

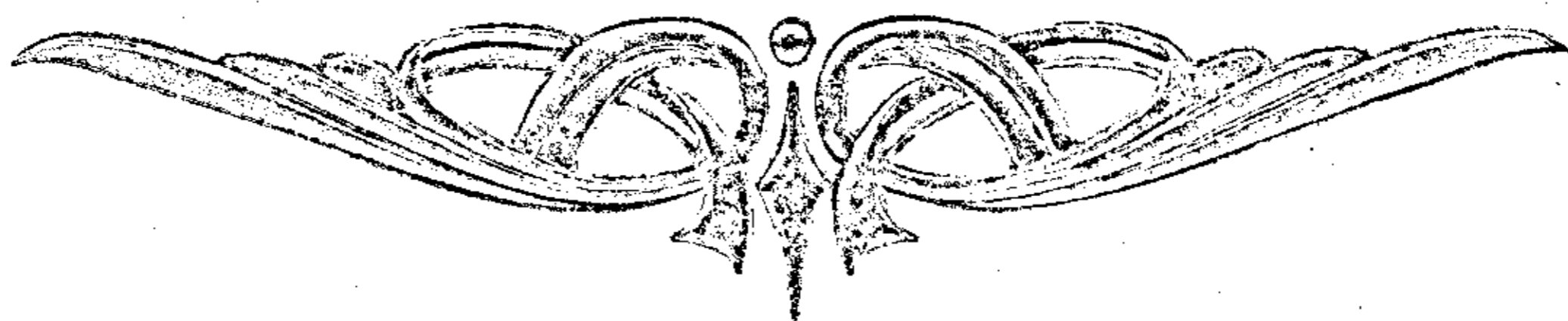


50th Anniversary Year

1950 - 2000

Florida Women Active  
for  
Christ

May 11 and 12, 2000  
Holiday Inn Convention Center  
Deland, FL



# 50th Annual Session

May 11 and 12, 2000

## Florida Women Active for Christ

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### Opportunities . . . An Open Door

#### Thursday, May 11

12:00 Noon    Annual Missions Luncheon  
Speaker: Eddie Payne

9:00 pm       Reception for All Women  
Stetson Suite

#### Friday, May 12

8:30 am       The Opportunities Before Us  
                  In the Home - Pam Flannagin  
                  At Work - Sandra Jackson  
                  In the Community - Diana Bryant

9:00           Annual Business Session  
                  Call to Order - President Diana Bryant  
                  ♦ Seating of Delegates  
                  ♦ Appointment of Credentials Committee  
                  ♦ Presentation of Minutes  
                  ♦ Presentation of Secretary's Report  
                             Edna O'Dell, Secretary  
                  ♦ Presentation of Treasurer's Report  
                             Thelma Wiggins, Treasurer

10:00 am  
10:15 am

Break for Committees to Meet  
Reconvene for Business

Credentials Committee Report  
Visitors \_\_\_\_\_  
Delegates \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Registered \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Committee Report  
Finance Committee Report  
Plan of Work Committee Report  
Other Business  
Appointment of Delegates to National  
Appointment of Nominating Committee Member

### Worship Service

11:00 am

Pianist - Sandra Jackson  
Song Leader - Karen Owen

### An Anniversary Celebration

Welcome - Diana Bryant

The Beginning - Etha Mae Owen  
The History - Jose Rodriguez  
The Work - Dennis Owen  
The Future - David Willisford

Solo - Pam Flannagin

Offering

## An Anniversary Celebration

We are here today to celebrate an anniversary. Remember the song you sang in Sunday School years ago? "One door and only one, and yet it's sides are two"? That's the way it is with an anniversary. You have the years that have brought you to that point, and the years that will follow. We want to look at both sides of that door today. The stated purpose of Women Active for Christ is "helping each woman fulfill her place in the Great Commission". For the past 50 years, the Florida Women Active for Christ have been doing just that. Missions is the heartbeat of our women's organization, and there have been so many opportunities in Florida for women to serve, and to help, and to pray. Some of our earliest projects centered around our earliest mission works - the Hispanic churches in the Miami area. The very first year - 1950 - the year the Florida Women's Auxiliary began - minutes show that the women gave to the Cuban Mission work. According to these minutes, by 1952 the women had given a little over \$45.00 to this work. Mom Willey was a frequent speaker for the women, and it's obvious that they had a great interest in furthering the work and seeing churches established in this area. Bro. Jose Rodriguez, although he wasn't around in 1952, is going to share just a little bit of the history of the Cuban Christians - the work that the early Auxiliary took such an interest in.

**(Bro. Jose shares a little of the history of the Hispanic work in Miami - beginning in Cuba - and something of the women's part in helping.)**

Early minutes are fascinating - consider these words in the 1950 Minutes of the Florida State Association: "The Moderator renewed his call for reports of the various boards. Mrs. Chester Pelt gave a report of a Ladies' Auxiliary Convention being organized. The report and discussion that followed was very interesting." Well, Jose may not have been around then, in

fact, we have only one woman with us today who was present at that inaugural meeting 50 years ago. That first year, she was elected First Vice President. Listen to the minutes from 1952. They read, "The devotional on the subject "Women of the Bible" was given by Mrs. Etha Mae Owen. The message was so impressive that the President requested her to send a copy to the FWB paper for publication." Etha Mae's name appears frequently in those early minutes. She's going to share some of her thoughts and memories with us today.

**(Etha Mae Owen shares her memories of the first Auxiliaries, why they formed, what they wanted to accomplish, any interesting story she might have.)**

As part of "fulfilling their place in the great commission", the women have always took an interest in, and supported, the training of young people. They realize that if we are to have pastors and teachers and missionaries, they must be trained. Supporting the colleges and youth camps that play such a part in the teaching of young people is evidenced in the minutes by frequent mentions of offerings: In 1952 the Florida women gave toward the purchase of an organ for FWBBC in Nashville. The 1956 minutes read, " We were happy to present \$40.20 to the Youth Camp to help pay for double decker beds" In 1954, there was a motion seconded and carried to ask each Auxiliary member to can 6 quarts of fruit or vegetables for the summer youth camp." You can see that then, as today, there are many different "places" to be filled in accomplishing the Great Commission.

One young person at that time answered the call to "Go". Year after year, the women have supported Dennis and Trena Owen. Dennis was born in Florida, and records show that the Auxiliary supported his work from the very beginning.

**(Dennis shares his call, the history of his work, and the part Auxiliary has played in his support.)**

Many things have remained constant over the years. The women's mission support has remained at the forefront. Foreign and Home missions, as well as projects benefitting schools, children's homes, and personal needs of the missionaries have been generously supported by our women. Some things have changed. Very early minutes state that the women were to bring their own lunches to their State Meeting. The '56 minutes say "following the devotion, lunch was to be spread on tables for all to share". In 1992, after joint meetings with the State Association were initiated, we began having a banquet, usually with a missionary speaker, that has become a highlight of our meetings.

Some things we sincerely pray will never change. Our commitment to the Great Commission will remain our highest goal. David Williford, a National Mission Board member, is going to share just a little bit of a vision for the future of FWB Missions.

**(David shares the future of FWB Missions)**

Remember though, an anniversary, like that door, has two sides. We've looked at what has come before, and taken a glimpse of what we hope is still to come. That future, however, depends on what we do today. What will the women have to report as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of FWAC? My prayer is that they will see that we continued to preach the gospel, we continued to pray, and to give. I want them to see that we continued to teach our children to love God, and serve Him, and that we sent them out to be preachers and teachers and missionaries. I want them to see that we continued to find ways to support our missionaries, and to fulfill the Great Commission overseas, and at home, and in our communities. Our organization today is the

product of women who went before us and gave and prayed and taught. Our mission works today are the product of Moms and Dads who taught their children, pastors who faithfully preached the Word of God, men and women who surrendered to God's call, and everyone who has prayed or given.

There's a song that says, "We won't bend and we won't break, we won't water down our faith, we won't compromise in a world of desperation. What has been we cannot change but for tomorrow and today, we must be a light for future generations." What about you? Are you being a light for future generations? Pastors, will you hold high the light for those coming behind you? Parents, your children see your light every day - hold it high. Teachers, continue to share the light - the Word of God - with your students. You don't know what God has in mind for their future - they need a good foundation. Women, God has allowed us to have a wonderful part in the Great Commission, let's continue the work that our mothers and those before us have started - let's continue to raise children who love the Lord, who will answer His call, who will serve Him wherever He leads. Let's continue to be faithful to go and to send - and be a light for those coming behind us to follow. A faithful example. If you have a light, hold it high. If a light is handed to you, pass it on. Watch as the lights pass through the congregation and determine to be a faithful - first because God demands faithfulness in his servants, but also to be a light for future generations - so that the work will continue.