

COLLABORER

September • October 2005

His Delight

PROJECTS

More of Him

Pursue—2005
Convention Coverage

A NEW LEVEL OF
HIS PRESENCE

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Labor

of my heart



Sarah Fletcher

NO FLOWERS ONLY VEGETABLES

Gazing upon my neighbor's array of garden blooms, Janina, her housekeeper, stoically proclaimed. "In our village, this was not allowed. We could grow no flowers, only vegetables." My heart ached for this Polish immigrant whose hard work ethic and "no frills" values had been shaped and molded under such restrictions.

No flowers, only vegetables? There's nothing wrong with vegetables. I freeze them, can them, and consume them. Ask anyone who knows me well. I love vegetables. They have their place. But vegetables

are not flowers. Women's magazines often create crafty edible centerpieces and vegetable bouquets. (Would these have been permitted in Janina's village?) Let's face it. A broccoli crown just isn't a rose.

No flowers, only vegetables? This utilitarian view sometimes spills over into the Christian life. In our striving to do all we can for Christ, we sometimes neglect the blossoms for the beans. We fail to perceive and cultivate beauty.

Inside us all are longings for beauty. God created us in His image and God is a lover of beauty. Just look at a sunset or a mountain peak or a tiny bloom. His plan for the Old Testament Temple included not only brass lavers and gold furniture, but also intricate carvings of almond blossoms. Flowers, not vegetables.

The disciples, however, grew only vegetables when Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with oil. "Do you know how much that cost? We could have sold it and given it to the poor!" No one could argue their pragmatic defense. In contrast, Jesus saw the beauty. He drank in the fragrance that filled the room and declared it an unforgettable moment in history.

Flowers are momentary and fading. So is life. We *are* to press toward the mark and aim for excellence, but our pursuits should involve both beauty and the best. Following Christ's example, we should seize beautiful moments and peer through open windows of the eternal.

Look for beauty in others. Christian writer Calvin Miller has coined the term "Christify." He encourages believers to look for the Christ qualities in every individual—to see each person as a unique creation, in need of redemption. No doubt our efforts in church growth and evangelism would excel if we envisioned others as beautiful unwon trophies of His grace.

Cultivate beauty within ourselves. Because beauty originates in the heart, we are beautiful when our hearts are filled with His presence. One of our writers states, "In a world full of thorny self-serving hearts, the heart of a woman committed to Him is like a rare and beautiful flower." The old familiar hymn resounds this theme:

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.
All his wonderful passion and purity.
O, Thou Savior divine, all my nature refine,
Til' the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.

Are we planting flowers or vegetables? Grow both. Tend to the gardens; water, weed, and harvest. Eat the vegetables, but enjoy the flowers. Soak in the beauty which only flowers possess. Let that beauty radiate to the world.

CoLABORER

September October 2005
Volume 45, Number 5

2005 WNAC CONVENTION REPORT

STAFF
Executive Editor
Marjorie Workman

Editor
Sarah Fletcher

Circulation
Yvonne Hampton

Executive Committee

Debe Taylor
Hot Springs, Arkansas
Rebecca Pugh
Atoka, Tennessee
Phyllis York
Ashland, Kentucky
Carolyn Hendrix
Madison, Alabama
Linda Harvey
Phoenix, Arizona
Shirley Jackson
St. Peter's, Missouri

CoLaborer (ISSN 0896-0038) is published bimonthly by Women Nationally Active for Christ of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306, (615) 771-6681. Address all correspondence to P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$12.00 per year, single; \$11.00 per year, five or more to one address. SUBSCRIBE ONLINE at www.nafwb.org/wnac or call toll free 1-877-767-7662

Periodical postage paid at Antioch, TN and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CoLaborer, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Copyright privileges reserved © 2005 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. USPS 0119-560

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

contents

FEATURES AND ARTICLES

FEATURES MAY BE USED FOR WAC PROGRAMS.

4 **His Delight**

A schoolteacher's plans for pursuing excellence

7 **SPECIAL FEATURE: PROJECTS**

Just a little marble
Blessings in a box
Every missionary could use a buck

11 **More of Him**

Pursue His presence through love and obedience

14 **A New Level of His Presence**

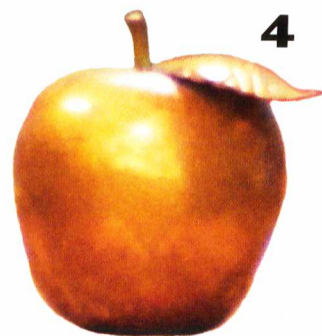
God was calling her to live a more abundant life

26 **Pursue. 2005 Convention Coverage**

Theme highlights Great Commission opportunities

29 **Creative Arts Contest**

Winners named in seven categories.



4



13



7

COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

17 **Book Review**

18 **Springboard: Memos for WNAC officers**

19 **Feedback: Letters to WNAC**

19 **Marriage Enrichment Conference**

20 **Labors of Love**

21 **Bonus Word Bible Study**

21 **Help! I'm a Mom**

22 **Debe's Delights**

23 **Right of Passage**

24 **Focus: New Faces, New Opportunities**

30 **Behind the Scenes**

31 **Words for Women**



14



20



26



30

studied hard and prepared diligently, she realized her language skills were yet inadequate. She implored the Lord to use her in spite of her weakness with the language. She recounted that the impact of some of those earlier efforts was more powerful than in later times when her Japanese was nearly flawless. God uses whatever we surrender to Him.

We should not use the excuse that our efforts will be lacking or less than excellent. As Rick Warren says in *The Purpose Driven Life*, "Less-than-perfect service is always better than the best intention."

Don't let a goal of excellence be your excuse for laziness or selfconsciousness.

We also must avoid the temptation of **procrastination**. "I want to do an excellent job, but conditions are just not right yet." Like the sluggard in Proverbs 20:4 who "will not plow by reason of the cold," the devil lures us to inaction with the false premise that there will be a perfect time to act. Meanwhile, we fail to sow the seed or give the cup of cold water or whatever the Spirit has moved us to do. Ultimately there is no crop or witness because we have made excuses rather than obeying the Holy Spirit. We fear "the lion in the street" (Proverbs 22:13)—that is, the imagined hurdle—and fail to take action. Don't let a goal of excellence be your excuse for laziness or self-consciousness.

A third danger is in **comparison**—expecting our service to be a carbon copy of someone else's. We have to combat the paranoia that someone else could do the job better. "They...comparing themselves among themselves are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12). Remember, our ministry is to the Lord. We are not trying to please men, but the God who created us. Because our gifts and talents are uniquely designed, our service will be tailor-made too. When you are totally surrendered to God's will for your life, your service will be pleasing to Him and to you.



Excellence— His Delight

Paul said "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

Back to the schoolroom: If given the choice, I'll take a student who wants to please his teacher over a student with

a high IQ any day. He is teachable, diligent, prepared, and striving for the goal. He may not have all the natural skills, but his attitude and desire will take him further than the student who thinks he knows it all and is out to please only himself

The ultimate goal in service for the Christian is to delight the one we serve. "Be obedient...in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers;... doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:5-8). The ultimate satisfaction from excellence will come when the Lord, whom it has been our goal to please, says to us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

Now that will be excellent.



Joy Corn is a pastor's wife and sixth grade teacher from Ashland City, TN. She and husband Randy recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and 10th anniversary serving the Bethlehem FWB Church. The Corns have two sons, both attending FWBCC. Besides her position at Pleasant View Christian School, Joy's ministry hats also include WAC secretary, volunteer choir director and pianist, adult Sunday school teacher, and VBS worker.

Excellence
can be obtained if you...

care

more than others think is wise

risk

more than others think is safe

dream

more than others think is practical

expect

more than others think is possible

—author unknown

Projects Projects Projects

just a little marble

by Joyce Bowers

Our small church has always cared about and supported Free Will Baptist missionaries, both Home and International. Began as a mission church, our congregation and our Women Active for Christ have sensed a special burden for missionaries and the souls they are trying to reach. At First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, SC, we've sought to support missionaries with our prayers and monetary gifts. However, like most Americans, busy with hectic lifestyles, we sometimes forget.

We fail to remember that some of our missionaries serve in areas with unimaginable living conditions. Little things we take for granted, they often consider a blessing. More importantly, we sometimes forget to pray.



Mother and daughter Vannie Stone (prayer chairman) and Brenda Smith (program chairman) discovered a way to help us remember. They gave each member of our church a marble with these instructions. Men were to keep the marbles in their pockets; ladies would keep their marbles on their bathroom vanities. Each time we felt or saw the



Originators Vannie Stone and Brenda Smith

marble, we would stop and pray for a missionary who needed a special touch from God at that moment.

Just a little marble, but what a great awakening. These little glass balls have changed the prayer habits of people in our church. They've also brought encouragement and strength to our missionaries. Only eternity will reveal the full results of these daily prayers.

We're thankful for missionaries who are willing to go and share the gospel. We're also thankful for little marbles that God used to set our church afire in prayer for the world. "To God be the glory, great things he hath done." We're confident, that as we continue to pray, He will do even greater things.



ABOVE AND ABOVE LEFT: Greenville WAC members display their little marbles.

Projects Projects Projects

blessings in a box

blessings come in small boxes for West Virginia WAC leaders Jody Sullivan and Bobby Bowen. Since 1999, they've received and routed thousands of them for Operation Christmas Child.

Seven years ago, a coworker introduced Jody to this well-known humanitarian aid program which distributes gift-filled boxes to children all over the world. An eager volunteer, Jody began packing boxes for the collection center at her coworker's church.

Bobby's shoebox enthusiasm stemmed from an Operation Christmas Child workshop at WVWAC's 1999 Fall Retreat. She took information back to her WAC at Prince of Peace FWB Church in Huntington. The group decided to adopt OCC as a yearly church project, filling as many as 380 boxes within their small congregation.

The next year, both women began praying concerning ways they could become more involved in this ministry. Meanwhile, sensing a need to retire, the local coordinator started praying for a replacement.

God answered each woman's request. In 2000, Jody was chosen as the area coordinator and Prince of Peace Church became the OCC collection center for Eastern KY, Southeast OH, and Western VA. Under Jody's leadership, collection has grown from 7000 boxes in 1999 to 27,000 in 2004. This year's collection goal is 30,000 boxes.

Though both women work full-time jobs, Jody and Bobby consider themselves fulltime volunteers. Throughout the year they stay busy contacting new churches, giving presentations, motivating and securing volunteers, providing supplies for participating groups and getting ready for collection season.

Annual collections occur the week before Thanksgiving. Rodeway Truck Lines provides and sets up a semi-trailer in their church parking lot. Throughout the week, point persons from various churches and groups bring their shoebox collections to the church. Relay centers also deliver to this location. Jody, Bobby and their local crew pack the multitude of boxes into cartons (14-16 boxes per carton) and load them on the trailer. At the end of the week, the shoebox-laden semi pulls away, headed for the processing center in Charlotte, NC. There the boxes are sorted, checked and routed to selected distribution sites.

For the past two years, Jody and Bobby have traveled to Charlotte to help in the processing. The highlight of all their time and hard work came this past year when, after the processing, the pair was invited to go overseas on a distribution trip.

February 16-22, 2004, found them in Quito, Ecuador, distrib-

four-year-old Quichua Indian girl. Clad in filthy sweatshirt, but, as Jody describes, "with the sweetest face," this little charmer sat down beside Jody and started playing with her. Before long, she placed her head on Jody's shoulder; finally she ended up on Jody's lap.

Operation Christmas Child sent 97 volunteers and 20,000 shoe-

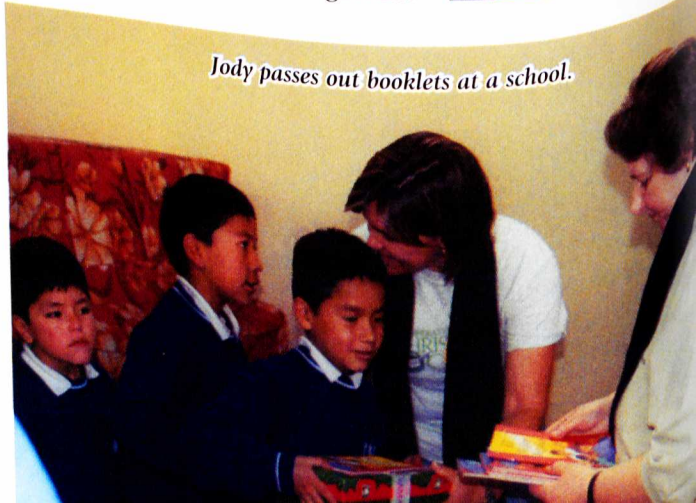
boxes to Quito, the second least evangelized city in South America. One national Ecuadorian pastor said of the effort, "You have changed Ecuador's history."

Jody recalls their distribution in a town with no evangelical



Daisy, a four-year old Quichua Indian girl.

Jody passes out booklets at a school.



Projects Projects



Bobby Bowen and Jody Sullivan find familiar boxes at the Sisters Prayer Fellowship in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

church. "A pastor from a neighboring town had a burden for the town and wanted to start work there. They rented a facility never before rented by a Christian organization. The kids were invited to church, but not told about the boxes. Over 400 kids showed up for distribution."

Have shoeboxes, will travel; both Bobby and Jody agreed that if invited, they would go again. Wherever. Their only drawback of the trip was the four-star hotel accommodations. The two would have rather experienced more of the local lifestyle.

Shoeboxes seem to follow this WAC State President and State Secretary. Attending the recent Sisters' Prayer Fellowship in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the pair elatedly discovered a room at the host church filled with Samaritan's Purse boxes.

As seasoned veterans of the program, Bobby and Jody offer these pointers for preparing shoeboxes.

MORE BOXES, NOT MORE CONTENT. "People think they are doing well filling one large box. But huge boxes could reach more than one child. Fill more boxes with less stuff. The number of gifts is not that important. Reaching children is."

MEANS TO AN END. "The box itself is very important but is only an avenue to get the gospel into children's hands. With every shoebox, workers give a booklet, *The Greatest Gift of All*, written in the child's language.

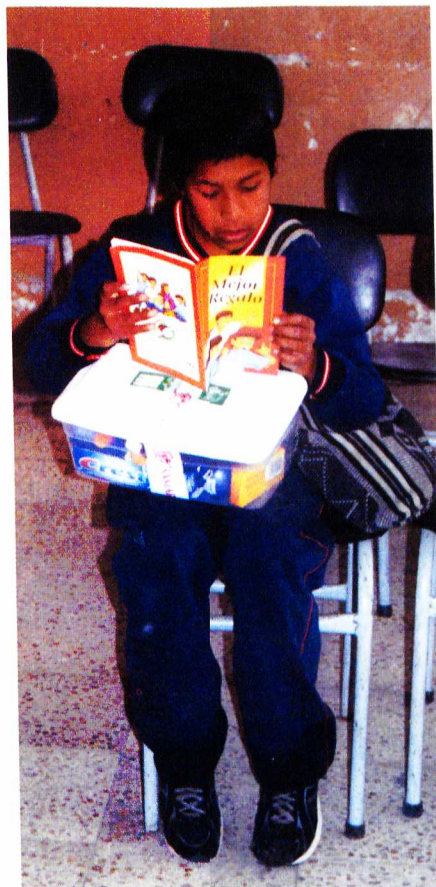
Cartoon style, the booklet provides exposure to the Gospel for parents, friends and siblings as well as the Christmas child. Bobby remembers, "One little boy in Quito was so engrossed in the book, he completely forgot about the shoebox."

GREAT COMMISSION OPPORTUNITY.

"God has used this program to fulfill the Great Commission in a way that no single church group could," Jody concludes. "I don't know of any denomination that could make 7.4 million contacts in one year. Places closed to missionary activity such as Iraq and Afghanistan welcome the humanitarian aid of Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child."

Information about Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse ministries is available online at www.samaritanaspurse.org or by phone at 1-800-353-5949.

With shoebox yet unopened, this boy in Quito pours over the gospel booklet.



On a number of our mission fields, the economy is such that many people struggle to provide for their family's basic needs. This is especially true for pastors, evangelists and church planters. WNAC would like to challenge women to help our national pastors, church workers, and those in training in small but tangible and significant ways that would lighten their load, brighten their day and make their task more enjoyable.

Different fields would benefit from different items. For instance, given the heat and manner of dress common in India, it would not be particularly helpful to provide suits for pastors, but in Brazil or Uruguay it might well be.

SMALL PROJECTS THAT WOULD BENEFIT FWB WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD:

shirts

pants

ties

suit or sport coat

pens, pencils, notepads

small calculators

agenda planners

bath linens for students in training institutes

toiletry items (soaps, deodorants, shaving cream, antibiotic cream, aftershave/cologne)

flashlights w/batteries

small shoe shine kits

CONTACT STEVE LYTTLE AT FWBIM FOR SPECIFICS AND/OR SENDING RECOMMENDATIONS. DO NOT SEND ITEMS TO WNAC

Projects Projects Projects

every missionary could use a buck



Every missionary could use a Buck—especially when her name is Janice. Just ask any missionary whose cause she's undertaken.

Missions chairman for Union Chapel FWB Church WAC, Chocowinity, NC, and for NC's Pamlico District, Janice Buck has creatively initiated, actively supported and enthusiastically promoted a host of missions projects.

Each year, as part of the NC state project, her local group gears up for both a home and international missions effort and also seeks to garner support for two Bible colleges. This requires fresh ideas and creativity since outside fundraisers are not an option for the group.

Fresh ideas and creativity seem to be Janice's specialty. In the past ten years she's created countless calendars and contests, bulletin boards and brochures.

Her efforts are not limited to state projects. She's led her group in sending care packages and birthday gifts. This year, the group bought matching shirts and ties for all Ivorian Bible Institute graduates. For several years, she's personally supplied and sent fabric for women in Cote d'Ivoire.

When missionaries Clint and Lynette Morgan shared about children's camp ministry in Central Asia, Janice got busy creating picture banks, t-shirts, and posters for the church's VBS. These items have now found their way into homes

and churches across the nation, helping send more Kidz to Kamp.

The enthusiasm is contagious. Last fall, hearing of a shortage in missionary Molly Barker's account, fellow Union Chapel WAC member Sarah Faucette came up with a plan to celebrate a Merry Missions Christmas. Prepared flyers offered these giving options:

- INSTEAD OF PURCHASING GIFTS, DONATE THE AMOUNT YOU WOULD SPEND ON ONE OR MORE GIFTS TO MISS MOLLY'S ACCOUNT. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO HONOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OR PROVIDE THE PERFECT GIFT FOR HARD-TO-BUY-FOR PERSONS ON YOUR LIST.
- REDUCE THE AMOUNT YOU WOULD SPEND ON ONE OR MORE GIFTS AND DONATE A PERCENTAGE TO MISS MOLLY'S MISSIONS ACCOUNT.
- CONTRIBUTE ALL OR A PERCENTAGE OF THE MONEY GIVEN TO YOU DURING CHRISTMAS TO MISS MOLLY'S MISSIONS ACCOUNT
- INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO PARTICIPATE WITH YOU BY CHOOSING ONE OF THE OPTIONS AND DONATING TO MISS MOLLY'S ACCOUNT.

Janice teamed up and went to work, creating beautiful photo Merry Missions Christmas Cards (suitable for gift giving) for all who participated. This Merry Missions effort added \$4,000 to Molly's account at a critical time.

Janice's seemingly endless idea bank grows out of a deeper motivation—a burden for the world and

a love for God's servants. Pastor's wife Laurie Horne notes that Janice is in constant communication with missionaries. She gets to know each missionary on a personal level and is continually thinking of ways to help. Janice doesn't just support missions, she takes the next step, finding needs and working to meet them.

Dynamite is how NC State Field Worker Diane Bridgman describes her fellow laborer. "Janice's passion for missions reaches a level that I've not seen before—and she does something about it."

When FWBIM formed its new Advisory Council of chosen lay professionals who offer input and counsel in missions-related issues, they contacted Janice. Now an even broader audience may benefit from her ideas and creative approaches.

Every missionary could use a buck. All missionaries need financial backing, personal encouragement, and prayer support. And every church could use the creative talents of women committed to God and concerned for the world.

Is there a "Janice" in your group? Is God calling you to take this next step in missions support?

Janice designed these Kidz to Kamp promotional items for her church's VBS missions emphasis/offering



BY TRULA CRONK



DO I KNOW HIM?

I once heard a speaker in India say, "God does not require vessels of gold and silver, but he does require clean ones." We have to allow the Lord Himself to make us clean. Colonial hymn writer William Cowper declared:

*There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.
The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day,
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away."*

Upon our invitation, by His Holy Spirit, He comes in, forgives and cleanses us and makes His dwelling place in us.

DO I ALLOW HIM?

The question, then, is "How much space am I allowing Him?" Have we given Him just a corner of one room? Or have we remodeled our whole house and made it all open space for Him? If I am to have

IF I AM TO HAVE
MORE OF HIM,
I MUST GIVE HIM
MORE OF ME.

more of Him, I must give Him more of me. We must want Him to have His part in everything we do, everything we aim for in every goal of our lives. We must allow Him to redirect us when we get off course, to check us when our minds

are too crowded with the world's ideas to hear Him clearly. When we run ahead of Him or shut the door to Him, we must ask his forgiveness. We should keep short accounts with the Lord. As soon as we recognize sin, we should confess it and ask His forgiveness.

DO I PURSUE HIM?

Pursuit is a tricky word—like a hunter after his prey or a policeman chasing a thief. But this is not the picture in pursuing God. Our forefathers in the preamble to the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain mentioned our right to the *pursuit of happiness*. Happiness is not something we chase after. It is the natural fallout of doing the right thing, treating other people rightly, and making right choices.

In the same way, Christians do not run after God, they simply pursue obedience to Him who is already present. "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14). "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and manifest myself to him....If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our *abode* with him." John 14:21,23 What a promise!

DO I LOVE HIM?

Want more of his presence? Love Him more. Obey Him better. By obeying, we find joy for ourselves because we then enjoy God's presence. In other words, we find joy in loving God. Obeying is not easy. We cannot do it in our own strength. We can only commit our will to Him and let Him create in us the desire to know his commandments and to keep them. Jesus said, "This is my commandment,

WANT MORE
OF HIS
PRESENCE?
LOVE HIM
MORE.

That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

The Bible contains many commandments, which we discover as we read God's Word. But our Lord Himself sums up all of them in His reply to a lawyer's question. "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). Love seems to cover it all.

In his first epistle, John tells us "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him and he in God" (1 John 3:23; 4:15).

DO I OBEY HIM?

We can read God's Word until we know much of it by memory, and we should do so, but if we do not obey it, what profit is it? Obedience is the key to knowing the presence of God. It was so with the Israelites in the old covenant and it is true for believers in the new covenant. Want more of God's presence? Practice loving Him more. "If a man say, I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also" (1 John 4:20-21). Want more of God's presence? Practice loving other people more.

WANT MORE
OF HIS PRESENCE?
LOVE OTHERS MORE.

DO I DAILY WALK WITH HIM?

We are admonished to seek the Lord. God's many promises in the Old Testament are confirmed by Christ and the Apostles in the New Testament: we will find Him when we seek Him with our whole heart. I equate this "whole heart" seeking with willing obedience to the known will of God. This will is revealed in His Word. Scripture's God-given principles offer guidance for our daily walk with Him. God will never lead us in a way that does not square with Biblical principle. We must test intuition and impressions by the Word. A woman, well-schooled in God's Word, will recognize impressions which come from the world, from self-will and self-pride or from Satan himself and she will reject them.

We should preface our devotion and meditation time with a scriptural prayer such as that found in

Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." Psalm 119 contains many prayers for preparing our hearts to seek God's will and obey it. One of my favorites is verse 34, "Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy Law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart."

DO I OVERFLOW WITH HIM?

Can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? The more we open our lives to Him, the more we love Him. The more we obey Him, the more we will find His presence filling our hearts and lives. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with God's presence. Though we receive the

Spirit at salvation, we are by no means filled to capacity. When there is nothing

OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY
TO KNOWING THE
PRESENCE OF GOD..

more to be learned about obedience and no one is left unloved—then, and only then, can it be said, "She is truly filled with the Holy Spirit."

DO I MEDITATE UPON HIM?

Many people read the Bible to gain knowledge and this is good. Yet, only when reading the Bible results in transformed character, can it cause us to enjoy more of the presence of God. We must read and reread and meditate on the words of our Lord and His prophets and apostles. However, be careful with meditation. Make sure that you are not just meditating on your own thoughts or daydreams, which can lead to all kinds of error.

Take some inspired words into your mind and meditate on them. Find a verse that holds a commandment you want to obey. Think about it. Ask what it means to

you. Ask yourself what you need to change in order to obey. Study the Word to find the same commandment in other places. Ask the blessed Holy Spirit to help you understand all its connotations and give you the strength and will to obey it immediately. Then find another and another and another. Soon obedience brings joy and assurance that God is indeed filling your heart.

DO I EXPECT HIM?

Face every new morning with the question, "Is this the day you are coming, Lord Jesus? Then offer this submission, "Whether you come or tarry, help me today to obey you in all my thoughts, deeds and aspirations. Amen."

*Then in fellowship sweet,
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What he says we will do,
where he sends we will go.
Never fear, only trust and obey.*



Trula Cronk lives in Nashville, TN. She and her husband Dan (now deceased) served 27 years as veteran FWB missionaries in North India. A thoughtful communicator, known for her intimacy with Christ, Trula still challenges young people and adults alike to love the Lord with all their hearts, souls, and minds. Her autobiography, *Over Mountain or Plain or Sea* is available from WNAC.

*As the [deer]
panteth after
the water
brooks,
So panteth
my soul
after thee
O God.*

—Psalm 42:1



ORIGINAL PHOTO BY KAY BROWN

TO BE FILLED
WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT
IS TO BE FILLED
WITH GOD'S
PRESENCE



A New Level of His Presence

If you had met me five years ago, my life would have looked very different. In many ways,

I was living the stereotypical life of a suburban soccer mom and homemaker. Married for nearly two decades to a successful business owner, blessed with great friends, active in church, a busy mom to three daughters, content in my relationship with God—my life was safe, secure and stable.

This sense of stability was particularly important to me since my own parents divorced when I was eight. The subsequent years of my childhood were fraught with insecurities common to most children of divorce.

I took great care to provide my children with the stability in their lives that I felt had been lacking in my own childhood. I was their stay-at-home mom, Girl Scout leader, room mother, and personal chauffeur to music lessons, special classes, and yes, soccer practices.

I became a Christian at the age of fifteen. My conversion not only allowed me to enter into a relationship with a loving God, it provided the answers I was looking for in the promise of healthy, lasting relationships with other believers. Still reeling from my parents' divorce, Jesus truly was the "good news" my broken heart needed. He became my hope for a stable future.

After high school I attended Bible College, fell in love with and married a preacher's kid whose parents had been married for thirty years. In other words, I took no chances. I chose a believing husband from an intact family.

I took my marriage vows seriously. I was safe. Although I knew Jesus was my true source of security, I naively believed that my good choices were insurance against future heartache.

In the summer of 2000, I began to sense that God wanted something more from me. Over the years, I had grown in my relationship with Him. I sincerely desired to do His will, but this was a different kind of stirring—something I had never experienced.

I began to feel a discontent within, realizing something was needed but not knowing what it could be. My life was really good—not perfect, but really good. It didn't *need* changing. I was committed to God; I prayed and read my Bible, loved my husband and taught my children to live right. I was sure I had completely surrendered my life. Still, I felt I was at an impasse.

As I wrestled further, I became convinced that **the Lord was inviting me to know Him more deeply**, but to do so, I would have to completely abandon the safety barriers I had erected and allow Him to take me where He wanted.

This seemed scary and I didn't understand at all what it meant, but I was also afraid of missing out on what God wanted for me. I knew He was offering me a more abundant life, and that I would be robbing myself of His blessing if I held back.

During that time, we were asked to fill out an information sheet

for our Sunday School class. The last question asked, "What do you most want out of your relationship with God?" Inwardly struggling, still I wrote without hesitation, "I want to live a more abundant life."

Afterward, I just sat there and stared at the words I had written. In that instant, I was at peace. I knew I had answered God; seeing it in writing made the decision more real.

At that point, I believe **God began preparing me for a season of radical change.** Within a few short months, my life of earthly stability would completely unravel.

By the fall of that year, I realized my marriage was in trouble. My husband had turned 40, and was obviously struggling with this. He began to withdraw from our family; nothing I did could remove the distance building between us. (I later learned that during this time, he began having an affair with one of his young, female employees.)

At that same time, my oldest daughter, now 13, was dripping with teenage attitude. Suddenly, I found myself rejected by two members of my own family, powerless to help either one of them.

I began praying as I had never prayed before. I knew this was a spiritual battle and I cried out to God for help. Knowing other mothers who'd survived the teenage years, I was fairly sure that my daughter's angst was a troublesome, but normal phase. However, I was not so sure about my husband.

In February 2001, I received an anonymous phone call informing me that my husband was deceiving me. I still don't know the person's identity or why he called, but I do know that at that moment I was praying for my husband. God was indeed answering my prayers, just in very unexpected ways.

The year that followed was the worst of my life. That unexpected phone call set into motion a series of events that would make even the most seasoned roller coaster enthusiast scream to get off. My husband denied any wrongdoing and I sincerely wanted to believe him. Yet, things just didn't add up. Simply put, for the next year he struggled between wanting his family and desiring his freedom.

It was as if he were caught up in a spiritual tug of war. Witnessing this daily turmoil became excruciating. So convicted, at times he appeared to be on the brink of a breakdown. One Sunday, he was so weighed down that he literally ran out of church.

Our relationship became marked by a "one step forward, two steps back" lack of progress and I was overwhelmed with an unimaginable sense of helplessness. Still not knowing the full truth with which he was struggling, trusted friends and I prayed earnestly.

At home, we continued to go through the motions of normal life, but I was in a persistent state of shock. The man I had loved, married and built a life with was quickly becoming an unpredictable stranger. Imagining what the future might hold utterly terrified me. I could not believe that my children, ages thirteen, nine and four, might come to know the same awful pain

of divorce that had touched my life as a child.

It was during these days of intense stress that I began to experience God's power in a way I had never known possible. In order to cope with the chaos outside and the fear inside, I turned to prayer. Not normal, average prayer, but the desperate "my life is falling apart and nothing is working" kind of prayer.

I also gained a new dependency on God's Word. I so desperately needed wisdom and direction to navigate my circumstances. I literally kept a Bible on the bedside table, on the kitchen counter, in the bathroom, in the car and even an electronic Bible in my purse. Some days required God's guidance on a minute-to-minute basis. My family was in Satan's crosshairs and I needed tangible help.

The Lord never let me down—not once. Daily He let me know that He understood exactly what I was experiencing. I would pour my heart out to Him; He would lead me to a Psalm that exactly spoke to everything I had just told Him. He gave me peace in the middle of this whirlwind of stress and strength to get up each day.

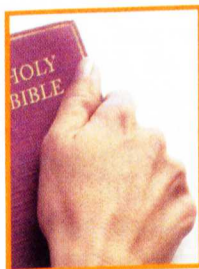
He comforted me as no one else could. If cruel words had been spoken to me, His Word would speak love. If my husband didn't want to spend time with me, I could go out to my back deck and just talk to God. I can't explain it, but during those evenings **when I was rejected and hurting, God's presence was so there with me;** before the night ended, I felt refreshed and filled.

Looking back, I now see that

God was giving me a sense of who I am in Him and nurturing me with the intimacy only the lover of our souls can provide. Had the Lord not supernaturally sustained me, I could not have maintained the stamina needed to survive week after week.

Only weeks after my sister tragically lost her husband in an automobile accident, mine let me know that he no longer loved me. Despite marriage counseling, by October, he was convinced that a divorce was the only way he would ever be happy. We limped through the holidays and in early February 2002, he broke the news to our children.

Words simply cannot express the horror of that day. They were completely devastated, and I was left with the gut-wrenching feeling that



I had witnessed a crime perpetrated against my own babies. I had spent their lifetimes trying to shield them and provide a secure environment; in a matter of moments it all came crashing down. My life seemed to mirror the recent tragedy of 9/11.

Ten days later, while the girls were at school, he packed his things and moved out of our home—almost one year to the day when I'd received that anonymous call. In one short year, everything had changed. I was now a single mom with three children and a mortgage, unemployed, with no college degree. My nearest relative lived eight hours away. I was truly on my own.

Only the prayers of family and



friends sustained me in those first few days. God granted a peace that allowed me to comfort my children. When they asked, "Mommy, what are we going to

do?" I could confidently answer, **"We're going to trust God and He's going to take care of us."** I didn't know how it would all play out, but after everything the Lord had brought me through, how could I doubt Him?

Eight weeks after my husband left, I was served with divorce papers. I had no idea what to do. Obviously, I didn't want a divorce. With only suspicion of infidelity, I still hoped that my marriage could be saved.

I had no money for an attorney. Even if I could have afforded one, I didn't know any. I did the only thing I knew to do. Like Hezekiah when Sennacherib threatened Jerusalem, I spread the papers out on my bed and prayed.

Then I waited. With only a few weeks to legally answer the divorce papers, pressure began to build. At the beginning of the final week before the deadline, I asked my family and friends to pray while I fasted and prayed.

I'm still not sure of all the details, but by the end of that week, I had an appointment with a high-powered attorney and a friend to go with me. Miraculously, I hadn't made a single phone call or had a hand in any of the arrangements. God moved in the hearts of Christian people to do this for me.

When I subsequently met with the attorney, I sensed that God was

still orchestrating every move. My high-powered attorney was tough as nails and expensive. Yet, when he heard my story, he was truly moved, and waived his usual fees. For the next 11 months, he fought valiantly on my behalf, never asking for a dime.

The divorce process was arduous and emotionally draining. I was completely shocked by many of the things my husband did during this time. He continued to deny any wrongdoing. It soon became clear that our case would be a "he said-she said" dogfight.

All his actions seemed to be shrouded in mystery. I wasn't sure what the truth was, but I needed the truth and I needed proof of that truth.

Once again, I turned to the Scriptures. While reading the account of Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, his words to the King seemed to speak to my circumstances. *"As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries..."* (Daniel 2:27, 28 ^{NASB}). It seemed obvious. **I had a mystery that needed revealing and Daniel's God—my God—is the same yesterday, today and forever.**

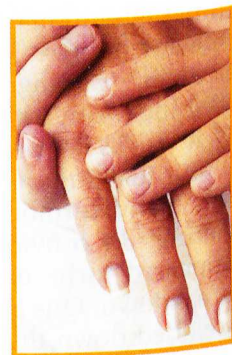
I immediately began appealing to God on the basis of His ability to reveal mysteries. Within just a few days, He once again miraculously answered my prayers.

Not being particularly computer savvy, I asked a friend to help me install a program for the kids. In

the process, she noticed some strange looking files on my home computer. She copied the files and took them home.

The next morning, her husband, a real computer whiz, called to let me know he had recovered some information. The strange files were actually deleted correspondence between my husband and his mistress. My friends had been able to piece them together; I had more than enough proof to establish the truth in court. God had once again proven Himself trustworthy and able to meet my needs.

Because of the truth that came out in court, the divorce was settled in such a way that allowed us to remain in our home and my daughters in their schools. I'm still a fulltime mom who now attends college. Not that there haven't been many dark days; very little has been wrapped into a neat and tidy little package of closure.



Divorce is incredibly painful and we have grieved the break up of our family like a death. I hate the week-ends without my kids. Adjusting to life with an ex-spouse provides many "urge to kill" moments. He is still involved with the same woman and although they are not yet married, he has begun to bring her around my girls. Needless to say, I don't like that either. Yet, I am able to hold it together because I know God is faithful. He promises me in Isaiah 49:25 that, *"I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children."*

Even with the permanent fracture of a human relationship, I am convinced, there is always hope for reconciliation with God.

I was utterly amazed at how persistently God pursued my husband



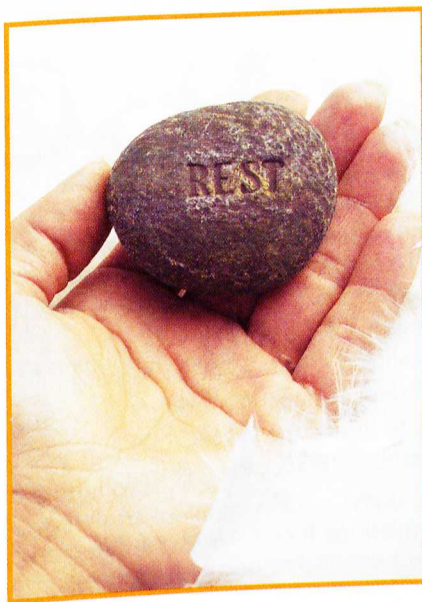
during the year before he left. It will always serve to remind me just how passionately God loves us.

My husband simply could find no rest from God's spirit. At times it became almost comical. During this time, our pastor preached a particularly discomfiting series of sermons. We visited out-of-town relatives on Mothers Day, only to hear their pastor speak directly to fathers concerning their responsibility in the family.

Another time while dining with friends at a Chinese restaurant, everyone's fortune cookie promised happiness and prosperity, except my husband's. His simply said, "Be careful what you wish for; you might just get it." He looked like he'd been punched.

Events such as these were repeated day after day. I believe they were the direct result of the many prayers both friends and family were offering on his behalf.

The break up of a marriage is always difficult. When it occurs as a result of infidelity, it's devastating. Knowing a spouse has left you for someone else is particularly crushing to a woman's heart. Some women never recover; others become bitter. It sent me into a



spiral of self-doubt that still causes me to struggle.

Cashing a wife in for a younger, thinner, sexier, healthier, less wrinkled, less whatever model is so commonplace that it's almost become one of society's jokes. Christians are not immune to this idea.

If you've stood where I now stand or one day find yourself here, I hope you will be able to see through all the hurt and know that God loves you just as you are. Marriage is not supposed to dangle by the thin strand of

earthly beauty or wade only in the shallows of youth; it is meant to last and traverse deep waters. As Christian women our value is rooted in our Father's love for us. His Spirit living in us gives us a beauty and vitality that can never fade.

One day when I was feeling particularly cast aside and unattractive, I asked the Lord what He thought of me. I already knew what my husband thought, and I wanted another opinion.

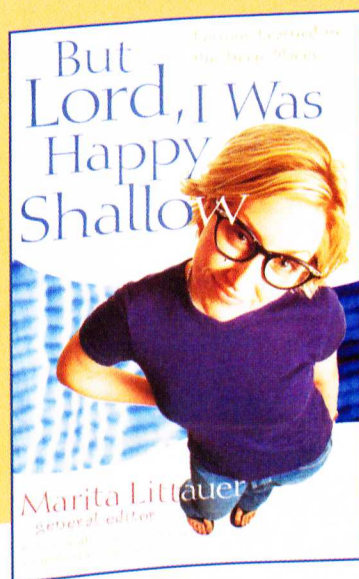
What happened next was one of those rare times when you know God has immediately answered your questioning prayer. My Bible fell open and my eyes focused on Song of Solomon 2:2, "As a lily among thorns so is my love among the daughters."

That's exactly what God thinks of us. **In a world full of thorny self-serving hearts, the heart of a woman committed to Him is like a rare and beautiful flower.** How wonderful to be loved and appreciated by our Maker. What a privilege to rest in Him.

Yes! There is a book out there that could read like the pages of your (very) personal diary. When a situation, a day, or a season in your life leaves you hurt and confused, you can know, from reading this book, that God is working through trials to foster patience and trust in Him.

With short stories that will make you laugh out loud and bury your head in your hands with unashamed tears, the author helps you see God's hand in the difficulties and disappointments of life.

What a wonderful collection of lessons learned of God's continued love and constant care.



Rarely have I read a book so honest, so open, so practical. There are no pious platitudes between these covers. Only stories of real people with real-life issues.

—reviewed by Yvonne Hampton

But Lord I Was Happy Shallow
by Marita Littauer, editor
ISBN:
Kregel Publications
\$17.99

SPRINGBOARD

LEADERSHIP

RECAP. Share a summary of the 2005 WNAC Convention. (recap pp. 26-28)
Encourage women to attend next year's July 17-18 event in Birmingham, AL.

SHARE. The WNAC Convention PowerPoint presentation (with script) highlighting the Sisters' Prayer Fellowship is available for \$3.00 (covers postage) from WNAC.

ENCOURAGE. Encourage couples in your church to attend the WNAC/MM Marriage Enrichment Conference in Chattanooga, October 28-30. Early registration ends September 15.

PLAN. The 2006 Program and Plan Book (pictured below) is now available from WNAC for \$8.00 (plus S & H). If you have never used this vital resource, consider this investment for your group.

INCREASE. Individual WNAC membership fees increased from \$10 to \$15 (as of 2005 Convention). This is the national fee. Individual district or state fees may vary. Please contact your treasurer for an exact amount.

CALL. Use a radio-talk show format for October's program. See the 2005 Program and Plan Book for details.

DECORATE. Use an apple theme for September: Core apples; insert candles.

OUR WEBSITE

www.nafwb.org/wnac

Contact us:

wnac@nafwb.org

STUDY

UTILIZE the mini Bible study on p. 21.

READ the review of *But Lord, I Was Happy Shallow* on p. 17. Let women share a life lesson they learned in a deep place.

SHARE an account from *Over Mountain or Plain or Sea* by Trula Cronk as an introduction to the October program.

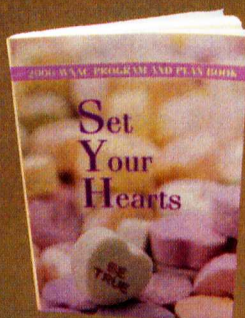
SERVICE

HONOR excellent service in your group or church. Give certificates or small gifts to worthy individuals.

PRACTICE loving other people. Volunteer as a group at a local shelter, rehab center, or nursing facility.

PREPARE goodie bags for church or school teachers. Items could include tissue, hand sanitizer, wall putty, pain reliever, breath mints, and an appropriate Scripture.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2006



skills
ideas
promotions
projects
information
installation
emphasis
enlistment

the WNAC Program and Plan Book \$8.00
plus shipping

MISSIONS

INTRODUCE new missionaries and ministries featured in FOCUS. Consider supporting one or more of these ministry endeavors.

PREPARE any holiday gifts for missionaries now to ensure arrival.

NEED a project? Find suggestions on p. 9. Questions? Email: Steve Lytle steve@fwbgo (FWBIM) or Richard Atwood richard@nafwb.org (FWBIM). Either can be reached by phone at (615)-731-6812.

COLABORER PLUS ONE

Since publication of ONE magazine eliminated CONTACT's subscription bundle plan, ask your church to consider using budgeted funds to purchase **CoLaborer** for each church family. **CoLaborer** is also a great visitation/outreach tool to leave in the homes of unchurched women or female church prospects.

NEEDS

PROVISION CLOSET. Cookware (sturdy pots and pans), blenders, food processors, queen and full mattress pads, Vellux or cotton thermal blankets, sheet sets (all sizes).

PRAYER

PRAY for marriages in your congregation. Include special prayer for situations involving infidelity. Pray for any children involved.

MAKE golden apple prayer reminders. Or make an apple-a-day prayer calendars, praying for excellence in various ministries in your home, church, community, and in the world.

PLAN to observe this year's WNAC PreThanksgiving Week of Prayer, November 14-18. If your group has not received its complimentary information packet by October 1, contact Janice Donoho at FWB Home Missions: janice@nafwb.org or 1-877-767-7674.

FEEDBACK...FEEDBACK

Dear WNAC,

The last couple of months have been significant for us. First, we received some large offerings for our missions account. Thank you ladies across the denomination for your generosity. Then, we returned to Spain for our third term. Items from the Provision Closet were such a help to us. Thank you.

Sam and June McVay
Spain

Dear WNAC,

Hola from Spain. These two years have flown so quickly. Thank you so much for your continued support to our account. We appreciate all you do. We are looking forward to visiting the Provision Closet upon our return. We don't know what we would do if it weren't for the items provided so we can set up a home.

Matthew and Brooke Turnbough
Spain

Dear WNAC,

We wanted to write and say thanks so much for all you have done for us. Thanks so much for joining with us and our ministry in Spain. We truly appreciate all that you do. We especially are thankful for the Wal-Mart cards to help purchase things for our baby and for the phone cards we used to call family when he was born. Also thanks for your prayer support. It is because of people like you that we can be here. Thanks for everything.

Josh, Christi, and Nicholas Smith
Spain

Dear WNAC,

Thank you so much for all the stuff that you all sent with my mom. I am using all of it. I am so grateful for what you have done for me. Thanks you so much for all your hard work.

Kristina Cousineau
MK

Dear WNAC,

I just wanted to express my sincerest gratitude for the offering to my account from the Branson Retreat. I enjoyed getting to meet many new women and look forward to meeting more of you.

Angela Emerick
Nashville, TN

Dear WNAC,

Thanks for all the work you all do at the office in TN. Our prayers are with the staff as you labor there.

Mary Rouse
Grifton, NC

Dear WNAC,

I am writing to thank you for the wonderful articles in the CoLaborer magazine. This last issue (July/August) has been very special to me. last Monday (June 6) I ...decided to take down a box of items...In the box I found a small wooden plaque with flowers painted on it...given to me by Mrs. Willie Gage many years ago when I was a little girl...A flood of memories came back over me as I recalled Brother Howard and Mrs. willie's visits to our church and to my grandparents' home...I paused and said a little prayer for them wherever they were and thanked God for their influence in my life and so many others. I had not heard anything from them in years so I didn't know if they had moved on to their heavenly home or not.

On Thursday (June 9) I picked up the mail for our church and our July/August CoLaborers had arrived... Imagine my joy to read the article on page 12 by Sue Gage Wilcox about her dad...I don't believe it was a coincidence that I ran across that plaque just days before. What a blessing to see God's hand in our lives, ordering our steps.

Paula Hodges
Chocowinity, NC

Fall in Love...Again!

Husband and wife team Richard and Sandy Atwood will lead the Friday evening through Sunday morning event at Chattanooga's Convention Center Marriott. FWB ministry roles, almost 30 years of marriage and four children provide this duo plenty of real-life sharing material. Using Scripture and drama, teaching and telling, Richard and Sandy offer a delightful mix of marriage fun and fundamentals.

Benefit from the conference, then enjoy the city. Visit Chattanooga's historical sights and Civil War battlefields, tour its Aquarium and museums, shop or relax in natural scenic beauty.

WNAC/ Master's Men National Marriage Enrichment Conference

(PLEASE PRINT)

Husband's Name _____

Wife's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: Non-smoking (as available) _____ Handicapped _____

PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK # _____ CREDIT CARD TYPE _____

Card Number _____

Expiration date _____ Zip of your billing address _____

MAIL FULL PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION TO:

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

More information? Questions? Call toll free: 1-877-767-8039

October 28-30, 2005

CHATTANOOGA MARRIOTT
AT THE
CONVENTION CENTER

2 Carter Plaza
Chattanooga, TN

CONFERENCE COST

☐ \$225 per couple
(includes two nights lodging, banquet meal and all conference fees)

☐ \$125 per couple OFF SITE
(includes banquet and all conference fees)

(After September 15)

☐ \$250 per couple
(includes two nights lodging, banquet meal and all conference fees)

☐ \$150 per couple OFF SITE
(includes banquet and all conference fees)

No refunds after September 28.

LABORS OF LOVE

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



PICTURED: 1. Crafters at Mexican WNAC Retreat, Reynosa, Mexico. **INSET:** Finished product. **2.** Hispanic missionary Ruth Bivens (far left) with quilts from NEMO District WAC members (l-r) Faye Stiles, Karen Sponsler, Renee Riley, Gladys Riley, Maizie Sevits, Dora Sponsler and Betty Jones. **3.** Marjorie Workman, WNAC (l) stands with Michigan pastor Mike Trimble (r) and wife Terry (center), bearers of Provision Closet gifts from their WAC.

☀ Mexico's WNAC National Retreat, April 1-2, 2005 drew 150 ladies from Reynosa, Ayende, Altamira, and as far away as Guadalajara (a 15 hour car trip). Meeting at Palabras de Vida Eterna FWB Church in Reynosa, women listened as well known Christian speaker, Mrs. Silvia Ake, of Edinburg, TX, addressed the theme, "Footprints of the Christian Woman."

Each attendee received a packet of materials for making a handbag. Women spent an afternoon together, crafting these bags. The event also included a shopping outing at a



huge local flea market. Sleeping on concrete floors did not deter their enthusiasm. Women returned home tired, but challenged to a straighter, more faithful walk.

☀ Northeast Missouri District WAC presented quilts to Hispanic missionaries Bud and Ruth Bivens, during its April 8-9, 2005, missionary conference. The handmade quilts are gifts for the Getsemani Children's Home in Morelos, Coahuila, Mexico.

☀ Provision Closet gifts from two states recently came hand-delivered. Pastor Mike and Terry Trimble brought gifts from Kirby FWB, MI. Elsie Anderson, also of Michigan, delivered gifts from FWB Chapel in Madison Heights, and Hazel Park FWB. Lora McClintock arrived with Tupperware from Pine Level FWB Church, Alma, GA. Pastor Parnell Aldridge brought items from Glennville FWB. William Smith, GA Promotional Director added gifts from the state WAC. WNAC welcomes all gifts and encourages groups to visit its office facilities.

LET US PURSUE WORSHIP

1. Whom shall we worship?

Exodus 20:1&2

Psalms 95:6

Matthew 4:10

Psalms 138:2

2. Where shall we worship?

Psalms 122:1

Psalms 26:8, 12

Hebrews 10:25

Psalms 27:4

3. How shall we worship?

John 4:24

Psalms 13:6

Psalms 18:1

Psalms 18:3

Psalms 92:1-3

Malachi 3:10

4. When shall we worship?

Hebrews 10:25

Luke 24:52, 53

1 Corinthians 16:2

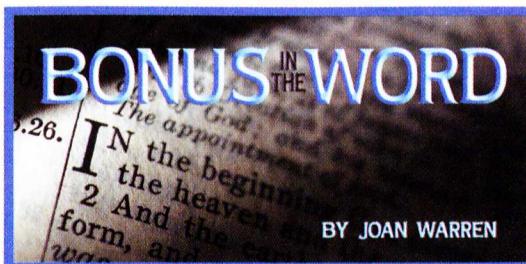
Hebrews 13:15

5. Who can worship?

Psalms 15:1, 2

Psalms 24:3, 4

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON WORSHIP:



Joan Warren is a longtime WAC leader, and Bible teacher from Oilton, OK.

HELP! I'M A MOM

bright ideas for mothers from mothers

I'm a stepparent. How do I discipline my stepchildren?

Whether your role resulted from a death or divorce, stepparenting presents unique challenges for discipline. Author Margaret Broersma offers these helps.

There are loyalty conflicts.* Birth parents can be very defensive and protective of their birthchildren—there is a natural instinct to protect one's own. Think about this: Stepparents may actually be less emotional and more objective. (Try to team up.)

There is fear of rejection. Usually, biological parents can discipline without fear of rejection. Their relationship is not at stake—they are the mom or the dad. But most stepparents are nervous about the fragile bond with a stepchild. This is realistic. (Take the risk—it's worth it!)

There is often guilt on the biological parent's part—guilt that the first marriage did not survive, or guilt about “foisting” a new parent and a blended family upon the child. This shows up in indecisiveness or laxness or retreat. Many weekend dads become “Disneyland Dads.” The pal of special events, they never want to be the disciplinarian for fear of losing their child's love. (Remember—it is your job as a

parent to raise your child into a responsible adult.)

Unfair discipline may be a way of continuing hostilities with an ex-spouse. The parent is taking out on the children the anger he or she feels toward the ex-spouse. (Learn to forgive, put the past behind, and do what is beneficial for the present.)

The children may be angry to begin with. They didn't choose to have a stepparent. They may not have a personality or interests that match the stepparent or the other children in the blended family. (Give it time—let relationships develop.)

The stepparent chose a spouse. The children were part of the package. Though it can feel wrong, the stepparent may not even like the stepchild. (We adults must then take the initiative and make love a conscious decision. We must learn to love our stepchildren as Christ would have us love.)

In biological families, rules and methods of discipline evolve over time. It is much harder when remarriage demands instant rules, instant new traditions, and instant new ways of doing everything. (Work on the rules and expectations—and give the family

time to work them out.)

Different households may have different rules. So when the children go back and forth from one birthparent's home to another, they may feel frustrated at the inconsistency and angry or rebellious against the rules they like least. (Be as consistent as you can in your home.)

Stepchildren over the age of five may resent discipline by the new parent. This must therefore be done carefully. (Only increase the amount of involvement in discipline as love for the child increases.)

Stepparents trying to please both their new spouse and their children, send mixed messages. (Husband and wife—communicate frequently together about family boundaries. Do your best to be consistent.)

Counselors unfamiliar with stepfamilies may add stress by recommending disciplining children the same way as in a biological family. (Try to find counselors with experience in helping stepfamilies.)

EXCERPTED FROM *DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR STEPPARENTS* BY MARGARET BROERSMA (KREGEL PUBLICATIONS) \$12.99 ISBN 0-8254-3697-4



DEBE'S DELIGHTS

Debe Taylor
WNAC President

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

I REMEMBER THE DAY

Many will remember where they were and what they were doing on January 1, 2000—the new millenium. Who will ever forget September 11, 2001—that day rocked our world? My husband and I celebrate May 28 every year; it is our wedding anniversary. All of us have days that are special to us. But for me, one day stands far above all the rest.

It was, without a doubt, the best day of my life. Many years have past, but I still remember details about that day. It was January 5, 1961. Even though I was only seven, my mother had given permission for me to sit with one of the older teens that night. We were sitting in the back third of the sanctuary. If anyone had been watching me, they would have said I was not even paying attention. They would be wrong. Very vividly I remember the words of Bob Duncan, "Be sure your sin will find you out." As I contemplated those words, I knew even at my tender age that I did not want everyone to find out about my sins.

During the altar call, on the second verse of "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder," I made my way from the back of the church to the altar. There I gave my heart to Jesus. Oh what a difference! I went home that night a changed little girl.

I've made it a practice, to often remind myself of that day. I don't ever want to forget it. I believe it serves me well to remember what I was and what Jesus has done for me. On many occasions, the apostle Paul remembered the day that he met Jesus. He never wanted to lose sight of that special moment.

Over the years I have heard my dad say, "If you can't remember the day you settled things with the Lord, maybe they aren't settled." He would often lead the congregation in "Glory, Glory, Somebody Touched Me." As the days of the week were mentioned, individuals were to stand on the day they were saved. Dad said it was a good way to keep the moment fresh in your mind.

How about you? Do you remember the day the Lord saved you? Are you still glad for what Jesus did for you that day? True—if we are saved then God has forgiven and forgotten our sins. Yet, a look back now and then will make us thankful for what God has done.

*"I remember the day
when the Lord saved me,
All of heaven came down,
I was happy and free;
Glory filled my soul, for I knew the
Lord had made me whole,
I shall never forget the day
when the Lord saved me."*

—Mary Spencer

CAN'T REMEMBER?

What if you can't remember the exact time and date of your salvation?

Examine your heart. Has there ever been a time when you recognized your sinfulness, asked God to forgive you sins by believing that Jesus took the punishment for your sins when He died on the cross?

NO? If the answer is no, pray to receive Christ today. It's as simple as ABC. Ask him to forgive your sins and become your Lord and Savior. Believe in your heart that Jesus died and rose from the dead to give you eternal life. Confess—tell others about your decision. Choose to follow Him daily through prayer; study of God's Word and fellowship with God's people in the church.

YES? If you have made this decision, pray a prayer of commitment. Thank Him for saving you from the punishment of sin and acknowledge His work of grace upon your life. Write down this date, resolving that this moment you recognize His work of grace upon your life.

Dear Daughter,

*I know where you are now.
I know when you sit, when you rise.
I know when you sleep, when you wake.
I know where you go and what you do.
I know your thoughts;
the words you speak before you say them.*

*I know everything about you;
things you don't understand.
I know your heart.*

*I am so close to you I can touch you; my hand
is upon you.
I am always protecting you, shielding you, gen-
tly guiding you.
I am holding on to you.*

*No matter how far you go from me, I am there.
You cannot run from me; not to the highest
heavens nor to the deepest depths.
I am there.*

*You cannot hide from me.
No amount of darkness can shield you from me.
My light illuminates you.
Why?*

*Because I love you; I created you.
I saw you before you were formed; you were a
thought in my mind.
You are my special design.*

*I gave you a life, a history,
there, in my book.
I have so much to tell you, to teach you.*

*I think about you all of the time.
You cannot count the number of times
that I think of you.*

*Nothing happens to you that I do not see; yes,
sometimes things happen.
I could have stopped them, I could have
snatched you away;
My hand is that close.*

*But I allowed it, I painfully watched.
I never took my eyes off you.
It broke my heart...*

*But I know the end of your story;
all things have a purpose.
Your suffering has kept you close to me.*



*We walk, we talk, I share my thoughts with you.
I listen to you, I comfort you,
I am here for you.*

*While you sleep I watch and wait. I can't wait
to see you rise;
to spend another day with you, to talk to you, to
hear your voice.*

You are so precious to me.

*Share with me your thoughts,
your dreams, your feelings;
I long to be a part of your life.*

I want to lead you.

*Let me, for I know the way; the way that will
bring you home to me.*

You and I will be together, at last, face to face.

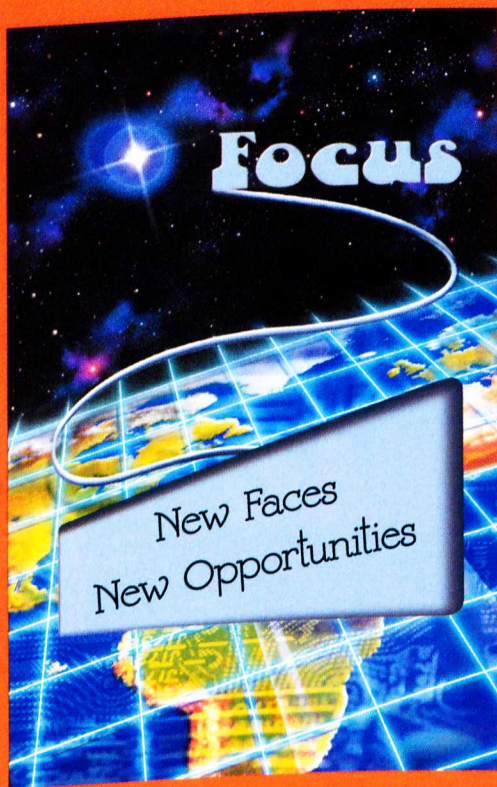
*It will be your best "birthday." The songs, the
gifts, the joy will last forever!*

*And I will say, "Welcome home my beloved."
I can hardly wait!*

Love,

"Abba"

Author Teri Prichard's paraphrase of Psalm 139 won third place in the poetry category of the 2005 Creative Arts Contest. An art teacher at Greenville Christian Academy, she attends Unity FWB Church, Greenville, NC. Teri's dear daughter recently blessed her with her first dear grand-daughter.



Pray:

- for needed financial support and consistent giving to each account.
- for ease in obtaining visas, permits or other necessary documentation.
- for quick acclimation to a new location, neighborhood, culture or language.
- for provision of housing and meeting place arrangements.
- for peaceful, healthy family relationships during transitions.
- for Holy Spirit power, wisdom, and guidance in each new endeavors.
- for the salvation and spiritual growth of key people who will become core ministry leaders.

NEW FACES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES provide new avenues for Great Commission prayer and giving. FWB Home and International Missions give glory to God for calling these servants into His harvest. View their faces, study their opportunities, and consider becoming a part of these ministries. (Missionaries are pictured left to right each row, top to bottom.)

FERNANDO AND REINA BUSTAMANTE have a burden for planting Hispanic churches in South Carolina. Beginning in Effingham, the Bustamantes' goal is to plant churches in the Florence and Myrtle Beach areas as well. Their daughter Mayan, will work alongside them in this project.

TIM AND KATRINA CROWSON, newly appointed short-term missionaries to Japan, desire prayer and financial support for their upcoming two-year assignment assisting current church planting efforts through media. Tim will produce video and multimedia programs, while Katrina will teach English.

DIEGO AND MARIA ISABEL CUEVA and children Sara, Gabriela, Cristina, and Diego will be planting a Hispanic church in connection with Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Woodbridge, Virginia. The Cuevas are graduates of the Gwen Hendrix Bible Institute.

LEDGEL AND SHARON FERGUSON served two terms in Cote d'Ivoire. Now, after several years in the US, the Kentucky natives are relocating to St. Nazaire, France for a two year assignment. Their focus will be personal evangelism and individual/small group discipleship. They seek to mobilize a prayer ministry among existing French churches, and help with the new ministry center project.

STEVE AND DONNA OLSON, career missionaries to France, are currently raising prayer and financial support to establish and operate a multi-use ministry center in the Brittany area of France. The Olsons will assist in church planting, utilizing the center for evangelism and leadership training.

KYLE AND BETH HOWELL just arrived in Uruguay for a two-year assignment. In addition to language study, the couple will be working alongside the Jaime Lancaster family in church planting efforts. Kyle will assist in the Bible Institute while Beth will work in women and children's ministries.

GEORGE AND KATHY LEMELIN are ministering as associate missionaries to the Native American Ojibwa people of White Earth Reservation, Ogema, Minnesota. George, Kathy and children, Josiah, Marie, and Isaac, seek prayers for open doors and protection in this region so infiltrated with witchcraft, spiritism and the occult.

NICK AND ANGIE STEWART are piloting a parent-church project at Lighthouse Free Will Baptist Church, Victoria, Texas. Missionaries of the National Home Mission Board and the Thomaston (TX) Free Will Baptist Church (the parenting church), Nick and Angie have two sons, Reagan and Louie.

CHUCK STEWART will study at the University of Madrid during his one-year overseas apprenticeship. He will be involved in strategy development for future career ministry to immigrant groups in southern Spain.

ALFREDO AND RUTH BOTELLO are ministering to Hispanics in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Sons Israel and Gamaliel, both licensed ministers, and daughter Ruth are helping in this church planting effort.

HOLLIE HUBBARD arrived in Japan in February for a two-year teaching assignment. She is assisting in church planting efforts and participating in church evangelism through conversational English classes and formal classroom teaching opportunities.

MATTHEW AND BROOKE TURNBOUGH have now been appointed as career missionaries to Spain. After serving a two-year assignment, they are presently stateside, raising support to return and continue ministry in evangelism and discipleship.

STEVE AND LORI TORRISON began language school last spring in San Jose, Costa Rica, preparing for career missionary service in Panama. Their ministry will include church planting through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. Pray that both Steve and Lori will gain a quick and thorough understanding of Spanish language and Latin culture.

MICK AND RACHEL DONAHUE leave for Spain in September for two years of language study and culture research. Investigating ministry opportunities and developing a strategy for reaching North Africans living in southern Spain, they seek to form a ministry team and return as career missionaries.

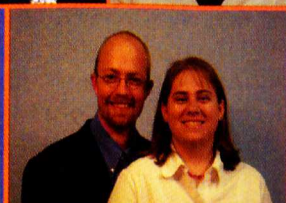
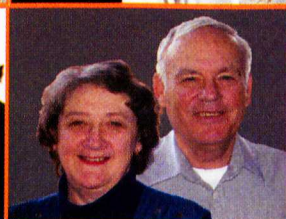
NICHOLAS AND ESPERANZA HERNANDEZ, associate missionaries in West Virginia, seek to minister among Hispanic communities within the Eastern Panhandle area of that state.

CHAD AND PAULA KIVETTE and children, Kinsley and Kaylah will minister in the Westgate FWB Church, Grand Junction, Colorado. With only five FWB churches in this growing state, Colorado is a target area for church planting efforts.

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS is gathering prayer and financial support for her two-year assignment in Japan. Like Hollie Hubbard, she will also be teaching English. Pray that God will open many doors for both young women to share the gospel through their classrooms, their conversations, and through friendships they establish with their students.

SCOTT AND STACI WARREN, RANDY AND LEANN LEDBETTER and sons Caleb, Jordan, and Luke, comprise the missionary team headed for eastern Salt Lake City, Utah, where less than five percent of the population claims affiliation with an Evangelical church.

ANGELA EMERICK is no stranger to IM or to the hundreds of teens who've gone on E-TEAMS. Former IM support service employee, Angela is currently gathering prayer and financial support for service in Central Asia.



Other Prayer Concerns



—Pray for NAFWB moderator Tim York, as he assumes the role of Director of Development for FWB International Missions, September 1. Ask God to give him supreme wisdom and guidance for this ministry.

—Pray that France missionaries Steve and Becky Riggs may communicate their vision for spiritual needs in France and rebuild their support base as they return for 10 months of state-side assignment at the end of October.

—Pray for the health of M-Team missionary Becky Derby who is expecting twins in February 2006.

—Pray for missionary Tim Byers, OH, as he continues to battle physical illness.

—Pray that money pledged for missionary David Potete's Chicago Marathon Run will erase indebtedness, enabling the church to become self-supporting.

—Pray for Christians in Central Asia and for the persecuted church around the world.

Pursue

HOSEA 6:3

70th Annual WNAC Convention

July 18-19, 2005 • Louisville



Pursue. Nearly 1000 registrants met in Louisville, KY, July 18-19, to Pursue. Women pursued the winding path from hotels through the convention center to find seminar rooms, committee meetings, and banquets. Many pursued good deeds, bringing armloads and basketfuls of stocking stuffer items collected from purpose, the 70th annual WNAC Convention challenged attendees to find and pursue their place in the Great Commission, highlighting opportunities in the home, the church, the community and around the world.

IN THE HOME

Pursue Romance. Monday's 1:00 seminar drew close to 400 women as noted author and speaker Debra White Smith explored the topic, "Romancing Your Husband." Several husbands even escorted their wives to the session. Drawing from Scripture and

from personal experience, Mrs. Smith shared principles and suggestions for becoming your husband's lover. The session seemed to score a home run with some who rushed to the booth area as soon as it opened to purchase her books.

Pursue Personal Growth. The crowd remained for the second session as well-known FWB speaker, Sandy Atwood asked, "Are We There Yet?" Comparing the Christian life to a road trip and citing illustrations from past travels with her four children, Sandy shared valuable life les-



sons. With each lesson, she offered pointers for personal Christian growth.

IN THE CHURCH

Pursue Youth Involvement. The Heart to Heart Ministries sign language choir from First FWB Church, Owensboro, KY, called Tuesday's morning session crowd to worship. Their youth leader, commented, "It's worth it all to work with a great group of teens like these." Young and old applauded Salvation Rain, a FWB bluegrass gospel group of young Kentuckians who shared salvation testimonies in song during Tuesday's morning worship.

Pursue Sweet Fellowship.

A Tuesday evening reception for state presidents and field workers afforded leaders opportunity to meet and share blessings, challenges, and ideas. Conversation graduated to concern as those who stayed late

voiced prayer needs for themselves, their families, their congregations, and for churches within their states.

Pursue Good Deeds. Women Active for Christ in Kentucky's churches provided goodie bags to each of the 81 Truth and Peace participants. As part of a state project, they also fed the students pizza, and gave each one money for a meal and dessert.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Pursue Volunteers. Christmas came in July as WAC groups helped fill a room with stocking stuffer items for the Louisville area Salvation Army Angel Tree program. WAC members and youth volunteers worked throughout the Convention, reaching their goal of 5000 stockings to be distributed throughout the Louisville community during the Christmas season.

Pursue a Merry Heart. WNAC's Fellowship Luncheon provided an opportunity for laughter and singing with the frauline of Fruithill, Viney Mae. A sellout crowd of 420 both chuckled and cried as dramatist Teri Peacock shared heart-warming antics and stories. Attendees will not easily forget Viney Mae or the community of Fruithill, KY.

IN THE WORLD

Pursue Prayer for Central

Asia. A moving PowerPoint presentation gave attendees a glimpse of Central Asia and the Sister's Prayer Fellowship in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In her annual report, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie



About the Central Asian conference:

Awesome and ashamed are two words that quickly come to my mind when I think of my experience in Kazakhstan. I viewed with awe the beautiful Tien-Shein Mountains rising beyond the city of Almaty. God's handiwork was so evident. The Christians were awesome in their dedication and in the love they showed toward others and to us. The Prayer Conference and music was like a taste of heaven, where every tribe and nation shall worship Him. Even the delicious food prepared for us was presented and served in such a beautiful way. However, I also felt ashamed because I so easily take for granted the freedom and convenience I have in worshipping God and in meeting together with fellow believers. Ashamed that I do not reverence God and His house the way that these believers do. It takes so many things here in America for us to be satisfied. They have so little, but are genuinely happy and content serving the Lord. My prayer is that we will catch the vision that many of these Christians have and strive to win the lost of this world to Christ.

Nelda Highsmith
Winterville, NC

After the Central Asian conference:

(Steven and Rejyna Beck attended the conference but extended their stay for several weeks, traveling throughout Central Asia.)

We met women in churches all over Central Asia (Karaghandy, Kazakhstan; Astana, Kazakstan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Khujand, Tajikistan; and Dushanbe, Tajikistan) who had been to the prayer conference. It was such a blessing to see encouragement and enthusiasm as they shared their experiences back in their home churches. Women in every country would come up and talk to Rejyna and say, "You were at the prayer conference weren't you? Wasn't that wonderful!" It was refreshing to see how God worked in the conference and then witness the affects spread across all of Central Asia.

I was also told that women traveling home to one restricted country arrived without difficulty. However, those returning to another nation were harassed at the border, held for several hours and some of their literature was taken away. Thankfully, all returned home without injury.

Steven and Rejyna Beck
Huntsville, AL



Workman thanked women for the \$30,000 given in the past year for 50/50—the WNAC national project. Over \$20,000 of this amount helped fund conference and travel expenses for more than 500 Central Asian women who attended the Sister's Prayer Fellowship, April 26-28, 2005.

American Woman Active for Christ who attended the conference, dressed in Central Asian attire, presented a tea set from Kazakhstan to Debe Taylor, WNAC President. Debe had planned to attend the conference, but could not make the trip due to health reasons.

Pursue God Until...

Missionaries to Spain, Anthony and Lea Edgmon challenged listeners to "Pursue Until He Comes" knowing that the God we pursue is actively pursuing us. Pursuing God involves going where He leads. As we pursue, the lost become important to us. God's interests become our interests.

Focusing on a portion of the 2005 WNAC theme verse, Hosea 6:3, "...and he shall come unto us as the rain," the Edgmoms compared the current drought in Spain with the spiritual drought that exists in the country where they minister. Over 7,500 towns in Spain have no evangelical church.

Pursue a New Path. Home Missions director Larry Powell presented the need for a road to the home of missionary George Lemelin ministering to the Ojibwa Tribe in Minnesota. President Debe Taylor urged the Tuesday worship



Dear WNAC:

For the past two and a half years, when fall and spring rains came, the road to our home became a four-wheel-drive obstacle course. This limited our activities—especially our van ministry which is a vital part of the work here. It also limited others coming to us.

The development of our road is a blessing to us personally and to the ministry. We are truly grateful. It is a special blessing to my wife Kathy, who has been praying that the Lord would do something about our road. We look forward to freely using all the vehicles the Lord has given us for His service. May the Lord richly bless you and all of yours.

*Harvest FWB Native American Mission Church
White Earth Ojibwa Reservation, Minnesota
G. H. Lemelin and family*

CONVENTION PHOTOS: p. 26 (top, l-r) The Edgmoms enjoy a light moment; Secretary Phyllis York reads committee reports; Made you laugh; Debra White Smith offers romance tips; Speaker Sandy Atwood listens intently; Longtime WNAC supporters Anne Worthington, Mary Neal and Lora McCarty share a chuckle. p. 27 (l-r) Leaders sample reception foods; Salvation Rain; Line forms for WNAC Luncheon; Viney Mae entertains; Kentucky women set a pretty table; Women get into the action; (sidebar) WNAC booth seeks prayer for Central Asia. p. 28 (top) WNAC Delegate Jackie Fowlkes (at right) helps stuff stockings; Tea set for Debe Taylor; Pursue God Until...; (inset) Bible filled with monies to build a road.

crowd to give the full amount of \$1500 during a special offering. Open Bibles overflowed with funds as conventioners gave almost \$2,400 for the project and for support of the Lemelins' ministry.

Pursue Cheerful Giving. Fulfilling the Great Commission involves funding for world ministries. Convention reports revealed what combined efforts can accomplish. In the past year, women gave \$580,464.73 to mission-related causes. Gifts for the Provision Closet alone totaled \$42,044.99. Convention attendees also gave a

Tuesday morning worship offering of \$2,891.22.

Pursue our Place. Those who attended the WNAC Convention gained first-hand experience and helpful instruction for finding their place in fulfilling the Great Commission. However, pursuit is not exclusive to convention-goers. In the home, the church, the community and around the world, God calls all of us to pursue His work, His way to accomplish His purpose.

ART

- FIRST "I Am the True Vine"
Kay Brown
SECOND "A New Life"
Kay Brown
THIRD "In the Midst of Tsunami"
Judy L. Pierce

ARTICLES

- FIRST "Riding in the Back Seat"
Ruth Bivens
SECOND "A Gift of Great Joy"
Kathi Mooney
THIRD "Surviving Life's Storms"
Catherine Hill

DEVOTIONALS

- FIRST "How Do You Smell?"
Holly Helber
SECOND "How Do I P.A.C.E. Myself?"
Dana Copeland
THIRD "When Your Roe is Hard to Hoe"
Beulah Morlan

PLAYS/SKITS

- FIRST "JC the Snow White Lamb"
Vicki Turner
SECOND "The Mary of Christmas"
Cheryl Akers
THIRD "His Name Shall Be Called Jesus"
Donna Brewer

PHOTOGRAPHY

- FIRST "All Things New"
Kay Brown
SECOND "Maybe Today"
Ruth Bivens
THIRD "Shouting Time"
Kay Brown



POETRY

- FIRST "Overwhelming Gratitude"
Catherine Hill
SECOND "Faith"
Vicki Turner
THIRD "Dear Daughter"
Teri Prichard

PROGRAMS

- FIRST "Going Farther in Worship"
Ruth Bivens
SECOND "LIVINGFORJESUS.COM"
Sue Winchester
THIRD "Be Ye Transformed"
Judy Delong

2005 RESOLUTIONS

- We recommend that scholarships be given from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund as follows:
 - To continue the scholarship for Robert and Philippe in Cote d'Ivoire, for a total of \$1,250.
 - To continue the scholarship for the Cuban Cedars of Lebanon Seminary for a total of \$500.
 - To continue the scholarship assistance for the five students at the Volena Wilson Bible Institute in Conoor, Tamil Nadu, South India, for a total of \$950.
 - To add a scholarship for a student at the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico, for a total of \$800.00.
- We recommend the By-Laws, Article V, Fees and Reports, be changed from: "Active members shall pay dues yearly as required by WNAC for membership fee. The dues and the annual reports must be in the national office before the WNAC convention in order for delegates to be seated at the WNAC convention." To read: "Active members shall pay membership fees yearly as required by WNAC. The membership fees and the annual reports

must be in the national office before the WNAC convention in order for delegates to be seated at the WNAC convention."

- We recommend increasing dues (membership fees) from \$10 to \$15 effective immediately.
- We recommend increasing the local delegate fee from \$5 to \$10.
- Whereas it was through the ruling of unelected liberal judges that prayer was removed from our schools and abortion was declared legal, and whereas our nation is now in danger of having civil unions in government buildings and government property, and the pledge of allegiance disallowed, be it resolved that we write or telephone our senators to stop judicial tyranny by demanding an up or down vote for judges, conservative in their values, appointed by our President.
- Be it resolved that we the women of WNAC always keep the WAC before our women and encourage all women of our denomination to become involved.

BEHIND THE SCENES

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

**BRENDA EVANS
FWB FOUNDATION**



Good food and good food for thought—

conversation over a meal is about as good as it gets for Brenda Evans, wife of FWB Foundation director Bill Evans. But forget the gossip. Brenda prefers intellectually and spiritually stimulating conversation. She'll probably ask you what you are reading.

Brenda loves books. Her favorite haunts are used bookstores, thrift stores and Goodwills where she pursues literary finds. Literature has been a lifelong love and passion for this native Tennessean. Her favorite authors are Flannery O'Connor and William Faulkner. She appreciates Faulkner's treatment of heroes and heroines. "In his books," she says, "it's the average ordinary people who end up prevailing." Sound like a Lit prof? You're right. Brenda's bookstore finds often end up in her high school classrooms.

Brenda loves teaching. *Teacher* defines much of who she is. Since 1990, she's taught English and Literature at Brentwood Academy, a private college prep school. Brenda currently chairs the English department and teaches AP Literature and 9th grade Honors English to 50-60 students. Because the school is church affiliated, Brenda can openly share spiritual concepts and conclusions in the works her students read.

Brenda loves the Lord. She was saved at age eight in 1950, under the ministry of Ray Turnage. Bill, unknown to her then, was saved that same year. Brother Turnage later impacted Bill's decision to attend FWBBC—where Brenda met Bill.

Brenda loves her husband. She's convinced the Lord put them together.

In 1962, another marker year, the pair got engaged, Bill graduated from FWBBC, they married, and they moved to their first home and first pastorate in Littleton, NH. For the next twenty years, Brenda graced FWB parsonages in Georgia, Missouri, and Kentucky, following Bill wherever God led. "When they sang the old song, 'Whither Thou Goest' at our wedding, I meant it."

She sees her role as any wife's role, to support and encourage her husband to do what he loves, wherever God leads. In 1983, God led Bill Evans into other Christian ministries, first as representative of Every Home for Christ, then for the FWB Board of Retirement, becoming its director in 1993. These positions demanded extensive travel. Brenda remembers those early travel years were difficult with three boys at home.

Brenda loves her family, which now also includes three daughter-in-laws and six grandchildren. She is convinced that Bill was, and still is, "where God has put him. Heaven forbid that I put hindrance in his way."

The family's most difficult experience came in 1991, when Bill was diagnosed with highly advanced stomach cancer. Chances of survival ranged 30% at best. Doctors removed 75% of his stomach and he endured a nine-month regiment of chemo. Brenda remembers during this time, often finding Bill at night in the recliner, emaciated, skin so gray, not knowing whether he was dead or alive. Brenda also remembers the multitude of calls and cards she received from people worldwide who were praying for his healing. "We knew God could heal him, but we never felt He was obligated," says Brenda. Whatever lay ahead, they knew it would be God's best for them. Midway

through this time, Bill asked God for ten more years.

It's been thirteen years now, and Bill remains cancer-free. Brenda says the trial "taught us that life is precious.

There is great joy in living for Him. Satan brings despondency, discouragement and death, but God is the giver of life."

Though the recollection of this event brings fresh tears, Brenda is not much into retelling past pains. She's all about the fresh exchange of ideas. Give her something new—like Bill's new title as director of the FWB Foundation.

Her newest love is scrapbooking. She discovered it last February, and since that time, she's made books for each son's anniversary. She sees it as an outlet for combining her love of colors and arrangement with writing skills. Brenda is continually thinking of new projects and ideas for books.

Brenda's loves also include WNAC. She's been active since the 1960's, serving in leadership positions from local president to Executive Committee member. She's spoken at WNAC retreats, judged Creative Arts entries, and written for *CoLaborer*. About the only thing she's not done is serve as a secretary or treasurer. She remains active in WAC through Missions Partners at her church, Donelson FWB, where she also serves as a greeter—meeting new people, initiating conversation, and sharing the loves of her life.



Words FOR WOMEN

The Next Voice You Hear



Executive Secretary-Treasurer

*Marjorie H.
Workman*

"HOW LONG DO YOU COOK THESE SAUSAGE AND BISCUITS?" I quipped to anyone listening as I stood by the motel's microwave. "I put them in for two minutes. Is that enough? I can't read the tiny instructions without my glasses." The bearded stranger standing next to me replied, "You're going to have an explosion. I think 30 seconds is recommended." Quickly I opened the microwave door. A bloated wrapper was about to burst. Grabbing the biscuits, I thanked the stranger and claimed an empty table.

The stranger finished his breakfast and headed toward the exit. As he passed our table, my husband leaned over and whispered, "Do you know who that guy reminds me of?" Before I could say, "Who?" the stranger turned toward our table and asked, "Where are you folks from?" "Nashville, Tennessee," I answered. Instantly and simultaneously, my husband and the stranger recognized each other. The stranger was my husband's ex-brother-in-law whom we had not seen in thirty years. Looking at me, he said, "Marjorie, I recognized your voice." I chuckled as I remembered how he used to tease me about my southern accent. He knew me by my voice.

I'm reminded of another voice that should get our attention—the voice of God. The parable of the Door and the Shepherd in John 10 illustrates the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep. Like sheep, believers are to be discerning and obedient to the voice of the Shepherd.

God does talk to us. Would it not seem strange if the God who gave us ability to talk with one another, did not talk to us? How do we hear His voice? In biblical days some heard Him audibly. Adam and Eve talked with Him in the cool of the day (Genesis 3). The Lord God spoke with Abraham on several occasions, asking him to leave his father's house, go to a new land and build a nation. Joseph and the wise men heard His voice through a dream (Matthew 1). Zacharias and Mary heard Him through an angel (Luke 1).

Sometimes, God speaks to us through other people as he did to Peter through Cornelius (Acts 10). And to David through Nathan (2 Samuel 12). We hear his voice through creation. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard."* (Psalms 19:1-3). Listen to the birds singing, the oceans roaring, the trees swaying in the wind and you will hear the voice of God.

Most importantly, we hear His voice through His inspired Word. Jesus said, *"I have given them thy word"* (John 17:14a). *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Matthew 24:35). *"...they that hear shall live"* (John 5:25b).

As in the parable, many false voices call out to steal our attention away from the Truth. A voice may be telling you, "You are disqualified to serve—you're too sinful." But the Samaritan woman at the well heard His voice (John 4) and led a whole city to Jesus. "You're too young for that position," a voice whispers. Timothy was young, but Paul admonished Him to be an example of the believer in every way so that those he ministered to would see his progress and want to be believers also (Timothy 4:12-16). "You're too poor, let the rich support missions," the voice of materialism cries. The widow in Luke 21 understood the powerlessness of riches and gave all that she had.

Lack of ability is a false voice many hear. Mary, the mother of Jesus, confronted her disability, asking Gabriel how she could have a child when she did not have a husband (Luke 1:34). Mary accepted the angel's explanation and willing submitted to the plan of God. Moses faced the fear most people score as their greatest trepidation—speaking in public. But when God calls, He enables. He permitted Aaron to be Moses' spokesman.

The voice of God is not silent. If we know Him, we will recognize His voice. Tune in as God speaks.

Fall in Love... *Again*

WNAC/ Master's Men

NATIONAL MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE October 28-30, 2005

Marriott at the Convention Center
Chattanooga, TN



with Richard and Sandy Atwood

**REGISTER NOW
ONLY \$225 PER COUPLE**

REGISTER AT WWW.NAFWB.ORG/MM, 1-877-767-8039, OR MAIL FORM ON P. 19. HURRY! EARLY BIRD RATE ENDS SEPTEMBER 15

CoLaborer Magazine

P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
www.nafwb.org/wnac

Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee,
and at additional mailing offices

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to above address.

*****3-DIGIT 372
FWBBC LIBRARY
3606 W END AVE
NASHVILLE TN 37205-2403

