



COLLABORER

May • June 2006

SET YOUR
TABLE
FOR TEA
SET YOUR
HOUSE
IN ORDER

SPILLING INTO
THE SAUCER

THE GOD
WHO SEES

TAKE A TIP

SOAKIN' UP THE
SON

Women Nationally Active for Christ

A CUP OF TEA



Sarah Fletcher

I heard the water running in the bathroom. For any preschool teacher or mother of small children, this automatically signals a problem. And I was both. "What are they into now?" I inwardly scowled. It had not been the best of days at school or at home. In the midst of my hurried evening meal preparations, I rushed to assess and to stress the situation.

There she stood. One tiptoed foot on the step-stool, the other in the air, my three-year-old daughter leaned over the sink, pouring her heart and a stream of water into a folded piece of paper.

"What are you doing?" I asked. Tears forming in her little eyes, she replied, "I'm making you a cup of tea. It was supposed to be a surprise."

I smiled; I cried. I turned off the water and hugged my precious daughter. Examining the waterlogged, teacup-shaped paper cutout with wet teabag inside, I read these words:

To Mommy,
A cup of tea to thank you
For all the things you've done
And wishes that the day will bring
You happiness and fun!
Happy Mother's Day
Love, Hannah

What a wonderful gift. A cup of tea can change the day and lend resolve to almost any situation. For many it's the Scriptural cup of water in Jesus name. Whether elegant china or watersoaked paper, a cup of tea signifies a calm, time to sip and think moment of refreshment.

Teas are for slowing down. Jesus told his disciples, "Come ye apart and rest awhile." Stop. Have a cup of tea. Teas are for cultivating friendships. The full scale party or the simple come-over-for-tea-and-whatever's-in-the-pantry—both can build and strengthen vital woman-to-woman relationships.

Recently, while working at home on the computer, I looked up to see that same daughter, coming toward me with decorated mug in hand. "I made you a cup of tea," she said. And years of tea-together memories steeped in my mind. The neighborhood tea party we hosted on her sixth birthday. The high tea we once attended dressed in homesewn mother-daughter dresses. The gallons of tea, both iced and hot, we've consumed over conversation about the events of her days. And that special Mother's Day paper cup of tea she gave me long ago.

My tea-sharing daughter is now headed for college. This year will probably mark our last Mother's Day together for awhile, so I want it to be special. I plan to make *her* a cup of tea and pull out that tea-stained paper I've kept these many years.

Who needs a cup of tea from you? Christian home organizer and tea enthusiast Emilie Barnes describes tea as "an opportunity to stake out an island of calm serenity in the chaotic ocean of daily life." Who's chaotic life needs a moment of peace, or a pathway to order? Set your table for tea. Invite a friend. Share the quietness of soul the Lord has afforded you.

May June 2006

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**FOLLOW YOUR
HEART TO
BIRMINGHAM**

STAFF

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Marjorie Workman

Editor

Sarah Fletcher

Circulation

Yvonne Hampton

Executive Committee

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contents

FEATURES AND ARTICLES

FEATURES MAY BE USED FOR WAC PROGRAMS.

- 5** **Set Your Table for Tea**
A tea party comparison with a shepherd's psalm
- 8** **Tea or Me**
Some people are a lot like tea bags
- 9** **Spilling Into the Saucer**
Widow's journey through grief results in blessings
- 11** **Set Your House in Order**
Six principles for a more organized life and home
- 15** **Take a Tip**
Missionaries share organizational tips
- 16** **My Midlife Organization Crisis**
Humorous look at age's influence on life perspectives
- 26** **Soakin' Up the Son**
Young Women Active for Christ make a difference
- 28** **The God Who Sees**
Hope and help for single parents



5



11



16

COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

- 4** **Set Your Hearts**— 71st WNAC Convention information
- 17** **Book Reviews:** *Messies Manual*; *15 Minute Organizer*
- 18** **Springboard:** Memos for WNAC officers
- 19** **Feedback:** Letters to WNAC
- 20** **Labors of Love**
- 22** **Debe's Delights**
- 22** **Impact Birmingham**
- 23** **It's Your Life** FOUR TIPS FOR SPENDING (OR SAVING)
- 24** **Focus:** Mother Daughter Connections
- 29** **Workplace Wisdom**
- 30** **Bonus Word Bible Study**
- 30** **Heart to Heart**
- 31** **In the Works**



24



26



28

COVER PHOTO: Kitchen of the Laura Belle Barnard Missionary in Residence House on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Set Your Hearts



71st WNAC NATIONAL CONVENTION
Birmingham Convention Center
Birmingham, Alabama
July 17&18, 2006



Steve and Becky Riggs
France



Icy Mae Frederick
Alabama



Jennie Blair
Oklahoma

SHARE YOUR HEART. Arrive early on Saturday and Impact Birmingham through a day of prayer, service and evangelism.

SET YOUR HEART toward home. Jennie Blair, pastor's wife and busy stay-at-home mom will share unique challenges moms and grandmothers face raising children in a postmodern world. Offering practical tips within a biblical framework, this seminar will help you develop a godly foundation on which children can build their lives.

INTRIGUE YOUR HEART. Like surprises? WNAC's Monday Grab Bag seminar promises to give you hearty ideas and helpful life tools.

ENLARGE YOUR HEART for the world. Steve and Becky Riggs have ministered in France for almost a quarter century. Presently in ministry transition, they know the struggles and blessings of following God's will and pursuing His heart. Let God stretch your vision as they speak during Tuesday morning's worship session.

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART. A 1975 mission trip began a life adventure for Icy Mae Frederick. This Free Will Baptist woman from Alabama listened to her heart and went alone to Haiti where she has ministered to thousands. Hear her amazing story at the WNAC Fellowship Luncheon.

2006 Local WNAC Delegate Card

This certifies that _____
(delegate name)

is a duly authorized delegate to the
Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention.

Church Name _____

Church/City/State _____

(local coordinator or local secretary's signature)

Important: This card properly signed and accompanied by a **\$10 representation fee** entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges.
Only one delegate per church.

Sessions and seminars are free and open to all women.
Register online: www.nafwb.org (April 3-June 16).

FOLLOW YOUR HEART TO BIRMINGHAM

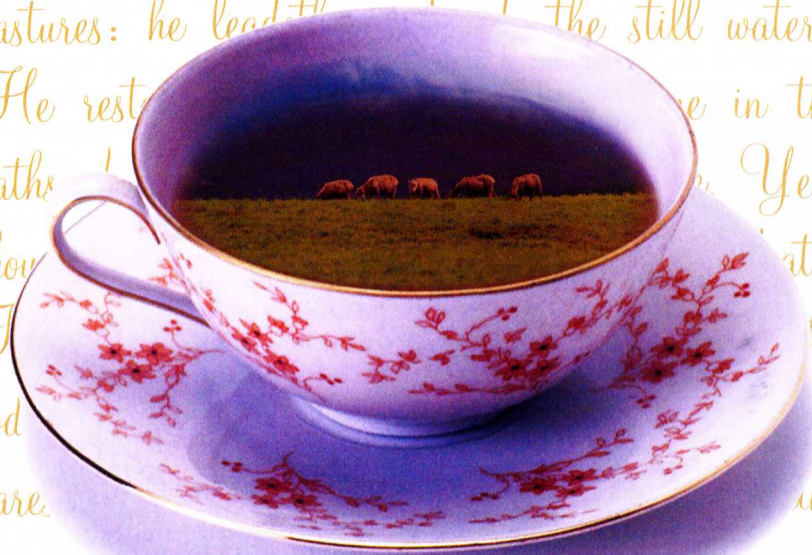
Overflowing Hearts

FEATURE

Set Your Table for Tea

by Ruth Bivens

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I should walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, O LORD, my rod and my staff, my bow and my arrow. My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



FOR MANY OF US, it is somewhat difficult to relate to this beautiful shepherd's psalm. Today's modern woman living in the United States seldom sees a sheep, and is even less apt to see a shepherd. Lying down in green pastures seems a little farfetched, and a stroll beside a quiet pool of water has to be carefully programmed into vacation plans. Although a walk down a city street may present a shadow of danger, we probably would not look for a rod and staff to protect us. However, we are acquainted with tables and oil and cups.

In many homes a table might be defined as a flat surface in a central room where the family rarely meets. Oil we recognize quickly as a key ingredient in salad dressing, a liquid substance that contains 14 grams of fat per tablespoon. Then there are cups.

We know cups. We handle them daily. Steaming cups of coffee, pricey cups of espresso, fragrant cups of hot chocolate with a marshmallow on top, or elegant cups of hot tea served with a wedge of lemon.

The writer of this psalm knew cups too. His cup, of juice or goat's milk, was running over. He sat at his table, his enemies looking on, while being served by the host. There was no scarcity. An abundance of blessings filled his cup and ran over the top.

Imagine a Psalm 23 tea party. Peaceful, pastoral settings contrast ever-present evils and enemy onlookers. The same Host who prepared the Psalmist's table,

invites us to come and drink from His cups of blessings.

The first cup would be filled with love. We have been blessed with special love from the Father. The love of the Father overflows in our lives, spilling out on those around us.

How is that love shown to us? John 3:16 reveals God's love through the sacrifice of His Son for our salvation. Romans 5:8 confirms that this love is both abundant and unconditional. While we were in our sins He loved us and sent his Son to die for us. He cannot forget us (Isaiah 49: 15-16). This love is everlasting (Jeremiah 31:3) and all-compassing (Romans 8:39). Nothing can separate us from His love.

Savor and Share: What aspect of God's love speaks most to you today? Is there a time when you personally knew God's presence and experienced overflowing love in your life?

Another cup would contain joy. Though technically defined as "a very glad feeling; happiness; great pleasure; delight," joy is better understood as a profound sense of peace and wellbeing. Joy overflows into

our everyday life as our faces break into smiles and songs in spite of the surrounding circumstances. Happiness depends on what happens. Someone once wrote that to be happy one needs "Someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for." Joy depends on a personal relationship with a living Lord and is not lessened by what happens or does not happen in our lives.

Throughout the Bible joy is often associated with unpleasant circumstances. Psalm 126:5,6 acknowledges that those who sow in tears will reap in joy. An imprisoned Paul admonished fellow believers to rejoice always (Philippians 4:4). Faced with opposition and round-the-clock work schedules, Nehemiah and his fellow builders claimed the joy of the Lord as their strength (Nehemiah 8:10). James advised persecuted believers to rejoice in trial and temptation (James 1:2,3).

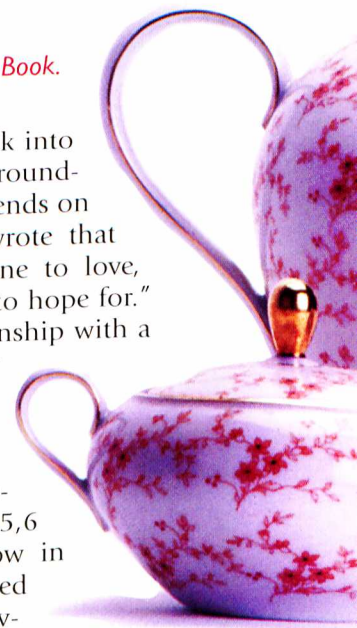
The prophet Isaiah couples joy with song. The redeemed of the Lord come with singing and everlasting joy (Isaiah 51:11). When we go out with joy, even the mountains sing (Isaiah 55:12).

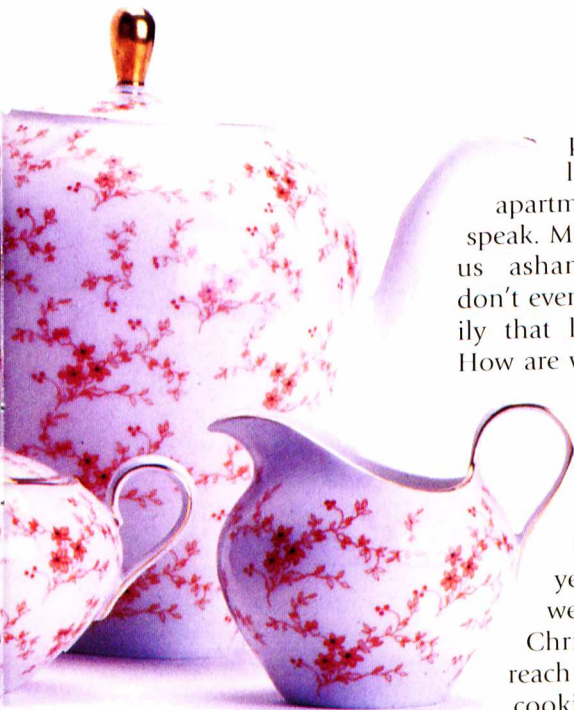
Savor and Share: Is it possible to experience true joy without adversity or pain? Have you ever sung for joy? Can you recall a time when you or someone close to you knew profound joy in spite of difficult times?

Our Host must not be overlooked at the table. God loves us with unending, immeasurable love, and fills our hearts with joy overflowing. However, we are privileged and responsible to respond to Him through service. This cup overflows as we spill out the love and blessing of God onto others.

We pour out our lives as an offering, yet what does the cup of service contain? The Bible gives us clear instructions concerning what we serve up in this cup. We are called to be ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are challenged to love our neighbor (Mark 12:31). We are to be witnesses, beginning in our hometown and continuing until our witness reaches throughout the world. (Acts 1:8).

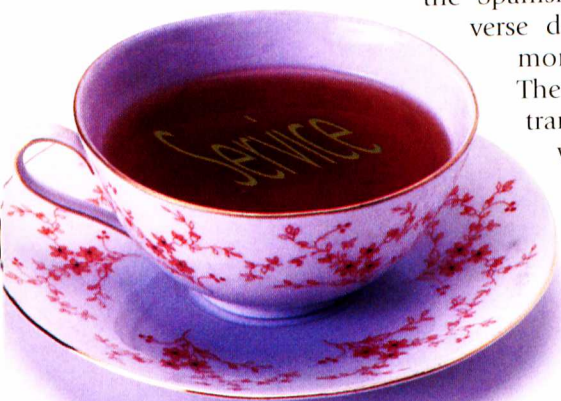
Years ago, everyone knew everybody in town. To not be well acquainted with neighbors was unthinkable. Today





people may live in joining apartments and never speak. Mark 12:31 makes us ashamed when we don't even know the family that lives next door. How are we going to love them? How do you begin to reach out to a neighbor you have ignored for the past five years? How can we reach them for Christ if we don't reach out? A plate of cookies might be a nice surprise. Or how

about an invitation to share a pot of beans or roast wieners in the back yard to get acquainted?



The passage in Mark is hard enough to live by, but, the Spanish Bible lays this verse down at an even more difficult level. The word neighbor is translated with two words in Spanish. One word, *vecino*, means the person who lives in your neighborhood. The other word, *proximo*, means the one who happens to be next to you at the moment. *Proximo*

is the word used in this verse. We are to love the person who is next to us—standing in the checkout line, waiting at the doctor's office, sitting at the community event.

Savor and Share: Can we love someone whom we do not know well? According to Romans 5:8, how did Christ love us? What are ways you reach out and serve the Lord by serving others.

The final cup is time. This cup does not run over. In fact, it seems to leak. From the day of our birth, our time has been running out. Look up the definition for time and you'll discover this little word takes nearly half a dictionary page to describe.

I recently heard time defined as "a measure of God's grace and mercy." That's a good definition. It speaks to

me of Who is actually in control of how much time we have left. Consider these Bible truths about time.

Our life sustaining breath comes from God (Genesis 2:7).

It is through Him that we live (Acts 17:28).

We are powerless to keep our own souls alive (Psalm 22:29).

Our life is as a vapor that vanishes (James 4:14-15).

We are so frail (Psalm 39:4).

The days of our years are few (Psalm 90:10).

The grave cannot praise Thee (Isaiah 38:18).

God blesses us with unconditional LOVE, He fills our hearts and lives with JOY, then calls us to SERVE.

We must face that task with a sense of urgency.

How much TIME do you have left? We, as women of God, are called to participate in the Great Commission.

Although some may be called to international fields, we don't all have to apply for a passport and pack a suitcase to serve. We must shoulder our own personal responsibility to reach out to a lost world. It begins right next door, or in the next checkout line. Time is running out.

Savor and Share: Are you involving your hands and your time to reach out in love? Your voice and heart to rejoice and praise Him who first loved us? Spend time in adoration and dedication to the Lord your Shepherd who has filled your cups to overflow.

Ruth Bivens lives in Pharr, TX with her husband, Bud. Former national home missionaries to Mexico and Puerto Rico and most recently, Missouri state home missionaries to Hispanics, the Bivenses are currently traveling, raising funds to reopen the IBLAC Bible Institute in Altamira, Tamps. Mexico, on a full time basis.



A woman is like a tea bag.
You never know how strong she is until she gets
into hot water!

— Eleanor Roosevelt



Tea or Me

by Joan Warren

Ever thought about the similarities between people and tea?

There are all kinds of people—black, white, yellow, red; there are all kinds of tea—green, British, Grey, herbal, oriental. You can find weak tea, strong tea, sweet tea or unsweetened tea. The same qualities are true of people.

Imagine if tea leaves could talk. Would we discover that, like people, some teas are self-centered? *"My flavor is the only flavor that counts. Other flavors have no value at all."* Would these leaves add that they are especially talented and can do so much for those who use them?

Think for a minute about a tea bag. Filled with potential for usefulness, many times it stays in a box on the shelf, lending no value to anyone. Just taking up space, dreaming of all it will do or be yet actually doing nothing. A tea bag really can't do anything by itself; it needs some help.

Someone must move the bag from the box to a cup or container, fill a tea kettle with water, place the kettle on a burner to heat, then wait for the water to boil.

This boiling water, poured over the bag, activates the tea and produces a refreshing drink. Hot tea in winter warms the cold. Iced tea in summer cools the hot. But no one wants lukewarm tea.

A single tea bag may satisfy the thirst of one person, but what if others are thirsty? More tea drinkers require more tea bags. And more tea bags call for more water. For most of us, water is plentiful and available. Not so with tea bags. Sometimes there are not enough to meet the needs of all who thirst.

Are you beginning to get the picture? Like tea bags, we may think we are pretty special. In actuality, we are just little packages of potential waiting to be activated. Many of us stay on the shelf, doing nothing of value. And like a tea bag, we cannot do anything without help. Our

potential can be realized or activated through the work of the Holy Spirit. He is the kettle—always full of spiritual water, offering special anointing for those who allow Him access into their lives.

Just as tea comes in many flavors, we are each given different gifts or abilities. The Holy Spirit empowers us so we can honor God and minister to others. The Spirit ministers through individuals, but He also ministers through groups. Acting on our own, we may reach only a few people. Working together, we can help spread the gospel from our individual cup (our home) into our community, and even to the ends of the earth.

God does not want lukewarm Christians—those who are neither cold nor hot. So get off the shelf. Let the Holy Spirit flow through you, activating you to fulfill your potential. A thirsty world waits—not for tea, but for you and me.

Joan Warren is a longtime WNAC enthusiast and Bible study leader from Oilton, OK. Her column, "Bonus Word" appears in each issue of CoLaborer.

Teapot Craft

Perfect as a prayer reminder or a ladies' tea favor

MATERIALS:

Copy of pattern at right
Cloth scraps
Pinking shears or scissors
Fabric glue
Permanent marker
Ribbon

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cut two pots from folded cloth. Wrong sides together; sew or glue the outer edges, from handle to spout, leaving lid portion open at the top. Outline with marker. Attach a ribbon bow to front. Insert a tea bag and printed Scripture or prayer requests.



My cup was empty and broken. I believed it would remain dry forever. But, God, my refresher and healer has filled it till it's bubbling over.

The night of my husband's funeral, I lay in bed, holding on to his pillow and his new shoes. We'd only bought them a week before. I somehow hoped his scent would surround me.

Our bedroom, full of his clothes, the shower off the bedroom—everything was quiet. I wanted to hear him. We were supposed to have more time.

At the hospital, the doctors had said, "There's just a little more time; you need to say your goodbyes." I remember thinking, "Maybe the Lord will grant us time and we'll show those university doctors. It was possible. *'For with God all things are possible,'* (Mark 10:27)."

Now, I could only sob, and cry out with horror. I was so scared. I questioned, "Oh, my precious Lord, how can I go on? How am I supposed to face all these things alone?"

Quiet Reminder

"I must be quiet and still," I reminded myself. *"Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still,"* (Psalms 4:4b). Suddenly the radio beside my bed came on. Why? I hadn't set the clock for 10:23. Listening, I heard music. "I will be with you," the lyrics echoed through the room. Like a big, warm blanket on a cool, autumn day, the melody seemed to soothe and wrap itself around me. I relaxed and recognized the source of this comfort. No, it wasn't my husband: it was Someone who loved me even more. My sweet Jesus was letting me know I wasn't alone. He was my protector—He'd always been. I just needed reminding.



SPILLING INTO THE SAUCER

by Gail Matthews

What a relief. My husband David was now with this same Jesus. I exhaled, releasing the knotted air from my lungs. The torture melted away and peace came upon me like nothing I'd ever experienced. I closed my eyes and slept.

Morning Kiss

When I awoke, the quiet sweetness welcomed me like the morning sun. I was reminded of something my oldest brother had said, "Use your imagination to get through this, if you need to. It's okay. Allow the things around you to give you comfort. Allow the Lord to comfort you."

A beam of sunlight radiated bright and clear through the window. I walked to this light and let it cover my face. I could feel the warmth—like warm kisses. "This is what I will do," I thought to myself, "The morning sunshine will be my kisses from my Lord." So, every morning, for many weeks I stood in

front of the window to receive my morning kiss.

New Gift of Life

During those next weeks and months, people showed me so much kindness through their encouraging words, prayers and hugs. I could feel the prayers all around me. Love overflowed.

My thoughts and concerns rested on my daughters. How they would miss their precious daddy. My oldest daughter, Jessica, was carrying our second grandson and I worried about the baby.

Four months later, Logan David Lewis arrived. Holding him, I thought of all my worries and the disappointment that David wasn't here to see him. A rush of sadness came over me. I recalled my husband's words, "Gail, I'm a winner whether I die or live." I thanked the Lord for His grace and His new gift of life. He just kept dripping His blessings on me.

Heavenly Assurance

When David was alive, I'd always wanted to know where he was and what he was doing. After 30 years of marriage, how could I dismiss this urge? I knew where David was; he was alive with Christ. But what was he doing?

I began to dig in the Word of God, keeping a list of all I learned about heaven. I found assurance that:

(1) My husband instantly went to his Father. One breath was exhaled on earth, and the next was inhaled in heaven. He spent no time in limbo, and no time in purgatory. 2 Corinthians 5:8 says "We

are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

(2) He is living another life—an eternal life. John 11:25-26 says, "... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..."

(3) He is seeing great things. The Bible speaks of a city with people singing, sitting, talking, eating and drinking. This sounds like life.

(4) He is rejoicing. Scripture says that when a person is saved, the angels and those in heaven rejoice.

These truths brought great comfort. In a small way, I felt a little closer to my husband.

Not My Way

One day, I had to take something away from my grandson Garrett. He cried. He sobbed. He just wouldn't stop. His fit left him so weak that he fell on the floor. As I observed this pitiful reaction, the Lord spoke to my heart. "You sound like Garrett. All your sobbing and weakness is because you didn't get your way."

It was true. I didn't get my way. David was supposed to grow old with me. In all my crying, had I been acting like a child?

From that day forward, I chose to cry less. When sadness rolled in like a deep dark wave, ready to wash away my footing and take me under, I would throw out a lifeline of prayer and think upon good things. I had to, in order to survive. I practiced the principles of Philippians 4:8. I chose to do this. It was a chore, but I knew I could do it with God's help. I find it interesting that prior to every miracle Christ performed, someone had to do a chore. Though seemingly odd, embarrassing, dirty, or very humbling, it was an action on their part. My part was to work hard on grieving less.

Just Live

"Just live." This two-word bit of wisdom came from a Vietnamese refugee friend. Looking at this small, thin-framed man, I saw more height in his heart than in his stature. His boldness surprised me. "You must praise and worship more, Gail. You are not dead, so don't act like it."

"How are you doing, anyway?" people invariably asked. Did they really want to know? Did they want me to describe my feelings of loss and loneliness? What else *could* they say? Still, each time I heard it, my thoughts became confused and my knees turned to rubber. Like a harried child, just when I thought I'd collected all my marbles, the bag would rip open, spilling them again.

Something to Do

Grieving is hard work. It's exhausting to even attempt daily tasks. For a time, I didn't want to talk. Friends patiently allowed me freedom to speak or just remain silent. This was so therapeutic.

The book, *Don't Waste Your Sorrows* by Paul E. Billheimer also helped. I took the author's advice and asked God to find something for me to do.

I went to my brother and sister-in-law's farm to help while she recovered from knee surgery. After working all day, I would come in exhausted and collapse on the bed. I liked this; I was too tired to think. Time passed and healing began. I volunteered to help others.

When my nephew's wife left him and five children, family asked me to come help. On arrival, I encountered some surprises. The wife was still there, planning to move soon, and the oldest daughter was pregnant. Resentment toward me was so intense, I felt as if I were walking in the midst of two alley cats ready to fight. I'd asked for something to do, and this kept me praying and working. I didn't have much time for grief.

Love Me

At times, loneliness still overwhelms me. I think about David's salt and pepper hair and how wide his fingers were. I remember our dreams to travel in retirement and help construct buildings for missionaries or colleges. During one of these times, I sensed the Holy Spirit questioning, "Do you grieve for me? Do you yearn to see, to talk, to be with me?"

I'd never considered that the King of the universe might long for my attention, my companionship and my love. It was as if I heard Christ answer, "Now you know how I feel when you do not come near. You grieve for David so; do you love me as much as you do him? I am here, and always will be. Love me."

God continues to pour out his blessings on me. My finances are more than supplied; my health is fine. I now have five grandchildren, including twin boys born after doctors said my younger daughter could have no more children. Both of my girls are involved in Great Commission work. Jessica and Tim (Lewis) are home missionaries in Utah. Melissa and Marc (Gibbs) assist in mission efforts in France. Though distance separates us, knowing people are being saved makes it worthwhile. My parents (81 and 84) still never miss a church service. I have people who love me. Art and painting—even my cats—are blessings to me. My Lord is so good. He has used the little things, dripping and pouring his blessings into my life—filling my cup to overflow, spilling His goodness into the saucer.

Gail Matthews lives in Wanda, IL. A Christian artist, she works in VBS, youth camps, and teaches Junior Church at Peace FWB Church. She presently serves as WAC field worker for Illinois' Emily Malone district.



Ordered Hearts

FEATURE

Do you ever look around your home and just want to throw up your hands

and say, "It's no use,

I'll never be organized"?

The old saying, "Everything has a place and everything in its place,"

sounds great, but how do you

make it work for you?

Try using these steps to



SET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

by Penny Turner

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." Psalm 127:1

PERSONAL LINE



Start with *you*. What is it that causes *you* to be disorganized? The answer begins with *you*. Search your heart; examine your lifestyle. Does your home and life reflect chaos and stress? Organization brings peace and efficiency. Disorganization brings about turmoil and confusion.

Are your priorities in order? As Christian women we understand that our priorities should be:

- (1) God
- (2) Husband (*if we are married*)
- (3) Children (*if God gives us these blessings*)
- (4) Home
- (5) All other things.

If these are in order, God will take care of the rest.

Some say time management is the key to organization. Others say that organization leads to more time. Regardless, both camps agree that time management is significant to successful organization.

Time is measurable, and we all get exactly the same amount: 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Therefore, it is not time we need to organize, but the tasks that fill our time.

By applying the same techniques you use to organize your home, you can take a chaotic, out-of-control schedule and turn it into one that puts you in command, full of purpose, and feeling gratified at the end of each day.

June program helps and suggestions are found on pp. 42-45 of the 2006 WNAC Program and Plan Book.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33



As spiritual women we should follow God's plan for our lives; the main objective is to organize our lives and homes. God is a God of order. He created one thing at a time, each on a separate day. He was organized in creating all His creations. God had a plan and so should we.

Two tools every organized woman should have are: (1) a planner/organizer and (2) a filing system. A planner/organizer is essential for getting your life and home under control and will eliminate the little scraps of paper and scattered notes. You will also save hours of time looking for important information.

The obvious uses for your planner are to keep track of appointments, schedules, birthdays, anniversaries, addresses and phone numbers and other important information. Your planner/organizer can also be used to remind yourself of your mission, goals and priorities. Other uses for your planner/organizer are: to-do lists, shopping lists, menus and holiday planning.

The planner/organizer gives you power and is extremely effective when used. Utilize your planner/organizer for as many aspects of your life as possible. There are many sizes, styles and formats available, along with options for calendars, which include daily,

weekly, monthly and annual. Select one that is portable and make it user friendly by setting it up in a way that works for you.

The second tool is a filing system. Purchase manila or colored folders and label with simple headings such as: Auto, Insurance, Medical, Receipts, School Papers, Taxes and Warranties. Organize your files to fit your particular needs. Just remember, *keep it simple*. If your system is too complex you will be less likely to use it. Store folders in a metal file cabinet or a simple cardboard box will also work. Use the motto, "Don't pile it; file it!"

Take the time to plan your attack. Use your planner and make a Master To-Do List. This list is similar to a to-do list, but it knows no priorities or boundaries. List any type of tasks you'd either like to do or feel you need to do. You will consult this list when you begin your weekly planning and scheduling. Your Master To-Do List will contain everything from scheduling appointments, making calls, cards to send, purchases, decorating ideas, etc. As you make your Master To-Do List, set small manageable deadlines for yourself. For example: By August 1, I will purchase school supplies for the children. By September 15, I will plan my parents' anniversary celebration. By November 1, I will plan the Thanksgiving menu.

Once a week review your Master To-Do List and prepare your schedule. Make a to-do list and list according to priorities: God, Family, Others. Write down everything you need and want to accomplish during the week. Take just fifteen minutes every evening to go over the next day's activities, keeping in mind your priorities. At the end of the week consolidate your list and start again on Monday.

"Let all things be done decently and in order." I Corinthians 14:40



TWO TOOLS EVERY ORGANIZED WOMAN SHOULD HAVE...

(1) A PLANNER / ORGANIZER



(2) A FILING SYSTEM



Let's get started! Begin by gathering the supplies you will need to accomplish the task. Here are the basics you will need: large trash bags, cardboard boxes, black permanent markers, file folders and post-it notes.

Mark the boxes: Keep; Donate; Recycle; Sell; Belongs elsewhere. Use the post-it notes to temporarily mark the file folders until the organizing process is complete. Trash bags will be used for the obvious—TRASH.

Emilie Barnes, in her book, *15 Minute Home and Family Organizer*, contends that dedicating 15 minutes a day can lead to an organized home. She suggests you set a timer and clean like mad for 15 minutes each day. Include closets, shelves and drawers. After 6 days you will have spent 1 ½ hours on one room and you will have Sunday to relax. Continue your 15 minutes a day until every room in your home has been organized. Breaking down a large project into 15-minute time segments makes the job seem less overwhelming. Remember and apply the old African proverb: *How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.*

Start with the living room and continue to the bedrooms, bathroom, utility room, dining room, garage and attic. Finish with your kitchen, as you will need all the experience you can get to clean this room.

"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Proverbs 16:3



As you continue your organizing plan, purging is imperative in ridding clutter. Clutter isn't just about the state of your home, it is also about your state of mind. Be realistic, if you don't use it, absolutely need it, or love it, get rid of it. You will have to decide to get vicious in making choices about what to do with all the stuff. Ask a friend to help if you struggle with making decisions about certain items. Consider donating usable items to the church clothes closet, Salvation Army, Red Cross, crisis pregnancy center or other non-profit organizations. Purging may be a difficult process, but think of what you will gain in return—an organized home free of clutter.

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." II Timothy 2:21



In Julie Morgenstern's book, *Organizing From The Inside Out*, she suggests using the kindergarten model of organization when organizing a room. Remember, everything has a place and everything in its place.

1. Room is divided into activity zones.
2. It's easy to focus on one activity at a time.
3. Items are stored at their point of use.
4. It's fun to put things away—everything has a home.
5. Visual menu of everything that's important.

The benefit of the Kindergarten model is that it can be applied to anything from an entire home to just one room or a single drawer.

How do you take your current state of disorganization and transform it into the Kindergarten model of organization? The answer is as easy as A-B-C.

A. DEFINE YOUR ZONES.

Examples of zones might be:

Living room—reading, tv/music, family games, leisure, napping

Bedrooms—sleeping, reading, tv/music, grooming

Bathroom—bathing, grooming, medicine, cleaning, laundry

Kitchen—food preparation, daily dishes, food serving, food storage, baking center.

B. MAP OUT YOUR SPACE.

Determine where in the room each zone will be located.

C. REARRANGE FURNITURE.

This instant transformation is motivating and will boost your enthusiasm for following the project to the end.

After sorting and purging your possessions and defining your zones, you will be better equipped to identify the types of storage containers needed. Use what you have; don't let not having the latest fad in containers stop you from achieving your goals.

Purchase containers if necessary, but, avoid making the mistake of thinking that the mere act of buying containers is a good starting point for getting organized. For easy access to items, clear containers work

best. Multi-gallon containers can be purchased fairly inexpensively. These are perfect for attic and garage areas where contents may need protection from dust and dirt. Places like dollar stores and retail outlets often have better prices than the big name container stores. Plan on purchasing a few at a time as your budget permits.

"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded."

II Chronicles 15:7



Begin each day with prayer, asking God to help you be an organized woman. Just as you go through your home organizing room by room, you should also search through your heart, soul and mind seeking what should be organized, purged and cleaned.

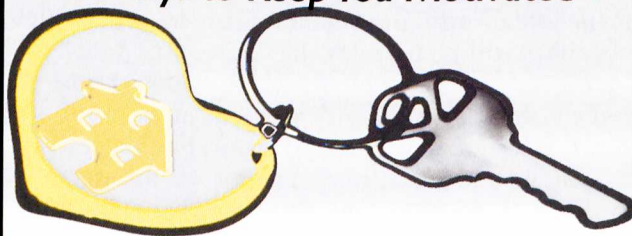
Remember you are the guardian of your home. Keep your home full of the Word of God and your life will reflect God's glory. Organization can be a part of life. With a little effort, your home will have your personality all through it and will overflow with God's love.

If organizing our lives is to be lasting and meaningful, we don't just get organized, we organize with purpose. Organization will allow us to have more to give our family, ourselves and most of all the Lord Jesus Christ.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6

Penny Turner lives in Ada, OK, with Steve, her husband of 26 years. Both are active in the Ada FWB Church. Penny teaches 2's and 3's Sunday school and involves herself in women's ministry while Steve teaches Sunday school and serves as a deacon. Their two sons, Matt and Tim, are both involved in local firefighting. Penny's day job at the District Attorney's office keeps her busy, but she enjoys spending time at the lake with her family, scrapbooking, and organizing.

Five Keys to Keep You Motivated -



- 1. Post your priorities.** These will be a motivating reminder when you feel yourself becoming overwhelmed.
- 2. Use before and after pictures.** You will have satisfaction of having completed a job well.
- 3. Reward yourself along the way.** Treat yourself; you deserve it.
- 4. Make it fun.** Music gives you energy to keep working.
- 5. Work with a friend.** This makes the job easier and takes less time. "Your home this week; my home next week."

HELPFUL READING

15 Minute Home and Family Organizer

by Emilie Barnes

(AVAILABLE FROM WNAC)



Organizing From The Inside Out

by Julie Morgenstern

Time Management From The Inside Out

by Julie Morgenstern

12 Steps to Becoming a More Organized Woman

by Lane P. Jordan

Life Management for Busy Women

by Elizabeth George

Find More Help on the Web

www.organizedhome.com
www.organizedtimes.com
www.brightideas.com
www.getorganizednow.com

take a tip...

When it comes to organization, who better to consult than a missionary? By default, they pack, store and relocate more than most of us.

We asked FWB home and international missionary women to share organizational tips. Immediately, the emails started coming—proof we were on the right track.

Some laughed at the very thought of being organized; one asked us not to laugh at her suggestions. Another confessed that with organizational zeal she baked and delivered Valentines Day cookies—a week early. Take a tip and read them all.

Dana Portell (France)

Label each storage box with a number and detail contents in a computer file or on an index card labeled with the box number. You know exactly what is stored in which tote and your husband will thank you when he doesn't have to empty an entire storage area to find what you need.

Make a list of everything that needs to be accomplished during the month; breaking it down into weekly, then daily lists.

Only handle it once (*helpful for all the paper that invades life*). When you get mail, take a few minutes to file it, throw it away, or take care of it (write the check, seal and stamp it). The same goes for tidying up the house; take whatever it is directly to wherever it needs to go.

Kristi Johnson (Spain)

I keep a small notebook in the kitchen to jot down any items that I'll need from the grocery store. As I run out of something, I just write it down.

Since I teach English classes in people's homes, I keep a bag packed with all my teaching materials and supplies so I always have what I need.

I date digital photos immediately after downloading (*ex. Mar4#1, Mar4#2*). I file them by month, then by year. If I need a photo, I just go to that file and find it easily.

I use a computer program that reminds me to send birthday/anniversary cards or e-mails.

When my children make something I especially want to keep, I date it (*dd-mm-yy*), and put it in a three-ring binder with page protectors. Not only is their handiwork preserved for years to come, but they also love to look at the books now.

Donna Crabtree (Canada)

Use plastic zipper bags from new blankets or sheets to store items. They're great for sweaters or socks, underbed storage, toiletries for travel or organizing other suitcase items.

Use baskets to store magazines and organize things in the bathroom and kitchen. Place them on shelves or in cabinets to eliminate clutter.

Bethany Crowson (Japan)

Make time to make plans; give yourself one day a week to get things together so you know what's coming.

Alice Smith (Cote d'Ivoire)

Ivory Coast missionaries use a lot of spices. I keep mine in alphabetical order. I organize my closet according to everyday outfits, Sunday outfits, and outfits for travel to/from the States. I make lists, especially before going to the supermarket or packing for a trip.

Paula Dodson (St. Croix, VI)

To start the day off easier, begin the night before. Wash dirty dishes; clear the table; leave front room picked up and neat before going to bed. Always make your bed as soon as you get out of it. (*At our house, last one up is in charge of the bed. Husbands train to this very easily.*)

When my five children were young, I laid church outfits (*even socks and shoes*) on the back of the couch on Saturday night. I knew exactly what each was wearing, that it was clean and ready to go.

Beth Howell (Uruguay)

Minimize. Get rid of stuff you don't use, don't want, don't like, or don't need. Americans have way more stuff than we need. If we'd share what we don't need with others, we'd have more room and less stress organizing.

Debbie Anderson (Cote d'Ivoire)

To keep shopping trips to a minimum: 1. Post a list on the refrigera-

tor; ask family to jot down anything they need or notice has run out. 2. Plan meals a week at a time. 3. The day you go to the store, ask each family member if they need anything. 4. Buy Christmas gifts throughout the year so you don't feel time or money pinch in December. 5. Plan a circuit to many stores in one outing: library, grocery, cleaners, etc.

When you check books out of the library, immediately write the due date in your pocket calendar, and on the posted calendar at home.

Each night before bed, make a to-do list for the next day. Then ask the Lord to help you have a good attitude if He chooses to upset those plans for a different plan of His own.

Christy Reynolds (Rhode Island)

Messies Anonymous (5025 SW 114th Ave., Miami, FL) and flylady.com are great helps if you are like me—busy and distracted.

When you make dinner, double or triple it and freeze one or two meals so they are oven ready.

Have one laundry basket for each family member. Everyone's pile goes in his basket, and each takes his basket and puts away clothes. This eliminates tumbling piles. I roll clothes rather than fold them. It is easier to access the outfit you want.

Assign chores (laundry, bed-making, etc.) as soon as children are capable. It teaches good work ethics and helps keep you from being *crazy mom*.

Laura Caudill (Indiana)

We keep a monthly calendar on the refrigerator. Each person writes their appointments and activities on the calendar. This way the entire family can know what each member is doing on any given day. This helps, especially when we are all going in different directions at the same time.

Cathy Corley (Russia)

Needing to organize seasoning packages, I made my own filing system from shoeboxes and Ziploc bags. Each bag contains a certain seasoning packet—with newest one at the back of the box and oldest one at the front. This keeps everything organized and fresh.

My Midlife Organizational Crisis

by LaCrecia McFaddin



In my younger days I was an organizational whiz. A frequent phrase at our house was, "Ask mom; she knows where it is." My house motto was, "a place for everything and everything in its place." I still have files labeled with every conceivable project I could ever hope to encounter.

My husband and our sons used to dislike the days when I took each one's undergarment laundry to their chest of drawers. This meant they had to arrange and organize that drawer before new things could be placed in it.

I remember one instance when one of my son's work shoes came apart. Though the shoes had been

purchased a year earlier, he'd only worn them in the previous three weeks. My husband called the store. The clerk explained to him that it had been almost a year and without a receipt...

Overhearing the conversation, I realized I had put the receipt in my wallet because I knew my son would never keep it. I went to my purse and retrieved the receipt and gave it to my husband. After a few minutes of silence, my younger son put his arm around me and said, "Mom, I'm impressed." One reason for this devoted attention to organization was my fear of forgetting, losing or not keeping up with all my things. Those years were good.

I'm now 58 years old and quite frankly, I've encountered a few (if not many) feelings of crisis over these past few years. Like getting into a car with a man I did not know and talking for almost five minutes before realizing I was in the wrong car. Or more recently, having employees turn a restaurant upside down in search of keys that were in my blouse pocket all the time. These are only two occurrences that have ushered me

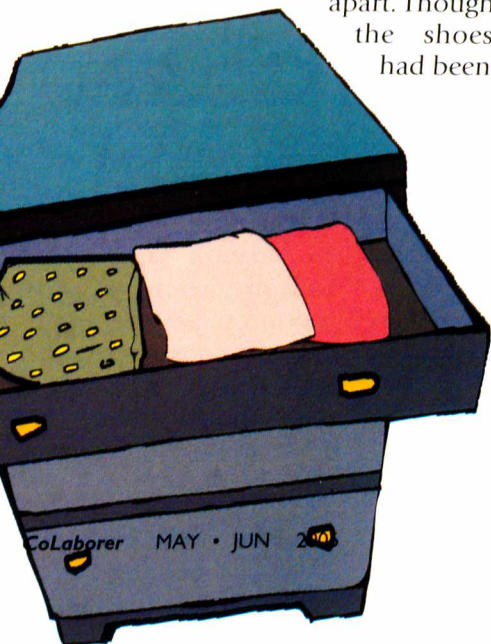
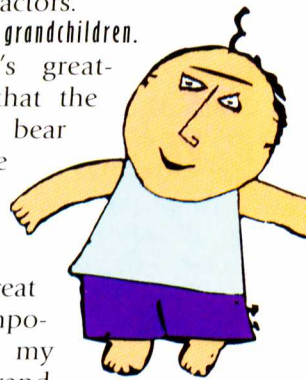
into the realms of MOC, Midlife Organizational Crisis. After some thought, I've pinpointed some contributing factors.

Two-year-old grandchildren.

Among God's greatest plans is that the young should bear and care for the children. In an emergency situation I was given the great pleasure of temporarily keeping my two-year-old grandson for three weeks.

It was like hitching my old tired caboose to his faster-than-a-speeding-bullet engine. I was unable to get housework done—which by the way takes five times longer now—cook dinner on time or keep up with the laundry.

Uncle Arthur. Yes, arthritis. Nowadays, after I dust furniture, my hands hurt for two days. Shaking the several large handmade rugs I own makes my shoulder joints feel as if I have pulled them out of place. Oh, the pain. I am so much slower than I



used to be. This creates the ripple effect of putting things off until a more glorious pain-free day.

Help that doesn't help. My feeble attempt to keep everything in its place requires a lot of pick-up for my dear, sweet husband. The other day I picked up two box cutters, a wrench, a pair of gloves and a key-hole saw. I laid all these things on my husband's desk so he could put these items in their places. Several days later when I spied those same items exactly where they had been before—on his bookshelf—I questioned why he'd put them back. He asked, "Why can't they live there?" "Well," I answered, "your grandson is sawing your commentaries."

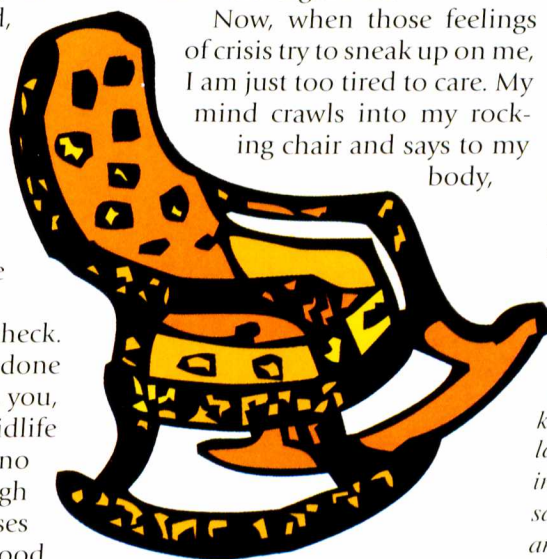
I could identify many more reasons why my organizational skills are in crisis mode. However, since this has been a real emotional journey for me, I will move on.

Okay, it's time for a buddy check. If you've said, "Been there; done that," while reading this article, you, too, may be experiencing Midlife Organizational Crisis. Have no fear. I think I can help. Through the years and quite a few crises later, I have implemented a good

strategy plan that has made my life a little easier. I feel as organized as I possibly can at this stage of MOC. This plan includes think, think, think, write it down, write it down, write it down and downsize, downsize, downsize accomplished by yard sale, yard sale, yard sale.

I'm beginning to see a few signs that Midlife Organizational Crisis may be at the back door. I don't quite know if it is because I'm getting older and wiser or if it's some other resolution I've made to keep my life more organized.

Now, when those feelings of crisis try to sneak up on me, I am just too tired to care. My mind crawls into my rocking chair and says to my body,



"If you want to get involved with this you can, but I think I'll wait till something serious comes along." So we just rock and relax.

LaCrecia McFaddin and her husband, Herman live in Madisonville, TN where they attend the First FWB Church. Mother to three sons, grandmother to five, and caretaker

for her 79-year-old mother, LaCrecia loves photography, oil painting, any kind of stitchwork, and her collie and lab. LaCrecia's newest project is working on hair growth for Locks of Love. She says, "I love the Lord with all my heart and want to live in His perfect will."



DIFFERENT APPROACHES—SAME GOAL



THE MESSIES MANUAL
ISBN: 0-8007-5979-6
REVELL \$14.99

ORGANIZATION JUST NOT YOUR BAG? *The Messies Manual* may be just the book for you. Barbara Felton's classic work has now been updated with a new look and lots of new information, encouragement and practical helps. Designed for right-brained creatives and

the organizationally challenged, the author also addresses difficulties like OCD, ADD, depression, and procrastination, offering real life solutions to accommodate these hindrances. Unlike organizational books that leave you discouraged, disgusted, or overwhelmed, *The Messies Manual* offers hope for all types of messies.

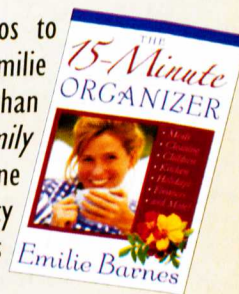
BOOK REVIEWS

A FEW MINUTES EVERY DAY can turn chaos to calm, contends author and organizing guru Emilie Barnes. A shorter read (in paperback) than the hardcover *Home and Family Organizer* recommended in the June program, this book offers plenty of helps and ideas for various

aspects of home organization—everything from laundry to meals. The author even includes a section on holidays.

The book is a great resource for young moms, busy women or anyone seeking a starting point or an organizational path.

ORDER EITHER FROM WNAC. (1-877-767-7662)



THE 15 MINUTE ORGANIZER
ISBN: 0-7369-0450-6
HARVEST HOUSE \$11.99

SPRINGBOARD

LEADERSHIP

SHARE. The May program is suitable as a devotional for a Mother-Daughter or Women's Tea. A shorter, more interactive version can be downloaded from the WNAC website (www.wnac.org). A printable invitation is also available for download as well.

REGISTER. Preregistration continues for both the 71st WNAC Convention, July 17, 18 in Birmingham, AL, (www.nafwb.org) and the 2006 WNAC National Retreat at Ridgecrest, NC, September 21-23 (1-800-588-7222). Encourage women to attend these events.

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.

ORGANIZE. The June program is a perfect time to emphasize the importance of organization not only in the home, but also in your WAC group. Are there ways you could streamline business or eliminate unnecessary activity at your meetings? Are there leadership roles that need to be filled? Adapt the six steps from the lesson to improve organization wherever needed. Promote the program with the "Lucy and Marge" skit on p. 88.

finding us on the web
just got easier...
www.wnac.org
Email: info@wnac.org

STUDY

SHARE the organizational book reviews on p. 17. If any woman has read these or another Christian organizational book, let her share insights or suggestions.

NOTE the single parenting resource list on p. 29. These titles are good reading for any parent or grandparent.

ENCOURAGE women to do the Bonus Word study on p. 30.

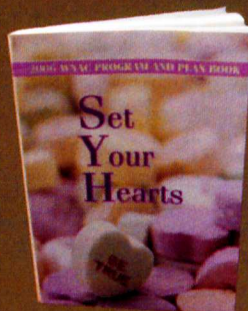
SERVICE

USE the May program as an outreach event in your community. Purchase tea cups or prepare cup craft (p. 8) as favors or as gifts for neighbors or shutins.

CLEAN an elderly person's home in your community. Contact local agencies on aging for information on those whom you could volunteer to help.

PARTICIPATE in Impact Birmingham, Saturday July 15. Find information on p. 22 and on the WNAC website.

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 Focus story (p. 24). Find a way to encourage a missionary and/or her mom this Mother's Day. Consider giving a missionary gift in honor of a missionary mother.

HIGHLIGHT and pray for missionaries in tea-drinking lands.

NOTE organizational tips from missionary wives. Discuss ways life is similar/different in missionary homes.

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.

WNAC NEEDS

PROVISION CLOSET. Tupperware tumblers (all sizes), sheet sets (all sizes) and baking sheets.

WNAC OFFICE. New computer monitors and updated software. Sufficient finances to cover day to day office expenses.

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 your event name/date/location/contact person to colaborer@wnac.org

MAY: (3) NORTH CAROLINA STATE WAC MEETING, GARNER FWB CHURCH
(20) WEST VIRGINIA STATE WAC CONVENTION, SOPHIA FWB CHURCH
SOPHIA 9:30 A.M. (X-TREME MOTIVATION)

(20) ILLINOIS STATE WAC MEETING, RESCUE FWB CHURCH, WHITTINGTON
JUNE: (5) MISSOURI STATE WAC MEETING, CLARION HOTEL, SPRINGFIELD
(7-9) TEXAS STATE WAC MEETING, PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA LIBRE, WESLACO
(16) KENTUCKY STATE WAC MEETING, BRUSHY CREEK FWB CHURCH, ASHLAND
(22) OHIO STATE WAC MEETING, HERITAGE TEMPLE FWB CHURCH, COLUMBUS

PRAYER

PRAY for single moms in your congregation and community, asking God to help you identify specific ways you could help.

USE the tea craft (p. 8) or the tea bag pattern in the Program and Plan Book as a May prayer reminder.

IMPACT Birmingham through a Prayer Walk, Saturday July 15. See p. 22 for details.

ANTICIPATE. January-August 2007 will be a season of prayer for Women Active for Christ. Bible study programs for these months will center on this important aspect of every Christian's life.

...FEEDBACK...

Dear WNAC,

I'll soon be returning to Cote d'Ivoire. I want to thank you for the **CoLaborer**, which I enjoy reading. It gives me ideas to share with the African sisters in Christ. During these six months that I've been home, I've learned to appreciate, even more, the women of the FWB denomination. I always benefit from the items you send to the Provision Closet. And, if the item isn't there, you've provided K-Mart and WalMart gift certificates so that the missionary can go shopping and choose for herself. I also appreciate the prepaid calling cards which...enabled me to keep in contact with my African family. And, though the two words seem so inadequate, *thank you* for your prayers, get well wishes and cards during my time of surgical removal of a skin cancer on my scalp. The Lord has been faithful and has helped me in my time of need.

Alice F. Smith
Cote d'Ivoire

Dear WNAC,

It is so uplifting each month to get *CoLaborer* sent to my home. My health is bad and I'm unable to attend the meetings lots of months. I enjoy the *CoLaborer* from page one through the back. I pass [it] on to other friends...who are unable to go to church. It is truly a blessing.

Barbara Bullock, New Lebanon WAC,
Tishamingo, MS

Dear WNAC,

Thanks to everyone who helps keep the Provision Closet well stocked. I opened a set of lovely queen-sized sheets today, to put on top of a new mattress pad, also from our good, sharing ladies. Thank you so very much.

Carol Pinkerton
Cote d'Ivoire

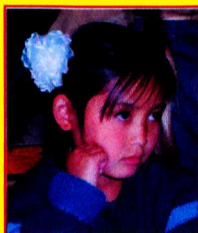
Dear WNAC,

Please [send] this one year subscription to *CoLaborer* a gift to my mother. I want my mother, who came to Christ only a few years ago, to enjoy the magazine as much as I do. The church I attend, West Greene FWB, started a WAC group in 2005. I am a twenty-something and I had never been a part of a women's group; I accepted Christ at 19. Both my sister and I are active in our WAC group, but the FWB church my mother attends does not currently have a WAC group.

The *CoLaborer* is an inspiration to all women, even twenty-somethings. Knowing that I can open *CoLaborer* and relate to other FWB women is inspiring. The articles are uplifting, very informative and inspirational. Keep articles like "Calling All Mothers" coming. I need them. May God continue to bless this ministry so that we may continue to share Jesus with *Every Tribe...Every Nation*.

Misty Sybrant
West Greene FWB, Mosheim, TN

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



Share Christmas Joy with Children in Central Asia

Children in orphanages
Children with special needs
Children from broken homes
Children on the streets

GIVE. YOUR \$15 GIFT will provide one child a Christmas Gift Box containing a children's Bible, t-shirt, warm socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, pencils and a notebook, instant chocolate drink, fruit tea, cookies, chocolate and other candies, and a stuffed animal.

Send funds to WNAC designated CA Christmas Joy.

GO. TRAVEL TO CENTRAL ASIA with WNAC in January 2007 to assemble and distribute gift boxes, visit orphanages and children's centers, explore CA ministries and gain a greater vision for the world.

For more information contact WNAC.

EMAIL: CAtrip@wnac.org PHONE: 1-877-767-7662

GOAL. 5000 BOXES
20 WOMEN TO GO
HELP DISTRIBUTE
GIFT BOXES



Coming this fall...



Equipping 21st Century Pastors' Wives

A Seminar Series for Wives of Pastors, Associate Pastors and Youth Pastors

A 10-week series provided by *Free Will Baptist Bible College*

Thursday nights, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
September 7 - November 16, 2006

Seminars will be led by wives of veteran pastors. Melinda Pinson will serve as the series coordinator.

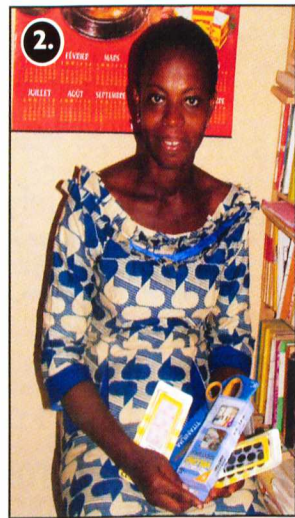
Seminar Subjects:

- Taking Care of Yourself: The Emotional Needs of the Pastor's Wife
- Safeguarding the Home and Ministering to Our Husbands
- Finances and Time Management
- The Ministry of Hospitality
- Rearing Children and the Pastor's Home
- Mothers Working at Home/Mothers Working Outside the Home
- Dealing with Criticism and Adversity in the Ministry
- Your Role of Ministry in the Church: Women Active for Christ and other areas of service
- An Interview with a Pastor and Pastor's Wife

attend just one or take in all ten
for registration information call
1-800-763-9222

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



☀ Where do Provision Closet gift cards go? One money card from Women Active for Christ in Benton, IL purchased a nice pair of scissors and different sizes of Velcro. Upon her return to Cote d'Ivoire, Missionary Carol Pinkerton shared these with Madame Silas, pastor's wife of 1st FWB Abidjan and Madame Samuel, pastor's wife of 3rd FWB Church in Abidjan. Both women expressed gratitude and thanks for the gifts, the prayers and the varied ways women continue to show their care for African believers.

☀ It's a gift that keeps on giving. On December 10, Dr. Thomas Marberry preached the 48th anniversary service for the Rosa de Saron (Rose of Sharon) FWB Church in Monterrey, Mexico. During the service, several long-time members shared how they had come to know the Lord and how the church had impacted their lives. One member, Gabriel Gonzalez explained how WNAC from the United

States had raised the money to construct the original sanctuary. Dr. Marberry stated, "I want to express my personal thanks to the WNAC for this important contribution almost fifty years ago. You gave a gift that has continued to give through the years."

The congregation, led by Pastor Hilarino Gonzales plans a special 50-year celebration in 2007. The church wants to specifically recognize the contributions WNAC has made to the success of this church.

☀ For the past six years, the Ellis sisters have quilted together on Saturday nights. They're sisters by birth and rebirth and they're all Free Will Baptists. Recently four of them visited the WNAC office and gifted the Provision

Closet with some of their family handiwork.

☀ When Women Active for Christ of Philadelphia FWB Church, Folkston, GA, voted last July to support the Georgia State Project, Acts 1:8, members divided into four cooking teams. Teams prepared and sold Sunday suppers once a month after church from July through October. The \$1000 they raised far exceeded their expectations. In November, an annual Thanksgiving auction yielded \$900; \$750 for WNAC's Lizzie McAdams offering and \$150 for the Benjamin Randall offering.



Throughout 2005, this active group of fifteen continued other ongoing projects, enlisting the help of other ladies in the church who cannot attend meetings. This year, the group is enlisting more help. The church's Master's Men is joining them in an effort to raise \$15,000 to build a church in India.

☀️ Something as simple as changing a meeting time

helped boost WAC attendance and involvement at Five Points FWB Church, Pinetown, NC. For years, women met at the church on the second Thursday night of each month. For some time, they'd sought ways to improve and encourage growth in the group. When they changed the meeting to Sunday at 5:00, prior to the Sunday evening service, attendance increased 100%. The once struggling group of seven to nine, now numbers 15. "Sometimes we need to get out of the rut and just let God lead us. We give all the praise to the Lord," says Jean Waters of the group.

☀️ Oklahoma's First Mission District WAC officers met January 17, 2006, at Steer Inn, Cushing, OK, for a planning session. Choosing the year's theme, leaders then selected speakers for upcoming meetings and offered assistance/ideas for their district retreat, July 28-29.

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PICTURED: 1 & 2. Ivorian pastors' wives, Madame Samuel and Madame Silas with sewing notions. 3. The Ellis sisters—Dimple Balthrop, Evangeline Clinard, Esterlene Barnett, and Margie June Crutcher display gift. 4. Philadelphia FWB WAC workers, Folkston, GA. 5. Five Points (NC) WAC group: (l-r) Jean Waters, Linda Woolard, Janet Brown, Sandy Ward, Linda Waters, Roberta Nelson, Nancy Modlin, Arlene Midyette, Paula Gilbert, Shannon Riggan, Melisa Boyd, Olga Wallace, Carol Boyd, Brenda Boyd, Terrie Midyette. 6. First Mission District (OK) officers: President Jennifer Misenheimer, Donna Kinsey, Robin Haskins, Linda Bigger, Louise Richmond, Becky Geyner, Juanita Parker, Delorice Adkins, Sue Jenkins, Carolyn Glimp.

Way to Go, Erie



Don't bother calling and asking Erie Brown if she'd like to go somewhere or do something on the first Tuesday night of the month. She'll turn you down. Erie will be at auxiliary.

Erie was a charter member when the ladies of Tom's Creek FWB Church, Nippa,

KY, formed an auxiliary in May of 1972 and she's been faithful ever since. For 33 consecutive years—396 Tuesday nights—she's attended

Tom's Creek Woman's Auxiliary—never missing a meeting (unless it was cancelled).

When her daughter was ready to give birth in September of 1983, Erie was on pins and needles, worried that her grandbaby would choose to make its entrance on the first Tuesday of the month. Thankfully, the baby graciously waited until Thursday of that week.

Over the years, many women have passed through the Tom's Creek Auxiliary—some for only a short time. If all had possessed Erie's tenacity, how much more we could have accomplished. We salute Erie Brown for making a commitment and sticking to it. Way to go, Erie.

—Judy Delong



DEBE'S DELIGHTS

Debe Taylor
WNAC President

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

A Good and Faithful Servant

When I first met him I had no idea of the lasting impression he would leave with me. He walked into our lives in the fall of 1985. There was nothing commanding about his physical appearance, but it did not take us long to discover the size of his heart.

From the very beginning of our friendship, James Vester let us know that he was there for us. His constant words of encouragement kept us going many days during David's first pastorate. Never missing an opportunity to help, he exemplified a real love for his church and his pastoral family.

But James' love and Christian example went far beyond the walls of the church. Reaching out into his community, James served the Wilburton Fire Department for over 27 years. If you were a victim of a tragedy, James was there to give aid and comfort. Didn't matter who you were or what you were—James wanted to help.

Often we laughed at James' constant need to help someone find a great deal. Why should someone pay full price when he could find it cheaper? Relentlessly he would search until he knew, without a doubt, he had found the best price.

If you had a problem for which you thought there was no solution, James would create a way to solve it. Using a Coca Cola crate and medical tape, he invented a harness for a dog born with "swimmer" feet. Soon this dog, which had not been able to stand on its own feet, was walking. Mission accomplished.

Ignoring concerns and warnings from friends and family, James continued to stop along the highway to help stranded motorists or pedestrians. If he thought

they needed help, James was going to help. He always trusted God to give him words to share as he aided these strangers. He took to heart the words of the writer of Hebrews, *"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares"* (Hebrews 13:2).

I am not sure who instilled the Word of God so deeply into James' life, but he lived it. *"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me"* (Matthew 25:35-36). James never had to ask himself, "What would Jesus do?" He knew and he did it! He strongly believed that he might be the only Jesus some people would ever see.

James lived his life as if every day would be his last. On December 27, 2005, at the age of 47, that day came—much too soon for those who called him friend. James lived a full life: full of love in action, full of words of encouragement and full of generosity testified by those he left behind. In a small community of 3,000, on a holiday weekend, over 400 people came to say thank you and good-bye to James.

Reflecting over the years I'd known James, I have to ask myself, "Am I living my life for others as James did?" One day will family and friends give testimony that I exemplified what I said I was—a Christian? Will the way I live receive commendation from the heavenly Father?

I have no doubt that James heard *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."* Someday I also want to hear those words. What about you?

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July 15, 2006 | Birmingham, AL

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JOIN FREE WILL BAPTISTS from around the nation as we impact the city of Birmingham with the love of Christ. Make plans now to join this historic event. Whether you share the gospel from door to door, staff a VBS, or deliver food to a homebound senior, you will make an **IMPACT!**





CHECK THIS OUT: **Four Great Tips for Spending (or Saving)**

by Jennifer Thomsen

I STILL REMEMBER THE MOMENT LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY. After working for three whole weeks, giving up my Saturdays, taking countless food orders and mumbling, "Thank you, have a nice day" again and again, I finally had something to show for all of my sacrifices. I had my very first paycheck, and my opportunities were limitless. What would I do? What would I buy? What could I get for my money?

I know that it has been many years since my first paycheck, but some things remain the same. Teenagers still make money, and they still spend money. American teens are now a consumer group as large as the Baby Boomers. Companies target teens, enticing them to buy their products. Are Christian teens different in their spending patterns and behaviors? After shopping with members of our church youth group, I don't think so. What should a Christian teen do with her money? Consider a few practical ideas:

- 1 Learn to tithe.** The Bible teaches us to tithe. Tithing should be the first thing you do with your money. In Malachi 3:10, God commands His people to "bring all the tithes into the storehouses." Ten percent of a part-time salary may seem like an insignificant amount, but if you start now, it will be much easier to give when you work full time and have a family.
- 2 Learn to save.** You can save for many reasons—great reasons like rainy days, future purchases, college, or a road trip. But more important than what you save for is simply learning the habit. You will always face situations when you need money, whether buying a car, purchasing a house or paying for college. Many financial experts recommend saving as much as one-third of your paycheck.
- 3 Learn to give.** You can support many wonderful causes for a small monthly amount. Support a Free Will Baptist missionary. A pledge of \$20 each month will add up quickly. For \$32 a month, adopt a child through Compassion International. You will reap the reward of receiving letters and watching your child grow and experience new opportunities, all because you sacrificed one soda a day.
- 4 Learn to stretch your dollar.** Instead of buying brand new clothing, visit a thrift store and see what treasures you can find. Many major retail chains donate returns to charity, and often you can find the latest styles along with the cool vintage items. Learn to shop at garage sales. Great deals are waiting in unexpected places if you will only take the time to look.

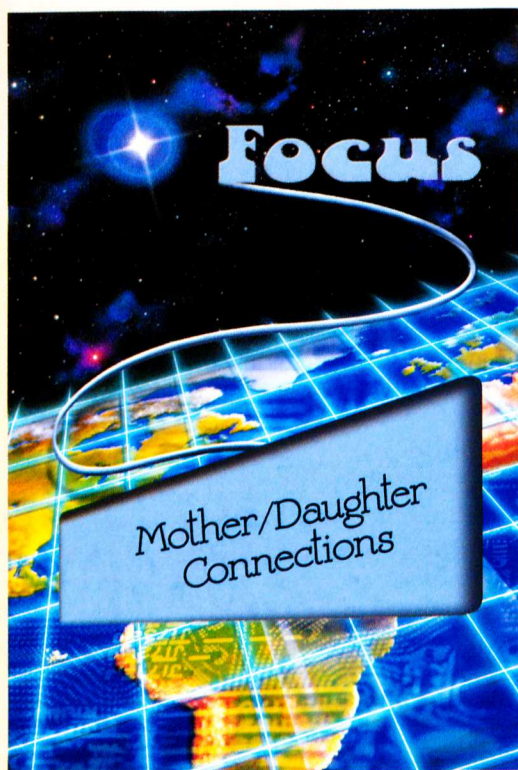
I wish I could say I practiced all of these suggestions with my first paycheck. I did tithe, and my parents made me save half of my paycheck. But the brown, leather bomber jacket that cost me my first \$100 is long gone. I only wish I had been wiser.

Jennifer Thomsen and her husband Eric work with teens at Bethlehem FWB Church in Ashland City, TN. They have a seven-year-old daughter named Victoria.



jobs money spending

tithing saving giving stretching



Pray:

- for missionary daughters and their mothers, separated by time zones and travel.
- for missionary families as they seek to maintain good family relationships.
- for physical and emotional health of missionary women.
- for a rich sense of God's presence in missionary women during times of loneliness.
- for Neil Gilliland as he coordinates Member Care for missionary families serving with FWBIM.
- for Richard Atwood as he ministers to FWB home missionary families.



FOR MOST EVERY FWB FEMALE MISSIONARY ON THE FIELD, there's a mother at home somewhere in North America. How can missionaries maintain close mother/daughter relationships? South Carolina State WAC President Faye Hanna shares thoughts and ideas concerning her long distance connection.

My daughter, Kristi, and her husband, Tim, met at college in the 90's. They sensed God calling them into mission service. Kristi had been on a summer mission trip to Japan and Tim had spent a summer in Kazakhstan. They went with a group and chaperoned a mission trip to Africa. While Kristi finished her undergraduate work at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Tim completed a Master's Degree in teaching English as a foreign language at Columbia International University. They were married in 1994 and as they sought their own direction in missions, they were led to consider Spain. Kristi taught in the Nashville Public Schools for two years as they prepared for their move overseas.

It was, of course, an emotional experience for our only daughter to move so far away. But, my husband and I had brought our children up to love and serve God and we experienced an enormous amount of His grace as we realized God had made the ultimate call on our daughter. Our son, Lee, became a math professor at Clemson, so the perspective that he's only four hours away by car and Kristi is 10 hours away by air, makes the long distance of our relationships a little easier.

Two years after Kristi and Tim went to Spain, our first grandson was born. Three years later, his sister came along. As hard as it was to be separated from our daughter, a grandchild made it even harder. They named their son Alexander, but they use the Spanish translation to be more acceptable in their mission land. So, he only answers to Alejandro. They named their daughter Hanna after Kristi's maiden name, but, again, in Spain, her name translates to Ana, which is what we all call her.

We have really been blessed as we've maintained our mother/daughter contact across the miles. When we were in the Nashville airport saying goodbye for the first time, a retired couple, who were veteran missionaries, was there to bid them farewell, also. The lady told me of the time they first went to the mission field over 40 years ago. She said it was several months before they heard from home by ham radio. How far we've come.

We have the miracle of e-mail, which gives us the opportunity to make contact several times a day. We've tried instant messaging and online phone service and we have even played *Scrabble* online together. We get pictures and QuickTime videos of the grandchildren almost every day. We have seen the first tooth, the first steps, the first day of kindergarten and much more by the miracle of Internet. We have a very reasonable phone plan and we talk at least weekly.

Kristi is great about sharing all aspects of their lives with us. The kids make cards for each holiday. We love to send care packages, which often cost a lot more to mail than to buy the contents. Because the grandkids love videos of

This story first appeared in She! Magazine, November 2005 and is reprinted by permission.

American cartoons and movies, my husband will mail videos; often with candy, trinkets, books and stickers to them.

We have had the pleasure of visiting Spain four times in the past seven years and they have been home for two stateside assignments. Both times, we were fortunate in that a local church offered them their vacant parsonage only three miles away from us.

We have our moments of sadness, of course. The first Thanksgiving and Christmas that they were not with us was very hard. We have the support of a great family to help us through these times. Our son, Lee, is always able to be home on holidays and special days, so his presence makes our holidays more fun. My husband has a big family and we have traditions we share with them. Also, my sister, Mona, lives nearby and she and her family always include us. She has always been very close to Kristi and so we all share the joys and sorrows of this long-distance relationship. Even in my saddest times, God becomes even more real and personal and fills my life with joy and hope and friends to bear my burdens.

Because of our daily contact, I've had friends who have commented that I "see" my grandchildren more often than they do. I feel our relationship is made stronger by our mutual desire to share Christ with the world.

We definitely try to make the most of every moment we can share. Before Ana was born, Kristi, Tim and Alejandro were in Atlanta for a missions conference. Though it was only for a few days, Marion, Lee, Mona, her husband and I all went to Atlanta to snatch a few hours with them. It was a precious time for all of us.

I suppose the thing we miss the most is not having our grandchildren close by so that we can share simple things like a trip to McDonald's or a day at the park. Alejandro is now five and Ana is a typical two-year-old. Alejandro speaks English and Spanish. Ana understands Spanish, but so far is only speaking English. While they were home this past year for stateside assignment, Alejandro and Ana enjoyed spending every Friday night with their "Mimi and Pa" and we thoroughly enjoyed them. We miss that a lot.

When we are able to be together, we are just like almost every mother and daughter the world over—we love to shop. My sister, Kristi and I have always loved to spend the day after Christmas shopping. The first Christmas that Kristi was in Spain, Mona and I were a sad pair as we headed for the malls. But at our first stop, I bought a journal and we began to chronicle the day's events—each purchase, what we had for lunch and every silly thing we laughed at (which were many). We began a new tradition. Now, we use that journal to write to each other about events we can't share in person. It has made the rounds from Kristi to Mona to me over the years.

Connecting is definitely easier today. I often say that I believe the Internet was created just for Kristi and me since God knew we would love to stay in touch while she's so far away.

If I had to pick one special moment that we've shared, it would be the night Alejandro was born. We got the call about 6 p.m. our time (it was midnight in Spain) when Kristi went into labor. Within a short time, our deck was filled with family and friends. We had our own "waiting room" and support group. We called the hospital several times over the next few, anxious hours. Sometimes we would get a Spanish-speaking receptionist and that was no help at all. Right as Kristi was being wheeled into the delivery room, we talked for the final time before his birth. They actually had to wait a few moments before they continued so that I could have time to tell her our love and prayers were with her. Tim called right after the birth and by morning, we had e-mail pictures of the newborn. Two weeks later, we were in Spain to see our first grandchild in living person. One of our other trips to Spain was in early 2003, to see Ana for the first time. We spent a week watching the Lion King video over and over and over with Alejandro and holding Ana for hours on end. When they were on stateside earlier this year, Lee, Marion and I took them to Disney World and thoroughly enjoyed all the kiddy rides. It was a funny sight, indeed, to see Uncle Lee riding Dumbo with Alejandro and Ana. His face was as radiant as theirs because he was with his niece and nephew.

Other Prayer Concerns



—Pray for upcoming Vacation Bible Schools in home missions churches.

—Pray for Dennis Haygood (AL) as he conducts an advertising campaign targeting 5,000 families transferring to the Huntsville area.

—Pray for CMP participants (about 35 college students) who will minister from three to ten weeks this summer in Russia, Kazakhstan, Brazil, Spain, Panama, and Japan.

—Pray for 85 high school students on nine different E-TEAMS, leaving June 14, for two weeks of ministry.

—Pray that France M-Team members returning to the states this summer to bolster lagging financial support will be able to quickly return to their field of ministry.

—Pray for western missionaries Eric Thompson (OR) planning a men's retreat in Idaho; Tim Lewis (UT) leading his church in a "Good to Great" campaign, and Paul Hammons (AZ) hosting a youth carnival for the community

—Pray for persecuted believers worldwide.

SOAKIN' UP THE SON

by Brandi Meeks

It's fun to be in the YWAC
It's fun to be in the YWAC
We have lots of good fun
Spreading the love of the Son
In the YWAC

Can you remember a time in your life when you were searching for something? Could have been monetary things or you could have been searching for something much deeper than that such as closeness to the Lord, closeness to others, or happiness. Often times, being a young teen girl, it's difficult to live a life for the Lord. Your friends or classmates single you out and label you as a Christian, like you have a disease. You only want to be truly accepted by them, wanting them to have Christ in their hearts, too. But they don't accept people like you. I have great news to bring you.

I've found something that will allow you to serve the Lord to your fullest, make friends with other Christian girls. It's something that will help you in your walk with the Lord, and help you reach others—friends, family, and classmates who need the Lord. It's called YWAC (Young Women Active for Christ). From my own experience participating in the YWAC, I cannot express how much this group has blessed my life, our church, and our community.

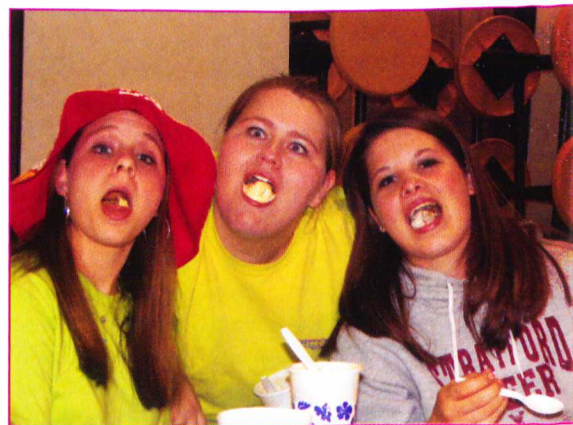
Our group meets every third Monday of the month. We discuss fundraisers for missions and plan service projects to help those in our church and community. Meeting together to plan things for helping others isn't all we do. We also have a devotional, worship and prayer times. These allow us to worship the Lord with a pure heart, evaluate where we stand in our daily walk with the Lord,

and lift up one another's needs in prayer. The biggest thing we love to do is pray because we know it works. The Lord said, "Ask [with a genuine heart] and it shall be given unto you." I think that is why our group is so successful. We began meeting October 14, 2002. Back then, it was all so new but exciting. Now, four years later, we are still going strong.

At one of our random meetings we were discussing how awesome it would be to hold a convention and invite every local church to come. Our goal was to tell everyone what a blessing this new group was and to persuade other churches to start one of their own. Next thing we knew, our wishful thinking was reality. We were planning and inviting. Goes to show—God works through people who are willing to let Him lead.

We held our second annual YWAC Convention, November 11-12, 2005. The theme was "Soakin' up the Son." Although the weather wasn't ideal for soakin' up the sun, we were there to soak up God's Son, Jesus Christ. And boy did we ever.

One of our own YWAC members welcomed us with a small devotional. The weekend included three wonderful devotionals, "Don't Be a Flip Flop in Your Walk with Christ," "Let's Go to the Beach," and "It's Time!" brought to us by three God-fearing ladies of the



church. Each devotional tied in together to give us guidance on how to live our lives for Christ. A fantastic spirit-filled worship time included songs to fit our theme, designed by a fellow church member and led by one of our YWAC members.

Craft time was a blast. One very crafty lady in our church came to facilitate us in these projects. We designed a "Soaking Up the Son" scrapbook, and we made flip-flop prayer boxes. Our own fabulous cooks prepared the food. It was scrumptious; no one went hungry. We celebrated Friday night with a parfait party.



Above all, we had a wonderful time of fellowship with one another. However, something else happened that blessed our hearts beyond measure. One girl who attended had a heavy burden. On Friday night she went into a back room with one of our ladies to discuss what she was feeling. Her friends were standing outside that door praying, anxious to see how God was dealing with her. It was an amazing sight. When she came out to share with them what God had done for her, they all burst into tears of joy and praised God. They had prayed for her so long and now they had seen prayer answered. That event assured me that God is using our group as well as each individual girl to reach other lives. We are a mission field; we are missionaries in our homes, schools, and in our community.

Our heart's desire is to see churches everywhere start YWAC groups, giving girls opportunity to meet and work together for the Lord, and see lost family members and friends come to know Christ. God will bless your church, your community, and your girls beyond imagination. Trust me, I know.

PICTURED: (PAGE LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM) Girls sign in to soak up; Attendees craft flip-flop prayer boxes; Three girls enjoy parfait party. (PAGE RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM) Contestants get ready; Brandi dresses out to give a devotion. Scrapbooking project records memories of the event.

OKLAHOMA ACTIONETTES



Girls from eight to eighteen at the Woodward FVB Church, Woodward OK, meet monthly to learn more about Christ and put His love in action through service in the church, community, and beyond. This past fall, the Woodward Actionettes prepared 25 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

HEY GIRLS

- * Are you part of a YWAC group?
- * Would you like to start a YWAC group in your church?
- * We'd love to hear from you.

Email us at
ywac@wnac.org

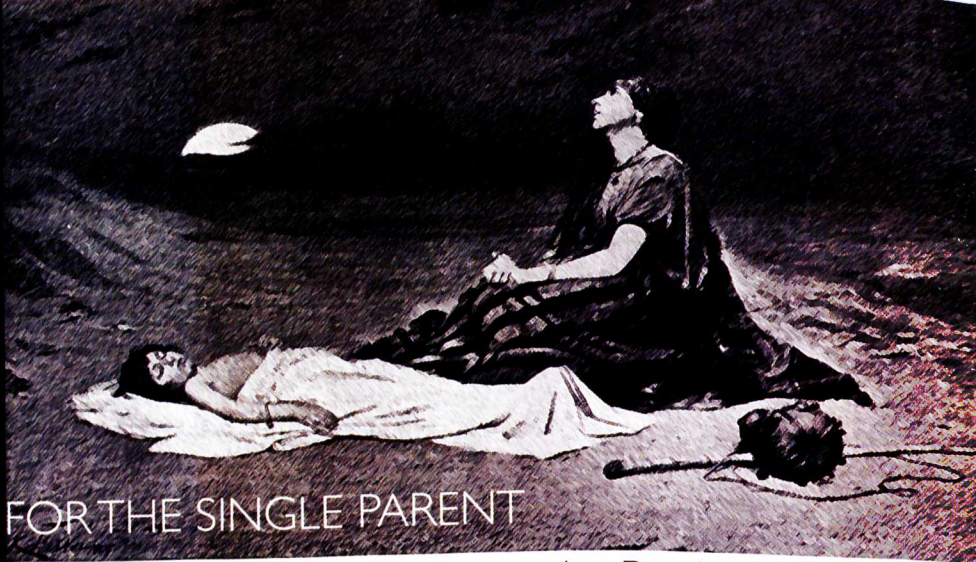


Brandi Meeks, 19, is YWAC program chairman at Bethlehem FVB Church, Pontotoc, MS. A freshman in the RN program at Itawamba Community College, Brandi's passion is to become a missionary nurse. Her interests include scrapbooking, shopping, camping, fishing with her Dad, and mostly being at church—enjoying fellowship, worshipping, and sharing God's Word each month at YWAC.

THE GOD WHO SEES

HELP AND HOPE FOR THE SINGLE PARENT

by Patricia Fite



"**W**HERE HAVE YOU COME FROM, AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?" In Genesis 16, the Angel of the Lord asks these two very interesting questions of a woman. Despite her sordid background and the prospects for her son's future, this young maidservant must have understood that the Lord already knew the answers to these questions. She came to a very humbling realization—we get a glimpse of this through the name she gives to the Lord—"You are the God who sees me." Who is this maidservant who becomes so personally acquainted with the Lord? Hagar, a soon-to-be single mom.

Several chapters later, we see Hagar on her own, dying of thirst in the desert with her son, Ishmael. But God does not forget his promise to Hagar and makes provision for her and her son. If God would do this for Hagar and her son, why should we doubt his provision for us?

I think back several years when I, too, was faced with these questions. Through the cyclical stages of grief as a result of loss and divorce, I learned to rely on the Lord entirely for what He alone could provide. I had to learn to lean on Him as my family's sole source of strength, comfort, and direction (many times in my stead—I didn't know what to do). It became a comfort to know that He was the "God who sees me."

I had to take time for that process of looking back and reflecting upon where I had come from, what had brought me to this point in my life, and where the Lord wanted me and my children to go from here. It was the most difficult time of my life, but through it I came to trust God's provision and direction. Constantly I turned to the Lord to lead me. The gentleness of His care and the timing of His provision left no doubt that His promises were also for my children and me.

It would take a huge book to list the many ways the Lord brought people our way to minister to us—through a paid meal, assistance with renovations to our house, a vacation treat, a word of encouragement, taking the kids out on a special outing, spending time with us as friends, and giving support to our mission's account. What a blessing these folks were, and still are to us. What a confirmation of God's steadfast presence.

Verse after verse, we find promises for the fatherless and the widowed in the Bible. Many become fatherless through death, divorce, through unmarried mothers, and separation due to business or military service (some by choice through adoption). It is a comfort to know that God promises to be "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation" (Psalm 68:5).

How many times have I prayed

and claimed this promise? Daily. The life of a single parent typically puts the Indy 500 to shame. The demands of providing for one's children both at work, at home, and through other external demands can be overwhelming when done alone.

The single parent is called upon to deal not only with her own physical, spiritual, and emotional needs but also those of her children. This job was never intended for just one parent, yet God has promised to be the missing link in those times.

Today there are approximately 24 million children (34% of all kids) in the United States living in single parent homes. The number of single mothers has more than tripled since 1960. Of those single parents, only about 5% attend church. What implications do these statistics have for the church?

Does the church have a responsibility towards single parents and their children? James 1:27 says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." The answer is yes.

God's attitude towards the fatherless and the widowed is very clear, but what are we doing about it? I say "we," because it is everyone's job; whether one has experienced such tragedies or not. As a denomination, what are we doing to reach those who are within the church?

What are we doing to attract those from without the church?

Many resources are now available for meeting the needs of individuals, as well as ideas for ministry within the church. Maybe the Lord is impressing upon you the need to reach out personally to those single parents within your circle of influence, or to begin a ministry within your church or your community.

My prayer is that we will support our single parents and love their children. Acting as godly role models, may we seek to break the cycle of single parenthood.

GREAT RESOURCES

BOOKS

***Bringing Up Boys* by James Dobson**

***Dad, If You Only Knew...* by Josh Weidmann**

***From One Single Mother to Another* by Sandra P. Aldrich**

***It's Better to Build Boys than Mend Men* by S. Truett Cathy (Founder of Chick-fil-A)**

***Mother and Daughter: Closer to God and to Each Other* by Susie Shellenberger**

***The Hidden Value of a Man* by Gary Smalley, Ph.D. and John Trent, Ph.D.**

WEBSITE ARTICLES

www.cbn.com/family/parenting/dobbins-singlemom.asp

<http://www.spiritualitytoday.org/spir2day/843615shellwig.html>

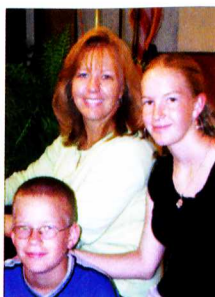
<http://www.singlespleasingthelord.com/pages.asp?pageid=672>

http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0.1703.A%253D150775%2526M%253D150020.00.html

http://www.sovereigngraceministries.org/pdf/books/rsl/rsl_appendices.pdf#search='What%20churches%20can%20do%20for%20single%20parents'

[http://www.kybaptist.org/kbc/welcome.nsf/files/obstacles/\\$file/Obstacles.pdf#search='What%20churches%20can%20do%20for%20single%20parents'](http://www.kybaptist.org/kbc/welcome.nsf/files/obstacles/$file/Obstacles.pdf#search='What%20churches%20can%20do%20for%20single%20parents')

Patricia Fite has been a single mother for five years. She and her children, Morgan (14) and Nathan (12), minister at the FWB Church and School in St. Croix, USVI. Assistant principal and 2nd grade teacher for the school, Patricia has just completed her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Regent University.



WORKPLACE WISDOM

by Shelly Miller



Paralyzed by Perfectionism

Perfectionists are the color blind people of the world. They see everything as black or white. They are paralyzed by the fear of never measuring up to the unrealistic goals they set for themselves. In Christian realms they are convinced that it's quite all right to call themselves perfectionists. After all, Christ was perfect.

Perfectionists manage to place on others the same unreasonable expectations they place on themselves, whether in their workplaces, homes or churches. They are unable to function and often feel that all is lost in a less than perfectly ordered environment. Perfectionists are usually intolerant of anyone who doesn't meet these expectations.

Perfectionists feel like they can handle just about anything until they discover a flaw in themselves and then they crumble in the pit of worthlessness. Sounding familiar?

I confess! I've just described myself. I'm realizing more and more that I'm not alone in the battle against the stronghold of perfectionism. How crippling this lie has been at times in the workplace and in my home.

First Peter 1:16 says, "Because it is written, be ye Holy; for I am Holy." God didn't say, "You are holy because I am holy." Webster's defines holy as "exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness."

We are human works in progress and the sooner we come to the realization that we are less than perfect, we will see ourselves and others as God sees us. We will be much more pleasant to work with or work for and become less stringent on the ones we love.

It takes years to make a perfectionist. So, as a perfectionist (and I say this to myself), be careful not to set an unrealistic goal upon yourself to undo all the perfectionism at once. It's imperative to practice powerlessness by granting God power over our minds, actions and controlling behaviors. It's then that we see the beauty of His Holiness.

Shelly Miller works in international banking. She and her family live in Donelson, TN, and attend The Donelson Fellowship FWB church. Active in women's prayer ministry, Shelly enjoys Bible studies, coffee, and teas.

CHECK YOUR ROOTS

1. What is the greatest root of all?

Isaiah 11:10

Romans 15:12

Revelation 22:16

2. How should we respond to this root?

Jeremiah 17:7, 8

Ephesians 3:17-19

Colossians 2:6, 7

3. What are some results from having good roots?

Proverbs 12:3

Proverbs 12:12

Romans 11:17

4. What kinds of roots should we guard against?

Deuteronomy 29:18

Hebrews 12:15

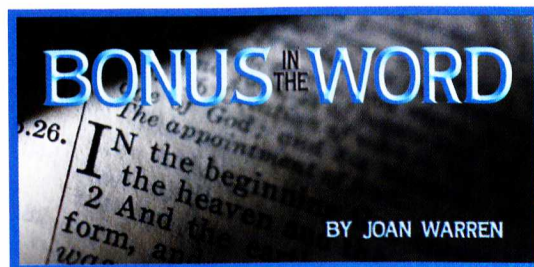
1 Timothy 6:10

5. What happens to the wicked who have "bad" roots?

Matthew 3:10

Isaiah 5:24

Malachi 4:1



HOLDING ON TO GOD



Diane Thomas Bridgman

Reader, I don't like thrill rides. I can't take the G-force and once passed out on a roller coaster.

One hot summer day I watched my children plummet straight down the hill of a water ride. I stood there for quite a while, enthralled at each rider's gleeful, "Wheee," as they plunged down. I guess I had been in the sun too long because I became convinced that I could ride it too. I had timed the fall to be twenty seconds and reasoned that I could take anything for twenty seconds. My cry was not gleeful but a bloodcurdling scream when I hurdled down the slope. I do not like thrill rides.

One month after my husband's sudden death I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Reader, both my parents had died

of brain tumors and I felt like I was on an old roller coaster for a long ride. I suffered a stroke while they did pre-op testing and had to heal.

Months later I was prepped for surgery and secretly cried so that my sons would not see how much I wanted the comfort of my husband and was afraid to wake up and not have him there.

I had only been home for two hours when I suffered a grand mal seizure and was rushed back to the hospital. I entered a very deep depression and laid my weary head against the shoulder of God and told Him I wanted to get off. He raised the bar for me to catch my breath.

Reader, life is full of thrill rides. Make sure God is with you and set your 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.

IN THE WORKS



**Marjorie H.
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NO GREATER JOY

House cleaning is not the most exciting thing I do, but I try to clean often enough to keep the dust bunnies from turning into real people. I work feverishly to get the house in order for company. Such was the case on this particular day, and time was passing much too quickly for the long to-do-list.

Thankfully, my younger daughter, a preschooler at the time, was playing outside. A good time to grab the mop and mop the kitchen floor, I decided. About halfway through this chore, my daughter decided to come inside. Oblivious to the freshly clean, but still wet floor, she left footprints of mud from the door to where I stood. In frustration, I yelled at her, "What are you doing? Can't you see I'm mopping the floor and it's still wet?" At that moment, I learned an important, but painful lesson: children are more important than a clean house. My daughter's bubbly countenance dropped. The smile, the sparkle in her eyes disappeared as she slowly pulled her hand from behind her back lifting a freshly picked bouquet of dandelions.

Motherhood took on new meaning that day. Often, mothers get caught up in the mundane responsibilities of life and miss precious moments of sweet mother and daughter relationships. Although there are no Super Moms, being a good mom requires some super qualities. Moms have to make choices. Regretfully, we don't always choose correctly. However, there are two choices we must get right. Make sure our children have a clear understanding of who Jesus is so they can trust Him for salvation. And, plant the Word of God in their lives so they will live for His glory (Colossians 3:16). We will have to go against the prevailing culture to accomplish this. But, moms, we must make it our goal to spend eternity in heaven with our children. After all, they're one possession we can take with us.

Even though we aren't perfect, we can bask in the marvelous privilege of being a mom. I realize that Mother's Day is not always a happy occasion for everyone. Some

children suffer abuse from their mothers. Other women feel sad because they so want to be mothers, but for whatever reason, they cannot. WAC groups can help every woman, mom or not, build good relationships.

Becoming a mom changes a woman forever. Glibly, we tease expectant moms about the sleepless nights they'll face, the pounds they probably will retain after childbirth, and the abrupt end of those come-and-go-as-you-please days. What we don't tell them is that they will never read a newspaper or watch a news flash without thinking, "What if that had been my child?" Every abusive story, car crash, drowning, or fire involving a child haunts us. A mother can't picture losing her child.

Motherhood also reduces us to the primitive level of a bear protecting her cub. A child's curdling scream can cause us to bolt out the door, heart in our throat, forgetting we have a cake ready to come out of the oven or that we're not dressed to be in public as we rush to the emergency room praying our child will be okay. Extreme fatigue cannot keep us from staying awake at night listening for a child's breath through the coughing, wheezing, and stuffiness of a cold. No longer are we driven by our desires, schedules, or needs—protecting our children is ultimate.

Our role as mother does not end, even as children grow up and leave home. However, the relationship shifts. No longer are we the authority figure, we are now an experienced counselor, financial advisor, culinary consultant, sounding board...at a distance and only when asked. We pray that our investment in our children's lives will pay off as they step from our threshold and cross over their own. Releasing them is hard but very necessary.

No mother could be prouder of her two daughters than I am. The journey has been challenging, thrilling, and exciting. Perfect? No. But, oh, what a joy to be a mom. Now I watch them—the moms of my grandchildren. And, like the Apostle John, *"I have no greater joy than to hear {know} that my children walk in truth,"* (3 John 4).

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