

COLLABORER

March • April 2006



Calling All Mothers THE MIRACLE OF PASSOVER

SHARING EASTER JOYS Laughter in His Eyes WORKPLACE WISDOM

Every Tribe...Every Nation PreEaster Week of Prayer

Women Nationally Active for Christ



Sarah Fletcher

Working on the new WNAC brochure, I recently shared some preview copy with an office visitor, seeking feedback. She commented that the description of our organization sounded like something she would want to be a part of, but more like a women's ministry than an *auxiliary*. "Is this really true to your purpose?" she queried. "Isn't it supposed to be all about missions? Is WNAC having an identity crisis?"

These questions from this thirty-something pastor's wife prompted my ponderings. Was my perception faulty? Had I misunderstood and misrepresented WNAC?

I don't think so. Yes, WNAC is about missions, yet it is also about ministry to women. For me, they are one and the same. Our organizational purpose statement identifies us as helping every woman find her place in the Great Commission through responsibilities (*I like to call them opportunities*) in the home, church, community and around the world. So what is WNAC all about?

We are about the Great Commission as every believer should be. WNAC boasts a rich history of advancing and supporting missionary activity worldwide. That emphasis continues and broadens as Internet and international travel make participation in world evangelism a reasonable reality. More and more women are going on missions trips, emailing and encouraging missionaries and glimpsing a greater vision of what God is doing and can do through them in our world. Because the face of missions is changing, WNAC is also changing to better express and pursue our unchanging purpose.

We are about the home. Scripture commands us to not only be keepers at home, but also to train others to love children and husbands. Home issues have always been a focus for WNAC. Early essay contests explored the theme of "The Worth of the Family Altar." As home life pressures and problems escalate in society, we realize the great importance of pursuing and maintaining peace in our homes and the great influence we can wield on women through this avenue.

We are about local church ministries. In its first handbook, WNAC encouraged women's Bible studies, and "more constructive worship programs" in the church. The current popularity of women's Bible studies should delight us, not deter us. Embracing this and other ministry opportunities affords personal growth and corporate blessings.

We are about community outreach. This means addressing the common issues that all women, saved or unsaved, face. This involves caring and seeking to meet the needs of others. More than pie suppers or projects, we value people—individuals whom God places in our paths in the everyday.

Is WNAC in crisis? If so, we are not alone. Christian women's organizations everywhere are fielding these same type questions, facing the same paradigm shifts. Prayer, Bible study, mentoring, evangelism, Christian education, personal growth and stewardship of life—these are all facets of WNAC. Our identity still aligns with our purpose.

However, identity is not our greatest difficulty. It's perception. Will we minister to the twenty and thirty-somethings of our congregations? That all depends on our willingness to adapt our terminology and modify our methodology to keep pace and appeal with 21st century women.

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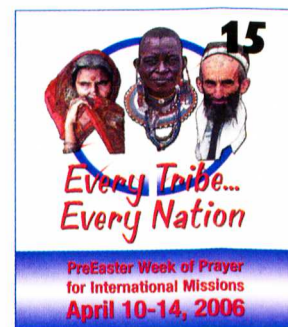
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COVER PHOTO: France M-Team MK's: McKenna and McGwire Portell, Sophia and Lola Warren

Calling All Mothers

by Dana Portell

"And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel. And he said unto them, 'Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.'" DEUTERONOMY 32:46-47

I can remember when the ultrasound revealed that our second child was a boy. Boys were unknown territory for me. Though I had an older brother, he was already a teenager when I was born. I knew nothing about these strange little creatures and I was terrified. I envisioned permanent marker on the walls and broken windows from backyard baseball games. I imagined the parent-teacher conversation about fights on the playground and running through the halls. I have since experienced the parent-teacher conferences, which are quite interesting in a new language. However, I have also experienced the sweet loving nature of a little boy who tells me constantly how much he loves me and delights in bringing me dandelions.

Parenting is an overwhelming responsibility with incredible benefits. Parenting is an enormous responsibility, but also an unbelievable joy. Our focus verse, Deuteronomy 32:46, issues a call for the instruction of our children and the obedience of our children. God repeats this command throughout the Bible. God is calling us to parent our children; the verses are just as relevant for us as they were for the Hebrews.



Parenting children is often like tending a garden.

PRESCHOOL YEARS. During the preschool years we work to enrich the soil. Each child is born with distinct personality traits, qualities which remind me of the Parable of the Soils found in Matthew 13.

For instance, my daughter delights in pleasing others. She is naturally gentle and easily accepts Biblical principles; she has a rich

soil. Although she was blessed with a tender disposition, there are still snares that may endanger her faith. The pleasing personality often falls prey to thorns—people or things that creep in and choke out Biblical principles. We must be diligently involved in our children's lives to identify and eradicate these thorns.

My son's disposition, the polar opposite of my daughter's, might be best described as hard or rocky soil. Biblical principles have difficulty finding rich soil in which to take root, due to his strong-willed rebellious nature. Loving discipline is a wonderful tool for breaking through some of the rocky places in this type personality to find the rich fertile soil that lies beneath the surface. Discipline for the strong-willed child needs to be rooted in love and a strong parent-child relationship; otherwise, the rocky soil will prevail. By nature, strong-willed children generally hold tightly to their beliefs; therefore, once Biblical principles have taken root, thorns of this world are not very affective.

Whatever the personality, the fertilizer to enrich the soil of our children's lives is prayer, scripture, instruction, and love.

ELEMENTARY YEARS. In the elementary years, we watch as the seeds we have planted begin to grow. Our children's spiritual lives, like tender sprouts, need protection, nourishment and nurture. These years are a great time to disciple our children, teaching them the value of a personal daily time with God.

As soon as children start reading, offer them a young reader edition of the Bible and a blank journal. We recently gave our daughter such a Bible; she reads it daily, often to her younger brother. Other great tools for children's quiet times include children's hymns or worship music and a personal CD player.



Ideas

to strengthen your family and your faith

As parents, we need to equip our children with the tools and teach them to set aside time to be alone with God daily.

TEENAGE YEARS. In France, where we live, homes characteristically have beautiful gardens. Each spring, I watch my neighbors roll up their sleeves and work tirelessly from dawn to dusk preparing their gardens. With the first blossoms, they smile with satisfaction at the fruits of their labor.

We watch with anxious anticipation to see our children blossom in their teenage years. A teenager possessing a heart after God's is like a flower garden in full bloom. We cannot walk past it without being affected by its fragrance or without noticing its beauty. Its fragrance influences those around it and its beauty glorifies its creator. The mother of such a child is like the woman in Proverbs 31:28 *"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."* Her children's obedience is a testimony to the faithfulness of her instruction and her personal obedience to God.

ADULT YEARS. By faithfully parenting our children we provide the best environment for them to achieve their potential and grow strong in their faith. God does promise in Proverbs 22:6 that if we *"train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it."* This verse is an encouragement in our parenting to be diligent and seek God's wisdom in rearing our children. However, we need to remember that every child possesses a free will. Each makes a personal decision to obey or to disobey. It is the duty of parents to provide the instruction and the duty of the children to be obedient.



A Call to Instruction

All the following verses share the common theme of instructing our children. Too often, we leave this job to the Sunday school teacher, children's pastor or youth group leader. God gave this command to parents; He wants *us* to instruct our children, raising them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

1. **HOST TEA PARTIES** with your children.

2. **WRITE LOVE NOTES** to your children. Put them on their pillows or in their school lunches. (If they are too young to read, read the note to them)

3. **CREATE A BLESSING BOX.** Let children decorate an old tissue box, then fill up the box by writing down blessings from the Lord on slips of paper. (Take the box out quarterly and remember God's blessings.)

4. **CHOOSE A GODLY CHARACTER TRAIT** that you would like to see in your child and focus on that characteristic for the week or month. (Make posters, read Bible verses and stories reinforcing that character trait.) Focus on the Family is a good resource for ideas on this project.

5. **PRAY THROUGH THEIR CLOSETS** to give children a Christian worldview. Find the country listed on the label inside shirts or pants they wear each day. Pray for that nation; locate it on the globe. Select a particular country to research at the library or on the Internet.

6. **SELECT A MISSIONARY FAMILY** for the week or month—check www.fwbgo.com for missionary facts and email address. Email this missionary about your activity and ask for prayer requests. (Try to email 1-2 weeks in advance to allow time for response.) Pray with your children for the missionary; find the missionary's country and city on a globe; read about the people to whom they minister. Send a package with handmade cards and store items selected for the missionary by your children.

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;" (Deuteronomy 4:9).

"And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deuteronomy 6:7).

"And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deuteronomy 11:19).

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

Note Deuteronomy 6:7 and 11:19. Instruction requires time with our children. It does not occur only



on Sunday mornings. Instruction in the ways of the Lord should be a natural overflow of our personal walk with God. We cannot properly parent our children without a strong relationship with God, staying in His Word and praying constantly. The Bible does not command us to conduct family devotions just after supper and never mention God again until the next day. The context of these verses implies that throughout the day we should impress upon our children the laws of God, His teachings, His principles for their lives. Instruction needs to be intentional. We must be meditating on God's law to be ready and able to pass it along to our children—seizing the teachable moments as they occur.



A Call to Obedience

Deuteronomy 32:46 commands that we instruct our children so that they will obey God's law. The Bible links obedience to authority with longevity and success in life. Because God created us, He knows exactly how our bodies function and He knows the effects of obedience and disobedience. Consider these Bible truths concerning obedience.

"This day the Lord thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul." (Deuteronomy 26:16).

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8).

"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22).

As parents we are called to teach our children obedience. Many theories and books on the subject of obedience can be useful tools to accompany the Bible in training our children. (Practical suggestions and reviews at the end of this article are designed to help maximize parenting skills.)

Both parents and children are called to obey. We illustrate obedience to our children by our actions. My husband and I have shared with our children many times concerning the conflict of our will and God's will. Because they are young, we have told our children verbally about times when we, as their parents, have chosen to obey God. We've also noted times we disobeyed, cit-

ing the con-



Book List (for mothers)

A Mother's Heart by Jean Fleming
****Shepherding a Child's Heart** by Tedd Tripp

Seven Life Principles for Every Woman by Sharon Jaynes and Lysa Terkeurst

The Blessing by Gary Smalley and John Trent, PH.D.

The Way They Learn by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias

How to Make Your Child Mind Without Losing Yours, by Dr. Kevin Lehman

The Five Love Languages of Children by Gary D. Chapman and Ross Campbell, M.D.

****Bringing Up Boys** by Dr. James Dobson

The Strong-Willed Child by Dr. James Dobson

Parenting Isn't For Cowards by Dr. James Dobson

****These titles are reviewed on page eight.**

sequences that followed. We have explained that we had a choice to obey or disobey God when we heard His call to be missionaries to France.

We teach our children to obey us so they will learn to obey God. Ephesians 6:1-4 speaks to both children and parents. Children are to obey their parents while parents are to instruct and discipline them according to the ways of the Bible. Submission to authority is a virtue lacking in our cultures today. We must take the time to instill this value in our children.



A Call to Parenting

Prayer became one of our family's main preparations for leaving the USA to follow God's call as missionaries to France. The majority of our prayers were directed toward adjustment in a new culture. Our children prayed with us. They asked God to provide good friends and nice teachers. Upon arriving at language school, we saw a multitude of children; our children saw God's pro-



vision. We made wonderful friends and so did our children. Our strongest concern was for our daughter, McKenna. God gave her seven girls, near her age, who became her closest friends. One by one, at the end of each semester, we eventually said goodbye to all seven girls. We prayed asking God to send more girls close to McKenna's age to replace the friends who had left.

The beginning of the semester came and went without the arrival of any new girls. McKenna, seven years old at the time, would lie awake in her bed for more than three hours each night praying that God would provide a friend. After some time, McKenna confided in me about her prayers for a friend, and asked me why God was not responding.

I recognized this as a teachable moment and began to explain the purpose of struggles in the life of a Christian. We talked about yielding our will to God and accepting His plan for our lives. I watched her faith grow during the following months. She continued to ask God for a friend, but she was willing to accept God's will for her life. She learned to surrender and yield her wants and desires so that she could receive the desires that God wanted to place in her heart.

Eventually, she made friends with French girls in her class, and she began to pray for their salvation. Because she was willing to set aside her desire for an American friend, she received God's desire for her life to carry the light. God provides opportunities for us to teach our children. Seizing these moments, we can inspire their lives for Christ.

As our creator, God knows the inner workings of man. As our God who became human for us, He knows our fleshly struggles. He understands the struggles of being a mother and the struggles of being a child. God provided wonderful examples in the Bible for mothers. He gave us an intimate look into the private life of Hannah who prayed for years for the privilege of being a mother. He gave us the example of Eunice and Lois, the mother and grandmother of Timothy. He has equipped us with the tools to be godly mothers investing our lives to produce godly children with a heart for His kingdom.

A Call to Action

It is not too late to change your style of parenting, and to reclaim your family for Christ. Be prepared for resistance, not necessarily the resistance from your family. While writing this article there has been more dysfunction in our home than normal, more occasions for marital disputes and more stress contributing to hasty reactions to our children. Our enemy fears a strong family patterned after the heart of God. He knows the potential in such a family for reaching the world for Christ and for glorifying the heavenly Father. Press on mothers, for God is on your side.

Dana Portell and her husband, Darren, serve as FWB missionaries to France ministering to North Africans. During their first term, Dana is studying French language and culture while home-schooling her children, McKenna and McGwire. She is active in children's ministry in her church in France.



Book List (for children)

Age-appropriate devotional books (many are available through *Focus on the Family Heritage Builders*)

Lord, Teach Me to Study Your Word and *Lord, Teach Me to Pray*, devotional books by Kay

Arthur and Janna Arndt

Growing Little Women by Donna J. Miller and Christine Yount (devotional for moms and younger daughters)

The *Wemmick* series by Max Lucado (powerful lessons to help children find their worth in Christ)

Window on the World by Daphne Spraggett and Jill Johnstone (gives children a Biblical worldview)

For March program presentation ideas and helps see the 2006 Program and Plan Book, pp. 30-33





Shepherding a Child's Heart **REVIEW**

by Ted Tripp

(Shepherd Press: ISBN 0966378601; \$13.95)

"God has called you to a more profound task than being a care-provider.

You shepherd your child in God's behalf."

Tedd Tripp's book ***Shepherding a Child's Heart*** gives childrearing advice that is deeply steeped in biblical truth yet relevant to everyday parenting issues.

These days we are flooded with books on child psychology and childrearing techniques that are at odds with biblical faith. This book's significance is that it roots itself in ancient scriptural wisdom.

Tripp says that Christian parents need to instill a "Godward orientation" in their children so that children's life experiences and interactions—everything they think and say and do—will be oriented toward God who created them. He stresses that God created people for a relationship with Himself. The most important job of parents is to shepherd children's hearts so they will be in a relationship with their creator.

It is God who has given us authority to parent. We are "on His errand, not ours," Tripp says. Our main goal as parents is to shepherd our children's hearts to be God-directed.

The shepherding process involves tireless training, teaching, interacting, and communicating with our children. Tripp says that the key to this process is "in every context...to set a biblical worldview before your children."

Tripp quotes Proverbs 4:23, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*" The heart, he says, determines behavior. He takes parents through the process of guiding our children's hearts—training them to understand God, His ways, themselves, sin, the human heart, and the gospel that meets all their needs.

Though some readers have objected to Tripp's view of the use of the *rod* in child discipline, he solidly grounds his counsel in the godly wisdom of Proverbs. Yet discipline is only a subpoint of Tripp's book. His goal is to help parents shepherd their children's hearts to enable children to glorify God and live in His joy in all they are.

—Reviewed by Melinda Pinson



Bringing Up Boys **REVIEW**

by James Dobson

(Tyndale House: ISBN 084235266X; \$19.99)

I am the mom of three boys and one girl—in that order. Many days, I could not believe what those boys could do. If it involved dirt, water, building, or making a mess—they loved it. Boys are different from girls.

In a culture that tends to apply a one-size-fits-all philosophy for raising children, James Dobson, has written a book about raising boys. Dr. Dobson is a trusted authority on the family and is founder and president of Focus on the Family, a non-profit organization that produces his internationally syndicated radio program heard daily by over 200 million people and produces many products to help families.

Dr. Dobson says that boys are just different and they are in the center of a culture war. Boys are more likely to use drugs, get in trouble at school, drop out of school, and be in trouble with the law. He offers practical advice and encouragement to parents. He attempts to explain why boys are the way they are and how to understand their physical and emotional development. He discusses homosexuality and gives ways to recognize the tendencies in boys. He suggests several ways to motivate boys to become godly men.

I would recommend this book to any parent or grandparent who wants to influence this generation of boys. The book is also a video seminar ideal for a small group study.

—Reviewed by Sandy Atwood



My name is Zhanna. I am from the city of Taraz, in southern Kazakhstan. I'd like to share how I came to know God.

Choosing a university was a pressing issue for me after graduation. An excellent student in school, I was expected to enter a prestigious university, preferably in a big city.

I decided to enroll in the St. Petersburg-based Trade and Economics University as a distant student. I would study on my own most of the time and go to St. Petersburg several times a year to take exams. Though many were saying that I was bound to fail, still, I was accepted by this university and began taking classes.

At the same time I succeeded in finding a job. At age eighteen, I was employed as a commodity expert for a large-scale trading group. I worked for this large company as part of its business team throughout my time of study at the university. Enjoying the thought that I had already started my career path and anticipating that I would achieve even more upon graduation, I imagined that I would make a fortune.

However, during my second year of studies I became pregnant and had a child. I was gripped with the question of whether I should continue my studies or stay at home to look after the baby. My husband was certainly against further studies, but my parents convinced me to think of my future.

"Ways to God are unique. The Lord works with every individual in a special way. He knows what is good for the person and what is not. He Himself directs every person into the true way..."

My Way to God

as told to Eugenia Kanunnikova



Students at the Bible Institute in Almaty, KZ. Zhenna is circled.

Eventually, I left my two-month-old baby with my parents in my home city and headed for St. Petersburg to continue my studies. I felt I must leave the baby as my journey was a long and complicated one. While there, however, I could not concentrate on my studies because I was deeply worried about the baby. I repeatedly sacrificed my child for my studies. And sure enough, this had a negative effect on his further rearing.

I had always earned enough money to afford travel to and from St. Petersburg. Yet, when the time came for me to defend my final paper, I was absolutely broke with no means to go. Thus, having studied for six years, I was unable to defend my thesis.

During this time, my marriage crumbled. My entire career also went to the dogs, since by that time, the Soviet trading system had collapsed. That's all I achieved, relying on my own ambition, reason and abilities.

In the year 2000, I first heard the Good News from my husband. (By this time, I had remarried.) In April of the same year, Jesus Christ came into my heart and in August, I was baptized. Life for me began anew. However, as a young Christian, I faced multiple tough situations in church; sometimes I was really confused. Looking back, I am grateful to God for the hardships that made me grow in spirit. My husband remained close, supporting and encouraging me through the process.

When a new program began in the Bible School of Almaty, training students in the Kazakh language,

he was invited to study in that group. I learned that the school also offered a missionary ministry track. I'd always liked to study. Therefore, after much prayer, God led me to enroll and become a missionary. But not so fast.

Another joyful event lay in store for us. God granted us a baby. Waiting so long, we had almost lost hope that we would ever have a child: I had not been able to conceive for quite some time. Even after surgery, doctors gave us little chance for a baby. "Possibility is 1% out of 100%—if God helps," one non-believing doctor had said. Yet, my husband incessantly asked God to intervene. Five months after the surgery, God blessed us and I became pregnant.

Once again I faced a dilemma: Should I go and study or should I stay at home to bring up the child?

My husband and I surrendered the situation to God, asking Him to guide our decision. In September, I enrolled in the missionary program. I knew that if God allowed me to study He would provide for all my needs. God plentifully blessed my study during the entire pregnancy.

Presently, I'm both a mother and a student. Now, every time I come to Almaty for a session of lectures, I bring my mom along to take care of the baby. This is yet another blessing from God, because she is not a believer.

While at the Institute, my mother has been able to feel the love of Christ. What a joy to see her read-

ing Christian literature. Each time we pack our things to go, she says that "she is looking forward to seeing her brothers and sisters at the Institute." She has made friends with everyone there.

What a contrast I now see. When I lived in line with my own will, I enjoyed all worldly goods. I possessed ambitious plans for the future. And all these dissipated as sand.

Now, walking with God, my outlook on life has changed, I do not worry too much about tomorrow. I am sure God Himself will take care of me because the Bible teaches, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink... seek ye first the kingdom of God."

I see His blessings as we are surrendered to His will, working in His harvest field. I believe He has something more in store for my husband and me. I sense He is uniquely preparing a special ministry that will allow us to be effective and productive in His service.

Nothing happens by accident when we walk with the Lord. He knows best how to match capabilities and tasks in His design to save this perishing world."

Eugenia (Jenny) Kanunnikova lives in Almaty, KZ and serves as a translator for BMI. A member of her church's bell choir and editor of a newsletter, Jenny aspires to be a Christian journalist.



*A visit to the eye doctor, August 9, 2005,
forever changed our son's life.*

Laughter in His Eyes

by Teresa Smith



When Hunter, our youngest son, went for his eight-year-old checkup this past June, the pediatrician recommended he see an ophthalmologist. I assumed this would be a routine check. When my husband called to tell me that a retina specialist was coming in an hour and could I please get a ride to the hospital, I knew it was more. (Especially since I'd had major back surgery just four weeks earlier and the hospital was in Georgia, not South Carolina, our home state.)

Arriving at the hospital, we met with several doctors and learned of a giant tear in the retina of Hunter's right eye. Without surgery, the doctors informed us, Hunter would lose complete sight in as little as 24 hours.

Hunter was admitted and placed on complete bed rest. That in itself was quite comical, since that very morning I'd disciplined him for jumping from the loveseat to the couch to the chair—all the time barely missing the coffee table with his head. Now he wasn't even allowed to go to the bathroom by himself for fear he would fall or slip.

When the doctors asked if they could "go in and reattach the retina and put a band around the eye," of course, I gave my permission. By the goodness of the Lord, the doctor failed to tell me that the eyeball would be removed in order to reattach and repair.

Hunter's surgery was successful, though he was totally blind for two days. He has now regained sight in his good eye, but is technically blind (20/400 vision) in the one eye. He experiences double vision and only sees shapes at any distance greater than just a few feet from him.

Still, the doctors say this is good considering how badly his retina was torn. During the surgery they found a suspect spot on Hunter's other eye, so he must continue to be careful.

Hunter is a funny little guy. He can't play sports or run and jump like he used to, but he's learned other ways to play. Instead of becoming bitter, he has turned to laughter.

He now goes up to elevators and bathroom signs, closes his good eye and declares he is learning Braille. He is determined to transform our untrainable collie/St. Bernard into a seeing-eye dog. (This is the dog we keep penned in the back yard because he runs directly to the road when he's loosed.) Hunter also threatens to buy a false eyeball just to scare me, since his real eye is held with stitches.

Doctors have found no apparent cause as to why this happened to our son, but we know God has a plan. Hunter has been a witness to many a person going through difficult times. He has encouraged waitresses who are having a hard day. He always seems to have an encouraging word for others.

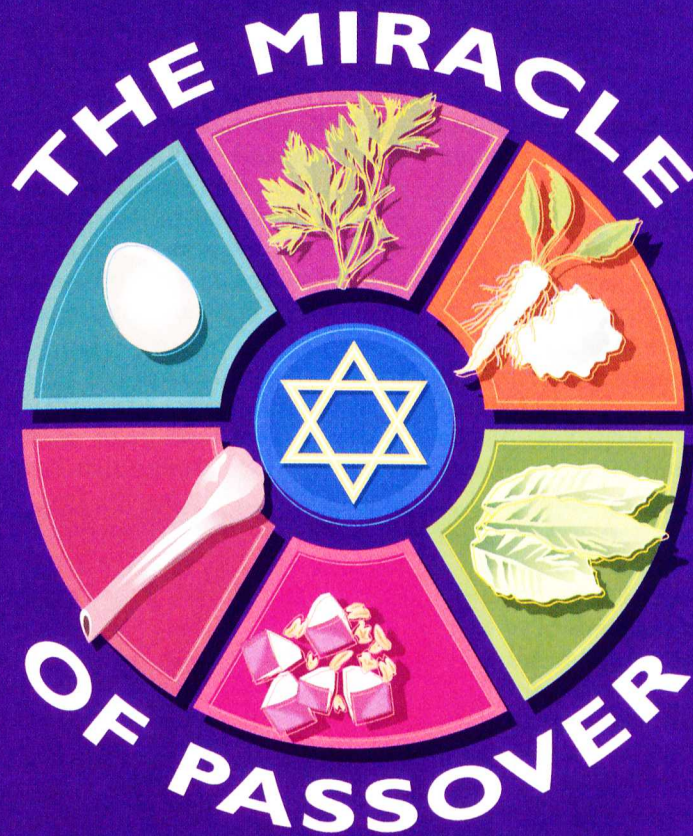
Hunter appears very comfortable with his situation; he gives God praise. His humor, amidst the possibility of losing all his sight, amazes us. Recently, he amused (frightened) a couple of carnival booth workers. Darts in hand, Hunter (with double vision, a blind spot, and no depth perception) looked toward the man standing on his right and said, "Mister you might want to move. I am blind in this eye and I may accidentally take your eye out." The man immediately jumped out of the booth.

When people say they are sorry this happened, I tell them I'm glad, for God has brought true laughter to my child. It's part of His divine plan for Hunter.

We can choose to cry or laugh when life gets rough; Hunter has chosen to laugh. We laugh, too, and try to keep him away from the fake eyeballs, so Mom won't have a heart attack.

Teresa Smith serves alongside her husband Todd as FWB Home missionaries in Aiken, SC. The recent picture at left includes children Cameron, Victoria, and Hunter, sporting his new eyeglasses.





BY LUCY WRIGHT

April program helps and suggestions are found on pp. 34-37; 72-82 of the 2006 WNAC Program and Plan Book.

When I was a young Jewish girl growing up in Bethesda, Maryland, Passover didn't have a lot of deep spiritual meaning to me. However, I do fondly remember that annual holiday observance more than any other throughout the year.

The special meal called the Seder was filled with predictable rituals, family togetherness and great food. I felt special being Jewish because I knew God cared enough for my people to rescue them out of the grips of Egyptian slavery.

There is something very awe-inspiring to know that a most

powerful and holy God would actually go to the extreme of miraculously parting the Red Sea to save my ancestors and give them freedom. That doesn't even include the gripping prelude to Passover, which details the supernatural plagues God brought on the Egyptians to "Let my people go." These are all part of the very exciting edge-of-your-seat story that never loses its fascination year after year.

Tracing back to the beginning of the story always overwhelmed me with tears. It's amazing that before Moses became God's anointed leader, he started his life on a wing and a prayer—a baby separated from the warmth of his mother's

loving arms, floating in a basket down a river.

A JEW BORN ANEW

Many years have faded into the memory books since my childhood Passover celebrations. The days of making funny faces across the table at my sister Judy to make her laugh during the most solemn moments of the Seder are long gone. Now that I'm a Jewish believer in Jesus, or a *Jew Born Anew* as I like to call it, Passover seems ever more relevant.

It wasn't always this way. For many years after I was saved, I didn't see how all the traditions really had a place in my life.

Interest started to pique for me, as well as for my Christian husband,

DOES PASSOVER PLAY A ROLE



as we attended Passover Seders organized by a local Messianic Synagogue. Messianic Jews and Christians with a great and genuine love for the Jews and Israel presented these symbolic dinners.

In most recent years I have been deeply moved as I have witnessed a growing interest and awareness within the Christian church as to how the Jewish roots of Christianity hold deep significance, not only with the past, but with God's plan for the future. In fact, I'm often a little startled and surprised when some Christians who find out I'm Jewish, get so excited and treat me in such a special way.

In each case, as I have gotten to know these individuals, I've seen a common thread—they all have a passion to understand God's word specifically as it relates to His prophecies of the Jews and Israel. I believe God is rapidly giving these revelations to His people.

SO WHAT DOES PASSOVER HAVE TO DO WITH JESUS?
EVERYTHING.

So what does Passover have to do with Jesus? Everything. Little Yeshua (as He was called in Hebrew) grew up celebrating Passover with his family year after year.

He probably didn't make funny faces at his siblings like I did, but I'm sure he ate matzo (unleavened bread), heard the Hebrew prayers, sang Hebrew songs and recounted the miracles of Passover through the symbolic



elements traditionally placed on the Seder plate.

As Messianic Pastor Raphael Giglio of New River Fellowship in Franklin, TN, points out, "Passover was so important to Jesus that He made it His last supper with His apostles (Mark 14:12, Luke 22:1)." Raphael's mother Phyllis, an author, adds, "This is a commemoration of what God has done, is doing and will do to save His people—always by the blood of the perfect lamb."

HE IS OUR PASSOVER

Multiple verses in both the Old and New Testaments seem to trumpet the strong significance God places on Passover for Jews and Christians alike. In 1 Corinthians 5:7 our Savior is referred to as Passover itself. *"For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us."* Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice from the slavery of sin.

This is a freedom I never tasted before I met my Savior. Now I can experience the exciting freedom of Passover in a truly multi-dimensional way. It's a celebration of my Jewish ancestors' release from bondage combined with the ultimate freedom of forgiven sins, guidance of the Holy Spirit, unspeakable joy and total assurance of what will happen to me after my physical death. That is true freedom.

A FEAST FOREVER

For a thorough explanation of Passover, I recommend going straight to the source and reading all of Exodus 12. One specific verse in that chapter reveals that God really means business about keeping Passover. God gives this clear directive in verse 14 *"And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever."*

This isn't just some quaint or trendy thing to do. God wants us to recount the very essence of what it was like to be slaves who are granted freedom for all the days of our lives. This sentiment is echoed once again in Deuteronomy 16:1-6.

WHAT ABOUT GENTILES?

Certainly I have the heritage, which beckons me back to recount what happened many generations ago. However, I wondered how Passover affects other non-Jewish believers who share God's tender heart towards Israel.

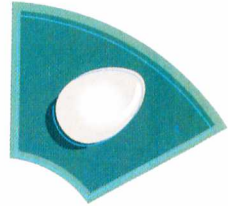
Dr. Gary Ball, pastor of Grace Church in Nashville, TN, has a vision that has truly blessed my family. He says:

Our church has presented the Seder meal for three years. Personally, the meal never becomes mundane but rather continues to thrill my soul in a greater measure each year. Understanding this Old Testament experience awakens our realization that God was pointing to the Messiah centuries before Jesus' birth.

Each element of the Seder is significant. Each tells a story of the history and the journey of the Jewish people. They also clearly inform of a Messiah who was coming and who will not only set a people free but also provide a place of "milk and honey" for all eternity.

If per chance you have not experienced the Seder meal, then it must become a priority on your Christian calendar. I am confident the Lord will bless the heart of each Christian who partakes of this ancient phenomena.

Another dear saint who has been very influential in bringing



IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN?

awareness of Jewish observances and customs to mainstream Christians, is Nancy Campbell, author and founder of *Above Rubies Magazine* www.aboverubies.org. Her special ministry is to encourage wives, mothers and families around the world. She offers this unique perspective.

What I love about Passover is the revelation that it enhances our redemption in such a practical way—to show our salvation. The Seder is such a hands-on meal. Every sense is used in remembering what God did for Israel and for us. The children are partaking of it. God wants us to celebrate His feasts around the table. This is ordained by God to celebrate around the family meal table rather than in a meeting. In this way we will remember more.

Tommy Waller is founder of Ha Yovel (The Jubilee), a ministry that actively loves and serves the people of Israel www.Hayovel.com. He notes:

Intertwined in the Passover is the redemptive story of the Gospel. Amazingly not one jot was overlooked in Jesus' fulfillment of this appointed time. The whole week of this biblical feast, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which includes Passover and First Fruits, revealed to us the reason he had to die, the reason He had to be sinless (unleavened), and why He arose and became the First Fruits from the grave. (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Many of us can relate to the viewpoint of Lori Thomas, a Bible teacher in Hendersonville, TN.

Growing up in a Christian home our family faithfully

watched the annual airing of the Cecil B. DeMille classic, "The Ten Commandments." I recall well the imagery of Joshua spreading the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of the Hebrew homes so that the angel of death would 'pass over' them according to God's command. Little did I know at the time that I was seeing pictured what would become the finished work of Jesus in my life.

Jesus did finish the work on the cross for all those willing to accept it. This Risen Savior is what we celebrate at Easter.

BESIDES THE SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS, IS THERE A CONNECTION BETWEEN PASSOVER AND EASTER?

EASTER WAS INITIALLY CELEBRATED IN CONJUNCTION WITH PASSOVER.

Besides the spiritual implications, is there a connection between Passover and Easter? You may have noticed that occasionally the two holidays coincide, but often they are celebrated weeks apart. Why is that?

Easter initially was celebrated in conjunction with Passover. After all, this was clearly the order in which history transpired—Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate Passover (the Last Supper), followed by His arrest, crucifixion, death and resurrection.

Church officials took it upon themselves to change the original date of Easter, which had been observed for over 200 years after Jesus' death. As my pastor, Robert J. Morgan of The Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, TN, pointed out, the controversy over when to celebrate Easter happened way back in the second century.

The bishops of Rome wanted it to be celebrated on a Sunday and never on the 14th of Nisan (the date of Passover on the Jewish calendar). However, the church in the East believed Easter should be celebrated in conjunction with Passover, as it took place. The Fathers of Nicaea (in present day Turkey) decided to settle this hot-potato issue by making a regulation to never celebrate Easter at the same time as Passover, but always after the first vernal equinox full moon.

This problem has become even more convoluted by differing uses of the Julian and Gregorian calendars, how leap years fall and varying definitions of the vernal equinox and full moon. That is why Easter is a moveable holiday which can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

In Orthodox Christian churches (many of which are located in the Middle East and eastern Europe), Easter is still always celebrated following Passover. In contrast, our Western Church sometimes celebrates Christ's resurrection weeks before Passover.

Knowing the Biblical significance,



**PRACTICALLY,
HOW CAN I
CELEBRATE
PASSOVER?**

**PARTICIPATE IN
A SEDER MEAL.
...HOLD A SEDER
IN YOUR HOME
AND REALLY
PERSONALIZE
THE FEAST.**

relevancy and history of Passover, you may wonder—practically, how can I celebrate Passover? I would highly encourage you to participate in a Seder meal to truly get the flavor of the occasion. Then, perhaps you will wish to hold a Seder in your home and really personalize the feast. Friends will probably be so interested in what you are doing that you will find great blessing in using this memorable holiday as an opportunity for hospitality.

Much of the mystery and intimidation of holding such a meaningful gathering in your home can be eliminated just by having the right tools. Most importantly, you'll need several copies of the

Haggadah, which recounts the Exodus story using prayers, songs and recitations. It also details the symbolism of what is taking place; this takes the form of a meal and service around your dinner table.

An appropriate frame of mind as family or guests gather together is to think of yourself as one of the escaping slaves, therefore not taking freedom for granted.

We remember the bitterness of slavery with bitter herbs and the tears of the Hebrews with salt water. We eat matzo because the Jews did not have time to bake their bread before escaping. A delicious concoction of chopped apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine (grape juice) called haroset reminds us of the bricks and mortar the slaves made in Egypt. At every Seder we hide a piece of matzo called the afikomen; the children will search for this after the meal.

If you would like more details about what to expect at a Seder and what it all means, or if you would like specific instructions on how to conduct a Seder, particularly in a way that ties in the true Lamb of God, there's loads of information available over the Internet. Do an online search of "Messianic Passover Seder" or download an online Haggadah from www.yeshuatIsrael.com as a starting point. Check out resources at your local public library (although these would



probably not be messianic) or perhaps try your local Christian bookstore.

The main thing is not to feel pressured about whether you're doing things the *right* way. God will honor your heart's desire to glorify Him.

Just as an extra point of encouragement—I've been to loads of Seders and they've all been very different. As long as you stick to the general prayers outlined in the Haggadah and do some preplanning with the meal, you will discover your own rhythm and emphasis to personalize this festive occasion as a sweet smelling fragrance to the Lord.

Lucy Wright joyfully serves the Lord from home as helpmeet to Jim. She keeps busy training her five children to go deep with Jesus and catch a vision for their purpose as His frontline warriors. She attends Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN.



SOME PASSOVER TERMS

Seder (SAY-der): the Passover meal.

Haggadah (HAH-gah-dah): a written order of service for the Seder.

Matzah or Matzo (MAHT-zuh): unleavened bread, usually placed in a special bag.

Haroset or Charoset (HAR-o-set): a mixture of apples, nuts, and juice representing the bricks and mortar Israelites used in Egypt.

Maror (MAH-ror): bitter herbs [either horseradish or romaine lettuce] symbolizing the bitterness of slavery in Egypt.

Afikomen: (ah-FIK-o-men): a piece of matzah that is hidden and found by children during the passover feast.

Dayeinu (die-YA-new) word meaning "enough"; repeated responsively during the retelling of the story of the plagues.

ENGLISH ONLY, PLEASE...

DON'T LET THE HEBREW PHRASES of the Haggadah in the 2006 Program and Plan Book keep you from observing a Seder. These were included for leaders who might wish to add authentic flavor to the banquet.

FOR LEADERS WHO PREFER ENGLISH ONLY—simply read the next line (usually labeled as ALL:) allowing the group to repeat the same phrase.

they prepare to work alongside the Baptist Union to impact this region filled with unreached people groups.

Pray for the work of veteran missionary Carlisle Hanna in India. Serving in India for more than 50 years, Brother Hanna bears great responsibility in the work. Pray for the more than 200 Free Will Baptist churches in India and for the Indian pastors, church planters, and national leaders who oversee and guide the work.

Pray for our work in the country of Spain. Ask God to spark a movement of conversions and churches in this land with 7,000 towns and villages without a Bible-believing church. Pray God will strengthen our churches and enable them to win many to the Savior.

Pray for the FWB churches, national leaders, and missionaries in Panama. Ask God to bless the churches with more growth. Pray the nationals will plant more churches around the country.

FRIDAY

Pray for International Missions' mobilization team, led by Doug Little, as they endeavor to recruit and send people around the world to serve. Pray for Judy Lytle and Alicia Bunch as they facilitate nine summer E-TEAMs (involving 90 high school students) and 40 college students involved in missions trips this year. Pray many of these students will sense God's call to career missions.

Pray for FWBIM as we open the new field of Bulgaria. Pray even now the Lord will work in the hearts of Bulgarians, preparing them for this effort. Pray for wisdom for the staff and board as they interview missionary personnel.

Pray for the small group of Christians who will serve as the nucleus of the FWB work in this former communist bloc country.

Pray for the success of the World Missions Offering and the *Change the World* coin banks. Please ask the Lord to move on the hearts of Free Will Baptist people to give generously as never before. Pray the offering will be sufficient to provide the funds needed to support our four target Bible institutes and the operations of the Mission office.

Pray for the FWB missionaries committed to Muslim evangelism. Ask God to grant wisdom as strategies are developed to reach out to this vast group of people. Pray the Lord will open doors to reach Muslim people who are from countries closed to the gospel and missionaries.

Pray for the FWB work and churches of Brazil. Ask God to bless the training programs and Brazilian leaders in our work. Pray the Lord will continue to raise up pastors to lead the churches and that many more churches will be planted in the country.



Every Tribe... Every Nation

PreEaster Week of Prayer for International Missions April 10-14, 2006



FREE WILL BAPTIST
INTERNATIONAL
MISSIONS SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5002 • Antioch, TN 37011-5002

www.fwbgo.com

877-767-7736

MONDAY

Pray for the Cedars of Lebanon Free Will Baptist Seminary in Cuba. Pray for the professors as they prepare students to take leadership roles in our churches. Pray for students who study for the ministry. Ask God to raise up strong and fully prepared leaders. We need pastors, church planters, and visionaries to lead the work into the future.

Pray for our three regional directors: Stanley Bunch (Central and South America); Clint Morgan (Europe and Africa); and Dale Bishop (Asia and Central Asia). Pray for God to grant them wisdom and direction as they develop regional strategies, serve as liaisons between our field personnel and the home office, and labor as church-planting missionaries.

Pray for The Hanna Project Board and Director Mike Cousineau. The Hanna Project partners with the local church to accomplish humanitarian projects in areas where missionaries are not welcome. Thank the Lord for the recent vaccination project in the war-torn northern region of Côte d'Ivoire. Pray for God's direction in selecting new projects.

Pray for the work of FWB missionaries in Japan. Ask God to continue to break through the darkness in this challenging land. Pray for the national pastors and churches to grow and reach many Japanese with the gospel.

Pray for the FWB work in the closed country of Cuba. Ask the Lord to continue to give His power as more and more churches are planted. Pray the Lord will keep our leaders strong and raise up more young leaders (pastors, church-planters, and lay people) to carry-on the work. Pray for wisdom as Christians work within new legislation limiting house churches.

TUESDAY

Pray for the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. The Bible institute is critical to the success of the work. Pray for the eight students who will soon graduate and begin their ministries. Pray for Amiezi Paul, the first African director of the institute.

Pray for the many Easter services and programs to be held on our fields in April. This is an opportunity for many unchurched people to be exposed to our churches and to the gospel. Pray for large attendances. Pray many will come to know Christ as their Savior during this holy time.

Pray for General Director James Forlines as he provides leadership to the overall efforts of FWB International Missions. Please pray for his physical, emotional, and spiritual strength and protection. Pray also for his family as they support him.

Pray for our missionaries and their work in France. Praise the Lord that although there is immense resistance to the gospel in France, Free Will Baptists have planted strong churches. Pray for God to continue to provide effective French leadership in our work.

Pray for the FWB work and churches in Côte d'Ivoire. Ask God to strengthen the national leaders who oversee the work with a greatly reduced missionary team. Pray the Lord will protect and meet the needs of Christians who have suffered as a result of the unrest and violence in the country.

WEDNESDAY

Pray for the Bible institute supported by Free Will Baptists in Krasnodar, Russia. Pray for the first class of 14 pastors and deacons who recently graduated. Pray for the impact and continued growth of this important training school. Pray for our Free Will Baptist pastors and professors who travel to Russia to assist in teaching.

Pray for the new churches on our fields as they reach people in their area. Pray for the new Outreach Center and church in Alpedrete, Spain (missionaries Johnsons and Edgmons). Pray for the Cuban churches aggressively starting house churches throughout their island. Pray for the church-planting movement underway in Campinas, Brazil, where two new churches have been planted recently. Pray for the church-planting movements growing rapidly in India.

Pray for the meeting of the FWB International Missions Board on April 24 – 26. Please ask the Lord to grant board members wisdom as they consider several missionary candidates. Pray they make decisions that advance the work of the Mission in reaching the lost and multiplying churches around the world.

Pray for Uruguay, one of the least evangelized countries in our hemisphere. Ask God to give wisdom to our FWB missionaries. Pray the Lord will give direction, boldness, and success to missionaries and national workers in evangelism and church planting.

THURSDAY

Pray for the ministry of the Volena Wilson Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in South India. Pray for national leader and pastor Stanley RajKumar, as he directs the institute in training pastors and workers. Pray for the four young churches planted by institute graduates. Pray for the three current students.

Pray for the church-planting initiative Central Asia 1000—an effort to plant 1,000 new churches by the year 2010. Already nearly 500 churches have been started. Pray for missionaries Mike and Cathy Corley and Angela Emerick as

SPRINGBOARD

LEADERSHIP

OBSERVE. PreEaster Week of Prayer is April 10-14. Use the guide on pp. 15, 16 for personal use. Order or make multiple copies for your group or your whole church.

GIVE. The Laura Belle Barnard World Missions offering helps underwrite missions office expenses including production of prayer cards, directories, hotline information and website updates that directly impact Women Active for Christ

REGISTER. Make reservations now for the 2006 WNAC National Retreat at Ridgecrest, NC, September 21-23. Registration begins April 1 for the 2006 WNAC Convention, July 17, 18 in Birmingham, AL. Find information for both events on p. 21.

PAY. Individual WNAC membership fees are now \$15 (2005 Convention resolution). This is the national fee. Individual district or state fees may vary. Please contact your treasurer for an exact amount.

PLAN. Observe a passover Seder in your group or with your church. The 2006 Program and Plan Book offers helps and a detailed guide for preparation. Promote the April meeting or this event with the "Lucy and Marge" skit on p. 87.

DOWNLOAD. The March program is available for download (PDF) on the WNAC website. The site is updated monthly. Check regularly for news and resources.

OUR WEBSITE

www.nafwb.org/wnac

Contact us:

wnac@nafwb.org

STUDY

SHARE the reviews on p. 8 as well as the reading lists on pp. 6, 7. Consider a study of one of these titles or purchase selections as resources for families in your church.

ENCOURAGE women to do the Bonus Word study on p. 20.

COMPARE/CONTRAST Communion with the Passover meal.

SERVICE

PLAN an Easter party for outreach in your community. Find ideas on pp. 26-27.

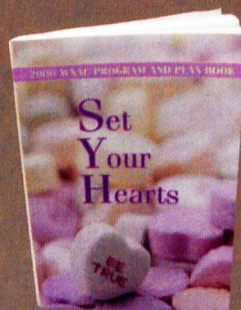
CHOOSE a child care agency (local, regional FWB, or international) to contact concerning needs you could meet. (Central Asian ministries holds a yearly Christmas distribution for impoverished children in church-run orphanages, special needs children and street children. Find more information on the WNAC website.)

WNAC NEEDS

PROVISION CLOSET. Tupperware canister sets and tumblers (all sizes), full sheet sets and vellux or cotton thermal blankets (all sizes).

WNAC OFFICE. Sufficient finances to cover day to day office expenses.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2006



skits
ideas
promotions
projects
information
installation
emphasis
enlistment

the WNAC Program and Plan Book \$8.00 plus shipping

MISSIONS

SHARE the Beanie Baby story on p. 28. Discuss possible missions projects/trips for your group.

HIGHLIGHT the requests mentioned in the prayer section of Focus on p. 25.

GIVE generously to the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering.

NEED a project? Email: Steve Lytle steve@fwbgo (FWBIM) or Richard Atwood richard@nafwb.org (FWBHM). Or phone toll-free 1M: 1-877-767-7736; HM: 1-877-767-7674.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In an effort to keep you better informed, WNAC is now posting upcoming district, state and area-wide events of interest to women. Email event name/date/location/contact person to wnac@nafwb.org

MARCH: (2-3) FWBIM 2006 Prayer Summit, Camp Garner Creek, Dickson, TN
(16-18) California WAC Convention, Holiday Inn Express, Solvang
(16) Georgia WAC State Meeting, Calvary FWB, Columbus
(19) South Carolina WAC State Meeting, First FWB Church, Inman
(31-April 1) Oklahoma State WAC Retreat, Tulsa

APRIL: (7-8) New Mexico District WAC, First United FWB, Hobbs
(29) Virginia State WAC Meeting, Heritage FWB, Fredericksburg
(29) Michigan State WAC Meeting, Rouge FWB, River Rouge

PRAYER

OBSERVE PreEaster Week of Prayer, April 10-14. WNAC and FWBIM provide materials to help organize and promote this annual event. If you have not received your complimentary packet by March 10, call 1-877-767-7662.

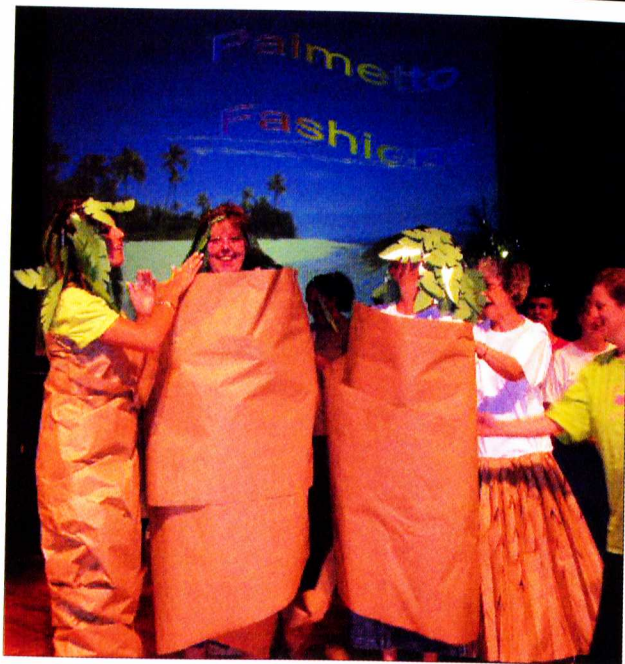
USE silk flower stems as March prayer reminders. Attach a magnet and tag to each one, encouraging women to write the name(s) of children on the tag. Pray for families.

PRAY for Christians ministering in the Middle East and among Jewish peoples worldwide.

CONSIDER starting or joining a Moms in Touch prayer group: www.momsintouch.org.

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: (AT LEFT) Women decorate "trees" during fun time at SC State Retreat. (ABOVE) Betty Smoot, Carla Meek, Katie Jamison, Naomi Jamison, Imogene Watkins, Angela Smoot and Julie Clayton enjoy Blue Bell WAC (OK) Christmas party. (BELOW) [l to r] Debbie Payne, Janice Brown, Linda McCreless, Geneva Walker, Kathy Bevis, Betty Poff, Fredia Poff, Ruthene Pearce and Bobbie Banks promote WNAC at Corner Stone (TN).

☀ South Carolina Women Active for Christ broke all giving records this year as women collected over \$32,000 for the "Build a Church in India" project. Over \$15,000 of that amount came from one group—Temple FWB WAC in Darlington.

State president Faye Hanna shares, "The late Gwen Hendrix began the challenge years ago of an annual state mission project,

and our SC ladies have rallied over the years."

Women presented these offerings at the WAC State Retreat, September 23, 24, 2005, at White Oak Conference Center near Winnsboro.

☀ Corner Stone WAC, Murfreesboro, TN prepared breakfast for their church as part of WNAC Emphasis. After the enjoyable meal, Geneva Walker, TN state

treasurer and local member, shared with the group the purpose of WAC and ways it benefits the church and regions beyond. Attendees also gave an emphasis offering to support the ministries of WNAC.

☀ Fellowship and laughter characterized the WAC Christmas party at Blue Bell FWB Church, Sapulpa, OK. Twelve women attended the event.



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

LABORS OF LOVE

SEND NEWS AND PHOTOS:

EMAIL: sarah@nafwb.org

MAIL: P. O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

FEEDBACK...FEEDBACK...FEEDBACK

Dear WNAC,

Cristina and I want to say *merci* for what you have done for us in 2005. You have been such a blessing to us this year. Thank you for your prayers and financial giving. We pray that 2006 will be a blessed year for WNAC.

Matt and Cristina Price
France

Dear WNAC,

My husband and I would like to thank you for sharing the items in the Provision Closet with us. It was such a thankful, yet humbling experience to know that so much love and care went into supplying those items for missionary families. Please know we are so very appreciative.

Robert and Holly Ketchum
Seattle, WA

Dear WNAC,

Please extend my subscription for another year. The articles are wonderfully uplifting, especially at this time of the year. Thank you for all of them.

Freedra Lucas
Cromona, KY

Dear WNAC,

Sure do enjoy the *CoLaborer*. Besides my subscription, please add four others. I like to give subscriptions to *CoLaborer* as gifts. It's easy and [women] enjoy them so much. One for the whole year for just \$12.

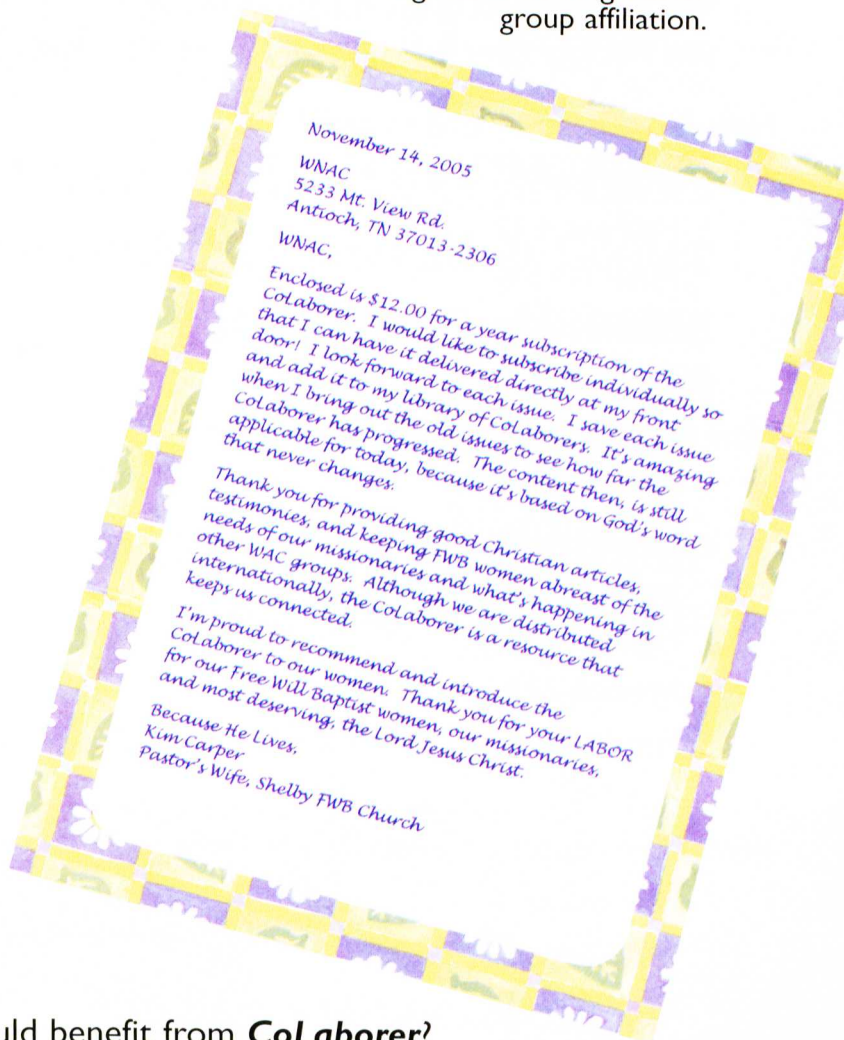
Paulette Scott
Red Bay, AL

Dear WNAC,

A friend of mine moved to TN and won't be attending a FWB church. I would like for you to send her a subscription to *CoLaborer* this year. She will enjoy receiving this....I praise the Lord for this ministry.

Joyce Taylor
Brunswick, GA

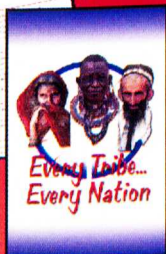
CoLaborer encourages single subscriptions for any woman who prefers home delivery or for those who may not be part of a WAC group. **CoLaborer** welcomes all subscribers, regardless of religious or group affiliation.



Is there someone you know who could benefit from **CoLaborer**?
Call **1-877-767-7662** today or subscribe online at **www.nafwb.org/wnac**.

Have a **DYNAMIC** International Missions Emphasis Month!

Bulletin inserts
(\$6/50 sets of 4)



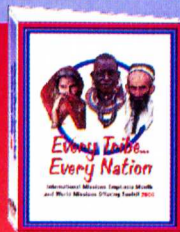
Bulletin shells
(\$4/pkg 50)



Coin
bank (free)



Offering envelope
(\$3/pkg 50)



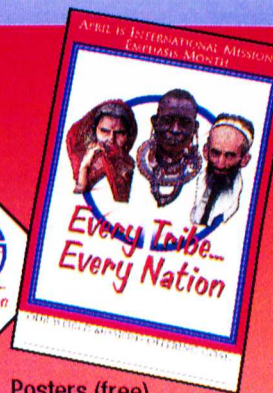
Binder (free)



Placemats
(\$5.50/pkg 50)



Napkins
(\$5/pkg 50)

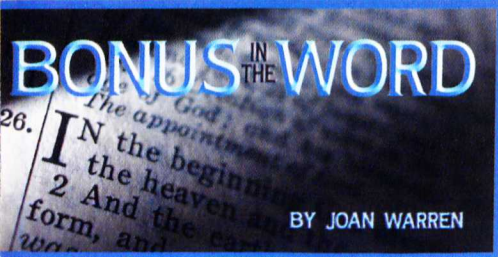


Posters (free)



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How do we describe God's words?

Proverbs 30:5

Hebrews 4: 12

Psalms 119:105

Psalms 119:160

John 17:17

How should we respond to God's words?

Psalms 119:11

John 8:31b, 32

Jeremiah 42:6

Matthew 5:19

Jeremiah 23:9

Proverbs 4:4b

John 14:23

What if we neglect or reject God's words?

Hebrews 6:4-6

John 12:48

Jeremiah 6:19

Luke 9:26

2 Thessalonians 1:8

Romans 2:8, 9

What promises are given to those who keep God's words?

Psalms 119:2

Psalms 119:130

John 8:51

John 5:24

Exodus 20:6

John 15:7

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

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DEBE'S DELIGHTS

Debe Taylor
WNAC President

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

Oh, Be Careful, Little Mouth

During her six-day stay at Christmas, our granddaughter Emilie sang, "Oh, be careful, little mouth what you say," over and over and over again. It appeared to be her favorite phrase of the beloved children's song. At suppertime one evening, the music box on the bouncy seat kept playing the same song. No baby was even sitting in the seat at the time. Finally I could not take it any longer and I said, "Someone shut that thing up." Immediately I was scolded by little lips. "Nonna, you not suppose to say that word." Oh, be careful, little mouth what you say!

The Psalmist David said, *"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 19:14). There are some things I could say that would be acceptable by the world's standards, but not by God's. There are even words I could say that would be acceptable by some church members' standards, but not by God's.

I want my words to be acceptable to the Lord, but I also want them to be acceptable to my grandchildren. Their little minds are registering everything

they hear. Do I want to be responsible for them remembering something that should not have been said?

More than once my mouth has gotten me into trouble. I think I can safely say that I'm not the only one with a *tongue* problem. Don't look so shocked! James warned us that we would have trouble in this area. *"Even so the tongue is a little member, but boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth."* *"The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity..."* *"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."* (James 3)

The children's chorus should serve as a constant reminder that God is listening to every word—"there's a Father up above and He's looking down in love." Not only does He hear every word, but He also knows the source of every word. *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"* (Matthew 12:34b)—more reason for me to pray that the *"meditation of my heart"* be acceptable in His sight.

I am striving to make Psalm 141:3 my daily prayer. *"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."* Oh, be careful little mouth what you say!

WHEN GOD HOLDS A BROKEN HEART



Diane Thomas Bridgman

Reader, it was a glorious October Sunday and I did not know that death was so very close. We had returned home from church and I was in the kitchen preparing a quick lunch. I stood in my pretty little brick house and listened to the talk of my youngest son and his father as they watched the football game. My oldest son, a minister, and my daughter-in-law served in a church where they lived. My two sons were serving the Lord and my marriage was a rare kind of wonderful. On that day I had all I had ever wanted.

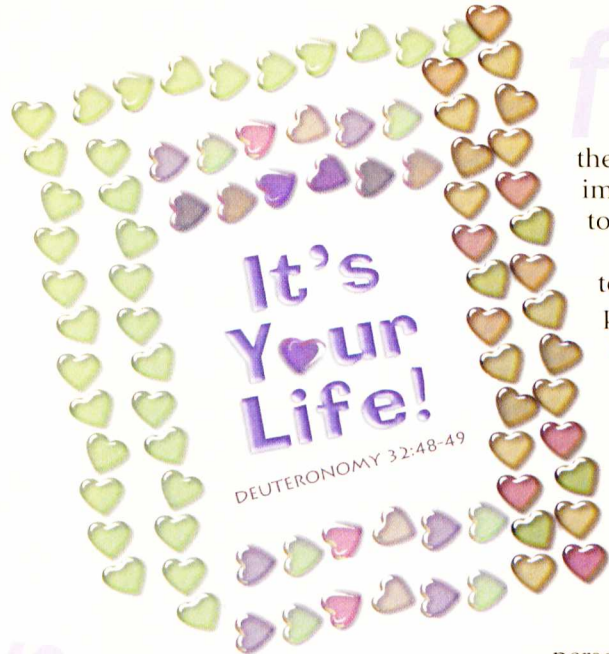
As I put the chicken into the pan, I heard the noise, not realizing it was the sound of death. I froze for a moment, as I heard Brian cry out, "Daddy? Daddy!"

We passed in the doorway as he ran to call for help and I ran to the chair where my forty-nine-year-old husband sat. I saw that it was not good. I reached for his face, looked toward Heaven and said, "God, don't do this."

But God did. Ray's head fell back into my hands and his eyes closed in a very quick death. My beloved husband of twenty-eight years was gone. In that moment, I could not recognize my life.

Reader, I felt something else, too. I felt an arm. It kept me from falling. It kept me standing to make funeral arrangements. It caught all the tears I cried. It was the arm of my new husband. It was God. I fastened my gaze and set my heart on Him.

Diane is a writer and speaker to Christian women who earns her keep as an administrator at Evergreen Memorial. She loves her WAC through the Grifton FWB Church in North Carolina. She is now "happily ever after" married to Richard.



food addictions

control image purging bingeing

anorexia bulimia diets

ITTING IN. BEING FIT. STAYING THIN. TRYING TO BE PERFECT. Have you ever thought about these things? Do you spend much of your time thinking about your appetite or appearance? Have you spent hours a day obsessing over your meals to make sure you have minimal calories to achieve less body fat? Or do you eat all you want and then purge it later when no one is looking? If any of this is familiar and these thoughts consume your life, let me assure you that you are not alone.

You may be thinking that can't be me; I just do these things on occasion. Few people intend to become ill or become addicted to substances or hurtful lifestyles. Unfortunately, by simply trying to fill a void or create an identity among their peers many begin the perilous journey.

For some, what starts out as a plan to just lose a few pounds in an unhealthy way (skipping meals, working out for hours each day, or forced vomiting) becomes a competitive game that consumes all their time and thoughts. For others, life is going haywire and everything seems out of control. So they decide to control what they can—something that no one can take away from them—how much they eat.

The images of perfection flash all around us in today's culture. In the grocery store, we are bombarded in

the checkout line with magazine images and captions telling how to achieve a waif-like figure.

Pictures abound of what seem to be flawless figures in perfect proportion without blemish or a trace of body fat. The problem with these pictures is that they are not real—they are airbrushed, retouched, lighted, and colored to precision. Sadly, this fact is not widely published. If it were, we would see that these images are a graphic designer's rendition of a person, not her actual picture.

Comparison is something we all struggle with from time to time. The truth is there will always be someone who is bigger, smaller, shorter, or taller than each of us. Comparisons only leave us feeling inadequate and envious. This takes away from the contentment the Lord can give. If we put Him first in our lives through prayer and time in the Bible, we can learn to be content with who we are and who we were meant to be.

By God's amazing design we are each created in His image. God's Word reminds us that we are "*fearfully and wonderfully made*" (Psalm 139:4b). We each have unique and beautiful characteristics that make us who we are. Because our bodies are temples, we need to do our best to live a healthy life one day at a time. We *can* live the abundant life God has for each of us, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

An additional source of concern is the current trend of the Pro-Anorexia (Pro-Ana) and Pro-Bulimia (Pro-Mia) movements. The philosophy behind these groups is that anorexia and bulimia can be lifestyle choices. In other words, they are attempting to rationalize starving yourself as a way of life. The saddest part about this trend is that many fall victim to the theory and slowly starve themselves to death.

By God's design we are in need of fuel energy in the form of food

so we can function and our body's systems can work properly. To deprive yourself of these basic nutrients means that your body begins to fail, slowly at first, then more rapidly as the disease progresses. Make no mistake; an eating disorder is a disease that can bring on problems with your digestive system, metabolism, skin, teeth, reproductive system, and even your cardiovascular system. Anorexia and bulimia are diseases that can and will kill.

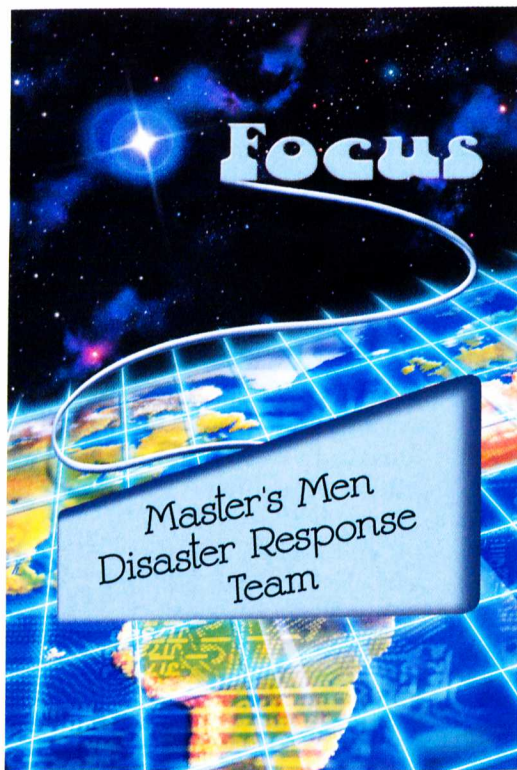
What does God's Word say about hope for those who suffer? "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light*" (Matthew 11 :28-30).

You do not need to suffer anymore. Today can be your first day down a road of true peace and healing. The first step is to recognize the need for help. Remember that God created you. He loves you, sees you, and is able to heal and restore you fully.

It is scary to admit we have problems, but our heavenly Father assures us that we are able to be free of fear. Learn to cast your cares upon the God who cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). Your family and friends care deeply about you. Reach out and tell someone so they can pray with you and help you. Remember that these diseases are based on lies, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32).

Don't worry. Once you have made the first step toward living in freedom, rest assured, the Lord has plans for your life. "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil...*" (Jeremiah 29:11a). Remember to take one day at a time, reaching out for help along the way.

Adapted from "Fighting for Your Life: Overcoming Disordered Eating" by Amy Soderberg in Clear Horizon, Sep/Oct/Nov 2005. Copyright by Randall House Publications. Used by permission.



Pray:

- for greater vision among men and women concerning this ministry and its potential for growth and evangelism.
- for adequate funding to purchase needed equipment, tools and supplies.
- for increased giving and support for the Master's Men department, enabling this ministry to continue.
- for those still in recovery from recent disasters.
- for Ken Akers and Master's Men board members as they oversee and seek to expand the ministry.
- for safety of travel and a spirit of unity among those who volunteer.



HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF? For many this past year, relief included the letters MMDRT. In the aftermath of Katrina, the Master's Men Disaster Response Team coordinated efforts along the Gulf Coast, involving over 60 volunteers from FWB churches in eight states. The groups worked repairing and reroofing the Gulf Coast FWB Church, Gulfport, MS, sawing trees, distributing water and food in the neighborhood and sorting clothes donations. This was a first major effort for the newly-organized ministry.

The idea for such a team came three years ago when a North Carolina pastor contacted Master's Men director, Ken Akers for assistance. Post-hurricane rains had caused flooding and damage to his church's facility. He needed help. Though several local Master's Men chapters responded, Brother Akers sensed the need for concerted, coordinated preparation for similar disasters in the future.

When he presented this need to board members, they agreed to get something up and running—literally. In December 2004, the department purchased a truck. Master's Men from Red Bay, AL, donated a trailer in January 2005. Support and supplies continued to trickle in throughout the spring and summer as the program gained momentum and recognition. Thankfully, things were in place when Hurricane Katrina jolted the team into action.

Unlike the Salvation Army or Red Cross, currently the MMDRT is not a first responder or a primary provider of humanitarian aid. They see their mission as Disaster Recovery, rebuilding and repair. Their purpose statement identifies them as a "volunteer group of men and women organized to help local Free Will Baptist churches minister to their physical properties, their members and their communities, following the effects of a catastrophic natural disaster."

Funding for the ministry comes through gifts and offerings. The team is now garnering support for future efforts. Response has been tremendous, yet the goal is expansion. Brother Akers dreams of the day when Master's Men can place several disaster relief units in strategic places throughout the country. This would ensure prompt response and relief, no matter the type of disaster. Area coordinators/facilitators with EMT and FEMA training would enable the MMDRT to eventually work with first responders.

MMDRT's efforts continue to spur others into action. Master's Men in Illinois have organized a statewide relief team which has already responded and provided assistance after tornadoes ripped through a neighboring state. Oklahoma FWB's are also developing state Emergency Response efforts.

Master's Men Disaster Response Team is committed to respond whenever there is a need. However, they operate within certain parameters. Any mo-



Other Prayer Concerns

—Pray for special Easter services and activities planned in mission churches worldwide.

—Pray for both Dr. Elmer Towns (speaker) and attendees of IM's annual prayer summit March 2-4, to know God's presence and leave better equipped to pray strategically for the spread of the gospel.

—Pray that God's people will give generously to the World Missions Offering, supporting IM's general fund and Bible Institutes in Russia, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire and India.

—Pray for restored health of missionaries Keith Bartlett (CA), Jerry Rayburn (AZ) and Tim Byers (OH).

—Pray for missionary Paul McKissack, (VA) as he conducts a spring Sunday school campaign.

—Pray for availability of land for home missions congregations seeking permanent locations.

—Pray for effectiveness of new outreach programs in home missions churches.

bilization effort must meet these six criteria:

1. Efforts must be based from a Free Will Baptist property (church, college, etc.).
2. Requests for help must come from a pastor of a local church or a state or national leader.
3. Efforts must be necessitated by a natural disaster—hurricane, flood, tornado, earthquake, but not limited to these.
4. Financial assistance will be given for repairs on Free Will Baptist properties on a per case basis as funds are available.
5. Efforts will be for repairs and reconstruction only, not for new or full building projects.
6. Those requesting help must be Free Will Baptist, but state or national association affiliation is not a requirement.

The program involves more than just "taking care of FWB family." The church base establishes a primary point from which other community outreach and servant evangelism can stem.

HOW CAN WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST BE INVOLVED?

JOIN A TEAM. Master's Men welcomes team participation from both men and women. Women proved vital in MMDRT's Gulfport efforts, coordinating meals, sorting clothes, and assisting in neighborhood outreach. Though living conditions after a disaster may not be ideal, rewards far outweigh the challenges. Counselors, medical professionals, organizers, cooks and anyone with a heart to serve can make a huge contribution in a disaster situation.

GATHER SUPPLIES. The ministry has ongoing needs for non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies as well as finances for gas and vehicle upkeep. Persons should contact Master's Men for a list of specific items.

PRAY. Brother Akers noted that the team's foremost prayer request would be that they never be called into action. Yet, recognizing Scripture's warnings about the last days, disasters may be ever-increasing. Pray that as these come, Christians will respond, sharing their gifts and the good news with those in need.

SHARING EASTER JOYS

SUGGESTIONS FOR THREE EASTER OUTREACH PARTIES

WHAT BETTER WAY for sharing Easter joys than with a party. Try these outreach suggestions in your neighborhood this Easter season.

HIDDEN TREASURES



A PARTY FOR CHILDREN

THEME: Center a children's Easter party around a Hidden Treasures theme. Throughout the party, they will look for hidden treasures.

INVITATIONS: Make treasure map invitations. Letter half sheets of pastel paper, *Come Find Hidden Treasures*. List time, place, and date on the back. Encourage children to dress as pirates or miners. Roll up papers. Secure with tape and a gold candy coin.

DECORATIONS: Write in large letters, "HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN" on paper and place in a large chest, footlocker or old suitcase. Close and set in a prominent place. Decorate tables with shovels, buckets, coins and jewels. For placemats, use road or street maps cut to uniform size. Favors could be Treasures candies in a small box or coin banks for keeping treasures.

GAMES: Make an Easter hidden word search. Play hide and seek. Hunt hidden Easter eggs. Play

"Name the Treasure." Place various objects in paper bags, one per bag. Let children feel in the bag without looking and name the hidden treasure. Give hidden treasures as game prizes. Place candy coins, jewelry (for girls) or other treats inside plastic eggs.

Make ahead, treasure rocks with Easter items (cross, stone, nail, spices, etc.) hidden within. Let children break open rocks to find treasure and transition into a devotion.

Treasure Rocks

1 1/2 cups flour 1/4 cup sand
1 cup used coffee grounds 1/2 cup salt
1 cup water Glitter (optional)
Food color paste, if desired

Mix all ingredients together, and stir until it reaches bread dough consistency. Drop by large spoonfuls onto a wax paper lined cookie sheet. Make a hole in each center and put in a treasure. Fill in hole and cover treasure with more dough. Air dry 2 to 3 days or 20 minutes in 150 degree oven until rock hard. Makes about 8 rocks.

REFRESHMENTS: Serve Treasure Cupcakes, made from a mix or favorite recipe. Bake and cool. Insert a foil-covered chocolate coin in the center, pushing down until the coin cannot be seen. Ice with frosting. Make or purchase pizza rolls or pocket sandwiches. Serve Liquid Gold (cheese sauce in small individual cups) with veggies or chips for dipping.

DEVOTION: Use Treasure Rock items or hide the Easter objects in the room and let children hunt and find. From God's Word, share the Easter story, allowing children to show their treasure as it is mentioned. Emphasize that God's most precious treasure, His Son, was buried, placed in a rock tomb, sealed like a treasure chest. As you tell of the women coming to the tomb,

open the chest you prepared. Let children read the message. Explain that this is wonderful news. Unlike treasures that are wasted and spent, God's Treasure, Jesus, is alive in Heaven. Heaven is a place filled with treasures like gold and precious jewels. By believing He died and rose again we can one day go to be with Him and enjoy all the treasures of Heaven. Yet, He's still hidden treasure to many people. Invite interested children to talk with you after the party about finding God's treasure.

ALL THINGS NEW



A PARTY FOR WOMEN

THEME: Celebrate springtime when all things are new. Party focuses on new things. This is especially effective for individuals who are new to a neighborhood, or have a new baby, new job, or new home.

INVITATIONS: Make or purchase elegant floral invitations. Give party theme, date, time and place of event. Instruct attendees to bring or wear at least one new item.

DECORATIONS: Make the setting as elegant as possible, using spring flowers or buds for a centerpiece. Choose new colors for party motif.

GAMES: As an ice breaker, have women discover new things about each other. Share at least one new thing with the group. Make as many new words as possible from the phrase Easter Greetings or play Boulderdash or another game using new words. Give a prize for the most unusual new item worn or brought to the party.

REFRESHMENTS: Serve items prepared from new recipes. (If desired, have each woman bring a covered dish with copies of the recipe.) Or serve *new* things: i.e. spring mix salad, New England clam chowder, new potatoes, baby carrots, beef or chicken and noodles, and New York cheesecake.

DEVOTION: Arrange for someone at the party to give her salvation testimony, sharing how Christ has made all things new in her life. This would also be a perfect time to launch a new outreach such as a neighborhood women's Bible study or to advertise any new program at your church.

EGG-CELLENT



A PARTY FOR FAMILIES

THEME: Promote event as an Egg-cellent Party. Center party around an egg theme.

INVITATIONS: Make or purchase colorful invitations (egg-shaped or egg related). Mail or hand-deliver these at least two-three weeks in advance of your event. Emphasize that this is a party for the whole family.

DECORATIONS: Decorate with Easter items. Create a centerpiece

from dyed Easter eggs, Easter grass, and a glass pedestal plate. Choose two or three colors for egg-dyeing, leaving eggs in dye until they reach a rich, vibrant shade. Place Easter grass on plate. Pile or stack eggs in pyramid fashion on the grass. Compliment with matching color candles.

GAMES: Each family working as a team, play Egg-cellent Games: Egg-Toss, Egg Pass (using no hands), Eggs in a Basket Relay and Egg Eating (crack, peel, eat, swallow the fastest). Children can participate in an egg hunt. For dads and teen boys, sponsor Egg-cellent Putting. Use an office golf set; substitute an Easter egg for the ball. Or tee up outside with regulation clubs. As a craft, create Egg Families. Provide plastic eggs, fabric scraps, trim, moveable eyes, colored Sharpies, and glue (craft or hot glue gun). Have families recreate their family. Give a prize for the best family resemblance. Provide empty egg cartons for Egg Family take-home.

REFRESHMENTS: Serve egg items: egg-salad sandwiches, egg-drop or a favorite soup in egg-shaped bread bowls, Jello Jiggler eggs, chocolate covered peanut butter eggs, egg custard, etc. Or serve family favorites on egg-shaped platters.

DEVOTION: Have someone recount the Egg-cellent story of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Or have a family reenact the Easter morning account of the women at the tomb.

PARTY PRINCIPLES

Whatever your party theme, following these principles will help you share more effectively.

PRAY: Begin praying as soon as you begin party planning. Ask others in your church or women's group to partner with you in prayer for this event. Cover every aspect of the event in prayer—even the glitches.

Rest assured, they will happen. Pray regularly for individuals you will invite. Pray that God will give you wisdom as you reach out to these individuals or families.

ENLIST: Enlisting others' help will make for less work and more enjoyment. If you host the party in your home, have someone else give the devotion or prepare the refreshments. Although you could do it alone, shared efforts make for multiplied blessings.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Check out these websites for help with any party planning. Though the sites are not exclusively Christian, they contain a wealth of good ideas.

www.allrecipes.com
www.cooks.com
www.theideabox.com
www.familyfun.go.com
www.christianwomentoday.com
www.momsbreak.com

INVITE: Over-invite, especially if this is your first neighborhood outreach. This time of year is often busy for families, juggling school activities and children's summer sports practice schedules. For the children's party, line up a few extra children—even if you have to borrow them—who can serve as greeters and mixers. Most kids like a crowd. Though not necessary, RSVP's may be helpful for a women's or family event.

FOCUS: As you plan, prepare, and party, remember your focus—sharing the message of Easter and the joy you have found in Christ. Keeping this forefront will guide and give you perspective. It will also help you identify the spiritual climate of your neighborhood, so you can better pray for those around you.

FOLLOW UP: Though the party may be a one-time event, let contacts with neighbors and other party attendees be ongoing. Continue to build relationships through servant opportunities, casual conversation and other avenues the Lord orchestrates for building His Kingdom.

Babies, Buddies & Blessings



A unique gift collection leads a Georgia Women Active for Christ group on a true adventure in giving.

Baby No More

She'd collected them all her life. They had done this together, her mother Diane and she. Gazing upon the sea of Beanie Babies and Buddies before her, Kristen Hayes, now college bound, decided it was time to give them up. Though they could bring a pretty price, she would not sell them. She would give them away—to the less fortunate, to children who would appreciate them. She would give them through her church.

Babies Galore

That's how Beanies became projects for Women Active for Christ at First FWB Church, Albany, GA. Some of the Babies soon found their way into the arms of local underprivileged children through a sister church's annual Christmas drive. The group then sent bundles of Beanies to residents of FWB Children's Homes in Eldridge, AL, Greeneville, TN, and Turbeville, SC.



Shirley Combs and Marie Glover squeeze and sort the Beanies.

Buddies Abroad

Cuban Pastor Onelio took as many of the tiny traveling companions as he could carry back with him after his visit to the States this past summer. Fellow Georgians Chuck and Fleda Snow brought more Babies to Cuba when they later traveled to the island.

Marie Glover, then WAC President, recalls, "At times I thought the Beanie Babies were multiplying in



Bobbie Lee and Marie Glover embrace children at the Lar Nova Vida home in Araras, Brazil.

my bedroom. The Lord seemed to be multiplying our efforts." This should have been no surprise, she contends. "We can never outgive the Lord, and this was a true adventure in giving."

The highlight of this giving adventure came when Marie and fellow WAC member, Bobbie Lee decided to hand-deliver a bundle of Babies to yet another FWB children's home, *Lar Nova Vida*, in Araras, Brazil. The pair contacted retired missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs who operate this home for Brazilian street children.

Loaded with good will gifts and over 200 Beanies, the two flew from Atlanta to Brazil in mid-September. Beanie Babies weren't the only special deliveries. A man from their

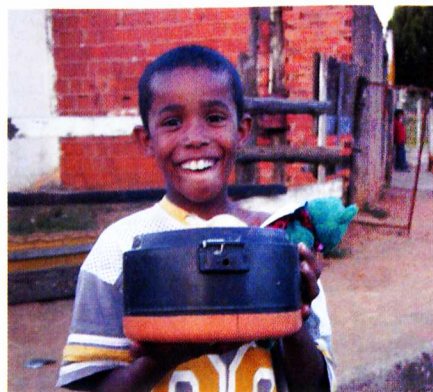
Two teens enjoy their furry friends.



church sent along a sizeable donation to purchase new playground equipment for the home.

Blessings Abound

During their stay in Araras, the women painted, helped in the home, and worked the soup line in the *favela* (slum area). Faces of children there lit up like the September sun high above as the pair distributed American flags and their stash of stuffed animals.



One boy in the soup line delights in his new toy.

"From tiny to ninety—all ages enjoyed them," says Marie. "I will never forget that experience."

In bedrooms, bunks, and barrios, nearly all the Beanies have found new homes. Two bins now sit in the WNAC Provision Closet, awaiting MK's or another special delivery to children somewhere in the world.

Lar Nova Vida children pose for the camera.



WORKPLACE WISDOM

by Shelly Miller



Take Advantage of Your Advantage

For the last several months, I've been blessed to work with approximately 20 fifth-graders in breakout sessions on prayer. The goal has been to bring an awareness of the advantage we have through prayer when faced with situations that seem impossible or unbearable, while also learning to intercede on behalf of our friends, family, church and missionaries. I desire for them to know at a tender age what has taken me, and I dare say, many of us, a lifetime to put into practice.

I've emphasized Scripture's promise that the power of heaven is unleashed for us when we pray. Have you ever seen a dog on a leash just fighting to move forward, pulling his owner ahead, ever so curious about the unknown? If unleashed, he is off to the races in full force. God, in a similar way, anxiously waits to unleash His power so that we may realize the fullness of His hidden treasures.

When we put prayer into practice regarding our workplace, there's no doubt—God will do amazing things. Many of us go to great lengths getting ourselves ready for the work day, but somehow race off without tapping into the very source that gives us the power to be overcomers in this world.

Satan is lurking to set his strongholds in the places we spend most of our time, the places, ironically, where we can have the greatest impact for Christ. For our children that place is school; for us, it's our jobs. The difficult coworker that just rubs us the wrong way, the griping employee for which we have no tolerance, subtle personal issues such as complacency or discontentment—the enemy desires to use these. Yet, God calls us to do everything as if we are doing it unto Him.

As I've told these precious fifth graders, praying should be as easy as brushing your teeth (hoping, of course, they all have good brushing habits). We, too, should take advantage of the powerful advantage God has given us through prayer, daily arming ourselves as a soldier off to battle. This may take a reminder—like brushing our teeth or simply asking the Lord to help our knees hit the floor before our feet hit the floor each morning at the sound of the alarm.

Shelly Miller, who works in international banking, resides with her family in Donelson, TN. Active in the FWB church there, Shelly enjoys Bible studies, coffee, tea and winter fires.

How do you smell?

Coming down the stairs of my new house, I smelled a familiar scent. It reminded me of my grandmother's house. Immediately, I was whisked back to the times I had spent there, when the aroma of her freshly baked cinnamon raisin bread rose up as I stumbled down the stairs in the mornings. The warm, cozy feelings I derived from this reminiscent smell made my new house feel more like my *home*.

Smells. We've made a billion dollar market out of them. We make the air pleasant with incense, candles, air fresheners, oils, and potpourri. We use lotions, soaps, oils, colognes, and perfumes on our bodies. We buy good-smelling shampoo and toilet cleaner—even an air freshener so our car doesn't lose that *new car* smell. Restaurants lure us inside with the aroma of entrees. We use aromatherapy to alleviate stress. Farmers even say they can smell the rain coming in the summer, or snow in the winter.

Smell is such a strong sense. It can even turn a person away with disgust. Who can forget the smell of bad milk, rotten eggs, or body odor? There is never any doubt when a skunk has been around the house or the trash needs to be taken out.

Did you know God can smell, also? Second Corinthians 2:15 says that, to God, believers are a sweet savour—the very fragrance of Christ. Yes, God cares how we smell.

Jesus' blood washes us of our nasty, disgusting odors. That holy blood is our fragrance, and it never goes away. It is not like a perfume or cologne that will fade in a few hours and need to be reapplied, or a candle that burns out, or oil that dries up.

His blood is an inside-out cleansing we need in order to stand before God as acceptable and holy. He will smell the sweet aroma of His Son in us.

Next time you put on perfume or light a candle, think about your smell. Remember you wear the aroma of Christ?

Holly Helber, a fourth grade teacher from Beaver, OH, is local WAC secretary and Pioneer Club teacher at the Dailyville (OH) FWB Church. Her devotional above won first place in WNAC's 2005 Creative Arts Contest.



DID YOU KNOW:

—Each person has his or her own odor, no two people smell the same?

—A woman's sense of smell is keener than a man's?

—A person's sense of smell is about 80% responsible for what he or she tastes?

—Smell is strongly linked with emotional memories; smells can be recalled with 65% accuracy after a year, while visual recall of photos is only 50% accurate after three months?

—The average human can recognize about 10,000 different odors?

Swimming upstream Salmon-like

**Fighting against the shallow depths
Waters of complacency swirling swiftly and dangerously
Beneath my tired and battered body
Lulling me into stuporous animation
Leaving me suspended and floating
Unaware of the undertow reversing my progress**

Hidden currents Demon-like

**Reaching icy fingers around my heart
Roaring whispers flow dagger-sharp and deadly
Against my frail and jagged scars
Beating me upon merciless rocks of deception
Leaving me breathless and bleeding
Unwilling to continue fighting onward**

Flowing Channel Harbor-like

**Reviving my courage and sending me forth
Pushing and driving my instinct to survive
Against the rush of constant opposing energy
Banishing all swelling doubt, all waves of uncertainty
Longing to finish my tributary journey
Unencumbered, faith flows freely and buoys my soul**

—Vicki Turner

TRIBUTARY

A LITTLE LEAVEN

IN THE WORKS



**Marjorie H.
Workman**

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

I stood there, holding the small ball of bread dough in my hand. Should I put the leftover dough in its own container and refrigerate, or could I add it to an older batch left from a few days before?

What was the dilemma? The dough in my hand was perfect, soft and pliable, as it should be; the older dough was stiff, difficult to knead and flat. I didn't want to ruin my good dough by putting it in with the old. But my refrigerator was full. I had to take a chance.

Imagine my surprise the day I took the dough out to make rolls. The entire bowl of dough had become soft and pliable. What had I been thinking? I should have known the outcome. It's stated in the Bible. Did not Paul tell the Corinthians a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:8)? Leaven is yeast. It takes only a little to permeate the whole. Why had I not remembered that nugget of truth?

Now, I know that Paul was addressing pride rather than cooking in that passage. But when the Bible speaks on any subject, you can count on it being true. However, it is easier to be a hearer only and not apply truth to our daily life.

But we are missing the blessing and not growing unless we internalize truth in our own life. We must be doers and not just hearers of truth. This is not always easy. A good example, one that I'm working on, is the truth about generosity. I want to give according to God's plan and not mine. What is His plan?

We are to give even if we are the only ones giving (Philippians 4:15). When we give, we can count on God to supply our needs (Philippians 4:15-19). Our gift will return in full measure, "pressed down, and shaken together and running over," Jesus said in Luke 6:38. The investment determines the return. So, give generously. Jesus also said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). We are to give, even if the receiver has no need, because God wants the giver to abound (Philippians 4:17). We are to give cheerfully, purposely and not grudgingly (2

Corinthians 9:7). Our attitude is important to God and does not go unnoticed (2 Corinthians 9:10).

Giving must be a priority. The writer of Hebrews reminds us not to forget to do good and to share with others (Hebrews 13:16). Don't make excuses. Thinking we don't have an abundance of goods and funds to share is a cop-out. To anyone but Americans, we are very rich. We have cars. Cell phones. Internet. Cable television. Microwaves. Washers and dryers. Freezers and refrigerators full of food. Closets full of clothes. Whether rich or not, we are to share with the needy. Paul commended the Macedonian churches for their abundant giving even though they gave out of deep poverty (2 Corinthians 8). When our hearts rather than our possessions determine our generosity, then, God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16). I want to be a doer and not just a hearer with my giving.

The upcoming PreEaster Week of Prayer and Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering provides me, as well as all Women Active for Christ, a wonderful opportunity to put into practice these truths about generosity. International Missions needs financial assistance for church planting efforts around the world.

At the conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:24-27).

We must be doers of the Word. Even truth tucked inside a bigger truth, like the leaven, merits application. Otherwise, we are just building houses on sand.



**Every Tribe...
Every Nation**
PSALM 86:9

Gifts to the 2006 WMO will support four Bible institutes as well as the International Missions office.

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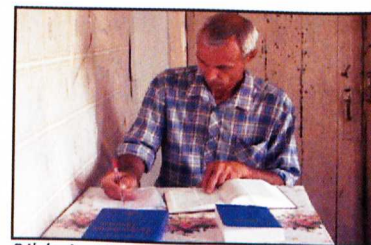
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