunch with Lina Dorati;
 4. Lynette Morgan and Anne Worthington;
 5. Kathia Diaz translates for Anne Worthington



civil war in Cote d'Ivoire and gained momentum to pray regularly and specifically for their brothers and sisters in that war-torn, African country. According to plan, I did speak to the women, concluding the morning with a Bible study from the book of Esther.

After the inspiration-filled morning, a delicious lunch on specially decorated tables awaited everyone. Some women had traveled three or four hours by bus to attend. They needed to leave by at least 2:00 p.m. in order to be home before dark. The full morning agenda enabled even these attendees to fellowship over the meal and still return home in time. All in all, the event marked a special day for everyone.

Several of the Panamanian women shared their plans to begin saving money to attend the 2007 International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists in Spain/France. Their vision is to someday organize Women Internationally Active for Christ. How exciting! The awareness that Free Will Baptist women around the world are meeting, studying God's Word and praying for the same things is overwhelming. Our sisters in other countries many times feel they are alone in their service to God. Knowing that women of like faith and doctrine are scattered all over the world offers great encouragement.

Only God knows what lies ahead, but this event served as a beginning. The first Encounter of Women Internationally Active for Christ provided encouragement, edification, and enjoyment for women who attended.

—Pray for follow-up after special holiday services. Typically, many unsaved attend these events.

—Pray for open doors of opportunity and continued blessings for missionaries in 2005. Pray for daily spiritual needs.

—Pray that God would provide property needs for missionaries Randy Puckett (TX), Paul McKissick (VA), and Clayton Hampton (TN).

—Pray for sufficient funds for women (those in Central Asia and WAC leaders) to attend the Sisters Prayer Fellowship, April 26-28, 2005.

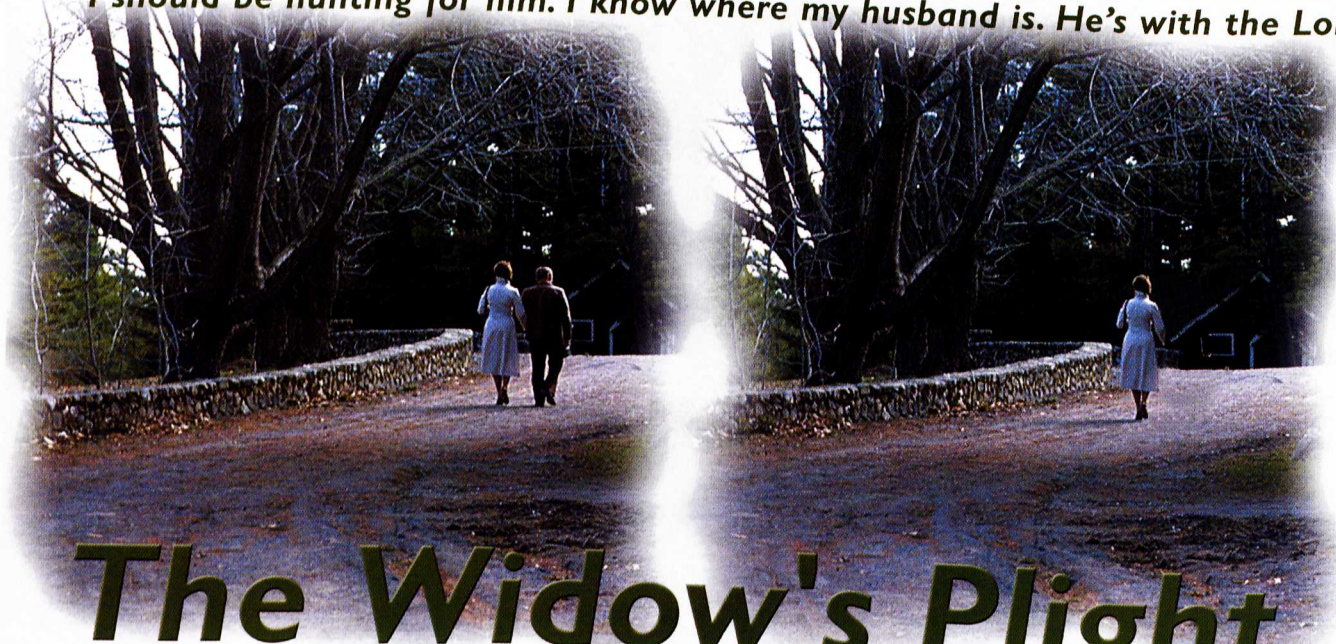
—Pray that God would strengthen His people and accomplish His will in Cote-d'Ivoire, midst renewed unrest and violence.

—Pray for the upcoming FWBIM Prayer Summit 2005, March 31-April 2, at Camp Garner Creek, Dickson, TN.

—Pray for missionaries on state-side assignment seeking prayer and financial support. Ask God to burden hearts to generously give to His work.

—Pray for the persecuted church around the world.

"I never say I lost my husband. This infers that I don't know where he is and that I should be hunting for him. I know where my husband is. He's with the Lord."



The Widow's Plight

by Betty Griswold Jones

GOD HAS PLACED ME IN A category where I've never been before—WIDOW. My spouse has died. Half of me is gone, because truly, we were one.

He was the head and spiritual leader of our home. Now I am thrust into that position for myself. Most of our life together revolved around church work. I married the preacher's son; we had committed our lives to the Lord before we married.

Yes, I'm different now—the remaining half of a couple. However, I do not resent other women for having husbands. I am happy for them; they still have each other. But I do get lonely and try to keep busy in order not to become depressed. God takes care of me, but you, as my Christian friend, can help.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

Still include me in dinner invitations. Just include another widow so I'll have someone there with similar interests. One of my

dear friends did this for me soon after my husband died, when all I really wanted to do was hibernate. It helped so much. You might ask me to meet you at a restaurant for a dutch-treat burger lunch. This will get me out of the house for a while, and I will not have to endure another solitary meal.

Accept invitations to my home. And do not feel badly about bringing along your husband. You'll probably find more people at the table than the foursome we used to enjoy. But I am the same cook, and my homemade bread still rises just as high. However, I have moved to the head of the table so I do not have to see my husband's empty chair.

If you see something at my house that needs to be done, please tell me. Don't be afraid to volunteer your help or to suggest I get it done. Remember, I'm trying to do all the chores my husband took care of, in addition to my own, as well as juggle a full-time job. For instance, I was used to get-

ting the car serviced and washed, but I forgot that the furnace should be cleaned before turning it on for the season and gutters must be cleared of leaves before little trees began to sprout in them. Teach me to do these things, if it is something I can possibly do.

After my husband died, it seemed like everything began to go wrong around the house. I thank God for my brothers and a good neighbor man who were so good to come to my aid. And they tolerated me watching over their shoulders so I could learn how to replace a faucet washer and a unit on my electric range, put a charger on the car or the lawn tractor batteries, and change the filter in the furnace. I've also learned that a slow drain can become a clogged drain, and plumbers are very expensive.

Call often just to say hello and talk of pleasant things. And it's okay to mention places we all visited together or things we were involved in as couples. These bring back pleasant memories. My hus-

“The Bible devotes many verses and chapters to widows and widowhood. According to Luke 4:25, there were many widows in Israel. Our churches today are full of them. Many widows live in my town. So I have devoted myself to helping as many as possible cope with their widowhood.”

band was a part of my life for forty years. I’m still interested in your children and grandchildren, in your husband’s latest promotion, or the latest trip you took together. Bring pictures when you come.

If you are a pastor’s wife, please help see that widows are given a place to serve in the church. Women Active for Christ has been a great support group for me as there are several widows within our district. Accompany your preacher husband when he calls on widows. Her neighbors may not know he’s her pastor. In this day and age, some people expect all widows to have a *special friend*. Age makes no difference either. You can help protect both your husband and the widow.

THINGS NOT TO DO

Don’t say, “If there is anything I can do, let me know.” Of course there is something you can do, even if it’s only running in for a cup of coffee. My evenings are longer than ever before. No one to talk over my day, there’s always that need to hear another human voice. TV and radio can furnish noise, but not conversation. You may walk up to my door and hear me talking to myself.

Don’t insist I participate in expensive outings without plenty of advance notice. Remember, my income has been cut by more than half. I need time to budget trips and retreats that will require motel expense. Many times I have found there is just no way. Home and auto maintenance, insurances and repairs, along with utilities take precedence over outings. And of course, God’s ten percent must come out first. He has a marvelous way of multiplying the *widow’s mite* to make it cover my necessities, and many of my desires as well.

Don’t feel guilty, or avoid me because you still have your spouse. I’m happy for you; I pray you may have many more years together. It’s okay for you to talk to me about him. Don’t become embarrassed if I mention fond memories of my husband. He was a special man.

Since my husband’s death, God has placed me with several ladies at the time of their husbands’ deaths. Because of my own experience, I was able to witness to them, pray and cry with them, and encourage them in the weeks following. I think God has used me through this. A dear preacher’s wife came to me when her husband had a

stroke. She had never put gas in their car; she’d never been to a car wash. I was privileged to help her. Several of us widows regularly get together and one cooks dinner for the others. We do not sit and feel sorry for ourselves, but we do share our feelings and fears.

Don’t worry about me being alone because I’m not. The Lord is my constant companion. I’m okay. Sure, it was hard getting used to not having a warm body to curl up with at night or the embrace of a man who loved me, and having no one to hold my hand when walking down the street. But God has told us that His strength is sufficient. He has been there every step of the way. He still holds my hand.



Betty G. Jones attends the Kirksville, (MO), FWB Church, where she teaches Sunday school. She is President of Green Acres WAC, and NEMO WAC District Coordinator. Betty enjoys quilting, reading, gardening, and chauffeuring the elderly.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE HOW WE WALK

When I was a newlywed, my husband bought two pigs to fatten and butcher for our winter meat. He built a pen in the brush and brambles below our house.

Then he came down with rheumatic fever. He was sick for three months. It fell my lot to feed the pigs. But there was no path. Every day, I walked the same way. Eventually I wore down a path.

When he recovered, he fed the pigs. But he walked that same path. Hebrews 12:13 says, “Make straight paths for your feet, and walk therein, lest that which is lame be turned away.”

At that time, I was a new Christian. My husband was unsaved. A few years later, the Lord saved him. It does make a difference how we walk.

—Beulah Martin, Monett, MO



BEHIND THE SCENES

A LOOK INTO THE LIFE OF A FWB DIRECTOR'S WIFE



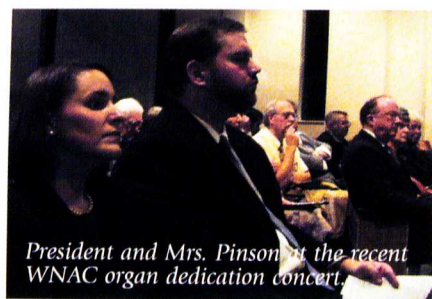
HER HEARTBEAT. That's how First Lady Melinda Pinson describes Free Will Baptist Bible College. Supporting her

president husband, often behind the scenes, Melinda considers this her major ministry role.

Ministry has always been her heartbeat. As a small child in rural North Carolina, Melinda sensed a closeness to God. However, her first real ministry opportunity came at age fifteen, working at a Christian conference center in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

There she made a commitment to serve the Lord, making Him the focus of her daily life. Working five summers at the conference center taught her the importance of serving others and instilled within her a love for the ministry of hospitality.

Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds also gave her a mentor who shaped her educational path. The director of the center became chaplain at Catawba College, her alma mater. His influence later led her to Yale to pursue a Master's in sociology and religion. She held hopes of teaching and dreams of ministering to others.



President and Mrs. Pinson at the recent WNAC organ dedication concert.

God defined her dreams early on. Her first day at Yale, she met a young man, Matt Pinson, who introduced himself as a fellow southerner and a Free Will Baptist. (This North Carolina girl had never heard of the denomination.) In those first few weeks of acquaintance, she read everything Leroy Forlines had ever written. Melinda describes this as a freeing experience. As she absorbed the writings and pondered the doctrines, she knew this was what she believed. The couple dated throughout their graduate programs, married after graduation, then settled into pastoral ministry in a Free Will Baptist Church.

Melinda misses serving a congregation, but notes that her current ministry is similar—only now she has students. She sees her president's wife role intertwined with ministry. She desires to create a sense of community, often hosting fellowship gatherings for both students and staff. Mentoring young people offers her great blessing and opportunity. Melinda enjoys traveling with her husband, and describes herself as "very involved in heart and support" in her husband's position. Though active in many campus events, she preserves her time for a greater present ministry—her children.

Melinda is a stay-at-home mom to Anna (4) and Matthew (2). She seizes this opportunity to mold and shepherd their hearts. She's home by design. The Pinsons planned for this before their children were born. Melinda is com-



Ready to ride with Anna and Matthew.

mitted to at-home until both children are in school.

The Pinson family worships each week at Cross Timbers FWB Church where Melinda participates in a weekly ladies lunchtime Bible study. She enjoys the church's vibrant WAC group.

Personal interests include reading, working with her hands, and the preservation of Southern culture—her family heritage. She seeks to revive diminishing traditions, hospitality and graces which she believes are rooted in Christianity.

Melinda feels the greatest challenge facing women today is the temptation to be conformed to the world. "Just being a Christian isn't enough." She challenges women to "go against the grain of our culture and the spirit of the age and not be squeezed into the world's mold. The mold is constantly changing; that's why we have to be intentional."

Meetings. Meetings. Meetings.

Words FOR WOMEN



Executive Secretary-Treasurer

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

Meetings. Meetings. Meetings. Just another meeting. Do you hear these comments about your WAC? If so, do something to change the perception. Women Active for Christ does not have to be just another meeting. Besides, what is the point of a meeting if women are reluctant to attend?

Richard G. Ensman, in *NRB* (National Religious Broadcasters) Magazine, lists at least ten varieties of meetings. Seven of these could be utilized in WAC.

Celebratory Meetings

The celebratory meeting style focuses on the good things that have happened in your women's activities. Celebrate those successes. A project completed is reason to celebrate. Perhaps you have participated in a community outreach or a local church function. If so, promote your next WAC meeting as a time of thanksgiving and praise for a mission accomplished. Certainly, if prizes, awards, or special recognitions have been given, you'll want to rejoice with the recipients.

Impromptu Meetings

This is the quick, unplanned meeting that occurs when planning goes awry, a kink crops up or a detail is forgotten. These meetings most often follow a church service. Generally they involve officers or committee members. Rarely should they include the entire group. Good planning will keep these meetings to a minimum.

Kick-Off Meetings

Look for opportunities to use this meeting style. Begin your WAC year with a kick-off meeting. Target women who usually do not attend. Good publicity will generate excitement and anticipation for a kick-off meeting. Then make the meeting exciting. A good drama, skit, or something special may entice them. (See suggestions in the *2005 Program and Plan Book*.) Do not allow your gatherings to become mundane and boring or you will lose the less committed woman, the overly extended mom, the business executive, and the single woman. Kick-off meetings are ideal for launching a project or fundraiser.

Process Meetings

Process meetings are working meetings. Plans are laid out. Decisions are made. Committees are appointed. Time lines are established to accomplish activities. Lists are made. Questions are answered.

Commitments are made for all kinds of things. Who will host the various meetings during the year? Lead a Bible study? Give a book review? Decorate for special events? Check on caterers? Handle publicity? Schedule a process style meeting only once or twice a year.

Social Meetings

This is the relaxed, laid-back style meeting. Social meetings are fun and interactive, with little or no business. Fellowship is the primary goal. It's a good holiday meeting choice. It's great for a potluck fundraiser meal or an appreciation reception. Use this meeting style often.

Theme Meetings

Theme meetings are built around a particular focus. For WAC groups, that focus is often missions. Theme meetings are colorful, interesting, educational, and usually fun. Their purpose is to generate interest in a particular subject or project. *CoLaborer* magazine is designed for theme meetings. The overall theme throughout 2005 is *Let Us Pursue*, based on Hosea 6:3. The *2005 Program and Plan Book: Let Us Pursue* offers suggestions for carrying out these program themes: Pursuing knowledge, friendships, purity, excellence, joy and other similar topics. Put your creativity to work using this meeting style.

Parliamentary Meetings

Unless you enjoy business, parliamentary meetings are the least exciting. They are, however, necessary, providing a framework for operation. These meetings are the grease that keeps an organization running smoothly, efficiently, and orderly. Usually, groups follow *Roberts Rules of Order* to conduct essential business and elect officers.

However, women, beware. Every meeting doesn't have to be a parliamentary meeting. Traditionally, this has been the format for most WAC groups. Maybe it's time to think change. Be less stringent. Consider moving most business to committee, allowing more time to emphasize what we are really about—praying, encouraging, and reaching out to touch the world for Christ.

By selecting from these seven meeting styles, you can add variety to WAC meetings. By design, you can move attendees from the *expected* to the *anticipated*. Will you consider a new meeting style for your next gathering?

pursue your

g O AHEAD. UNTIE THE BOW.
EXPLORE THE HIDDEN, CREATIVE
PART OF YOU.

i NSIDE YOUR MIND AND HEART
ARE THERE POEMS, STORIES,
PICTURES, ILLUSTRATIONS,

f ORGOTTEN, LOCKED AWAY
THAT GOD WANTS YOU
TO SHARE?

t EAR OPEN THE PACKAGE.
USE YOUR GIFT FOR
HIS GLORY.



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