

GOOD NEWS OF A GREAT

JOY

ROYAL SERVICE

Mary Jo McMerrey

## Coins in a Coffee Can

Did you ever try to guess how many beans there were in a glass jar?

I never did, either, but I did peer out on my kitchen table about two thousand coins that completely filled a two-pound coffee can! The can had been placed in the offering plate by Maria de Luna at the Baptist church called Iglesia Bautista Metodista, El Sacer Viano (Methodists, Our Lord Cometh) in Juarez, Mexico. She had been saving these coins since last year's week of prayer. A full year of saving centavos and a few pesos had netted 125.00 pesos for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Since Maria de Luna accepted the Lord, her life has had one purpose—to spread the news to others about what he can do for them. Her gift in the coffee can was an outgrowth of her intense desire to see progress in the work of the Lord.

Rejected by her parents and relatives, as a child Maria often wandered into the woods near her home near Veracruz, Mexico. There she talked with God even though she had never received religious instruction. It made quite an impression on her when a person told her that she did indeed "belong to God."

As a young woman looking for work in Juarez, she had a friend try to convince her that since she had no money, friends, or relatives, her best hope in life would be to work

as a waitress in a bar. But Maria preferred to earn her living as a maid even though her salary was barely enough to provide living expenses.

While working as a maid, Maria answered the door when a man came by selling Bibles and other books. Maria had no money, but the man loaned her a Bible and invited her to church.

Maria visited several churches. After the service ended at First Baptist Church, Maria told her new friend, "This is where I will stay."

In this church, some months later, Maria accepted the Lord. She remembers with great emotion the Easter Sunday she was baptized. Even before her baptism, she was working faithfully in the Sionhester Mission (Mission of Good Work).

One day a call came from an old friend—a working mother—who needed someone to take care of her children. Maria was happy to move in and to help care for a baby and four older children. The mother, Refugio, was not a Christian; but Maria's faith never wavered as she began to pray that Refugio would become one of God's own. This prayer was answered during special services held in "Holy Week." Since that time, three of the children have accepted Christ. Both Maria and Refugio consistently request with tears shining in their eyes, "Pray that our other children will come to

know the Lord."

Through the gift of a box of artificial flowers, Maria developed her talent for flower arrangement. Soon beautiful bouquets on the top of the upright piano brightened the entire auditorium.

Earlier she had made deep red velvet curtains for the sanctuary and matching runners for the pulpit, the piano, and the Communion table. Then Maria set to work on two more sets of runners, one white with blue trim and hand-embroidered blue flowers. Another more delicate set of runners was made of organza. The three sets are interchanged regularly, a constant reminder of one person's love for the house of God. "It is my way of showing to others my gratitude for what the Lord has done in my life," Maria says.

And these projects were only what she did in her spare time. On seeing her complete dedication, the church named Maria an church missionary. She also has served faithfully as a Sunday School teacher, WMM director, and director of Vacation Bible School.

Maria de Luna prayed on one occasion, "I know so little, oh Lord, but you will help me."

This is what Christian mission is all about—the unity of the great and the small, the splendid and the common—each moving in his or her own place.

God works through praying people. Foreign missions was born in prayer, and every advance in missions has been prayer-activated. The testimony of Southern Baptists' bold missions challenges for the remainder of this century depends on the praying of faithful and faith-filled Baptists.

How do you pray effectively for missions?

Disciplined, Spirit-led prayer experiences must become an integral part of daily living. Another requirement is specific information on as personal a basis as possible. Areas of this information come through missions magazines such as this one and The Commission (published by the Foreign Mission Board). Other sources are mission studies, meetings where missionaries speak, and missions books. Sometimes and missions emphasis in your church help. Another way to become informed about missions made it to ask missionaries to include you on the mailing list for their letters sent to friends and churches. Missionaries' letters often request prayer.

### "PRAY ABOUT THINGS CLOSE TO US"

Kathie and Thurston Brumpton of Malaysia-Singapore speak for forthcoming missionaries:

"If this booklet is to meet our needs and the needs of our children, we need have your prayer support in these areas of life:

The children's adjustment to school and life in the U.S.

The ability to express to you the spiritual needs of the people we serve and to share you how you may be a vital part of the missionary outreach.

The need to upgrade our present skills and develop new ones.

The need for physical refreshment from the tropics; for spiritual refreshment from constantly "giving out" in a non-Christian environment; for mental refreshment of developing new skills; and for the social refreshment of relating to you and enjoying a laugh, recreation, or a deep prayer-and-share time with you.

"In these practical ways you may undergo us. Pray specifically about these things as close to us."

New missionaries Marvella and Glen Thompson were given one month in the Philippines:

"Please pray that we may learn the language quickly and accurately and that we will be witnesses here. . . ."

Work-related matters are typified by these requests from Ed and Juliette Sanderson in Indonesia: "We share several concerns with you. Please take them to your congregations, prayer groups, and family altars:

Pray for nine complex new awaiting close to share our salary in Indonesia: the language, Phikman, Silliman, Thompson, Turry, Hazzards, Bradleys, Jomson, and Tatum.

Pray for the Bukitlenggul hospital that has opened after more than ten years of praying but is still under pressure.

Pray for missionary-national relationships.

Pray for Juliette's health."

Another type of request is shared by Glenn and Stanley Stamps: "After twelve years in Ecuador we said *adios* (good-bye) instead of *hasta luego* (until later). On July 1, the Foreign Mission Board approved our transfer to Nicaragua and on July 31 we arrived in Managua, Nicaragua. We are excited about the move and look forward to beginning a new ministry here. Nevertheless, good-byes mixed with tears, hugs in the throat, and warm handshakes and embraces became a transitional experience. We left Ecuador not because we had to, or necessarily because we wanted to; we left because we felt a positive leadership of the Holy Spirit. We trust the Lord's leadership. Please pray for us during this transition."

Missionaries often mention specific people. Van and Marie Warren, Indonesia, ask you prayers for Pak Harjo recently ordained, father of six, and ill with active tuberculosis. He is desperately needed in a new area of Baptist work.

PERSONALITY

John Inghat

Ed Sanderson

Glenn and Stanley Stamps

Mr. Keith Parks

"We need the refreshment of relating to you and enjoying a laugh or a deep prayer-and-share time."

"Pray for missionary-national relationships."

"After twelve years in Ecuador we said *adios* and transferred to Nicaragua. Pray for us during this transition."

"We thank you who have taken time to write us these cherished letters."



Dottie Brock



Kathie and Thurman Braughton



Gerald Pinkston



Marvella and Glen Thompson



Charles Brock



Ed and Jaletta Sanders

# PRAY ABOUT CONSTANT NEEDS THAT SHIFT IN NAME AND PLACE

More missionaries. More trained leaders. More spiritual power. More love. More resources. More prayer. All these are part of an unending list of prayer concerns.

Needs that are constant but shift in name and place are:

Vision for new and returning missionaries to places such as Nigeria, Indonesia, Guyana, Malaysia-Singapore.

Safety and opportunity to function in places such as Lebanon, Uganda, Rhodesia. Missionary-national relationships in which culture, language, and other differences can be reconciled in Christ's unity.

Spiritual revitalization of missionaries and local Christians.

Family needs such as illness; high schoolers in boarding school far from home; college students in the States while families are overseas; separation from parents during their sickness or death; inability to attend children's college graduation or marriage, or birth of grandchildren.

## "WE HAVE EXPERIENCED AN ASTONISHING ANSWER TO PRAYER"

Missionaries also share answered prayer. Sarah and Ray Snell of Indonesia write: "One thing we know. God is able to do above all that we ask or even think. We are especially grateful for breaking Tom's hand. Our son is using his hand well; his finger has healed nicely. We are grateful for your prayer support during this experience."

Another answer is in a letter from Dottie and Charles Brock in the Philippines: "We have experienced an astonishing answer to prayer. Charles and some of the pastors had been praying that the Lord would raise up an evangelist for our area. Charles thought it would be one of our pastors, but along came Luis Cardenas. He is a former Iglesia ni Cristo pastor. This group does not believe in the deity of Christ. They treat their pastors for debate, and twice Mr. Cardenas publicly debated with a Protestant pastor. He officially won both debates, but each time he went home to read his Bible and pray all night; he knew in his heart that the other man was right. Thus he came to know our Saviour. Wanting to align himself with Baptists and to study further, he attended seminary extension classes. Since then he has preached in our churches and has been employed by our association of churches as a full-time evangelist. His salary is very small but he is eager in the Lord's work."

"May we thank you who have taken time to write us those cherished letters. And our deepest gratitude for those of you who hold us up in prayer; we are so dependent on it."

"We know God has the answers for us. Pray that we will be able to hear them."

## IN THE MEANTIME, PRAY MORE AND PRAY BETTER

We anticipate that new ways of sharing urgent requests quickly—followed by the answers that come—will be announced in the coming months. Watch for them.

In the meantime:

Develop a prayer relationship between your church and at least one missionary family.

Pray for missionaries and the Christian witness in places mentioned in the daily news, particularly those in crisis.

Pray that God will involve you and your family in a significant way in foreign missions.

Pray for the people in places of mission leadership in your church and in your denomination.

Pray the Lord of the harvest to thrust out many, many more harvesters—NOW.

Pray that we will learn how to pray.

Pray that we will pray!

Dr. Parks is director of the mission support division of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, Richmond, Virginia.

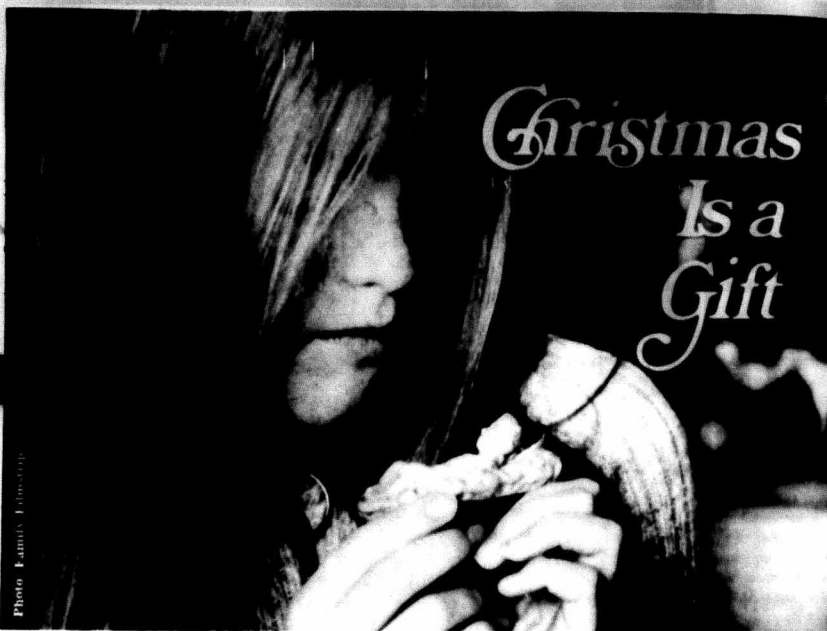


Photo: Family Foundation

#### ADVENT—A FAMILY TRADITION

If a Grinch really wants to kidnap Christmas, he will have to begin with family traditions: caroling and tree-trimming in America; yule logs in England; bird treats in Norway and pinatas in Mexico; the treasured creeche.

Our family observes the Christmas tradition of the Advent celebration, beginning four Sundays before Christmas. Advent beautifully prepares us for the celebration of Jesus' birth and will be a family tradition for many years to come.

It has been so effective that we want you to try it just once in your home. In our family we

include the sharing of Christmas around the world through missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Be sure everyone in your home knows that incorrigible girl and indomitable missionary, Lottie Moon. Not only did she stop two Chinese armies from fighting while she passed between their lines, but she always had her own way—because her way was God's way. Read *Her Own Way* by Helen A. Monsell (Broadman 1958, \$3.50, available through Baptist Book Stores).

**Preparation:** Before Sunday, November 23, prepare a small circular wreath of evergreen in Styrofoam. Space four candles

in the wreath (we use three purple, representing repentance, and a pink one for joy) and a taller white one in the center. We found the best time for the service to be at the beginning of Sunday dinner. You can choose your own time. Involve each family member. In our home, Pat (older child) lights the candles. Erin reads the Bible passages. I (Mom) explain the candles, and Jerry (Dad) reads the missionaries' names and leads the prayer. Families of any size and ages can adapt. These words are mine. Your own wording will be most effective.

**Sunday, November 25:** Say: It is time to think of Jesus' coming

and what it means to us today. It is time to prepare our hearts to celebrate his birthday. Today we will light our first candle to remind us that one reason for Jesus' coming was to bring forgiveness from God and to show us how to forgive. Our task as Christians is to tell the world of that forgiveness. Lottie Moon, an early Southern Baptist missionary to China, carried out this task. We give money to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to help missionaries today to share this gift of God. The envelope beside your plate is for you to bring this offering on Christmas Day. (If your family prefers giving its offerings by the end of the week of prayer, adjust these suggestions accordingly.)

**Read Matthew 16:21-22.**

**Pray,** asking God to help prepare us for Christmas by helping us forgive others. (Let candle burn through dinner.)

During dinner, discuss and suggest ways of saving for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Some ideas below might help.

**Dad and Mom:** Pray about matching your month's tithe for Lottie Moon. Plan gifts for each other, estimate the cost, then give that amount to missions. Or give one-half and exchange smaller gifts. Match all coffee-break and luncheon-outing money and give it to Lottie. Mom can do her own hair and give the money saved.

(My Aunt Bertie Mae kept a bank on her work desk and matched coffee-break money. She and fellow workers often borrowed from the bank. All loans were returned with 100 percent interest. Many folks learned about missions because of that bank.)

**The family:** Price a "store-bought" Christmas tree. Locate

a farm and cut a tree together. (Please get permission.) The tree may not be perfect, but it will represent lots of family fun together. Give the money saved to Lottie Moon.

**Teens:** Match or give up soft-drink and movie money for a week. Be sure to keep the money in an offering envelope. Wash the car for Lottie Moon. The neighbors might need theirs washed too; and it is a good testimony. Have a Lottie Moon date night with several couples: stay at home, play games, make your own refreshments, and give the price of a movie date to Lottie. This will add up fast!

**Youngsters:** Ask Mom and Dad for a special job each week for your offering. Ask Grandma, too. Give one week's allowance.

**Teens and Youngsters:** Examine your "Santa" list. Take off one item, estimate the cost, and ask "Santa" to give you the money to add to your offering. (Parents, do not place this item back in their list. Their joy is in sacrificial giving.)

**Sunday, December 5:** Recall Jesus' coming and the forgiveness he brought. Light the first candle again.

**Say:** Jesus also brought peace to us. John 14:27 tells us about this peace. (Have the verse read.)

**Continue:** This peace is one the whole world can know if people know that Jesus came. Light the second candle. Discuss new ways to give that the world may know of his coming.

**Pray,** using the missionaries' names on the prayer calendar (see pp. 56-64) and ask that the peace brought by Jesus be made known by these missionaries and our offering.

**Sunday, December 12:** Add a miniature creeche, or a picture from a card, inside the wreath.

Recall the forgiveness Jesus'

coming taught us. Light the first candle again.

Recall the peace the world can know because Jesus came. Light the second candle.

**Say:** Today's candle will remind us of the joy that Jesus' birth brought us. Let us read of Mary's happiness when she learned of his coming. Light the third candle and read Luke 1:46-49.

Read the missionary prayer calendar names for this day. Recall that the joy of Christ's coming is known around the world because we give our money to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

**Pray:** Lord, help us prepare for Jesus' birthday celebration by sharing our joy with others.

During dinner, discuss program family members are making on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Make new plans if necessary.

**Sunday, December 18:** Say: We have lighted three candles in preparing for Christ's coming. One is for the forgiveness he brought, one is for the peace of God, and one is for the joy Jesus' coming brought to all mankind. (Light the three candles.)

Today we are reminded of the love of God that we know because Jesus came. Because God was concerned that we could not understand his love, he sent Jesus. Let us light the fourth candle to remind us of the love of God which came to us in the form of Jesus. (Light the pink candle.)

**Repeat together John 3:16.** Read the names on the missionary prayer calendar for today.

**Pray** that God will help us love others as he loved us.

Discuss last-minute ideas and plans for the offerings to be ready on Christmas Day. This is best done during the meal and apart from the service.

**Christmas Day: Some families** use the Christmas Day service before breakfast. With children, we found it is better at dinner. Little minds are too full of Santa. Add to the wreath something suggesting people around the world. Foreign novelties, foreign dolls, flags of nations on toothpicks and stuck in gumdrops (a good child's project), foreign Christmas cards.

**Say:** We have lighted four candles to help prepare our hearts for Christmas. These candles represent the forgiveness, the peace, the joy, and the love of God that we enjoy because Jesus came.

Light the four candles.

All over the world today Christians are celebrating the birth of Jesus. Let us listen to an old and loved story. Read Luke 2:1-16.

Now we will light our fifth candle—the one that represents Jesus, not only as a tiny baby, but as a grown man who taught us how to live by his own example.

Let's place our offering in the circle. By bringing our money, people around the world will know that Jesus was born, lived, died, and lives again that they might know forgiveness, peace, joy, and love.

Pray for the missionaries on the prayer calendar, for the offering that has been given, and that each family member will be willing to give himself or herself to tell the joy of Jesus' coming around the world.

#### CHRISTMAS TOGETHERNESS

Start ornament collections for your children. Mine have a few of their own and rediscover them each year. As a Christmas gift, wrap a special one for each child and give them as the family begins the annual decorating. Plan a decorating evening and put it on everyone's calendar.

**And make these special ornaments yourself.** Tap a tiny hole in each end of an extra large egg, using an icepick. Blow the contents of the egg into a cup and save for baking or scrambling. Carefully make a larger hole in the side of the shell. Rinse well. Allow to dry. Coat the inside with white glue and place in a slow oven (225°) for 30 minutes. Now you can use fingernail polish and cut away most of one side of the shell. Cover the egg with ribbon, sequins, pearls, etc. Insert a loop of gold twine in the tiny blow hole. Inside glue a tiny eyechee, angels—anything Christmassy. These are great gifts or keepsakes. I have ten of them made eight years ago.

#### A SPECIAL TREAT

For the tree-trimming party, fold 3 tablespoons of your favorite mint flavoring into 2 cups whipped cream or thawed nondairy topping. As "dippers" serve bite-size pieces of fresh fruit or your favorite plain cookies. Also try blending  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar, and 2 tablespoons water until smooth and add to the cream. Or use  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup finely chopped sweet chocolate. Or create your own.

#### INCLUDE AND INVITE

"Come, blessed of my Father, . . . I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes" (Matt. 25:34-35 The Living Bible).\*

Christmas can be a very depressing time for some people. That is hard for most of us to understand when we are surrounded by excitement, family, love. On a scale that rates kinds of events that bring about mental depression, a psychiatrist rated Christmas along with crises such as divorce or death in the family. So watch for this. Include in your holiday activities lonely people or those going through difficult times.

#### THE GIFT SHOP

(Ideas only)

Make up your own beauty kit, carpentry kit, nurse's or doctor's kit. Dime stores and drugstores offer more variety for less money than prepackaged kits.

Give one big family gift. My sister's family has six members. We gave them a hand-painted Nativity set, wrapping two or three pieces for each person. They loved it.

Give yourself. Promise a weekend of babysitting for grandchildren. Give two evenings of games with your (twelve-year-old. I am going to try that.) Wrap the promises in a package.

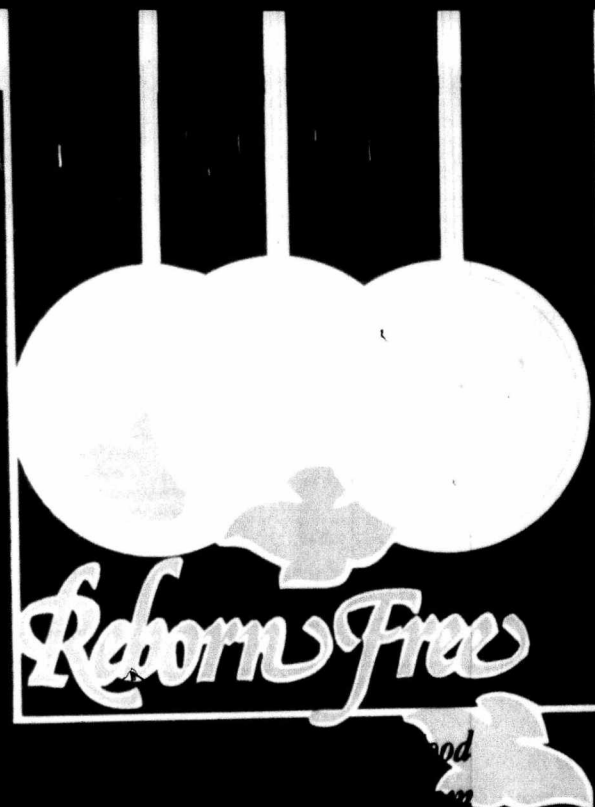
For teacher gifts, buy tiny baskets. Make miniature chum logs (one recipe makes eight). Place them in the baskets with little pine cones (ours were collected on a camping trip), red ribbon and the chum log recipe—they make delightful gifts for little money.

Last Christmas both of our children made cranberry-orange relish (recipe on most boxes of cranberries), bottled it in half-pint jars, covered the jars with plastic wrap and red ribbon. A note was attached which told that they had prepared the gift. The cost: less than one dollar. (Messy kitchen was worth it.)

#### CHRISTMAS IS

both a fact and a faith  
a season of good will  
a holiday from our forgetfulness of others  
a family festival  
a vision of a world yet to be.  
Only God could have thought of Christmas. It is a gift.  
Share it.\*\*

\*Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers.  
\*\*Copyright © by The Atlantic Monthly Company, Boston, Mass. Reprinted with permission.





A marriage without the fullness of acceptance will be uncomfortable in one of two ways. There will be warfare as the husband fights back to save his self-respect and tries to hold on to his individuality. Or the husband will retreat into silence or simply absent himself from the home using a variety of excuses in order to have peace at any price. The wife wonders where all the romance has gone—never realizing she has stifled it with her demands.

We try our little alterations in subtle ways like manipulation and bribery—even going so far as to use our sexual favors to get what we want. And we do it in obvious ways through criticism, nagging, complaining, and comparing him with other men. Read what God has to say about criticism:

"Why quibble about the speck in someone else's eye—his little fault—when a board is in your own?" (Luke 6:41 *The Living Bible*)."

God is specific about complaining too: "Better to live in the desert than with a quarrelsome, complaining woman" (Prov. 21:19 TLB). And, "It is better to live in the corner of an attic than with a sulky woman in a lovely home" (Prov. 21:9 TLB).

As for nagging, God says: "A rebellious son is a calamity to his father, and a nagging wife annoys like constant dripping" (Prov. 19:13 TLB).

In addition to causing strife and contention in our homes or running the risk of driving our husbands away, we need to face another fact about our desire to change our husbands. We must ask ourselves why. Isn't it usually because we think things will be easier or more convenient for ourselves? In doing this, we commit the sin of the "big I." Our husband's needs are so important that someone else must change to meet them. We try to make it easier for them that "it is for his own good," but who are we to decide what is "his own good"?

A good third reason for our stopping the attempt to change our husbands is that it simply does not work. In his book, *The Art of Understanding Your Men*, Carl Osborne points out the truth that I can change no one but myself. When I change, others sometimes tend to change in response to the change in me. So often we think that the remedy in our situation lies in changing something outside ourselves when instead it is our attitudes and spiritual condition that need changing. Our wish to change our husbands (or anyone else) says, "You are not good enough for me the way you are." Unconsciously, we try to play God.

Romans 5:8 was a great revelation to me. Through it God said to me, "I loved you enough to die for you while you were still a sinner." It

was years before I had matured enough spiritually years of attempting to change my husband, before I understood the implications of that verse. I did not say, "Shape up, Ruth, then I will accept you." He loves and accepts me just as I am—only me, but also all others. When I refuse to accept others unless they change in some way, I am saying that I know more and am better than God.

#### ACCEPT THE DESIGN

To stop trying to change others to a negative order, but until we stop, we cannot begin the new step—receiving.

My job is to receive my husband the way he is, thanking God for him. If there are things about my husband that bother me, I am to ask God what work he is trying to do in my life through them. I realize that he cannot do any other way.

When I first began to apply this principle, it became obvious that God had been trying to get my attention for a long time. Here is just one example. I tend to be impatient, wanting this task or my romanticism—my ability to stop and smell the roses along the way. And a certain amount of freedom to act on impulse is good, for often the Holy Spirit prompts me this way. Someone has referred to this as God's "little anagins." And certainly, I have smelt a lot more roses, and I find freedom in the beauty around me than those of a more logical, rational nature who only stop to smell roses when they have put it in their schedule to do so. Nevertheless, my impulsiveness had led me down some strange paths—filling my cupboards with little-used pans and appliances and my closets with little-worn clothing.

My husband is just the opposite. He prides each purchase, reads the consumer bulletins, compares shops, and always gets the best bargain. For years I drove him to distraction with my impulse buying, and he drove me up the wall with his deliberateness. By the time he had finally made the decision of which brand to buy, I was thoroughly sick of the whole idea. We were so compatible, you might say. The appalling thing is that some stores easily grant discounts over the cost of things.

Once I had learned the principle of receiving, I applied it. I asked, "OK, Lord. What is it you are trying to show me?"

And God said, "Ruth, if you lived alone, your impulsiveness would affect only you. But because you have a family, it often causes misunderstandings to others. In addition, when you do not stop to count the cost, you fall in your stewardship of money, time, and energy."

"How does your impulsiveness testify to your Holy Spirit control? What about the fruits of patience—being willing to wait for something? Kindness, considering the other fellow; self-control; not always insisting on what you want?"

I replied, "Ouch, that hurts. But thank you, God, for showing me; thank you for Chuck's cautious ways."

This was just one facet of my actively receiving my husband, yet it straightened out a source of conflict in our marriage. An amazing side benefit then ensued. Once my husband did not have to fight me every step of the way, he relaxed. Occasionally he now does things on impulse too—things like bringing me flowers or suggesting we eat out even when we had not planned to.

#### UNDERSTANDING, THE KEY TO FULLNESS

The key to acceptance in marriage is a wife who understands how she and her husband are different and appreciates the function of the differences.

The first step in understanding is to recognize that you and your husband are different—not only physically, but emotionally and spiritually. Some differences are basically male-female differences. Some stem from the uniqueness of his personality, some from his family background. None of the differences make one sex superior or inferior. Some men do think they are superior and some women feel men think they are superior and resent it. Both attitudes are wrong. God means for our differences to complement each other, not to make us competitive.

The second step in understanding comes in recognizing and affirming our differences. We accept the obvious physical differences of male and female because they are so apparent. The subtle differences give us more trouble. Experts tell us that men operate on a logical wavelength, women on an emotional one. Men seek adventure, run risks, and take chances. Women seek security. Men see the overall forest, women see the individual trees.

Other differences between marriage partners have to do with personality rather than sexuality. For example, the extrovert and the introvert, or the pack rat versus the throw-away. Often opposites do attract and even marry. Whether the household becomes an armed camp or a haven of rest depends on how much the partners are willing to accept their differences.

A couple may have some personality traits that are opposite and have other traits that are identical. Earlier I described my impulsiveness and

my husband's deliberation—opposites, certainly. Yet, we are both pack rats of the highest order. No conflict there. I would not dream of throwing anything of his away without asking, and he returns the favor. Marriage partners differ because of family background and training. My husband's mother, an Iowa farm woman, cooked good food but used few herbs and spices. My mother learned to cook the seven sweets and seven ills of the Pennsylvania Dutch. It took me years of alternately being insulted because my husband did not eat my cooking and slyly slipping seasonings into his food before I finally accepted the fact that his aversion to highly-spiced dishes was no worse than my addiction to them. Now I cook a variety of both and we both eat what appeals to us, but for a long time I considered my husband just plain stubborn. How much easier on both of us if I had only understood why our tastes differed.

How do you achieve this understanding of your mate? Begin by listening to him and do not forget that when your mouth opens, your ears close. Listen with your eyes. See the expression on your husband's face as he talks. See what he is doing with his hands and feet. Both give clues to his mental state. Listen with your mind, trying to hear what he is really saying behind the words. Then tell him what you think you heard him say. This lets him know you want to understand and often clears up misunderstandings on your part.

An old Danish proverb says, "A blind wife and a deaf husband make a happy couple." Since we are not blind and our husbands are not deaf, we must find the power to accept our husbands, giving our marriages the freedom God intends. This is not a natural trait and it does not come easily.

#### MAKE IT REAL IN YOUR LIFE

1. Make a list of all the ways you have tried to change your husband. Item by item, give the list to God, confessing your sin of non-acceptance and claiming his forgiveness. You may also need to ask your husband's forgiveness for areas of your marriage where your non-acceptance has caused conflict. Ask God's help and your husband's help in overcoming the "make-over" tendency you have.

2. Then thank God for each thing about your husband that you would have changed if you could. Ask God to show you what work he wants to do in your life through your husband. Begin to actively receive all of your husband as a gift from God.

3. In your daily quiet time, ask God to teach you how to understand your husband. Then, throughout each day, look for what God is teaching you.

\*Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers.

# WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

## \$50

WMU work, Gaza  
Literacy program, Peru

## \$100

Bible schools, Ecuador  
Audiovisuals, Peru  
Correspondence courses, Honduras  
WMU publications, Bahamas  
Mass communications, Surinam

## \$180

Expenses of Mission meeting,  
Bermuda  
Bookstore, Trinidad

## \$150

WMU work, Windward Islands  
Publications, North Brazil  
Evangelism, Ghana

## \$300

Literature, Germany

10



## \$5,000

Bible school, Israel  
Aid to churches, Yugoslavia  
WMU work, East Africa  
Scholarships, East Africa  
Student work, East Africa  
Clinic, Ethiopia  
Agriculture, Ethiopia  
School building fund, Nigeria  
New work, Jordan

## \$10,000

Evangelism, Uganda  
Direct evangelism, property  
operating, Hong Kong  
Seinan Gakuin High School, Japan  
Student work, Israel  
Publications, Zambia

## \$12,000

Missionary journeymen subsistence,  
North Brazil  
Mass communications, Italy

ROYAL SERVICE • DECEMBER 1976

## \$15,000

Missionary housing (property oper-  
ating), Zambia  
Clinic (current expenses), Honduras  
Scholarships, Nigeria  
New work, Malaysia-Singapore

## \$20,000

Continental Baptist Women's  
Unions—\$5,000 each for Asia,  
Europe, Latin America, Africa  
American Bible Society  
Missionaries' children school  
allowance, Spain

## \$25,000

Publications, Indonesia  
Publications, Korea  
Hospital (current expenses),  
Colombia

## \$35,000

Seminary, Indonesia  
Hospital, Korea

## \$40,000

Aid to churches, Panama  
Seminary, Korea

## \$70,000

Bible schools, Nigeria  
Hospital, India

## \$100,000

Evangelization, Japan

## \$550,000

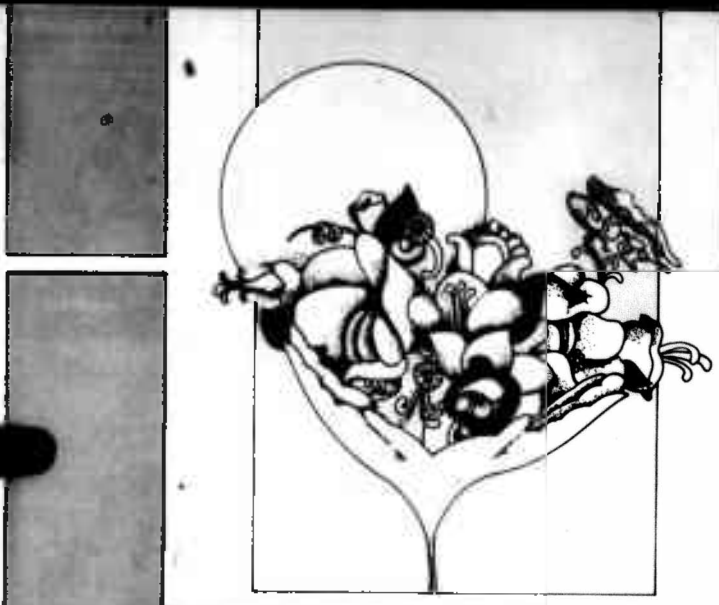
Outfit, freight, and travel for new  
missionaries

## \$2,520,000

Salaries for 900 missionaries

**Total Offering Goal:  
\$29 million**

11



CAROL TOMLINSON

I am a teacher—plain as a pike, then not aware that I am taught, I am taught gently and lovingly by my one hundred and fifty plus students, and I am taught with such wisdom that not to share the teaching would be a sin of omission. Just lately I find myself wanting to earn absolute strangers at a bus stop and say, "Hey, I came tell you what just happened."

So, Hey, Stranger! Let me tell you what just happened. And please—share my exultation. Think, as I do that there are real pearls. I don't believe I could stand discovering that they are only simulated.

#### The Joy of Bull-Headed Perseverance

Whoever says that we have completely lost our pioneering urge to tame the unconquerable does not realize how many among us turn a wilderness every day—allotment mental or emotional or educational. And whoever said it also has not met my friend. He is my friend because he has reminded me of a valuable trait that I think was intended to be exercised to its children's fullest. Perseverance. Perseverance even in

tasks which the world would think small, but which themselves are paramount in their difficulty.

He was tall and had the telltale signs of a moustache pushing fuzz through his top lip. He was definitely a couple of years too old to be sitting in that seventh-grade classroom I was observing. And he was certainly a couple of inches too tall to be peered into that middle-school desk.

The class was working on a puzzle designed to increase the ease of working with sounds. It was not increasing the ease of anything for most of the students at first. But then they began to catch on and their enthusiasm fueled the speed with which they worked. It was about

that time I singled my friend from the rest of the crowd. He was concentrating. The other students had begun to figure out the "code" which they would have to use to finish the puzzle. They called the teacher to their desks to verify their findings. She affirmed the "code" of the code about the class. My friend had not heard a sound of affirmation. He was not yet close to making the discovery for himself. But he was persevering.

The code was so "simple." A equals 1, B equals 2, C equals 3, D equals 4, and so on to the end of the alphabet. With that information, the rest of the class was at work at all. But he did not yet have that information.

A student across the aisle realized my friend was getting better and reached over to show the code to the solution. My friend (gently) pushed his hand away. He was making the discovery himself.

The teacher moved by his desk at one point suggesting that he might accept some help so that he would not get too far behind the

others. After all, they had three puzzles to do. This was just the first. He listened, smiled a thank you, and went on with the shuffling away of his mountain.

By now, the answer to the code had been said aloud. He had not heard. He persisted. The others were on puzzle number 2. He persisted on number 1.

My attention drifted back to him and I saw that he had a dictionary in his hand. It was so obvious to me that a dictionary could be of no earthly use to him in breaking the code that I felt a lump coming up my throat as I thought, "Poor guy! He's worked all this time and is taking the whole thing the wrong way."

But his face showed he was getting somewhere. He searched his words to himself. By now, the others were on puzzle number 2. He persisted. And the dictionary? Of course it was valuable. He was a human in need and as humans do, he had devised a tool.

You see, he did not know the alphabet. That was his problem. But he knew that with patience he could go through the dictionary and discover it. First there were the pages with Aa, then Bb, and so forth.

As the bell rang he finished the first puzzle. And it was correct. And he smiled a smile that was richly earned as he put his work on the teacher's desk. His first hour in school had been a victory that day.

And I thought about myself—and wondered. It was always enough to be so mountainous to me, would I have the courage to persist? In fact, do I have it in the arena of my life that are equivalent to my friend's mountain?

I have a question about God, and he has given me the ability to puzzle it through. But that is tough sometimes. I will wait. Maybe I do not need to know anyway. Or maybe I just wait. I will have a sudden insight someday.

There is that job at home or at work that is so pesky. I just do not enjoy it at all. And I am tired today. I have been working hard. I will wait.

I really ought to do something for that neighbor who needs a friend. But it is awkward. I do not know how to go about it exactly. When I think of just the right thing to say, then I will go.

Thank you, friend-whose-name-I-do-not-know. You made me embarrassed at the skills that are mine and the policy use I put them to when the going gets a bit sticky. Thank you for being a pioneer and for making me feel a kinship to you so that I may find the road of my holding that precious spirit too.

#### The Joy of Standing Teacher's Desk

She was a guide in a major New York tourist attraction. One should have known better than to ask that question. I was standing with a group of exceptionally bright fourteen-year-olds.

We entered the elevator with the guide. She turned to the students and asked, "Why is it that they always travel with the intelligent students and leave the dumb ones back home?"

I could hardly believe she said it and was allowed to ask the students some more to let us not before an answer was demanded.

As we entered, however, she said, "I'm serious! Why is it that they always bring the smart kids on this and leave the dumb kids back home?"

Before I could realize my amazement, let alone remember an answer, she'd prepared her with all the calm of a Presidential lawyer. "Ladies, the first thing we learned in our class was that there is no such thing as a stupid kid."

Thank you, thank you, for knowing that all of us have our thing to say in the world. Thank you for nobly recognizing that we need some apology for another human being. Thank you for knowing that we are all here together to lift each other up.

And, thank you, I hope I am a worthy student of your wisdom. I have so many responsibilities to feel your pulse in all our fellow human beings. I hope I will remember a bit more fully the dignity we share and a bit less the artificial differences.

When you see I reach out to the Miller's name?

#### The Joy of—Puzzling Joy

Susan is a teacher. She taught a lot. She can enjoy a short kid's sweater across the knee. She gets positively high off of the water in a playground's wading pool and she is intrigued for unconscious comfort and a splash for a week. So that she was afraid of the water then she asked that his terror of her must be so much greater. She realized that his terror would be equal to having a piece to belong. The shiver that was the place he had chosen. It would be his. It was a small inconvenience to use the wading pool until the splat moved on.

Susan has a theory about grown-ups. According to her definition, a grown-up is a person of any age who has begun to see the world in terms of "right answers." There is the right way to do this and that and the other thing. There is the proper piece to put this. There is the appropriate way to react to that. There is the approved method of attacking this problem. And there is almost no joy. Worse, there is almost no creativity. And to be born in the image of God is to be creative.

Susan knows the world cannot function without some prescriptions. She grows an understanding for a proper amount of conformity by being an A student.

But in those precious moments she calls her own, she puts out a special pair of eyes and sees wonderful things that grown-ups never do.

Susan will not be a grown-up at ninety years old. I have known some five-year-old grown-ups.

Thank you, Susan, for reminding me of the joy God has put in every corner of our world. And I hope that not for a moment will I allow myself to grow up in such a way that I die to life.

Isn't it absolutely scary how much some days can teach you? But then my friend and Steve and Susan already know that.

CAROL ANN DAVIS TOMLINSON, Arlington, Virginia, is a teacher and a writer.



**Want to make a tradition?**

# ma vo ov has cards

Henry Cole sent the mid-1800s—to his fi  
and he want he  
on ungly  
he for the shoppers' attention

Design your own cards. You can be as creatively expressive as you want, and those who receive them will be delighted. You can make them in a matter of minutes and at a cost of a couple of cents. They're a great idea for making gifts for family and friends. Many other ideas are listed in the book.

on the magazine shelves. You can find grocery stores that adapt their packaging to make greetings that

plots you use may determine the results. Large, colorful Chrysanthemums from other years are beautiful. Various sizes are available from nurseries.

material during makes a nice textured background for designs cut from felt. Yarn, trim, and felt over the top of material can be used.

If you intend to send more than one handmade card, keep the design as simple as possible so that a minimum amount of time will be consumed in assembling each

12

Add a cross (symbol of suffering) to the center of the world). Very simple shapes can easily be cut from felt.

Inside the card: Use a Scripture verse, a Christmas carol, or whatever words help you to explain what Christmas means to you. If you use dark colored paper for the card, your message could be written on lighter colored paper and glued on. If the design you use on the front of the card is complicated, or if you think the recipient will not know its meaning, write a brief interpretation on the back of the card.



Taking time to enjoy the shade of the palm and the lush landscape of the Andersons' mahoeleum home, I ambled up the sidewalk toward the veranda. Cousin Sarah leaned against a column while I swayed in the hammock. My sigh broke the silence.

"Cousin Sarah, a moment ago I felt frustration. But contentment always comes when I enter your home. I wish I could stay here forever."

For many years Cousin Sarah Anderson reigned as matriarch of this home. Every young pastor's wife needs a friend like Cousin Sarah and a family like the Andersons—Christians, rich, and lovely, second. This family nudged me to dream dreams, to be dissatisfied with mediocrity.

"I wish I could stay here forever," I had said. In response, Cousin Sarah raised her head so slowly that even her bun did not bobble and looked down the walk. Her gaze was fixed on a place where the sidewalk was freshly poured; a time when the trees were young; a time before the children blossomed. Minutes passed. Then she spoke.

"Many years ago Mr. Anderson and I stood here and we asked the Lord to walk on this spot. We asked him to walk in peace rather than prosperity."

"Through the births and deaths he's walked here."

"Through the disappointments he's walked here."

"Through the good days he's walked here."

"Through the tragedies he's walked here."

"Mrs. Calvert, you feel the peace of his presence."

With a gleam in her eyes, produced more by excitement than tears, Cousin Sarah continued.

"His peace is not limited to this place. Walk with him every day and you will feel his peace. The longer the walk, the more precious his peace."

Cousin Sarah—petite, pretty, polished, and at peace.

A peaceful prism is my Christmas prayer for you.

You are unique! You have dreams and ambitions that are different from every other woman. Our differences cause the compound effect, of which your prism is a part, to radiate powerful potential.

What determines our differences? Several factors:

Life-styles: some women prefer doing things, others the more methodical.

Economics: Some women struggle, while others are comfortable financially.

Education: From grade-school dropouts to PhDs. Baptist women ran the gamut on the educational scale.

Community participation: Some are vocal crusaders; others work quietly behind the scenes.

Stages in life: Baptist women nurse babies; tend teenagers; prepare to be mother of the bride; adore the grandchildren. Some women are considering job promotions; others retirement.

But if I could dissect our diverse prisms, a common dream—blending our differences—would be revealed. Each woman desires peace.

You may have sent a husband or son to World War II to Korea, to Vietnam. With terms agreed, treaties signed, or troops coming home, we witnessed an end to conflict. But how did you cope during the days of combat?

You and your neighbor received a lengthy misunderstanding. The hand squeeze or a long talk over coffee indicated an amicable agreement. But how did you cope during the months of recrimination?

Your husband has been sober two years. His Alcoholics Anonymous birthday is a tribute to a renewed harmonious life. But how did you cope during the years of abuse?

Your daughter's probation period ended. The letter of release from the judge signals the passing of a strifeless year. But how did you cope during the months of tension?

These vignettes illustrate several kinds of peace. We receive and are grateful for these kinds of peace. But a thinking woman knows that our way begins again, that a husband may drink again. We seek a permanent peace that will help us cope.

A graph of our daily agonies—stemming from misunderstanding business associates in caring children—would not show a straight line of contentment. The line would zigzag, plunge, stretch up, then drop again. Women have problems.

The crux is in the coping. A Christian woman can possess Jesus' gift of peace—an inner calm—which shines brighter during the most difficult hour of day than it does during the hour of recreation.

Imagine Jesus in the center of a circle of people, with his hands joined, the Sanhedrin, shaking the mob, screaming for a crucifixion.

the disciples, shuffling camp. Jesus stood with a calm eye in the midst of a human hurricane. He offers us this perfect peace under all understanding." Then peace, the Lord can run through our lives like a net-to-good days.

Peace is the escape to your prism. When being affected itself, it will reflect and other experiences that have served you.

How can our prism be peaceful? Polish the prism. Sugar-water cleans produces momentary relief. But peace enters a profound prism. Peace enters our lives in a daily changing of our way to the Lord.

Petition the Lord. Peace is a gift. We ask for it. Jesus said, "My peace I give you: not as the world gives, give I give it." (John 14:27).

Ponder his word. "Great peace have they thy law" (Psalm 119:165).

In preparation for this winter season, a beautiful experience. Using a lantern, I read every passage pertaining to peace in the Bible. I discovered that peace is not in cheese peace or another word or phrase through the Scriptures. Good things are proper that Baptist women will make their Word daily.

Practice the principles of peace.

Franklin of Amlol (1901-1980) outlined some principles for practicing peace. Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console. To be understood as to understand. To be loved as to love.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ, what gift can a Christian woman give that can offer a peaceful prism in order to be a catalyst in a chaotic world.

**Week of Prayer for  
Foreign Missions**

**November 28-December 5,  
1976**

**Good News of a Great Joy**

**Martha Nelson**

Dear Mission Support Chairman,  
What an enriching experience it has been to prepare the following information and suggestions for your observance of the 1976 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions!

Mail call at our house took on new importance as letters began arriving from missionaries responding to my invitation. "Yes, I have a friend I'd like to introduce to Stateside Baptists. Let me tell you about her."

Kay Harless called long-distance months after I'd written for details about her friend. "Are you calling from South America?" I asked excitedly. No, my letters to her had stacked up down there in Colombia, finally reaching her in Tallahassee, Florida, where she and her family were flourishing.

Accidentally I erased an interview with Emogene Harris of Nigeria, taped on her visit to our church. Hastily I scrawled, "Help! I'm in trouble!" lest she be off to Africa again, leaving me with only vague recollections of all she had shared about her friend.

"Be informal," I'd suggested to my correspondents. "Pretend we are sitting under a tree at Ridgcrest talking."

I smiled as I listened to Florence Frederick's tape from Guadeloupe, with its occasional asides. "Just a moment, dear, Mother can't talk to you right now." Roosters crowing outside Florence's window provided the finishing touch of informality.

Some would call it coincidence, but I think it was something more when editor Owens suggested I focus on a woman from Spain. I had read of a ninety-year-old poet in Madrid who shared her poems about Jesus over radio from that city's First Baptist Church. Imagine my delight to find that Indy Whitten had known her for many years. Indy wrote enthusiastically of her, even translating one of her poems about Jesus for us.

There was an uneasy wait for word from Sarah Snell. But at long last a battered packet arrived from Indonesia, and it was well worth waiting for.

In the process of my preparation I've made ten new friends—and I'd like you to meet them every one. For I have seen God at work in their lives. I have been deeply impressed by the admiration and respect of our

**"AND, NOW, YOU HAVE  
THE PRIVILEGE  
OF INTRODUCING  
THESE WOMEN TO  
YOUR FRIENDS"**

missionaries for these Christian women of other nations. I am more than ever aware of the vital role nationals play in the spread of the gospel.

As I studied these women, I found our differences fading into the background, and the list of what we have in common growing lengthy.

I believe the finest lesson I have learned from this experience has been this: that Christian women are much alike the world over. The same gifts our Lord gives American women to use in doing his work here, he gives Christian women of other nations, too.

**And now, as key person in the planning and preparation for the week of prayer, you have the privilege of introducing these women to your friends, the women of your church.** These introductions will provide the backdrop of information and impressions which will give direction to your prayers. And praying, you know, is what the week is all about. Giving is sure to follow.

Plan carefully, taking into consideration the special circumstances and the unique capabilities of women in your church. I hope you will plan happily, presenting a joyous picture of foreign missions.

**Plan for the widest possible participation from your women.** Think of their lifestyles. Arrange for meeting times which will fit as many kinds of personal and family schedules as possible. Employed women and those with small children might welcome a mini-prayer retreat on Saturday.

Young mothers at home with their youngsters will likely need child care at the church building for weekday meetings. Those with kindergarteners have daily commitments which must be planned around.

A brown-bag lunch, a festive brunch, a dressy Christmas dinner—any of these might provide appealing settings for the prayer sessions.

Consider honoring special groups of women at your meetings. On the day you feature Madame Susannah of Nigeria (Wednesday), honor older women of your church. Recognize them as your "mothers-in-the-Lord."

On the day Linda Goni of Indonesia is featured (Monday), honor professional teachers in your congregation.

On the day you feature Candida de Chico (Tuesday), honor women who have a special gift for working with children.

Honor women with creative talents in the arts on the day you feature Carmen Fernandez (Thursday).

(While these women may not all be able to be present, your invitation will say, "We recognize women like you who serve God with their special gifts and abilities. The invitation will provide a way of personalizing foreign missions to them.")

**Consider ways of getting the message to those who won't be attending.**

If your church has a mission or preaching point, or if there are established groups such as home Bible studies whose members may not usually participate in the daily meetings, ask if a Baptist Women member might bring a brief presentation to their meeting and lead in a time of prayer.

Encourage those who will not be present to get acquainted with these overseas friends by reading about them in ROYAL SERVICE. Send an informal memo on "From the desk of stationery. Hi! Be sure to see ROYAL SERVICE Dec. '76 for info re Baptist friends around the

world. Join us in prayer if you can't attend the scheduled meetings. Remember.

Wherever she is, a woman can pray;  
Whenever she wishes, a woman can pray;  
Whatever she does, a woman can pray (signed).

Talk with your WMU director about asking your pastor to consider devoting time during the Wednesday prayer service to an emphasis on foreign missions. Introduce the women from around the world to the congregation and suggest prayer needs of their nations.

**For an interest center in your daily meetings,** enlist an artistic member to prepare a large Christmas greeting card, using the art on the poster or on the cover of ROYAL SERVICE. Mat, or double-mat, the poster art attractively, then hinge it with tape to another piece of matboard. Dimension and glitter may be added by paper-sculpturing the wings and skirt of the angel with heavy colored foil. Or glaze the poster art with one-application decoupage. Letter the daily themes on separate sheets.

#### MATERIALS FOR BAPTIST WOMEN USE DURING WEEK OF PRAYER

Distributed according to state plan  
Packet of materials containing:  
Theme Poster  
Daily Prayer Guide for Home Use  
Sample of priced Program Cover  
Sample of priced Hymnbook  
Wrapper  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Envelopes  
Factual Leaflet on Foreign Missions  
Priced materials available from Baptist Book Store (use order form p. 64)  
Hymnbook Wrapper  
Program Cover  
Filming: One Song for All the World (color with cassette and manual. Price: \$8.50 (also available through Church Audiotape Education Plan).

(parchment if available) for the inside message and sign the names of the missionaries and their friends. With their nations (i.e., Celebrate with Rejoicing Key Harless and Candida de Chico, Colombia).

Stand the big greeting card in a Christmas setting of evergreen boughs, adding a proportionately-sized angel figurine or candle if desired.

**To receive the daily offerings,** carry through the greeting card theme, suggesting that tucked into many a Christmas greeting card each year is a check or crisp bill, giving added assurance of love and caring. Invite members to place their offerings beside the card.

**Put it all together with little touches of caring.**

Someone has said that at missions meetings women like to receive something for the hand, something for the head, and something for the heart.

Since bells symbolize joy at Christmas, I'm including directions for making small knitted red bells. Hand these out as lapel pin-ons, as prayer reminders, as conversation starters. Or, staple them to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering envelopes.

Homebound members may enjoy knitting the bells. Call attention to ROYAL SERVICE content material, or provide them with individual prayer guides, asking them to pray as they knit.

#### Joy Bells

Use size 3 knitting needles, red 4 ply knitting yarn.  
Cast on 10 sts. Row 1 knit 10 sts. Row 2 knit 6, purl 4. Continue rows 1 and 2 until you have knitted 16 rows.  
Bind off on row 17.  
Sew bell together at sides, gather the top and put a jingle bell inside.

Tie threads and turn bell, pulling the strings through and tying a bow at the top.

**Finally, consider how you may involve many women in the week's activities.** Think in terms of talents you can utilize: the musically talented woman, the one with artistic ability; the one handy with knitting needles; the one gifted in leading devotionals; the woman with a gift for prayer,



MARTHA (MRS. CARL) NELSON, Pelahatchie, Mississippi, is a pastor's wife, mother of two daughters, and author of several books.

the one who does delightful impersonations, the one just waiting to be asked to do something, anything, for the Lord.

While you might handle the whole thing nicely, and more easily, by yourself, your greatest influence will be felt as you let others help. And attendance is often regulated by the number of women who have been asked to participate.

Here's wishing you a wonderful week of fellowship and a rewarding week of prayer, built around the greatest joy in all the world.

Your friend,  
Martha Nelson

#### DAILY PROCEDURE

(Note that some parts of the daily procedure will draw on the same content each day; this repetitive content appears below and on p. 22.)

##### Daily Meditation:

Medley of Carols  
Psalm for a Woman at Christmas  
(Each day use the Daily Meditation suggestion provided below.)

##### Celebrate the Good News

(Each day use the material on p. 22.)

Celebrate with Song: "Joy to the World" (See p. 22.)

Celebrate by Praying: Call to Prayer (See p. 22.)

##### Introduction of Missionary

(Material for this segment and the next two segments is different each day. Follow the day-by-day suggestions beginning on p. 23.)

Feature: "I'd Like You to Meet My Friend"

##### And Now to Pray

Benediction (sharing through giving)

(See p. 22.)

##### Medley of Carols

##### Daily Meditation

(Members caught up already in the holiday rush may appreciate the following as personal preparation for prayer. Reproduce it on a program folder for either silent, unison, or responsive reading. Or, have a good reader tape it for playing each day. Or, ask a member seated in the audience to read it unannounced, with a background of quiet carols.)

Psalm for a Woman at Christmas  
The Lord is my Pace-setter.

I shall not rush.

He makes me stop and rest

for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness

which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind.

And his guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many  
things to accomplish each day,  
I will not fret, for his presence is  
here.  
His timelessness, his all impor-  
tance  
will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and re-  
newal in the midst of my activity.  
By anointing my mind with his oils  
of tranquility.  
My cup of joyous energy over-  
flows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness  
shall be the fruits of my hours.  
For I shall walk in the pace of my  
Lord, and dwell in his house  
for ever.

(Continue medley of carols briefly.)

#### Celebrate the Good News

Have you heard the news? It's  
good news! Good news of a great  
joy. The Lord has come, the Sav-  
iour.

Good news calls for celebra-  
tion. Let's celebrate. Right here,  
right now, let's celebrate. Let's  
celebrate the good news.

Let's celebrate with rejoicing.  
Rejoice in the Lord. Rejoice ever-  
more. Keep on rejoicing. Let your  
joy be in the Lord. Take joy.

Let's celebrate by praying. Pray  
without ceasing. Never give up  
praying. Keep on praying.

Let's celebrate with thanksgiv-  
ing. In everything give thanks.  
Whatever your lot, give thanks.  
Under all circumstances, give  
thanks. Cultivate the attitude of  
gratitude—to God.

Let's celebrate with creativity.  
Quench not the Spirit. Do not stifle  
inspiration. Let the creative im-  
pulses which came from contact  
with a creative God guide you into  
joyous expressions of your faith.

Let's celebrate God's peace.  
Rejoice in the Lord, pray without  
ceasing, in everything give thanks,  
quench not the Spirit—and the  
God of peace will keep you.

#### Celebrate with Song

Let's celebrate, let's celebrate  
with singing. The heart full of  
good news cannot be silent.

Carol: "Joy to the World" (Bap-  
tist Hymnal)

#### Celebrate by Praying

Let's celebrate, let's celebrate  
by praying. (The following sug-  
gestion for directed prayer includes  
the birthday missionaries and pre-  
pares the group for what is to fol-  
low.)

Let's thank God for Christmas.  
Thank him for the centerpiece of  
the Christian celebration—the  
Christ child, the Saviour.

For the sound of Christmas  
carols.

For the sweet, heart-touching  
memories of Christmas.

For the joys of Christmas shar-  
ing.

Let's thank him for the friend-  
ships we celebrate at Christmas.  
For the friend that sticketh closer  
than a brother. For the strength  
and courage and security we ex-  
perience in Jesus' presence. For  
the comfort of his lovingkindness.  
For the assurance of his under-  
standing.

Let's thank God for Christian  
friends. For those who introduced  
us to our Lord.

For those who have helped us  
along the way in our pilgrimage  
of faith. For the enrichment their  
lives have brought to ours. For  
their example. For their encour-  
agement. For their kindnesses in  
the time of our need. For all we  
can accomplish together that we  
could never ever do alone.

Let's thank God for friends, for  
those we have not met, but yet  
call "friend" because they too are  
his.

For the thousands of Baptist  
women who even now gather, as  
we do, to pray for the spread of  
the gospel.

For our missionary friends at  
home and abroad, and the holy

purposes which bind us together  
in Christian love.

Let's thank God for our mis-  
sionary friends who celebrate  
birthdays today (call attention to  
missionaries on the day's prayer  
calendar.)

Ask God to bless each of these  
with joy at Christmas this year,  
with vivid memories of beautiful  
Christmases past.

Ask him to bless them with  
friendship. Ask that he bless our  
missionaries with the supportive,  
affirming friendship of the Chris-  
tians with whom they work.

Thank God again for the joys  
of friendship.

And ask God now to clear your  
mind of straying thought and to  
stretch your heart to embrace new  
friends today.

#### Benediction

Have you heard the news? It's  
good news. Good news of a great  
joy! Tell the world. Tell all the  
world. The Lord has come, the  
Saviour.

Let's celebrate. Let's celebrate  
by sharing. For Christmas time is  
a sharing time, a time when we  
find ourselves giving a little more,  
and sometimes much more, than  
we ever planned.

Let's celebrate by giving.

If your church is having a  
"march" on Sunday, remind the  
members of the plans. If not, call  
attention to the greeting card in  
the interest center and invite mem-  
bers to tuck their gifts to missions  
into this greeting card as they  
leave.

As we give, we greet Baptists  
overseas, and our greetings and  
gifts will surely be multiplied as  
our prayers go with them.

And now may the Lord our joy  
go with us and keep us in perfect  
peace throughout this lovely sea-  
son.

#### Medley of Carols

\*From PSALM 23. Several Versions com-  
piled by M. Strange, published by The  
Saint Andrews Press, Edinburgh.

#### Introducing Sarah Snell

I'd like you meet my friend  
Sarah Snell, missionary to  
Indonesia. Sarah was born in a  
mill village in North Carolina and  
grew up in the small Baptist  
church there. She felt the pull of  
foreign missions early; as a  
five-year-old Sunbeam Band  
member she looked at pictures of  
Chinese children who couldn't  
sing "Jesus Loves Me"—because  
they had never heard of Jesus and  
didn't know he loved them.

As a member of Girls' Auxiliary  
and Young Woman's Auxiliary  
she became more and more  
impressed that God was calling  
her to serve him in a nation other  
than her own. But not until she  
was married, "forty-ish," and the  
mother of five sons did the Lord  
open the door for Roy and Sarah  
Snell to go to Korea.

After ten years in Korea, the  
Snells moved to Indonesia where  
Sarah met her friend, Linda Gani.  
Sarah will be impersonated by  
Sarah Snell,  
tell us about your friend.

I'd Like You to Meet My Friend  
(Sarah Snell speaks). On our  
arrival in Indonesia in 1973 I was  
introduced to my language  
teachers, one of whom was  
Linda Gani.

Linda and I hit it off right from  
the start, maybe because we are  
alike in so many ways.

She is single, and I am married  
with six sons, three in the States  
in college and three still keeping  
things lively at home.

But look at all we have in  
common. We're both a bit  
heavy set, with dark hair and  
eyes. We both dress simply,  
usually a plain skirt and blouse  
with flat shoes.

We both have outgoing  
personalities, and we tend to be  
enthusiastic, to look for the best  
in people, to enjoy life.

We both have identified our  
gift to be teaching. And we have  
been drawn together through a  
strong interest in the women's  
work of Baptist churches in  
Indonesia.

Linda says, "There's nothing  
interesting in my life story except

## CELEBRATE WITH REJOICING MONDAY



that I have met with Jesus." You see, Linda was one of those little children who couldn't sing "Jesus Loves Me."

"When I was young," she says, "Christian friends took me to church once or twice but I couldn't understand the message."

"I spent Sundays in my own way—going to movies, on picnics, on barges, until I met missionary Fay Taylor."

"Miss Taylor came with missionary Charles Cowherd to the school where I taught. The principal asked me to accompany Miss Taylor while he talked with Pastor Cowherd."

"Now this was the first American woman I had ever met. I had no idea how to greet her, but I went over to her and smiled."

"Casting about for something to say, it occurred to me she might have some stories I could use with my students. I had heard of Moses and Joseph, so I asked if her church might have some stories about these men."

"'Oh, you mean Bible stories?' she asked."

"I didn't even know they were called Bible stories. But I was delighted when she offered to bring some to me."

"The very next day, to my surprise, Miss Taylor appeared with books for me to use."

"She invited me to church again and again. I would promise to go, then I wouldn't show up."

"One day she begged, 'Please, please come on Easter.'"

"So I went—to see what Easter was."

Linda gradually moved toward trust in Jesus Christ. She became a student of the Bible at First Baptist Church, Bandung, and an avid reader of Christian literature.

God used a sermon by missionary Keith Parks (now director of mission support division, Foreign Mission Board) to bring about conviction of sin and

the assurance of the resurrection in Linda's life.

Sometime later, Linda says, Jesus revealed himself to her in a dream. She declares she saw his face—glorious and loving. The following week she asked for baptism.



Linda Gani and Sarah Snell (inset)

Through her faithful witness, Linda's father, her mother, and her brothers became Christians. She became a Sunday School teacher, and she is still telling Bible stories. Last Christmas she had nine opportunities to tell the Christmas story, once at an orphanage—to children who couldn't sing "Jesus Loves Me" because they didn't know he loved them!

Linda has played a vital role in Baptist missions work, teaching Indonesian to missionaries in addition to her regular teaching position. As one student put it, "when Miss Gani teaches from the Bible, she gets excited. In fact, we all do."

She knows how to provide incentive to study. She may ask one of her students to pray in Indonesian—when he can say little more than "Thank you, Lord" in the language.

Her assignments can be challenging. Elaine Marvey, a first-term missionary, said Miss Gani asked her once to teach a Sunday School class in Indonesian, and another time to prepare materials for a Sunday School teachers' retreat. "It helped me to know she believed I could do it," Elaine said.

Linda Gani and I have become great friends as we have worked together. She is efficient and intelligent; she likes to see things done—not just talked about or planned.

When I came here, she was discouraged. As we talked and prayed, I don't know why the thought came to mind, but I wrote down three words for Linda: "He is able." Somehow that was just what Linda needed, and I feel that was the beginning of a friendship that has developed over these three years.

Missionary Joyce Rogers worked with her on the planning committee of women's work in Indonesia, and she says, "Linda came with a vision and years of experience in women's work in her own church. It wasn't long before we recognized that we had a leader who would make an imprint on women's work in this country."

"She is an overflowing Christian, her faith and enthusiasm are contagious. She feels the impossible can be accomplished if we only have faith."

"I will always remember the time we prayed together before an important meeting. She began, 'Lord, this is Linda Gani coming to you again!' We could tell she had been to him in prayer many, many times."

As secretary of the Asia Baptist Women's Union, Linda has called on me to help her with secretarial responsibilities and with articles she has written for Asian Echoes. In one she wrote

"Let us not be too busy to share, and let us not be too proud to ask. There are times when each of us needs the assistance of another. Our sisters in troubled areas need one kind of help; our sisters in affluent societies need another. As we work together and share together, we begin to feel together."

Since my family moved from Bandung, where she lives, to Blitar, we keep in touch by mail interspersed with matters about the Lord's business are personal words from friend to friend.

"You must be busy moving to Blitar," she writes. "Please don't try to move or lift heavy things, for it usually affects our health."

Has Bobo grown up much? I should have sent him some more drawing books. Christmas is approaching. It seems but yesterday that I asked you how to compose a Christmas greeting.

Are you going to have a Christmas play for the Blitars? You have three good actors at home. About the Javanese teacher you need—it's better for you to look for one in Blitar. I'll see if I can get a textbook on Javanese for you to study.

I have come to feel that the Lord led me to Indonesia and has given me the joy of working with Linda Gani, a woman of similar personality, commitment, and vision in order that the women's work in our Baptist churches will be strengthened. Our hearts have been gladdened as we have worked and prayed together.

#### And How to Pray

(Make the transition to prayer by asking for spontaneous responses to what the group has heard. Ask, How shall we pray for Linda Gani? for Sarah Snell? What other insights received today can serve as guides for our praying? Then, distribute the

following prayer starters from which petitions may be formulated.)

Comments by Miss Gani:

1. My prayer is that I will continue to grow into a more competent and powerful witness.

2. I would like to express my gratitude to you for sending missionaries to Indonesia. I have been very blessed by the Lord.

3. I am grateful to the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mrs. R. L. Mathis has worked closely and so carefully with me in the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. I am grateful to the Alabama women in particular for sending me WMU magazines to keep me up to date on what is going on in America and to use in promoting work here.

4. Missionaries can help us by praying with us, by helping us see our potential and then pushing and encouraging and equipping us to be and do what God has in mind.

5. We need to find the young people God is calling into his service, to encourage them, to train them and to give them opportunities to serve with us.

6. According to Mrs. Snell, a private prayer of Linda Gani's is that she might have a larger house so she can invite more persons in for Bible study and prayer.

From the Snells' newsletter

1. Yesterday Roy visited a family with an ailing grandfather one hundred years old. "Oh, can't you begin a Bible study in our kampung (village)?" he pled. (The Snells were the only missionary couple, in fact the only Americans, in Blitar at this time.)

2. Several weeks ago a little girl begged for an extra copy of the Jesus story to give to her grandmother. "And, teacher, you come too."

3. During the study on "The Light of the World" a fifteen-year-old boy exclaimed, "How wonderful! But why didn't someone come sooner so my father could hear?"

4. Stepping for a railroad crossing we are quickly surrounded, and eager hands clutch the tracts our children distribute. But who will follow up?

5. Two women came to our door asking, "Will you teach a group of ibus (mothers) who are interested in studying the Bible?"

6. Four men sit around the missionary's table planning ways to reach people for Christ in our city of 75,000. So few to reach so many!

7. We have studied Indonesian, but we must also learn Javanese if we are to speak the heart language of the people. This means at least two hours in study every day. One evangelist and his family are not enough for the task. Pray for us to trust God's sufficiency, but pray also for more laborers.

8. Especially during this week we think of you and all you are doing through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program. To you it may seem to be just money, but to us it's the house we live in; screens that keep out malaria and dengue-carrying mosquitoes; electricity that pumps our water, runs our refrigerator, pasteurizes our milk; the car that picks up thirteen or fourteen children on their way to church in a cloud-burst, or rushes a patient to our Baptist Hospital (which you also provide), tracts and Bibles and other literature we use. You provide for us well, and we thank you.

(Allow ample time for prayer.)

**Benediction** (sharing through giving) See page 22.

**Medley of Carols**

### Introducing Kay Marless

The Little Moon Christmas Offering is "special" to both missionary Kay Marless and her Colombian friend whom she'll be introducing. Just last year Kay and her husband saw a dream come true when the offering made possible the purchase of a camp for their area.

And it was in Bethlehem Baptist Church, whose building was constructed with Little Moon Christmas Offering funds, that Kay's friend was converted.

Kay and Jim Marless met as staffers at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. Several years after their marriage they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board. They have completed their first three-year term of service in South America.

Jim's specialty is youth work and camping. Kay is qualified in her own right for professional work on the mission field. She has a degree in nursing from Baylor University, and a masters in rehabilitation nursing from Emory University. But with four children ranging in age from eleven to two she has been very busy the last few years keeping a home running smoothly and helping Jim in youth work, the camp program, and the seminary extension program in Barranquilla [bar-wrong-KEY-yah]. Still, she has her finger in a few "pies" of her own.

She will be impersonated by \_\_\_\_\_ Kay, tell us about your friend

### I'd Like You to Meet My Friend

(Kay Marless speaks) First of all, let me explain how Candida (can-DEE-dah) and I have come to be so close. She was a member of my Sunday School class. One Sunday morning as I challenged the young women to join me in a

visitation program Candida lingered afterward to say, "I want to visit with you. When can we go?"

I didn't know her well at the time. About four years ago Candida injured her leg in a home accident and this has never healed. She had surgery twice, and the skin grafts helped; but I've scarcely ever seen her without a bandage around that leg. The time she has spent in the Baptist clinic in Barranquilla has not been time lost from her life, however, for through the influence of missionary doctors and nurses and the chaplain she began growing as a Christian.

That Sunday morning we made plans to visit on the following Thursday. These Thursday visits

came to be just as much a part of our schedule as Sunday School and prayer meeting. We agreed that every week we would both pray beforehand about the direction the Lord would have us take when we started out.

It was uncanny how I would come to her house with a certain person in mind, and she would be thinking of that same person. Or I would go, thinking we should go down a particular street, and she would have the same street in mind.

Many times we visited door to door, but most of the time we went into homes. Candida had already prepared. She would say to her friends, "I've told you about Jesus, but I want you to hear it from a friend of mine. I'm going to bring her by to see you on Thursday morning!"

There's no better way to get acquainted with a person than to visit alongside her week after week as Candida and I did. My admiration and respect for her deepened as time went by.

Picture her: She is black, as so many people on the north coast of Colombia are. Five feet two. Overweight. Forty years old. A jovial kind of person—you don't have to be around her long to know she enjoys life.

Yet life for her hasn't been easy. Besides the continuing problem with her leg—and I know it is very painful at times—she has had difficulties at home also.

She has a son, thirteen, and two daughters, ages nine and six. She and the children are now living in her mother's house. Her mother, who works in Venezuela, helps support them.

I couldn't have picked a more influential person than Candida as a visitation partner. She's a regular Pied Piper, the children wave and speak and gather around wanting her to hold them, to touch them, to speak to them.

She has a fantastic gift with children. She communicates with them in a way that no amount of education could develop. The children respond to her because

they sense her love. She has added to this God-given gift the vital ingredient of preparation. If she is to tell a Bible story, she gives her very best in getting ready.

In Colombia there are no public schools, and many people open private schools. So Candida started a kindergarten. Since she has only about a second-grade education, some people might be inclined to snicker and say, "What right does she have to do that?"

But what she has done is one of the warmest, kindest things I have ever seen anyone do. She takes in children from preschool up to eight years of age who would have no other way to learn to write and read. In spite of her limited formal education, Candida reads and writes well. She teaches the children until they can enter an accredited school.

She charges a small tuition, but more often than not it is not paid. I have heard her tell a grandparent or a parent who could not pay: "Don't you worry, just send the child on so he won't miss out on anything. You can pay a little whenever you are able."

The fact is, Candida needs the money as desperately as some of the people she helps.

Candida's kindergarten is a real service to her low-income neighborhood. And what a blessing and help in the Lord's work! Prayer, Bible stories, and music are an important part of her curriculum. Her school is sort of a launching pad for Christian education.

As you can imagine, this work with children has opened many doors in the community. Her house, simple as it is, has become a center for preaching the gospel and teaching the Bible. Many times we have held street-revival services in front of the house.



As Candida became aware of the many people around her who did not attend church, she began inviting adults and children to come to her house on Sunday afternoon for singing and Bible study. The gathering grew until she could not handle it alone. Candida came to me and asked if I could help. Jim and I talked it over and decided we could devote a little time to it; we didn't really plan to help on a regular basis. But after that first Sunday we saw the opportunities and the challenge it presented, and we made it a regular part of our weekly program.

A few weeks before we left for furlough someone predicted that when the Harlesses left the extension Sunday School would just fold up. Candida replied, "Oh, no. It's the Lord's work. When the Harlesses come back, it will not only be alive but it will have grown because we're going to keep on working."

I'll always cherish the memory of the going-away party she gave in my honor. She served 135 people in her front yard. It was such a spontaneous expression of her appreciation for me—the nicest party I ever had.

Candida is a praying woman. It's been invigorating and inspiring to me as she reveals through casual conversation how she lets God control her life.

One day we sat in her living room for several hours and prayed. Somehow cultural and language barriers came down when two people come together in prayer through Jesus Christ.

Another day we visited a friend of Candida's whose thirteen-year-old daughter had a severe kidney infection. Her feet and legs were so swollen she couldn't walk; her face was puffy. In fact, her condition appeared to me to be critical, and I felt she was close to death. As we talked, Candida said, "We're going to

pray for you." We gathered around and put our arms about this teen-age girl, and Candida prayed for God to touch that little girl and heal her. Today that girl is healthy and very lively. I know she was healed because Candida had the courage to step out on the limb of faith and pray in front of that non-Christian mother.

How do you really share three close years? I have never known anyone who loves Jesus any more than this friend of mine, nor one who is more ready to share him with others in the face of great personal sacrifice and effort.

One day I saw Candida give away her last ten pesos to a neighbor whose children had not eaten all day.

I have seen her crying from her sick bed, not from pain, but because she could not get out and visit with me.

I have seen her keep sixty four- and five-year-olds spell-bound for twenty minutes by the sheer force of her excitement for the Lord and her great love for children.

I have heard her tell of Jesus to close friends, to her family, to a young drug addict, to a woman who considered her an enemy.

So often we think of the outstanding Christian as a great leader, someone of position and influence, and often that is true. But as I think of Candida, I am convinced of the importance of humble people. Candida's impact for the Lord—with what she has, where she is—is tremendous.

If every Christian showed the fullness of joy she has found, this world would certainly be a different place.

#### And How to Pray

Today, instead of handing the group a prepared list of prayer requests, lead the women to think

through carefully the possible ways they might pray for missionary Kay Harless and her Colombian co-worker Candida. If you divide into small groups for prayer, appoint a recorder for each group to jot down requests as they are mentioned.

Lead in recalling the variety of activities through which the good news is being proclaimed in Colombia and list these as objects of prayer.

You may want to ask a member to study the material in advance to glean ideas for prayer possibilities which the group may overlook. A study of qualities in the lives of these two Christian women would suggest petitions for both national Christians and missionaries.

Four other requests may be added to the group's list:

1. There are some sixty Baptist churches in Colombia, with between five and six thousand members. Quite a number of believers are yet unbaptized. Pray about this "lag." We need God's help in conserving results of our evangelism.

2. Churches in Colombia are encouraged to become self-supporting and independent. Pray that Colombian church leaders and congregations will be strongly motivated to carry their load financially.

3. Many young people are attending doctrinal classes. Pray that Colombia's youth will be revolutionized by the power of God.

4. Kay and Jim Harless have a vision: they want to see the new camp being used in outreach to unchurched people. Ask God to direct as the camp program is developed.

(Allow ample time for prayer.)

**Benediction** (sharing through giving) See page 22

**Medley of Carols**

#### Introducing Emogene Morris

Today I'd like you to meet Emogene Morris, missionary to Nigeria. She still is impersonated for us by ———

Emogene is a dark-haired woman, pleasant and soft-spoken. There is a gentleness about her, and a certain sweetness with which she speaks the name "Jesus."

If she were appearing in person here today, she would probably be wearing a favorite piece of jewelry—a beautiful necklace of African gold. The pendant on the slender chain is an unadorned shape of the African continent. It seems appropriate that one who calls Africa home, as Emogene Morris does, should

wear this symbol so close to her heart.

Emogene is director of the student center in Onitsha (oh-NEECH-ah), Nigeria. Should you visit her there, you might find some fifty students on hand—reading, studying, playing games, conversing. You would readily see what opportunities a missionary might have for making friends, sharing Christ, counseling and encouraging young people in such a setting.

Emogene lives upstairs in the large green building which houses the center. It is right in the middle of the busy city, and Emogene says the noises of the traffic outside never let up except in wee small hours of the morning. She declares she's gotten used to the noise, though.

She says she feels safe there. The center employs a watchman. He was the first man to accept Christ as Saviour at the center.

You'd be a welcome guest, for sometimes weeks go by without an American visitor. Emogene would want to show you the city and introduce you to some of the Nigerian Baptists with whom she is associated. She would want you to be sure to meet one whom

she and others call their "mother-in-the-Lord."

Madam Susannah lives on an unpaved street in Onitsha in a concrete block house of about six rooms. Cooking facilities are under a shelter in the yard.

At the front door, Emogene claps her hands—this is the custom, instead of knocking—and one of Madam Susannah's granddaughters welcomes you in.

Madam Susannah is seated in a big wooden chair in the sitting room, and she beams as she greets you warmly.

"Madam Susannah, I want you to meet a friend from America, who loves Jesus," Emogene says.

Taking you by the hand, Madam Susannah responds in English, "I am glad to see you. I welcome you to my home."

Over soft drinks and delicious little biscuits, here in this city, so far removed from your own, you find yourself at ease as you visit with the missionary and her Nigerian friend. You realize that you are experiencing the fellowship of kindred minds about

## CELEBRATE WITH THANKSGIVING WEDNESDAY

ROYAL SERVICE • DECEMBER 1976

which you have sung so many times.

But let's hear from Emogene. Tell us Madam Susannah's story. Tell us about your friend.

#### I'd Like You to Meet My Friend

(Emogene Harris speaks) I will never forget my first meeting with Madam Susannah. I was visiting in Onitsha before coming to work here. We were introduced after a Sunday morning worship service. She drew me to her; and, hugging me, she praised God for sending a missionary to live in Onitsha.

From the start she assured me she was my prayer partner and that she was interested in the Lord's work. "My city needs much done for the Lord," she told me. As time went on she became one of my best friends.

Madam Susannah was in her seventies then. Now she has turned eighty. The years have given her a wisdom that only time and experience produce.

Madam Susannah had five children, but lost four of them when they were small. Her husband died while she was still a young woman, and she supported herself and her child by trading food products and cloth. I can imagine how hard she must have worked. I have seen village women walk a mile to a stream for water, then come home and laboriously prepare food for cooking over a wood fire.

I can visualize how Madam Susannah took care of her precious only child. I have been impressed with how Nigerian women love and care for their young. Even fifteen years ago when I arrived here, I noticed that Nigerian Christian women prayed in their homes, led in Bible reading, and saw that their children attended church meetings.

In 1945 Madam Susannah moved from Agbor, where she was

a member of the Baptist church, to Onitsha. She is indebted to Baptists in Agbor in many ways. It was there that interested members of the church taught her until she could read her Bible. And what that Bible has meant to her through the years! Her most cherished possession is the battered, torn copy of the Bible which she carried with her through the recent civil war.

When the war came to Onitsha in 1967, both Madam Susannah's pastor and I had to leave the city. Later she had to evacuate, along with many others. Hurriedly



she gathered up a few clothes, a little food, and her Bible, and left on foot. She has related to me something of the suffering she experienced during that war; I really don't know how she managed to survive at her age.

"I had to walk long ways," she said. "There were many days when we had no food. There were times when I did not know whether I would live through the bombings. But God saw me through."

For months she wandered from one refugee camp to

another, often almost starving. "I lost everything but this," she says proudly holding up her Bible.

When the war drew to a close, she returned to find her city more than half destroyed and her house just a shell. Her church and the one other Baptist church in Onitsha were badly damaged. It was in Madam Susannah's home that she and some Baptists of the Yoruba [YOH-ruh-bah] tribe started the first of these churches back in 1953.

I was unable to return to Onitsha until six months later, for

there was nowhere for me to live. I recall Madam Susannah's and my meeting on my return.

"Praise God that I can see your eyes again," she said to me.

It was a joy to find that the Nigerians themselves had gotten the churches going again, after being disbanded for some two and a half years. They met together in one of the bomb-damaged church buildings and worshiped and praised God that he had brought them safely through the war.

When I returned to Nigeria

from furlough early this year, I was assigned temporarily to the pastor's school at Owerri [oh-WEAR-ree], about forty miles from Onitsha. I have seen Madam Susannah twice lately. She continues to be a blessing to me. She read for me a favorite verse from her precious Bible, and then we prayed together.

Madam Susannah has been very supportive of her pastors. She likes to recall how N. Nwaeze [n'wo-see] and his wife and I used to visit, "going diligently from place to place, visiting and helping members, constantly going up and down."

She would say to us, "In all of your running up and down and working for the Lord, I am praying for you that God will give you strength." What a prayer partner she has been!

Ben Onyeaonwu [oh-ya-wo-see] is her pastor now, and she speaks of him as a good leader. "God has blessed the work here," she says.

She loves her church. "I'm so thankful I can still go to church sometimes. Of course, I'm getting old and I can't get around as I want to. If I had my way, I'd be in church every Sunday."

She believes in supporting her church financially. Even when she can't attend, she sends her tithe. She also sends her offering to the women's missions meeting every week. (After the war, when repairs on her house were finished, the first group of people she invited into it was the women's missions organization. The women met with her and had prayer asking God to bless the house.)

One of the things that has impressed me about Madam Susannah is her participation in the business affairs of her church. When she knows important decisions are pending, she not only prays about them but also makes special arrangements

to be there, even though she is in pain.

Not only does she attend, she stands up and speaks out if she thinks there is any danger of the vote going the wrong way. The congregation respects her and listens to what she has to say.

During one of my recent visits with her, I told Madam Susannah that her American sisters in the Lord would be hearing about her during the week of prayer and asked what advice she would like to give Christian women in America. Without hesitation she replied: "Tell them to love one another. Tell them when they see their brothers and sisters in Christ going astray to pray for them and try to get them to go the right way."

"Tell them to visit those who are weak in the faith."

"Tell them to deny themselves and look to Jesus, to pray without ceasing, to pray with their husbands and children."

"Tell them to study the Bible every day. It is the Food of Life."

#### And How to Pray

Leader (Ask members to join down prayer thoughts as you share the following suggestions):

During the next few minutes of meditation, think along these lines:

If I were Madam Susannah, I think I would like for you to pray this way for me.

If I were Emogene Harris, I think I would like for you to pray thus for me.

Also, let's pray for Baptists all over Africa, for missionaries in Africa, and for Baptists and the work in Nigeria in particular.

In an airletter from Nigeria, Emogene Harris writes: "All

Africa is changing rapidly. We need the prayers of our people in America more than you realize. And she lists ten special needs for us to keep in mind as we pray. (Read these in their entirety.)

asking members to be sure that each one is jotted down by at least one member of the group):

1. Pray for the leaders of Woman's Missionary Union in Nigeria and the women in the churches.

2. Pray that the Lord will continue to raise up women like Madam Susannah who care so deeply for his church.

3. Pray for the officers of the Nigerian Baptist Convention as they lead Baptists of Nigeria.

4. Pray for African students and staff members in pastors' school and seminaries.

5. Pray for African congregations and their pastors.

6. Pray for new African Christians to grow strong in the faith.

7. Pray for developing countries of Africa where the appeal of materialism is strong.

8. Pray for unemployed youth who become discouraged and are tempted to commit crimes to obtain what they want.

9. In some African nations, when a woman's husband dies his possessions and sometimes his children revert to his family, leaving his widow bereaved of husband, much-needed possessions, and sometimes even her children. Pray for these widows.

10. Pray for Christians who are being persecuted. Emogene writes: "We thank God that here in Nigeria the government grants freedom of worship. We do see some persecution in family and village settings. But our people know of nations where Christians are severely persecuted and even put to death, and they realize this could happen here."

11. Pray that our missionaries will have wisdom to know—and strength to do—God's will daily. (Allow ample time for prayer.)

**Benediction** (sharing through giving) See page 22.

**Maiden of Carols**

#### Indy during Indy Whitten

Today I want to introduce to you Indy Whitten of Spain. She will be impersonated by \_\_\_\_\_

You may already be acquainted with Indy. January ROYAL SERVICE carried her photo and a story about her work with the Spanish Baptist magazine *El Eco*.

Indy has spent almost thirty years as a Southern Baptist missionary, and all but the first term of service in Spain. She and her husband, Charles, have four children—two born in Argentina, two in Spain.

Right now Indy is probably in a flurry—winding up missions affairs for a year's leave of absence, packing for furlough, and getting ready for her daughter's wedding.

Indy says she's been very, very happy in missions work. "All has not been easy," she admits, "but all has been interesting and

rewarding. Once someone asked jokingly what I wanted as an epitaph on my tombstone, I said: 'Put this: All the Rainbows She Ever Chased, She Caught.' God has allowed me to see many many dreams come true, and other are 'in the mill.' "

Indy, tell us about your friend.

#### I'd Like You to Meet My Friend

(Indy Whitten speaks) I'd like you to meet my friend dona (DOHN-yah) Carmen Fernandez, a ninety-year-old Sunbeam. This joyous little lady could charm a fierce Spanish bull into a trance! I say "little" because she's only



four feet ten and weighs just ninety-one pounds.

If she were here today she would probably be wearing something bright. She loves red. I've often seen her coming into church on a cold day, her cherry-red nose color-coordinated with her outfit.

And she'd be carrying a small cone with a silver tipped handle. She might use it to give someone an affectionate pat on the back. I have seen her hook it into the collar of a deacon who was teasing her too much.

You could certainly count on a kiss from her. Carmen adores people and would not think of leaving church without speaking to everyone and kissing all the women on both cheeks, old Spanish-style.

And sometimes the men! Back in 1959 following the automobile accident in which my husband, Charles, was seriously injured, he was asked to give a testimony at First Baptist Church, Madrid. Carmen was sitting up front as usual. As Charles started back to his seat, dona Carmen got up, ran over to him, and hugged and kissed him soundly.

There must be something in a name, for our ninety-year-old Sunbeam was born on *Mura el Sol* ("look at the sun") Street in

Madrid. Her father died before she was born. Carmen was sent to a school run by French nuns. But in those days girls did not receive much formal education, and at sixteen she went to work doing embroidery. She was expert with her needle and worked for several stores, embroidering initials on the pockets of men's shirts.

In one of these stores she met the man she was to marry. A young Spaniard walked into pick up his shirt, and there she was. It was love at first sight.

(Dona Carmen told me with becoming modesty. "As a girl I was a living doll.") You can imagine the romantic story. The gallant young Emilio asked if he could walk her home. Carmen fell in love with him, and in less than a year they were planning their wedding.

The two lived together for forty-three years. They wanted children but had none. Neither was very religious. Carmen said for awhile they did the things that people do—worked, ate, slept, tried to find pleasure in the things of the world. "But it was empty as I see it now," she said.

Occasionally Carmen tried to do things that she considered "religious duty." On her way home from a hospital where she visited lonely patients she noticed an

unusual building marked with two Greek symbols—alpha and omega. These symbols—referring to the words of Jesus, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending"—were used on the front of churches when there was so much intolerance and persecution of Protestants in Spain.

That night she told Emilio what she had discovered. Out of curiosity, and for something to gossip with neighbors about, they decided to attend the services.

Much to their surprise, they were impressed. They liked the service better than any they had ever attended. A little later they discovered the First Baptist Church close to their home. Within a few months, they made their professions of faith and were baptized.

Carmen says it was when she accepted Christ as her Saviour that she really began to live.

As far back as she can remember she wanted to write poetry, and when she was thirty she began writing. As a poet she became a member of several literary circles in Madrid and took her place among university graduates and nationally recognized poets. She was much beloved by her contemporaries. They liked her youthful spirit. They looked to her for spiritual counsel.

Carmen is the kind of person I'd like to become, growing older. She's joyous, sparkling, witty, optimistic—with a warmth and spontaneity that draws others to her.

Today she lives in the Baptist Old Folks Home in Villafraña de Penades. This residence, sponsored by the Baptists of Spain, is directed by a Spanish pastor's wife. Thirteen older persons live there now. It's good for Carmen to be with people. I remember once when she fell on a subway and was housebound for several weeks.

## CELEBRATE WITH CREATIVITY THURSDAY



#### Indy during Indy Whitten

Today I want to introduce to you Indy Whitten of Spain. She will be impersonated by \_\_\_\_\_

You may already be acquainted with Indy. January ROYAL SERVICE carried her photo and a story about her work with the Spanish Baptist magazine *El Eco*.

Indy has spent almost thirty years as a Southern Baptist missionary, and all but the first term of service in Spain. She and her husband, Charles, have four children—two born in Argentina, two in Spain.

Right now Indy is probably in a flurry—winding up missions affairs for a year's leave of absence, packing for furlough, and getting ready for her daughter's wedding.

Indy says she's been very, very happy in missions work. "All has not been easy," she admits, "but all has been interesting and

rewarding. Once someone asked jokingly what I wanted as an epitaph on my tombstone, I said: 'Put this: All the Rainbows She Ever Chased, She Caught.' God has allowed me to see many many dreams come true, and other are 'in the mill.' "

Indy, tell us about your friend.

#### I'd Like You to Meet My Friend

(Indy Whitten speaks) I'd like you to meet my friend dona (DOHN-yah) Carmen Fernandez, a ninety-year-old Sunbeam. This joyous little lady could charm a fierce Spanish bull into a trance! I say "little" because she's only



four feet ten and weighs just ninety-one pounds.

If she were here today she would probably be wearing something bright. She loves red. I've often seen her coming into church on a cold day, her cherry-red nose color-coordinated with her outfit.

And she'd be carrying a small cone with a silver tipped handle. She might use it to give someone an affectionate pat on the back. I have seen her hook it into the collar of a deacon who was teasing her too much.

You could certainly count on a kiss from her. Carmen adores people and would not think of leaving church without speaking to everyone and kissing all the women on both cheeks, old Spanish style.

And sometimes the men! Back in 1959 following the automobile accident in which my husband, Charles, was seriously injured, he was asked to give a testimony at First Baptist Church, Madrid. Carmen was sitting up front as usual. As Charles started back to his seat, dona Carmen got up, ran over to him, and hugged and kissed him soundly.

There must be something in a name, for our ninety-year-old Sunbeam was born on *Mura el Sol* ("look at the sun") Street in

Madrid. Her father died before she was born. Carmen was sent to a school run by French nuns. But in those days girls did not receive much formal education, and at sixteen she went to work doing embroidery. She was expert with her needle and worked for several stores, embroidering initials on the pockets of men's shirts.

In one of these stores she met the man she was to marry. A young Spaniard walked into pick up his shirt, and there she was. It was love at first sight.

(Dona Carmen told me with becoming modesty, "As a girl I was a living doll.") You can imagine the romantic story. The gallant young Emilio asked if he could walk her home. Carmen fell in love with him, and in less than a year they were planning their wedding.

The two lived together for forty-three years. They wanted children but had none. Neither was very religious. Carmen said for awhile they did the things that people do—worked, ate, slept, tried to find pleasure in the things of the world. "But it was empty as I see it now," she said.

Occasionally Carmen tried to do things that she considered "religious duty." On her way home from a hospital where she visited lonely patients she noticed an

unusual building marked with two Greek symbols—alpha and omega. These symbols—referring to the words of Jesus, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending"—were used on the front of churches when there was so much intolerance and persecution of Protestants in Spain.

That night she told Emilio what she had discovered. Out of curiosity, and for something to gossip with neighbors about, they decided to attend the services.

Much to their surprise, they were impressed. They liked the service better than any they had ever attended. A little later they discovered the First Baptist Church close to their home. Within a few months, they made their professions of faith and were baptized.

Carmen says it was when she accepted Christ as her Saviour that she really began to live.

As far back as she can remember she wanted to write poetry, and when she was thirty she began writing. As a poet she became a member of several literary circles in Madrid and took her place among university graduates and nationally recognized poets. She was much beloved by her contemporaries. They liked her youthful spirit. They looked to her for spiritual counsel.

Carmen is the kind of person I'd like to become, growing older. She's joyous, sparkling, witty, optimistic—with a warmth and spontaneity that draws others to her.

Today she lives in the Baptist Old Folks Home in Villafraanca de Penades. This residence, sponsored by the Baptists of Spain, is directed by a Spanish pastor's wife. Thirteen older persons live there now. It's good for Carmen to be with people. I remember once when she fell on a subway and was housebound for several weeks.

## CELEBRATE WITH CREATIVITY THURSDAY

and she said she felt like a potted plant that someone forgot to water. Here she won't be forgotten.

She knits some, enlisting one of the old men in the home to hold her yarn when she wants to make a ball of it. And she has a captive audience when she feels a poem coming on!

She misses Madrid and sometimes cries a little, wishing she could attend her beloved church and see her friends once again.

When I went to see her recently she literally yelled with joy as I walked in, and she held on to me all the time I was there.

Carmen says: "I have had so many blessings from the Lord I cannot begin to tell them all. If I tried, people would think my tongue was doing twenty-four-hour duty!"

Her testimony is different from mine. She is native-born, and stamped on her life story are the words *Made in Spain*. But faith in Christ is very personal and needs to be expressed creatively, in ways suited to one's special gifts and personality.

Dona Carmen expresses her faith in the hundreds of poems she has written over the years. Most of them testify to her personal philosophy of love and kindness to one's fellow beings. "The creative impulse comes from contact with the creative God," someone has said.

A Spanish National Radio broadcast in 1975 featured a meeting of the First Baptist Church of Madrid, with Carmen Fernandez reciting her poetry about Jesus.

Listen to one of her poems I have translated from the Spanish. It is titled, "By This I Live."

I want God to be the label of my days,  
So that deep within the heart of me,  
I bear the imprint of His merciful ways,

And grow toward Light and what I ought to be.

There is a sweetness in doing right  
That needs no other recompense upon this earth,  
For those who sow poems, hopes, and joys within His sight,  
Will reap a bountiful harvest of great worth.

Loving words to all we chance to meet  
Are beautiful roses in great demand,  
They guide us through the way complete,  
And leave the perfume of roses on our hand.

#### And Now to Pray

(Make the transition to prayer by asking, How do you suppose dona Carmen would want us to pray for her? Consider the special needs of aging Christians. Share the following comment from Indy Whitten and distribute the requests for specific prayer.)

Some six thousand Baptists belong to fifty-eight churches in Spain. Indy Whitten says, "I am particularly encouraged over the way the lay people, including the women, are beginning to assume leadership.

"I am encouraged by the tendency of the youth to get more education and become leaders of *manana* ('tomorrow'). *Manana* to me means the hope we have that God is at work and that the future will be even better than the present, with his help."

1. Spanish Baptists are aiming toward self-support by 1987. Pray that growth in church membership and consistent giving will make possible the support of the Spanish Baptist Seminary and other Baptist institutions in Spain.

2. Pray for God's leadership in the selection of the Spanish Christian who will become execu-

tive secretary of the Spanish Baptist Convention.

3. Pray for a spirit of revival and renewal to permeate the Spanish churches. Pray that Billy Graham will be able to conduct a crusade in Spain.

4. Pray that a Baptist church can be established in the capital city of every province in Spain.

5. Pray that many Spanish youths will respond to the call to the ministry.

6. Pray for a new zeal and increased participation of the women, especially young women, in WMU. Pray for missionary Lila P. Mefford in her work as secretary of promotion.

7. Pray that Dena (DAYN: ee-ah) Baptist Encampment will be an effective leadership training center and will build fellowship among Spanish Baptists.

8. Pray for the ministry of the Baptist Book Store in Barcelona and other cities.

9. Pray that the Baptist Bible Correspondence Course will bring salvation to many and produce growth in many lives.

10. Pray for the Old Folks Home in Villafranca de Penades. The present directors have only a few years before retirement.

11. Pray for Spain's rulers—young Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia—as they desire to give religious liberty.

12. Pray that the missionaries may find places of service to which they are best suited and can make their finest contribution. Pray in particular for the wives who often feel they are not able to use their fullest capabilities in the Lord's service. Pray for the MKs, especially those who live in out-of-the-way places where there are no schools. (Allow ample time for prayer.)

Benediction (sharing through giving) See page 22

Medley of Carols

#### Introducing Florence Frederick

When Florence Frederick—missionary to Guadeloupe—realized that she too would be featured during the week of prayer along with her friend, Madame Webb, she shied away from the spotlight. She said "I really don't feel I'm weak of prayer material, except in my great need of prayer. I often refer to myself as 'missionary without help.'"

Florence felt the call to missions as a girl in a Girls' Auxiliary organized by her mother in their small church. But young women called to missions have a way of getting married; and, sometimes, they find themselves being missionaries-at-home. Florence thought she was safely settled as

a pastor's wife in the States when one day her husband came home with news that hit her "like a ton of bricks"—he had surrendered to God's call to missions! Apparently, God knew what he was doing with that little GA, after all.

Florence and Wayne Frederick have stair-step daughters—Edith, Amy, Iris, and Jeanne—the four of them spaced a neat three years apart.

Florence enjoys sewing and raising African violets. She also does transparent oil paintings. Women's work in the church is her specialty in service right now.

Picture her in Guadeloupe (gwad' LOOP), French West Indies, in the Caribbean Sea. On this tiny island oxcarts and water-tain' are still common, but you'll also find hippies and motorcycles on four-lane highways.

Picture the people of Guadeloupe: more than 96 percent black, most of African descent; some Indians from India; some American Indians; and a very small percentage of white. Keep in mind that Guadeloupe is a department of France, just as Hawaii is an overseas state of our nation.

Try to get the feel of the religious atmosphere of the island. Catholicism predominates, blended with Hinduism and superstitions of black and white magic.

Imagine the Baptist life in which Florence moves—four small churches and two preaching

## CELEBRATE GOD'S PEACE FRIDAY

ROYAL SERVICE • DECEMBER 1976

points on the island. Florence and Wayne are the fourth Southern Baptist couple appointed to Guadeloupe. They are the first couple to have returned for a second term of service.

The few years the Fredericks have been in Guadeloupe have been difficult ones. Florence has known the heartbreak of suspicion, distrust, and rejection, and the hurting rupture of fellowship within a congregation.

But, as she would hasten to remind us, some of the sweetest fellowship in all the world comes when one has gone through bitter, dark days and then known reconciliation. "Now," Florence says, "we are a family in the Lord."

Out of this tribulation has come Florence's special friendship with the woman she will be introducing. "The greatest impact of this woman's life on mine has come as I found her gradually accepting me as a sister in the Lord," Florence says.

But let's hear from Florence herself. She is impersonated by

#### I'd Like You to Meet My Friend

(Florence Frederick speaks.) I'd like you to meet my friend Marquitta Webbe. Madame Webbe is a well-educated woman, a teacher. She is quite handsome, you'd never guess she is seventy-two!

I wish you could see her as we remember her best (she is away in France right now): small, walking purposefully down the street, eyes straight ahead, carrying her huge black satchel—as we call purses here. In her bag she is sure to have her well-worn Bible and her hymnbook, and on one side of her bag is a sticker which reads *One Way to Jesus*.

"People ask me about my sticker," she says, "and it gives me a chance to witness to them



Florence Frederick about my Jesus."

Mme. Webbe became a Christian before I knew her. Back before World War II she was sent by the French government to work in Indochina (then also a department of France). Her husband was in the military. She followed him and even shot—and killed—to protect him.

During those years in Southeast Asia she collected many beautiful treasures—handcrafted silver trays and yards and yards of hand-embroidered silks and brocades.

As the war intensified she was forced to evacuate. She and her husband were put on one barge and her baggage with her sewing machine and all her lovely treasures on another. The barge with the baggage overturned, and her treasures were all lost.

Then, on her return to Guadeloupe a treasured relationship was broken. Her husband left her, divorcing her for another woman, something that is all too common here in Guadeloupe. Mme. Webbe was left with two children to rear alone. Luckily, she had her degree and was able to support the family by teaching school.

Her story would be sad indeed if it ended there. But one evening she accepted an invitation to hear an American missionary preach, and the doors of joy swung open for her.



Marquitta Webbe

During the service the words of a song spoke to her heart. It was a song about eternal treasures that could not be taken away. That night she gave her heart to the Lord Jesus Christ.

She's a woman who stands out in any crowd. Lively and spry, she brings a joy to a worship service. I've seen her get impatient with us quieter ones. One time she got up and scolded the congregation for singing the doxology with such glum faces!

She's a hundred-percent kind of person. Once when her pastor was exhorting the congregation to read their Bibles, she said, "I don't read my Bible every day—I read it twice a day."

We have worked closely together on a youth retreat, Vacation Bible School plans, and Christmas programs. She is of the old school and believes in strict discipline. She wants the children to do their best for the Lord.

She has assumed the responsibility of boarding her granddaughter and grandson in her home because there is no high school in their hometown. She also boards another teen-ager, a young friend of her granddaughter. Mme. Webbe has daily devotions with these young people.

Recently when she went to France to be with her daughter, she took the young people along

to continue their education. There is no measuring the influence of one Christian woman on these young lives.

She is an older woman; I am a young woman. She is black; I am white. She is a resident of a poor country; mine is affluent. So many, many things have made us different. Yet, to me, it is one of the miracles of God that we can experience a sense of being sisters in the Lord. Jesus has made us one family.

#### And Now to Pray

This is a busy time of year for Florence Frederick and other Baptists in Guadeloupe. Early in November they began working toward Christmas at church.

Like many of us, Florence likes to entertain at Christmas. Last year she had a party for all the Southern Baptist and other evangelical missionaries on the island. Also, she and the other wives gave a supper honoring the Guadeloupean workers and their wives.

Once last year she opened her home for an overnight retreat. There were twenty-six women, wall to wall, on pallets. Florence felt that if the women would have Bible studies in their homes they might reach their neighbors with the gospel. The retreat was designed to help get this outreach underway.

The women of Guadeloupe love American desserts, so the first order of business was learning to bake banana bread. Then they ate, viewed slide scenes of their island, and finally turned in for the night to sleep a little—and like women everywhere—to laugh and talk a lot.

The formality of the French culture carries over in Guadeloupe and given names are rarely used. The missionary wives felt it would be helpful to get on a first-name basis with each woman. At the

close of the retreat, during a time of sharing and praise, everyone prayed by name for her Christian sister beside her.

We will want to be as specific as possible when we pray today.

(You may want to divide into three groups, each accepting one of the following three segments for special focus in prayer.)

#### 1. Pray for Guadeloupean Baptists

Pray that they will accept their leaders and cooperate with them.

Pray for young women who are leaders in the churches. One, in particular, has ten children. Pray that she will have the needed physical strength to carry on and that she will be encouraged in the Lord.

Pray for God to call out pastors and committed leaders from among the people of Guadeloupe.

#### 2. Pray for current and projected ministries:

Pray for the work in the Port Louis Baptist Church. Many East Indians live there. Wayne Frederick and a layman worked for two years in this locality before having the first baptism. Pray for Robert and Carol Shehane as they carry on this work. Pray for wisdom and power for the Shehanes and the Christians with whom they work so closely.

Pray for the radio ministry. One of the missionaries has written a jingle, "Do you have a minute for Jesus?" to go along with the theme, "A Minute for Jesus." Pray that this message has caught on and is making listeners receptive.

Pray for the big evangelistic campaign scheduled for the spring of 1977, for which a well-known and gifted musician-singer from France may be invited. Pray that the meetings will not just draw crowds, but will reach people who will continue with the Lord.

Pray for the training of church members as effective teachers and workers.

Pray for church and missionary home-building projects. Teams of volunteers from the States are needed to lend a hand with this construction.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's leadership in determining new and effective ways of reaching the people of Guadeloupe for Christ.

#### 3. Pray for the missionaries:

Pray that they will be increasingly effective in their witness. The work is slow but doors are opening. There are many towns yet to enter.

Pray that the missionaries will be able to use the French language as Guadeloupeans speak it. Missionary wives do not always have the opportunity to get out and use the language as much as their husbands, and they feel handicapped in their witness if they are not understood.

Pray for "staying power." Second-termers say they get just as frustrated as first-termers when they don't see results; just as provoked with their children; just as homesick for parents who are ill. Pray that they will always be able to hear the still small voice reaffirming God's call to them.

Pray about the education of the missionaries' children. The Foreign Mission Board has been seeking a journeyman (a young adult who serves for two years) with teaching skills and French proficiency.

Pray for the missionaries' parents. One missionary writes, "Our parents are happy for us to be in the Lord's work, but all four are in poor health. This situation, combined with the real personal grief of separation from their children and grandchildren by so great a distance, takes its toll."

(Allow ample time for prayer.)

**Benediction** (sharing through giving) See page 22.

**Madley of Carols**



Wesley Miller, radio-telephone representative for Europe and the Middle East

# Communication Center, Switzerland

Gladys Bryant

Christian communications overseas are being swept along on the waves of a worldwide revolution. In the last decade, advances in mass communications have triggered far-paced changes. Some see the out-reach of the new electronic media and communications as making our world into a "global village."

Today almost everyone's life-style is shaped by television, radio, and movies. These media not only inform, they also transform viewers' perceptions of the attainments of

others. They move viewers to look for new ways of relating and responding to events and circumstances around them—socially, politically, economically and religiously. Because of the bombardment of information and ideas through the media, many persons are in a ceaseless search for meaning, for satisfying their soul-hunger.

In the light of these realities, how can the Christian proclaim the message of God's love and unchanging truth in ways that appeal, attract,

and inspire credibility? Fresh, creative methods and messages which relate to the experiences and needs of the diverse populations of the world are both the genius and the challenge of the mass media age.

## Making It Happen

In the heart of one of the most picturesque nations of the world and in the center of Europe is a communications center which brings together all the necessary facets for a worldwide reach of electronic evangelism. The Baptist Theological

Seminary in the small Swiss village of Rorschlikon (ROOSH-lee-kon) houses a modern, well-equipped, expertly staffed communications center. Just twenty-seven years old, the Baptist center already has made a significant impact on Baptist work throughout the world.

In 1963 the first program was recorded and beamed over an East European station. Within weeks letters began reporting that the broadcast had been well received. A mother wrote of the conversion of her teen-age daughter who had listened to the broadcast. The seminary chapel's sound booths were used as a temporary studio until the modern facility was opened in April 1965.

To reach the studio facilities in the basement area of the classroom-administration building of the seminary, one journeys down a stone stairway into a curvy hallway, through the snack area and past vending machines. There the visitor finds the headquarters that has assembled electronic equipment from America, Denmark, England, Germany, Holland, and Italy for the best possible communications job.

The Baptist center, independent of the seminary, is owned and operated by the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, and has the approval and guidance of the European Baptist Federation. Because most broadcasting in European nations is government-owned and operated, the center works in close consultation with Baptist leaders in the various nations to bring about effective programming over the state networks. Programs are prepared in Spanish, French, Italian, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish, Russian, Bengali, Arabic, and in languages for the people of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) and India.

ROYAL SERVICE • DECEMBER 1976

## What the People Hear

Program content is obviously the important thing in relating to people's needs and search for meaning. Because of the different likes in different countries, the broadcasting must be done by the people of the country receiving the program. People must work in their own language and social setting. Local voices are heard—not missionaries or outsiders, regardless of their skill in using the language.

The simplest type of program is the worship or preaching service heard on some Sunday morning schedules.

A number of programs feature music. Others are event-oriented with reports of conventions or other happenings. In Scandinavia, a series of messages on basic Baptist tenets was entitled, "Who Are the Baptists?"

In France, where the interview format has been effective, talks with church members have been programmed. The interviewees discuss with the church member some of his experiences; the listener may identify with these and find they lead to a spiritual application in his life.

An interview in Italy presented the story of a family that had been making rope for five hundred years. The startling revelation during the program was that the family had a heritage of three hundred years of Baptist beliefs!

Drama is almost always an effective way to attract a listening audience even though the performance may be less than professional. In Spain, seminary students acted out short dramas which concluded with messages by the speakers. A young Spaniard has created an old-fashioned philosopher character who presents five-minute homospun discourses. In Jordan, a film depicting the story of the birth and flight of Jesus was televised in prime time.

## The Man Behind It All

In the beginning efforts of the Baptist communications center, a radio committee from the seminary's faculty guided the development. In 1963, E. Wesley Miller, chief engineer for the Southern Baptist Convention Radio-TV Commission, moved from Fort Worth, Texas, to Rorschlikon, Switzerland, as a missionary associate. He served as director of the Board's recording studio. Four years later Miller became the Foreign Mission Board representative for radio and television in Europe and the Middle East. The director—a quiet, pleasant person—is a go-to-someone man when it comes to the business of broadcasting. Before joining the Radio-TV Commission he was associated with stations in Illinois, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Miller has some definite views about his assignment as adviser to the Missions which have broadcasting ministries and those which desire to begin one.

"My basic business," he says, "is to make Baptists feel confident, to help them gain the feeling that they can do something. They are tired of being theoretical. They want to acquire confidence in the practical."

Another part of Miller's mammoth assignment is assisting Baptist missionaries whose assignment is broadcasting. He travels to various locations to offer counsel, install new facilities, help record music, and be of assistance in general. He holds special sessions in Rorschlikon to train and brief missionaries on new equipment and techniques.

One way to keep program production geared to local needs is a station is to set up a recording studio there. Miller encourages the development and equipping of local facilities where practical. He has assisted missionaries in designing and putting into operation recording studios in

## Current Missions Group

Rome, Italy; Alicante, Spain; Beirut, Lebanon; Paris, France. Through a newsletter Miller shares information about technical matters, program ideas, and any developments related to specific countries.

### Encountering Baptists

The gloomy hallway outside the recording studio in Rüschlikon was an engineer's nightmare because of its echo capacity. The project for one of Wes Miller's classes was to transform the hall into an acceptable, though makeshift, studio. Under his watchful eye, the students hung blankets around the cavernlike hall and conquered the echo.

The class was made up of interested evangelicals from Germany who wanted to learn how to make the best use of broadcast opportunities. Miller was conducting a two-day workshop in the use of microphones; the hallway experiment was an exercise in making the most of a bad situation.

Miller extends his influence by training nationals. Some of these courses are taught at the seminary; others in the various countries. Instruction of this type is essential, Miller believes. Broadcasts must be in local idioms, presented by "home-owners" to their own people. Outsiders may be presented as guests but not as a regular feature. Therefore, most of the training is done in studios in local areas.

Specific courses offered to students at the seminary include radio broadcasting and remote recording. Students consider actual circum-

stances they will face in their local areas. A class in cinematography for television prepares the future ministers to produce films for their locations.

### More Than Broadcasting

Producing the program and broadcasting the message to listeners in many countries is only the beginning of the thrust of the Baptist center at Rüschlikon. Personal follow-up, preferably through local churches, is necessary to realize benefits from the broadcasts.

"Every letter gets an answer," states Wes Miller. "Local churches are involved in making the programs and in visiting the listeners who write in. Program personalities make trips through the listening area as often as possible, visiting in homes and in churches."

Although letters from listeners in many parts of Europe and the Middle East testify to the impact of the electronic ministry, the outreach of the programs cannot always be judged by the mail response. In some places such as Arab countries it is risky for a listener to write a letter. Many listeners in Eastern Europe and Russia would find themselves endangered if they wrote to



or received mail from someone in Western Europe.

"At one time," Miller recalled, "only five letters had been received from a section of North Africa in response to Baptist broadcasts in Arabic. Yet when Baptists visited the region they encountered numbers of individuals who reported having heard the broadcasts; they even discovered prayer groups meeting secretly."

Staff members from the Baptist center sometimes visit persons from whom letters have been received. One such visit was to a Hungarian working in the Serbian region of Yugoslavia far from his home and people.

The wife answered the knock at the door and could not believe that strangers from Switzerland had come out on a snowy night to visit. She recognized the voices and beamed as she invited them in. The husband, a chemical engineer, was searching for the kind of church that fitted the type of gospel he heard proclaimed on the radio. Through Bible study with a young soldier from a Baptist family and the visit of the president of the Baptist seminary in Yugoslavia (who came over a hundred miles), the engineer felt that he had found the right group.

The exciting developments from the outreach of radio and television can never be measured. But the known results from electronic evangelism can stir the imagination and challenge Baptists involved in the full range of opportunities which are offered through the broadcast and recording media.

so that it can be seen by all members.

Introduce the study by reading 1 John 1:1-2. Then, suggest that the Master Communicator was Jesus; he communicated the truths he wanted to proclaim in parable form so that all could understand. Ask, Can we do better to communicate the gospel? Present the introductory material from the study material. Then ask the other members to discuss the information in the rest of the material. As the cities and countries are mentioned, point them out on the map. You may wish to indicate the locations by placing tacks or pins.

After the study material has been presented, ask members to share some impressions of the radio and television work in Europe.

Close the meeting with a period of prayer.

For Wesley Miller and his staff at the Baptist Center, for the pastors and staffs in the studios throughout Europe and the Middle East.

For the listeners who have their only contact with Bible study and the Christian message through these programs, and for the many non-Christians who may be hearing the gospel proclaimed for the first time.

Read the names of missionaries on the prayer calendar for today. Lead the group in praying that each of these persons will be open to discovering fresh and creative ways to communicate the gospel.

Preview January Baptist Women meeting. Using the information on page 49, give members a preview of next month's Baptist Women meeting and urge all members to attend.

### PLAN 2

Before the meeting: Secure a map of Europe (see address in Plan 1).

ROYAL SERVICE • DECEMBER 1976

and map tacks to be used during the group study.

Check the radio and television schedules in your city and ask three or four (or all) group members to be responsible for listening to or viewing each religious program and to be ready to report at the meeting.

Assign the study material to group members for discussion at the meeting.

At the meeting: Use the same introduction and discussion suggestion as in Plan 1.

Lead members to discuss what they have learned about religious TV and radio programs broadcast in your area: the variety in program content, the sponsors or participants. Ask members who heard or viewed some of the programs to comment on the nature of the broadcasts, the appeal of each, strengths and weaknesses of the presentations. If any members hear or view specific programs regularly, ask them to comment on the meaning of the program to their Christian experience.

Discuss. In light of our experiences with religious radio and TV programs how can recordings, broadcasts, films, etc., be most effectively used in missions? What are the advantages and disadvantages in the use of electronic media to proclaim the Christian message?

Close with a period of prayer, using the suggestions in Plan 1.

MissionScope (Oct., Nov., Dec.) cassette tape features Wesley Miller from the communications center in Switzerland. Borrow the tape from your church media center (library) or order it from MissionScope, Audiovisuals Department, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309 \$11.40 for four quarterly cassettes. Future tapes will also carry useful resource materials for current mission study.

### PLAN 3

Before the meeting: Follow the suggestions in Plan 2, but in addition to those, assign one to three members the following interviews.

(1) Interview the engineer of a radio or television station to find out what is involved in setting up the simplest type of studio for recording or broadcasting. Ask about equipment, installation, maintenance techniques, expense.

(2) Interview the program director or producer at a radio or television station concerning the background planning, scripting, participation, rehearsal, etc., that go into a production.

(3) Interview a station manager concerning the overall operation of the station, problems, philosophy, outreach, etc.

At the meeting: Use the same introduction and discussion suggestion as in Plan 2.

Follow this by asking for reports on the interviews.

Discuss: What problems—not present in the US—would the Baptist center in Europe have in presenting the Christian message?

Divide members into smaller groups and ask each group to plan a thirty-minute program that could be recorded on cassette tape. After about fifteen to twenty minutes, ask each group to share its program ideas. Allow time for making the recording, or ask interested members to schedule a time to do this. You may wish to share the tape with a mission action group to use in its ministry, or consider a way it might be used in a mission action project.

Close the meeting with a period of prayer, using the suggestion in Plan 1.

GLADYS BRYANT is professor of political science and history at Belmont College, Nashville, Tennessee.

## Planning the Meeting

### PLAN 1

Before the meeting: Secure a map of Europe to be used during the group study (Map, "Southern Bap-

tist Missions in Europe" is available from Foreign Mission Board Literature, P. O. Box 6597, Richmond, VA 23230.) Also, ask group mem-

bers to study and be prepared to discuss with the other members the material in the study article.

At the meeting: Display the map



## Round Table Group

# The Missionary Experience

Eljee Bentley

What is the missionary experience? Is it exciting adventure in an exotic place? Or is it humdrum daily struggle and search such as so many other Christians know?

Does a missionary know joy, certain of great accomplishments for and with Christ? Or is he frustrated, despairing, and finally driven to doubt?

We who support missions often tend to romanticize missionary life. We sometimes idolize missionaries without recognizing the profoundness of the missionary experience. As we acknowledge a debt to those who carry the gospel for us, could we partially repay this debt by developing more understanding?



point their bodies red with mud, stripes and polka dots. In the village you face primitive life and brutal death. As you read you share a missionary's first year in the field.

Elisabeth went to San Miguel in September 1952 and left in June 1953. She married Jim Elliot, worked with him in Ecuador among the Quichua Indians. After he, along with four companions, was murdered in 1956 by the Aucas, she continued his attempts to reach that savage tribe for Christ. As a linguist, she has translated the Scriptures into primitive languages. Later she married Addison Leitch and became visiting professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Popular acclaim followed her books about Jim Elliot: *Shadow of the Alouatta* and *Through Gates of Splendor*.

Although time has passed since Elisabeth Elliot's months among the Colorados, her words evoke the present. As she writes, she relives her past and transports the reader to that clearing in the rain forest.

*These Strange Ashes* is not just a trip to a faraway place; it is an adventure. God had called Elisabeth and sent her to the Colorado of Ecuador. God's church had trained her. She was to make a written language of the Colorado tongue in order that others might bring the good news to these lost people. She was, she felt, doing exactly what God wanted and, therefore, was certain to succeed.

Obstacles prevented quick completion of her divinely appointed task. Housekeeping chores took at least nine-tenths of her time. She was happy to do without indoor plumbing and prepared foods. A missionary expects to sacrifice. She chafed, however, at the hours consumed in jugging water and in baking bread. When could she work on the language?

And how could she? She knew no one who spoke Colorado who

was willing to spend the hours needed to teach her. She prayed, and God sent Don Macario. Then God took him away. Elisabeth could not understand. Did God love the Colorados? Did he send her? Or had she mistaken her call?

In obedience to God's command, Elisabeth Elliot was writing down the Colorado language. God stopped her. Why? Jesus came to do God's will. The result was crucifixion.

Amy Carmichael wrote: But these strange ashes, Lord, this nothingness,

This baffling sense of loss? Son, was the anguish of my stripping less

Upon the tortured cross? Elisabeth was stripped. She had failed and felt herself to be nothing but ashes. Eventually, she realized that her failure was God's will, and in acceptance she found greater faith.

Jim Elliot wrote, "The will of God is always a bigger thing than we bargain for."

## Planning the Meeting

Encourage every member to read one or both of the books.

At least one month before the meeting order from Foreign Mission Board Literature, Box 6597, Richmond, VA 23230, the free leaflet "Steps Toward Missionary Appointment." Give this to one member, asking her to familiarize herself with its contents.

Enlist two members to lead buzz groups. Assign one (1) these questions. Imagine yourself a missionary appointee. How would you feel as you left for your first assignment? What would you expect to find? What would you expect to accomplish? Assign the other (2): What hardships does a missionary face? What obstacles prevent acceptance of his well-meant efforts? Are there

disappointments? If so, what might they be?

Bring pencils and paper.

Open the study session by asking: How does someone decide to be a missionary? After a few answers, ask: How does one prepare himself? The member who has "Steps Toward Missionary Appointment" should share her information. Others may add from their knowledge.

Divide members into two buzz groups, each to be led by one of the pre-enlisted leaders. Give the leaders about ten minutes to gather ideas from their groups. Call everyone back together. Let (1) and then (2) share their questions and responses.

Ask: When a missionary arrives on the field, does he find what he expected to find? Suggest members

draw from Elisabeth Elliot's experience. His stripping came late in his missionary experience. He faced obstacles from the beginning. He had to persuade Americans to send missionaries and Burmese to accept them. He labored six years for his first convert. All conversions had to be secret, for the Burmese government did not approve his preaching to Burmese but only to foreigners. As a suspect foreigner, Adoniram survived eighteen months in a death prison. He saw his friends and children die. But he never doubted his place in God's will until God took his Nancy (Ann Judson).

Nancy's death made him question whether the possible conversion of a few Burmese was worth the sacrifice of so many Christian lives. He had to ask himself if God or merely Adoniram Judson had led them to Burma. He wrote to his sister, "God is to me the Great Unknown. I believe in him, but I find him not." He did not find God again until he accepted the fact that God had

drawn him into his life. To suggest what happens without protesting, "I deserved better," is faith—even for a missionary.

To the Golden Shore was first published in 1956. Courtney Anderson's life of Adoniram Judson is now in paperback, and if you have never read it, delay no longer. You may think you know the Judsons, but this whole story is far more illuminating and more exciting than any short account could suggest.

Here is post-Revolutionary New England and the mysterious East. Nancy, a foreign woman, created a sensation among the Burmese who flocked to stare at her. She was remarkable; her courage and resourcefulness sustained the men in the death prison. Adoniram's second and third wives were also remarkable. Sarah Boardman traveled unescorted, witnessing to the nomadic Karen. Emily was a popular writer who used the pen name "Fanny Forester." Excerpts from her letters enliven the last portion of the book.

draw from Elisabeth Elliot's experience. How did missionary life, as well as fellow missionaries, differ from what she had imagined?

Ask: Do hardships outweigh accomplishments? Look at the experience of the Judsons and of those who went with them. Was a witness to Burma worth its cost in human lives?

## CALL TO PRAYER

Distribute paper and pencils. Ask each member to write the answer to this question: What is the most serious problem a missionary faces? Ask each woman to choose a name from the calendar (pp. 56-64) and to pray for that missionary and that problem.

(For Book Forecan, turn to p. 50.)

## Prayer Group

PHOTO BY BOB BARTON

Georgia Mae Ogburn is shown in the photo with Manuel Trucco, Chilean ambassador to the United States, following ceremonies during which Miss Ogburn was awarded the Bernardo O'Higgins decoration by the Chilean government. The award (visible beneath Miss Ogburn's corsage) is reserved for foreigners who have contributed to the people of Chile in cultural, moral, and spiritual ways. The ambassador presented the award in the Chilean embassy in Washington, DC.

Georgia Mae Ogburn, veteran missionary to Chile, took a last lingering look at her beloved field and furnished the material for this month's prayer group meeting. She was set to go on retirement status at the end of November, but she insists, "That does not mean that I shall not be working, for one never retires from the Lord's work!"

Miss Ogburn shares this testimony:

### Annual Prayer

Before leaving Chile for furlough in the States, I had been witnessing to a woman who had called one of our Baptist leaders for help and had been referred to me. After visiting with the woman for an hour and

forty-five minutes, answering her questions in relation to the Bible and how to be saved, I realized she was ready to accept the Lord as her Saviour. She had bought a Bible the year before and had been reading it all through the year and the Spirit had been working in her heart.

When I asked her if she would like to accept the Lord right then, she answered that she had a problem and asked if I thought he really would accept her. I told her that Christ will accept anyone who comes with a contrite heart in repentance and that he accepts us as we are.

Then she told me her problem was her income. She went on to explain that she owned an apartment which she rented by the hour; she had been doing that because it brought her more income than anything else she could do.

Her Bible reading, she said, had led her to realize that sexual immorality is wrong. She explained that though she was not guilty of this sin, she felt she was guilty in a way because she was renting the apartment to people who used it for misconduct. Consequently she felt she must find some other work for income.

# Chile

Elizabeth Swadley

I assured the woman that she must accept Christ as she was, that he would help her solve her problem. I suggested that together we pray that God would help her find honorable work. Before we prayed the called in her maid, another person who was working in her apartment, and a visitor.

The following Sunday she accepted Christ as her Saviour. A couple of Sundays later a daughter and a grandson accepted Christ.

We continued to pray concerning her work. Several Sundays later when I picked her up on the way to church, she was smiling. With joy she told me that God had answered our prayers. Someone had come to her during the week and had offered her a job in a clinic in town. She is now working in a medical center as a visitor. Our God answers prayer.

### About Georgia Mae Ogburn

I was executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union of Chile for over twenty-seven years, planning programs, editing materials, running the WMU office, visiting societies, compiling reports, and work-

ing very closely with the president of the WMU Convention.

In addition, for many years I taught an adult women's class in Sunday School and received many blessings as I tried to lead some who had not accepted the Lord to do so and to train those who had accepted Christ.

Now, having reached retirement age, I shall be remaining in the US; but as I travel from place to place, I find many challenges of need. I hope that you will pray that God will lead me into an area where he can use me in an effective way.

My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:6: "Be careful for nothing;

but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

### Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the election of WMU officers in the Chile Convention which convenes in January 1977. A WMU executive secretary, the first Chilean in this office, will be elected.

2. Pray for the many Bible study groups being held in the homes of Chilean women. Bible study groups for children are held in many areas; pray that many children may come

to know and love the Lord and dedicate their lives to him. (See p. 60.)

3. Pray that God will call out new workers to help meet the challenge of widespread spiritual hunger in Chile—especially leaders to meet the need in the tremendous upsurge in the growth of young people's groups.

4. Pray for the evangelistic emphasis planned for the eastern section of the big city of Santiago in April. In March a concentrated thrust through radio and television will be launched to that area in preparation for the evangelistic impact.

## Planning the Meeting

### AHEAD OF TIME

1. Prepare a prayer poster. At the top print Miss Ogburn's favorite Bible verse, Philippians 4:6. Leave room on the main body of the poster for women to add letters and words, like this:

Philippians 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Convention

Helpers

Influence

Lost learners

Evangelistic impact \*

2. From construction paper, cut out the letters CHILE. Print the words *convention*, *helpers*, *influence*, *lost learners*, *evangelistic impact*, on each portion of construction paper and obtain tape for affixing letters and words to posters.

3. The five words are reminders of five prayer requests. Print the prayer requests on the back of the appropriate word like this:

*Convention*—copy prayer request number 1.

*Helpers*—write on the back of this word prayer request number 3. *Influence*—on the back of this word write: Pray for Georgia Mae Ogburn. Pray that her influence will long remain as a positive witness in Chile. Thank God for her. Pray that God will continue to use her even though she is retiring from foreign mission service.

*Lost learners*—copy on the back prayer request number 2.

*Evangelistic impact*—copy prayer request number 4.

### AT THE MEETING

Ask one woman to present the introductory material and Miss Ogburn's testimony of answered prayer.

Display the prayer poster at the front of the room, showing the prayer Bible verse and the letters CHILE.

Give the prayer requests on the prayer reminder words to five different women. Ask each in turn to read the request, pray aloud for what is specified, and attach the word to the appropriate spot on the acoustic poster.

Ask every woman present to volunteer to pray daily for the rest of this month for one of the five specific requests. Allow time for women to write reminders in their prayer notebooks.

Point out that Miss Ogburn's birthday is November 7. Through the years of her missionary service she has counted on the prayer support of Southern Baptists. Missionaries on today's prayer calendar also are counting on our prayers. Read the names (see pp. 56-64) and ask group members to choose and pray silently for one name.

Remind members of next month's Baptist Women meeting topic (see preview p. 49) and time and place of meeting.

### AFTER THE MEETING

Perhaps your group would like to write Miss Ogburn expressing appreciation for her work in Chile, offering prayers and good wishes for her continued service in her retirement years.

Miss Georgia Mae Ogburn  
2007-A 24th Avenue  
Meridian, Mississippi 39301

apour, tumult, disorder  
descriptive word with a  
ory. Derived from "Beth-  
lam was the popular  
Bethlehem Royal Hospital  
Since the middle of the  
century Bedlam has been  
the insane. Bethlehem  
contracted to "Bethlem,"  
became "Bedlam," an  
amous for brutal and  
ment of its mentally  
ine, "Bedlam" be-  
attached to all in-  
ally ill, and later  
meaning of any  
onal outburst.  
Christmas is  
to Bethlehem.  
is the first

its own  
Christmas  
celebration  
the grim at  
become a  
to a child

We make of  
a temporary  
certain  
we daily  
quiet "Bedlam"

To be  
Christmas  
help  
we take  
Jesus  
the

B

less than ten miles apart geographically, and ~~being~~ together historically. Jesus was born not only beneath the brightness of a star but also beneath the shadow of a mushroom cloud of the tyranny of human sin.

#### **Two Separate Accounts of the Nativity**

Luke and Matthew report separate accounts of Jesus' birth. Both Gospels locate the time and place in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king. Beyond those basic details, the two Gospels report unrelated events. Luke's account emphasizes the more personal, inside event, as if he were telling the story from Mary's viewpoint: humble shepherds on a hillside visited by an angelic host making a startling announcement, the shepherds' visit to the manger, and the parents' experience in the Temple in Jerusalem when they took the Child for the service of dedication.

Matthew's report sees the birth of Jesus in its significance to public affairs. From Matthew we learn of important visitors, identified only as "men who studied the stars [and] came from the east," who knew that a significant person had been born because "we saw his star." From Matthew we learn of Herod's heartless act of killing Bethlehem's male children when he saw that his devious plan to discover the Child's whereabouts had been thwarted. And from Matthew we learn of the family's flight to Egypt to escape the wicked intentions of the fear-crazed king.

#### **An Old Man's Souther Prophecy (Luke 2:21-35)**

One of the most moving of the Christmas narratives is Luke's description of the infant Jesus being taken by Joseph and Mary from Bethlehem to the Temple in Jerusalem for the service of dedication

when Jesus was forty days old. The passage alludes to two ceremonies: the ceremony of purification of the mother of a newborn child and that of the dedication of the firstborn. The purification ceremony took place no sooner than forty days after the birth of a male child (eighty days in the case of a female child) and was accomplished by bringing a young pigeon for a sin offering and a lamb for a burnt offering. If the family was poor, as in the case of Joseph and Mary, a second pigeon might be offered in place of the lamb, which would be considerably more expensive.

The dedication ceremony called the Redemption of the Firstborn (Num. 18:16), could be held no sooner and not much later than thirty-one days after the child's birth. It was accomplished with the payment of five shekels in the Temple. In the case of Jesus' dedication and the purification of Mary, the two ceremonies were taken care of on the same trip from Bethlehem.

When they came into the Temple they were met by an elderly man named Simeon, identified by Luke as a "good and God-fearing man, and was waiting for Israel to be saved" (2:25 TEV),\* and as having had it revealed to him that he would see the Messiah before he died. When the old man's eyes fell upon the Child he knew that he was seeing the long-awaited Saviour. Lifting the Babe from his mother's arms, he blessed God for the sight his eyes had been permitted to see, and said: "Now, Lord, let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation" (2:29-30 TEV).

But as Simeon praised the forthcoming mighty acts of God through the Child held in his arms, he turned to Mary and made this sober statement: "This child is chosen by God

\*This and all other TEV passages are used by permission of the American Bible Society.

for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against, and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart" (2:34-35 TEV).

The words strike a discordant note in the joyous music of Christmas. Because of the Child many would fall and many would rise. He would be a sign, an evidence offered by God concerning his purpose, and many would oppose it. And a sword would be thrust through the heart of the mother so highly favored and so full of wonder about the Babe in her arms.

Did the words cast a pall over what had been a happy occasion? Did they introduce a haunting sense of foreboding, pushed to the back of consciousness by the ageless ecstasy of a woman's looking into the face of her baby and knowing that she has given of her life to create another life? Was there some alarm in the words, kept dull and distant by the exaltation and wonder which must have possessed one so blessed as to bear God's Son?

Who can say? We only know that Luke observed that "Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them" (2:19 TEV). Subsequent events in which Mary was involved with Jesus in his ministry suggest that she really did not understand the import of his life. One day she would stand beneath his cross and watch him die. Then she would feel the sword piercing her heart.

#### **"When Herod Was King" (Matthew 2:13-23)**

Those words are, for one thing, an historical point of reference. Jesus was born, as both Luke and Matthew state, during the reign of Herod, called "the Great." Ours is an historical religion, grounded in a divine-human life. Any lessening of

## Bible Study Group

that looming claim of the New Testament departs from the clear intention of the Bible.

But the words "when Herod was king" are more than historical reference. They speak of the kind of world into which God's Son was born. It was a world of harsh cruelty, brutality, immorality, idolatry; a world of wide extremes of wealth for a few and poverty, subjugation, or slavery for the many. Herod the Great was a brilliant but uneasy tyrant. He built impressive structures, including the Temple in Jerusalem, but he was ruthless in his dealings with opposition and victimized by his own paranoid suspicions. Because he believed that they were involved in plots to overthrow him he executed three of his own sons, his favorite wife (he had several), and her mother. He systematically exterminated the leaders of his nation. On his death-bed he gave orders for the execution of scores of prominent people on the day of his death because he said he

wanted to be mourned by his people and that was the only way to assure it.

So the sobering words of old Simeon began early to be fulfilled. When Herod realized the Wise Men had left for their own country without returning to report to him, he sent his soldiers to kill every male child "two years old or under" in and around Bethlehem. The designated age of those marked to be killed indicates that the Wise Men's visit came sometime after Jesus' birth. Evidently Joseph had remained in Bethlehem after the birth of Mary's Child. Did he contemplate settling there in the area of his ancestors? Perhaps. But if so, that was made impossible by Herod's murderous attempt on the Child's life. Warned in a dream to flee with the Child, Joseph took his little family to Egypt and safety.

But other mothers lost their babies. And Matthew, sensing that awful horror which plunged the

town of Bethlehem into grief, observes that the event recalled words of the Scriptures about the sound of "bitter crying and weeping. Rachel weeps for her children; she weeps and will not be comforted because they are all dead" (Matt. 2:18 TEV). The quotation, from Jeremiah 31:15, originally referred to the sight of the exiles being carried away to Babylon. But Matthew, using a favorite literary device of his to relate the Hebrew Scriptures to the Messiahship of Jesus, finds in that verse an apt description of the plight of Bethlehem's mothers.

### A Time of Joy and Sorrow

The solemn warning of Simeon and the brutal act of Herod do more than throw light on the circumstances of Jesus' birth. They speak to us about ourselves and our times. They remind us that Christmas—and every day, for that matter—is a time of both joy and sorrow. Was it not so for Mary? The price she paid for giving birth to such a Son was the torment of wondering if

he were denounced, embarrassment when people laughed at him, pride when they praised him and sought his help, loneliness when he seemed to have outgrown her motherly boldness on him, the shattering despair of seeing him die, and then the incredible joy and wonder of his resurrection.

Joy and sorrow—is it not also true of us? The poignant fact of our common life is accentuated by Christmas. It is the time of our highest joy, the occasion of our most generous impulses, the season of strengthening of family ties and renewing of friendships. We are closer to each other at Christmas than at any time of year, and more inclined then to believe the best about one another.

But it is also a time of sorrow, and for the same reasons that make it a season of joy. The sword pierces the soul even as the soul sings. The elements of Christmas that warm the heart also make it cold and lonely. That compelling need to be with those who love us and whom we love becomes the source of our deepest sorrow when such reunion is impossible because of death or estrangement. Christians who listen to the cries of people's inmost beings are not shocked to hear someone say "Oh God, how I dread Christmas day!"

Christmas means both joy and sorrow, light and darkness, Bethlehem and bedlam. And what can we do, celebrating Christmas with the need to make room in our hearts for both?

We can do just that—make room. Joy and sorrow are not implacable foes. They are not like relatives who won't speak to each other and cause embarrassment when they turn up at the same table. Sooner or later all of us have to live with both of them, or else withdraw into a shelter of unreality.

### A Matter of Life and Death

In another sense Simeon's prophecy and Herod's cruelty also speak to us. They remind us that the issue of Christ is no less than a life and death matter.

The incidents of the Nativity remind us of the dramatic difference between what God intends and what the Herods want. Herod knew better than to suppose that the birth of the Child was a harmless, charming event to be recounted to children at bedtime. Herod might have been a madman, but never take him for being naive. Little wonder Herod wanted to get rid of the Child. Such a person is dangerous to the Herods of this world.

Do we realize, as did this petty tyrant, that the threat of the non-violent Messiah coming into the world as a tiny Babe in his mother's arms was more dangerous to Herod's kind than marching armies would be? Violence he could deal with; for violence can always be checked by greater violence. But when a moral and spiritual power is released, the power of violence is futile to cope with it.

The Simeons and Herods have one thing in common. Both know that the release of God's love on this planet is not all sweetness and light. They know that where Christ is taken at his word swords are beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, that men make war no longer, that every man sits under his own vine and his own fig tree and no one makes him afraid (see Micah 4:3-4). They know that if Christ reigned, governments would change, the hungry would be fed, the naked clothed, the sick tended, the prisoners visited, the poor released by the good news. No Herod wants that to happen. The Simeons and the Herods, the prophets of God and the men of evil, both know what

## Next Month in ROYAL SERVICE

January's issue focuses on career missionaries. Lynn Barrett shares her and her husband's experiences in awaiting approval for appointment by the Foreign Mission Board. "A Calendar of Ways to Help MKs" gives ideas for relating practically to missionary families. "Telling God's Love in Human Languages"—or why and how missionaries learn to communicate in another tongue—it is the Baptist Women meeting topic. Current missions groups look at "Missionary Family Life." Round table groups read about "Missions Today." And prayer groups pray for missionaries' children away from home.

In addition, ROYAL SERVICE readers will find regular features "Woman's Touch," "Personal Prisms," "Reborn Free," "Read-Alert," and "Context."

kind of world it is and what kind of world God would have it be.

In *Wingless Victory* Maxwell Anderson told the story of a New England sea captain, Nathaniel McQuestion, who returns to Bedford Harbor after a six-year absence, his ship laden with the riches of the Orient. But he has brought something besides the merchandise which makes him a wealthy man. He has brought a dark-skinned Malay wife and two children. Opperie, a princess, had nursed him through a dangerous illness. He had fallen in love with her and asked her hand in marriage; she had consented, loving him with utter devotion.

But the citizens of Bedford are incensed and outraged. They refuse

The people called missionaries are spotlighted in *Baptist Women* this month. Supplement these study and prayer experiences by reading some missionary biographies:

*The Joy of Discovery* by Elaine H. Belcher—how one woman discovered through her friendship with nine women missionaries that people around the world are responding to the good news of Christ (Broadman 1976) \$3.95.\*

*To Be the First* by William N. McElroth—adventures of Admiration Peelson, America's first foreign missionary (Broadman 1976), paper \$4.95\*

*The Gift of Belonging* by Johnnie Johnson—the story of Virginia

Cobb, missionary to Muslims in Lebanon (Broadman 1975) paper \$1.75\*

*Living Sacrifices—a Missionary Odyssey* by Jesus C. Fletcher—the story of John and Jewell Abernathy, missionaries to the Orient for over four decades (Broadman 1974) \$4.95\*

*Messenger to the Golden People: the Story of Lonnie Coleman* by Margaret Iglesias—how a medicine man's son became the first native missionary to the Cuna Indians of Panama. (Broadman 1968) 75 cents\*

*Bill Wallace of China* by Jesse C. Fletcher—vivid story of a martyred medical missionary in China during

seventeen years of communist tyranny. (Broadman 1963) \$2.95; paper \$1.25\*

*Shoe-Leather Globe, A Life of William Carey* by Saxon Rowe Carver (Broadman 1965) \$3.50\*

*Adventures for God* by Clarence W. Hall—thirteen great Christian missionary stories (Harper and Row 1976) paper \$1.95\*

*Shadow of the Almighty* by Elisabeth Elliot—the life and testament of Jim Elliot (Zondervan 1970) paper \$2.95\*

\*Available through Baptist Book Store

readAlert

## Bible Study Group

to accept McQuestion's Malay wife, even though she becomes a Christian, forsaking her religion to join with her husband and his people in the worship of God. Such great pressure is exerted on McQuestion by the townspeople and even his own mother and minister-brother that he finally agrees to send Oparre away.

Learning of his yielding to the prejudice and hatred of his own people, Oparre retreats to her husband's ship in the harbor, taking her children with her. There she gives them and takes herself a deadly poison and as death approaches she reverts to her native religion, praying to the gods of her childhood. In prayer she speaks of Christ: "He came too soon, this Christ of peace. Men are not ready yet. Another hundred thousand years..."

Sometimes it seems so. But that is not the gospel. The gospel is that he came not a moment too soon or too late. He came in "the fulness of time" (Gal. 4:4).

And so we come to another Christmas, confident that God did not make a mistake. Whatever bedlam invades our Bethlehem is the product of our own willful rebellion against God's purpose in Christ. Above all, the final word is hope. As John puts it simply: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out" (John 1:5 TEV).

too late. He came in "the fulness of time" (Gal. 4:4).

And so we come to another Christmas, confident that God did not make a mistake. Whatever bedlam invades our Bethlehem is the product of our own willful rebellion against God's purpose in Christ. Above all, the final word is hope. As John puts it simply: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out" (John 1:5 TEV).

## Planning the Meeting

**Aim for study:** As a result of this study, each member should be able to tell how joy and grief combine to enrich a Christian's observance of Christmas.

### PLAN 1

Continue your informal group study based on reading together the Bible passages, studying Dr. Johnson's comments, and making individual notebooks.

Suggest members make two columns in their notebooks, one titled "Grief" and the other "Joy." Under each column they may jot down thoughts and Bible passages pertaining to that side of Christmas. Suggest that each woman write a brief paragraph describing how her observance of Christmas will be richer because of this study.

### PLAN 2

Ask two or three members who are creative in the dramatic arts to prepare a choral reading based on the Scripture passages and comments presented in this study. For example, two readers could alternately express the joy and grief of Christmas. Emphasize the idea that the Gospels present both sides of

Christmas. A third reader, a narrator, may be needed. Use music and lighting effects if you wish.

### PLAN 3

Divide members into two discussion groups. Each group has a leader and a copy of ROYAL SERVICE. Group 1 studies Matthew 2:13-23 and Group 2 studies Luke 2:21-35. Each group looks for the joy and grief evident or implied in the account. The two leaders report after fifteen minutes.

Lead the whole group in discussing this question: In what ways may Christian women involve themselves in the bedlam of the world and the community to bring joy?

### CALL TO PRAYER

Give each member a small candle and the name of one of the missionaries on the prayer calendar today (see pp. 56-64). Light the candles, and ask each woman to pray silently, but with her eyes open, for the missionary. To close the prayertime, repeat as a group: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out" (John 1:5 TEV).

## Book Forecast

### Books for January

*Reaching All* edited by Paul E. Little (World Wide Publications 1974) \$4.95 paper\*

*Myths About Missions* by Horace L. Fenton, Jr. (InterVarsity Press 1973) \$1.50 paper\*\*

*The Making of a Missionary* by J. Herbert Kane (Baker Book House 1973) \$2.95 paper\*\*

### Books for February

*How Can I Find You, God?* by Marjorie Holmes (Doubleday 1975) \$5.95\*

*Yes A Woman's View of Mission Support* by Adrienne Bonham (WMU 1974) \$1.50 paper\*\*

### Books for March

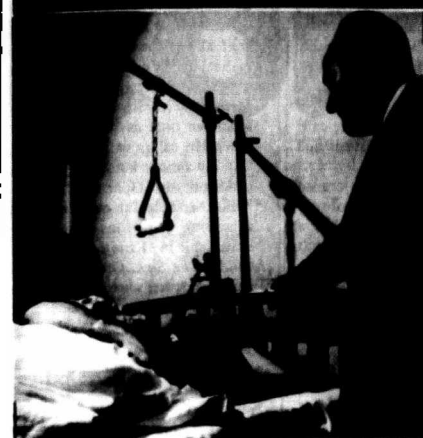
*All We're Meant To Be* by Letha Scanzoni and Nancy Hardisty (Word 1974) \$4.95\*

*Ms. Means Myself* by Gladys Hunt (Zondervan 1972) \$1.50 paper\*\*

*Images: Women in Transition* compiled by Janice Grana (Action House 1976) \$3.95\*\*

\*If you are a member of Round Table Book Club (a group can be a member), you will get these books automatically (See p. 40, November ROYAL SERVICE). The books are also available through Baptist Book Stores. \*\*Available through Baptist Book Stores. Be sure to check early in case these must be ordered.

## Mission Action Group



# "Sick and Ye Visited Me"

Whatever the specific need of the group to whom you minister and witness through mission action, you'll almost certainly need—at least on occasion—to know how to minister to people who are sick.

The following guidelines for helping the sick are suggested by Joe Boone Abbott, minister and hospital chaplain in Birmingham, Alabama.

Helping requires willingness to be open to the experiences of another without prescribing how he must express, interpret, or reveal his experience.

Listening to another is one way we can express this openness. Taking seriously another person's feelings breaks through the walls of isolation and aids in establishing a sense of community (belongingness). Listening is not a passive activity; it is actively focusing on another person, seeking to see his experience through his eyes.

If you are visiting a sick person, remember these do's and don'ts:

Do make inquiry before a visit. Send a card.

Do make the call short and to the point.

Do introduce yourself (if not a close friend).

Do focus on the patient, not others in the room.

Do sense the patient's mood, check signs of tiring.

Do appear unhurried, but stay no more than ten minutes.

Do listen to the patient express his feelings and experiences.

Don't visit to satisfy a need to perform a duty.

Don't demand that the patient entertain you.

Don't make a visit when you are ill or troubled.

Don't force yourself on the patient.

Don't touch or shake or sit on the bed.

Don't talk about yourself or your illness experiences.

Don't whisper in the room of a semiconscious person—he can hear.

Don't make the patient carry a conversation.

**Special Situations**—Pray aloud with a sick person only when the patient expresses a desire for you to do so. If you need to pray, do it silently before you knock on the door.

It is important to leave the room if a physician, minister, chaplain, or social worker comes into the patient's room. The patient may need to talk professionally or in depth with him.

Mealtime is another occasion to leave. The patient will not feel comfortable if you watch him eat.

Remember that an intensive care unit is just that. Personnel in this unit do not have time to deal with visitors as well as patients. Write cards or letters to this patient.

When visiting an elderly person, guard against the temptation of attempting to force him to communicate at your rate. The important thing is to follow the interests of the person so that he feels you are visiting him and not visiting for yourself.

It is easy to assume that returning home (from a hospital) is a happy time. This may be true, but for many it means the cessation of attention and greater loneliness. This period of convalescence is most important for both the physically and mentally ill. Hospitals are places for treatment; home is for convalescence. A visit during this time can be the most important ingredient



for reestablishing relationships in the life pattern of the patient. Short but frequent calls can be helpful.

For example, when a wife and mother comes home from the hospital to the demands of a family routine, she needs help. A friend could come to the house, prepare the evening meal, and leave it for the wife to serve to the family. This helps the woman regain her depleted dignity and resume her normal role in the family even though she is continuing to recover. Such a friend is truly a helping person.

A new mother can find a house a prison when she is confined with

the baby and unable to get out among people. Regular and frequent calls on her at a mutually comfortable time can be "soul food" during a difficult adjustment.

Men are sometimes neglectful of other men when illness forces them to drop usual contacts. Couple-calls can mean much to the patient and his wife.

Bereavement is another crucial time. Usually there is plenty of support at the time of death, but a bereft person faces a most difficult time during the weeks or months following the funeral. Well-timed visits, openly declared as to the

purpose, can help the person feel free to talk about his loss and how he feels about it. The outpouring of grief allows the human personality to heal from within. God calls us to pass love on to others as we have received it from others. God's love is known only as we love one another. His call to us is simply stated, "As my Father hath sent me, even so I send you" (John 20:21).

Further help for ministering and witnessing to persons who are sick is available in *Mission Action Group Guide: The Sick*. Order from Baptist Book Store; see order form, page 64.

## Planning the Meeting

Allow time for each member to read the foregoing material. After a few minutes, ask members to share with each other new ideas this reading has uncovered for them as they prepare to visit persons who are sick.

Spend the rest of the meeting time in a quick refresher exercise, using the material below. To introduce this activity, ask, "In what kind of action have we as a mission action group just participated? (in-service training)"

### QUICK REFRESHER #3

Every member should have a copy of the appropriate Mission Action Group Guide for your group (see list, p. 64). Using the guide and last month's ROYAL SERVICE, which outlined the cycle of actions done by the group, conduct this review.

1. A mission action group undertakes three getting-started or launch actions. These actions are personal preparation, orientation, and survey. We should do these before we begin our mission action work; once we do them we do not have to repeat them.

a. Personal preparation  
Done by individual group members.

Purpose is to gain awareness of the needs of others and a sensitivity to what is involved in meeting needs, and in understand what the Bible teaches about ministry and witness to persons of special need.

Material is in the group guide (turn to this section in the guide and urge each member who has not done so to study it on her own.)

#### b. Orientation

Done by the group in one or more sessions.

Purpose is to learn about the people we hope to help.

(Turn to the section in the guide if your group has not done this yet, announce the time for study.)

#### c. Survey

Done by the group.

This survey discovers actual needs of the persons with whom your group will be working—through interviewing, visiting, etc. It brings you in contact with the people you will be helping.

The information becomes the basis for planning ministry and witness activities.

(Look together at the section in the guide.)

2. Once the launch actions have been done, a mission action group repeats four continuing actions—

planning, ministry and witness, in-service training, and sharing and evaluating.

a. In planning, our group plans what it will actually do (turn to this section of the guide and look at it as a group).

b. Next, the group does what it has planned—ministering and witnessing. This between-meeting activity can be done either as a group or by individuals. Besides the help provided in the activities section of the guide, regular study of ROYAL SERVICE and *Contempo* and other SBC missions materials will yield practical ideas.

c. In service training, further study and training should be undertaken by the group as members recognize needs for skills in their work and as they discover resources to help them (look together at the in-service training section of your guide).

d. Sharing and evaluating are done in the group, either formally or informally, every time the group gets together.

Sharing and evaluating are important because they help in further planning, help motivate members for better work, and build group spirit (look together at suggestions in this section of your group guide).

# CONTEXT

Adrianne Bonham

A career missionary is one appointed with the intention of serving until retirement. What are other titles designating how missionaries are appointed? Work these puzzles to identify seven of them.

capsul jopirec suner

dustent mumres ransmosry

earpscl rjectap tedints

isiranmyas marynauunje

-ine + @ - bl + @ - iver + @ - ot + @ -

-per + @ + i + @ - p + @ + @ + @ - ds

+ @ - e =

+ @ - show =

Answers: special project nurse, special project dentist, student summer missionary, missionary journeyman, medical receptor, missionary associate, Christian Service Corps, US-2er

ROYAL SERVICE • DECEMBER 1976



## Leader Training

Designate ten minutes in officers council meeting for training and meditation.  
Read the Scripture passage suggested in Call to Prayer for today (see pp. 56-64).  
Read the names of the missionaries. Allow time to pray. Urge officers to apply the Scripture passage to daily living.  
Read together pages 23-28 of Baptist Women Manual. Identify the mission support activities you are doing in December. Are there others you could be doing? Evaluate the activities you are doing in December.



## Group Training

Ask the mission action chairman to lead this training activity for mission action group leaders. Do it at the end of officers council meeting.  
Ask: Could any member of a mission action group in our organization say, "I've been in a group two years, but have never had any training"? If so, let's work together to determine an appropriate training plan for your group.  
First read chapter 7, Working in a Missions Group. List the actions necessary in group work.  
Second, using the description of in-service training on page 37, plus information from the appropriate Mission Action Group Guide, decide on a course of action for getting the training done.  
Announce the training opportunities to all women in the church. Invite them to receive the training and join a mission action group.

## Communicate with Spirit

Provide your pastor with a schedule of Baptist Women activities for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Invite him to attend any of the activities or share the spiritual event during the week and invite him to participate. Recognize him when he attends.

## Homebound Members

Tap the daily sessions during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Deliver the tapes (with players if necessary) to homebound members. Spend time in prayer for foreign missions with homebound persons. Offer to deliver homebound members' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to church.

## Week of Prayer

Use this checklist to determine whether you are doing the following for Foreign Missions:  
— Have we shared our purpose (United Nations) on p. 28?  
— Have we informed about church-wide opportunities?  
— Have we informed about Baptist Women activities?  
— Have we encouraged to use Call to Prayer?

Baptist Women activities planned (five-day observance (see pp. 18-37 of this issue))  
prayer retreat on Saturday  
luncheon or dinner meeting during the week  
dinner or banquet during the week using the material in ROYAL SERVICE\*\* along with a missionary speaker  
— Invitations issued to members of study groups who usually do not relate to regular Baptist Women activities (for example, those in retirement homes/communities and working women)  
— Plans made to record and deliver prayer sessions to homebound members  
REMEMBER: Plans for the churchwide observance of the week of prayer are in October-November-December Dimension,\*\* the magazine for WMU officers.

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Mission Support Chairman: Conduct an interview with a non-Baptist Women member of your church related to her ideas on giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Ask the person: Why do you give? (Why not?) How do you set (or would you set) a goal for giving? What are the results of your giving?  
Do the interview live or play a recording of the interview in the Baptist Women meeting. Spend time in the meeting letting each person present answer the above questions.

## Publicity

Make a poster announcing plans for the Home Mission Graded Series study. The subject of the poster is spring. Choose one enlarged photograph or several small photographs taken by Baptist Women members. Choose photographs that depict spring. Mount them attractively on the poster board. If photographs are not available, use magazine pictures depicting spring. Under the photographs write: A Sense of Spring. Attend the study, date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ place \_\_\_\_\_.

Include a sign-up chart. Ask persons to sign up to read the book A Sense of Spring by Everett Mullum (\$1.50 through Baptist Book Stores). Encourage each member to buy her own book. Provide copies for individuals to buy. Or buy several to pass around among members.



## Check Achievement

- Check your progress on the Baptist Women Achievement Guide. Turn to page 33, 1976-77 Year Book.\*
- By this time you should have:
- had two Baptist Women meetings using October and November ROYAL SERVICE
  - participated in study of Stranger Than Mushrooms\*
  - conducted or planned at least one mission action project
  - conducted a direct evangelism project unless one is planned for later in the year
  - used Call to Prayer in meetings
  - promoted giving through the Cooperative Program
  - conducted or planned an enlistment project
  - conducted officer study of Baptist Women Manual and applied for Church Study Course credit
  - provided study of Baptist Women Manual for members
  - had officers participate in annual planning
  - had president participating in Baptist Women or WMU council meetings
  - had Baptist Women officers council meetings on a regular basis
  - made necessary reports

\*Available through Baptist Book Stores. See order form, page 64.  
Order from: Women's Missionary Union, 606 North 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203. ROYAL SERVICE, \$4.00 per year, single copy 45 cents. Please add \$1.50 postage and handling for orders outside the U.S. Dimension, \$1.50 per year, single copy 40 cents. Please add 75 cents postage and handling for orders outside the U.S. Subscriptions are available for one or two years. Payment must accompany order. Alabama subscribers add necessary sales tax. Allow six weeks for delivery.



Clyde (Mrs. John) Maguire  
Jacksonville, Florida

# CALL TO PRAYER

## 1 Wednesday John 3:14

Jon and Ernie Harvey have had varied missionary careers. Appointed in 1961, they served nine years in Brazil. Because they knew the Portuguese language they were asked to open up work in Mozambique in 1971. A few weeks after they came home for furlough in 1973, missionaries were expelled from that country. After furlough they will go to South Africa to work with Portuguese people there. Pray earnestly for the Harveys. **Eloy Cruz**, Spanish, New York. **Mrs. Edwin Diaz**, Spanish, Florida. **Mrs. Edwin Davis**, Spanish, Louisiana. **L. Edward Johnson**, Indian, Arizona. **Mrs. A. A. Moore**, Indian, Arizona. **Mrs. William K. Potos**, associational missions, Washington. **Sidney Phipps**, Spanish, Ohio. **Cruz Rodriguez**, Spanish, Texas. **Marvin Swanson**, center director, North Carolina. **J. Howard Teel**, Christian social ministries director, Kentucky. **Maurice E. Finn**, preaching, Peru. **Mrs. C. Ernest Harvey**, home and church, Mozambique. **Mrs. Carlos B. Oron**, nurse, Tanzania. **Mrs. Morris G. Prida**, home and church, Togo. **Mrs. W. Russell Rawlins**, home and church, India. **F. Joe Snyder**, social work, Kenya.

## 2 Thursday John 3:14-17

Have you spent more time in prayer during this special week of prayer? Have you praised God that the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is 29 million dollars? Have you petitioned for missionary volunteers from your church? Notice that eight missionaries we pray for today serve in Latin America: the region that has had the lowest number of missionary appointees the

last five years. Go, in the Lord for this and:

**Mr. Joe L. Buckner**, deaf, Kentucky. **Linda Gutierrez**, retired, Texas. **John V. Hunter**, Nigerian, California. **Robert Malton**, retired, Texas. **J. Edgar Allen**, preaching, Ecuador. **Mr. Mark M. Alexander, Jr.**, home and church, Argentina. **Mrs. Charles B. Clark**, women's work, Venezuela. **Mrs. James L. Kellum, Jr.**, home and church, Philippines. **Mrs. William E. Mathew**, education, Peru. **Donald H. Redman**, preaching, Costa Rica. **Caroline B. Remm**, business administration, Ecuador. **Mrs. Donald B. Smith**, home and church, Chile. **Mrs. William P. Stenger**, home and church, Ethiopia. **David E. Stevens**, journeyman, student work, Kenya. **Ray B. Wyatt, Jr.**, education, Colombia.

## 3 Friday John 4:1-14

We sometimes forget that people on mission fields are themselves missions. **Robert and Mary Harris** are one of our two missionary couples in Bermuda. He made an appeal on television there for earthquake victims in Guatemala, and more than \$1,000 came in. Pray that your gift for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will be a worthy one. **Bill Clark**, Christian social ministries director, Texas. **Maurice Ann Eichenberg**, weekday ministry director, Alabama. **Mrs. Richard Lamborn**, associational missions, Iowa. **Harold Lindsay**, director of associational missions, Massachusetts. **Larry Albright**, preaching, Zambia. **Johnny J. Baker**, preaching, Equatorial Guinea. **Robert L. Harris**, preaching, Bermuda. **Minnie L. Harvey**, preaching, Indonesia. **Gary D. Hershberger**, preaching, Taiwan. **Mrs. Jimmy E. Maroney**, home and church, Ethiopia. **Mrs. H. Eugene Moschman**, home and church, Malawi. **Edith Potter**, secretary, Colombia. **Wayne E. Sorrells**, preaching, North Brazil.

## 4 Saturday John 6:27-35

LaVerne Applewhite's husband Winfield is a doctor in Indonesia. They serve in the new Baptist hospital

at Bukittinggi, Sumatra. Mrs. Applewhite asks us to pray for them as they select a staff for the hospital, especially for an Indonesian doctor. Thank God for all the dedicated physicians on mission fields. **Mrs. C. Whitfield Applewhite**, home and church, Indonesia. **Mrs. William D. Bender**, home and church, Nigeria. **Lydia Earle Greene**, retired, China. **Hawaii, Malaysia**. **Thomas A. Jones**, business administration, Kenya. **Mrs. John E. Schoolar**, home and church, South West Africa. **Ernest C. Valentin**, preaching, South Brazil. **Weldon E. Viethel**, Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas.

## 5 Sunday John 6:12-20

Harlan and Jo Wilms have served in the Baptist hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, since it was opened in 1964. Bangkok is about halfway between Bangkok and the Cambodian border, and the hospital serves a large rural area. This year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering includes an allocation of \$11,500 for the hospital. Pray for the Wilmses and the hospital. And pray that Southern Baptists will reach the greatest goal we have ever set for the offering—\$29 million. **Mrs. Jane Marie Garcia**, Spanish, Texas. **David Jip**, Chinese, Georgia. **Mrs. Remon Moss**, Spanish, Florida. **Robert E. Galtner**, business administration, Jordan. **Mrs. Ervin E. Hamey**, home and church, Panama. **A. Clark Scudiero**, field representative, Middle America. **Samuel T. Upton**, preaching, Malawi. **Norlin L. Willis**, doctor, Thailand.

## 6 Monday John 10:1-11

Sam and Lola Simpson, both born in Jamaica, work in the Bronx. He is laughingly called "Baptist Bishop of the Bronx." Actually he is pastor of Bronx Baptist Church and director of church extension. In the decade that he has been in New York, he has helped to establish four congregations and he hopes to bring three others into the Baptist fold. Pray for the Simpsons. **Robert W. Allenworth**, Baptist center, Virginia. **Mrs. Jane Marion**, Spanish, Michigan. **Mrs. James E. Norman**, church extension, Pennsylvania.

**Samuel G. Simpson**, pastor-director, New York.

**Mrs. James C. Whitman**, Christian social ministries, Texas. **Mrs. Ralph V. Calcutt**, home and church, Japan. **Robert D. Campion**, education, Costa Rica. **Carol Leigh Humphries**, women's work, Nigeria. **Mrs. Robert F. Ricketts**, retired, China, Philippines. **Mrs. Forrest E. Roysan**, home and church, Senegal. **Mrs. Robert W. Shabane**, home and church, Guadeloupe.

## 7 Tuesday John 11:21-27

Cherrie and Billy Wells serve in weekday ministry in Longview, Washington. She writes, "Over 7,000 retired citizens live in our community. Most of these people spend most of their income for renting substandard housing. Pray that finances will become available to build low-rent housing for senior citizens." **Mrs. Randy Cook**, deaf, Pennsylvania. **Mrs. David L. Coleman**, Christian social ministries director, Texas. **Mrs. Eloy Cruz**, Spanish, New York. **Mrs. James A. Griffin**, associational missions, Kansas. **Mrs. William L. Lander**, retired, Georgia. **Mrs. Billy Wells**, weekday ministry, Washington. **F. Mitchell Land**, preaching, Togo. **Danah P. McEndree**, preaching, Paraguay. **B. Roe Sweet**, education, Malawi. **Kath D. Shotton**, preaching, Peru. **Mrs. Wayne E. Sorrells**, home and church, North Brazil. **Mrs. S. Don Sprinkle, Jr.**, home and church, Costa Rica.

## 8 Wednesday John 14:1-7

When Martha and Otis Brady wrote several months ago, their most urgent prayer request was that their visa might be secured for a return to Guyana. They say, "If unable to return we will go to a nearby country. Pray for M.K. (missionary kids) and their parents who have been oppressed during school years. We miss our two children more than you could imagine." **Mrs. Jane S. Platen**, kindergarten, Texas. **Hugh Franklin Miller**, director of associational missions, Ohio. **Ronald Orrville Tynes**, U.S.-2, student work, California.

Missionaries are listed on their birthdays. An asterisk (\*) indicates missionaries on furlough. Addresses of missionaries are listed in *Missionary Directory*, Free from Foreign Mission Board Literature, P. O. Box 4597, Richmond, VA 23230 or in *Home Mission Board Personnel Directory*, Free from Home Mission Board Literature Service, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Mrs. Lloyd Whyte, interfaith witness, Florida  
Mrs. Otha W. Brady, home and church, Guyana  
Robert E. Colpepper, education, Japan  
Mrs. Jerry Hobbs, home and church, Thailand  
Mrs. Charles W. Whitton, home and church, Spain

#### 9 Thursday John 16:1-12

This is the ninety-third birthday for Louella (Mrs. Robert E.) Beddoe, who along with her late husband served for thirty years in China. Last year her church, First Baptist, Galveston, decided to raise one hundred dollars for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for each of her ninety-two years. It is estimated they raised \$9,386. Pray that your church will give generously this year.

Mrs. William J. Austin, associational missions, Colorado  
Jack Duke, director of associational missions, California  
Mrs. Coy Finley, church extension, New Mexico  
L. Ray McKinney, director of associational missions, New Mexico  
Mrs. Theo Pataskul, internationals, California



Mrs. J. R. Stogdill, Indian, Oklahoma  
Mrs. Samuel Vera, Spanish, Texas  
Paul Vera, Spanish, New Mexico  
Mrs. E. E. Beddoe, retired, China

Mrs. Robert B. Stoney, home and church, Nigeria  
Mrs. Judith C. Conley, home and church, Kenya  
Mrs. Billy B. Frazier, music, South Brazil  
Robert C. Fritts, education, Mexico  
Mrs. Robert J. Hall, home and church, Nigeria  
Mrs. George W. Hardeman, home and church, Guatemala

Mrs. A. C. Muller, retired, Mexico  
Mrs. W. Douglas Shurell, home and church, Ivory Coast  
Mrs. J. W. Trimble, home and church, Lebanon  
Mrs. J. Eugene Troop, home and church, North Brazil  
Toby R. Walker, preaching, Argentina

#### 10 Friday John 17:4-19

Delores and Danny Hill serve in Bangladesh where 90 percent of the people suffer malnutrition. An average man weighs about one hundred and ten pounds, an average woman about ninety-five. Delores describes her frustration at "helping one really in need and being confronted by one thousand more." Pray for the nine Southern Baptist missionary couples in Bangladesh.

Padra Canino, Spanish, Texas  
Maxie Cardozo, National Baptist South Carolina  
Edith D. Gossard, Spanish, Texas  
Mrs. Gary K. Hallbrook, church extension, Illinois  
Paul Jolly, retired, Colorado  
Mrs. Antonio Martinez, retired, Virginia  
Mrs. John Thomas, National Baptist Louisiana  
James C. Whitman, Christian social ministries, Texas  
Mrs. W. E. Allen, retired, Brazil  
Joseph H. Harrington, retired, Brazil  
Mrs. Daniel B. Hill, home and church, Bangladesh  
Thomas W. Hill, Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas  
Mrs. Paul H. Miller, home and church, Nigeria  
John Allen Moore, field representative, Europe  
Dorothy M. Parker, preaching, Togo

#### 11 Saturday John 18:4-16

God made Susan and Mark Sutton keenly aware of the deep spiritual hunger that exists in Europe. As a result, they are in language study in France preparing for evangelistic work in that country. Pray that God will help these new missionaries adjust in a new way of life.

James E. Furrut, director of associational missions, California  
S. David Harbison, weekday minister, Alabama  
Jennifer Kennedy, US-2, special mission ministries, Georgia  
S. M. Taylor, retired, Arkansas  
Mrs. Donald M. Carroll, Jr., Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas

John H. Dillman, preaching, Kenya  
William T. Dunn, radio-TV, Lebanon  
William H. Icham, music, South Brazil  
Mrs. Mike J. Key, Jr., home and church, Togo  
Benjamin R. Lawton, education, Utah  
L. August Lovagren, doctor, Jordan  
Mrs. James A. Park, home and church, Liberia  
W. Hugh Parkman, business administration, Philippines

Floyd E. Patterson, education, Ecuador  
Stachwell B. Sears, preaching, Singapore  
Mrs. Jerry P. Smyth, education, North Brazil  
Fanny Sturm, business administration, Thailand  
Mrs. Mark A. Sutton, home and church, France  
Maxey C. White, retired, Brazil

#### 12 Sunday John 20:24-29

Marian and Eugene Wolfe have a staggering task. They work with the 100 million Spanish-speaking people in Los Angeles. Marian writes: "Among these are many unusually dedicated lay preachers. They work hard to support their families and continue their education. Pray for them—and for us."

Vern Aguilard, retired, New York  
Mrs. Samuel Betts, church extension, California  
Mrs. Genoa E. Crenshaw, Indian, Florida  
Gilbert Diaz, Spanish, Texas  
Mrs. C. E. Hancock, Jr., associational missions, South Carolina  
Dorothy Newman, Spanish, Texas  
Orlando Perez, Spanish, New Mexico  
Mrs. F. C. Rowland, retired, Texas  
Mrs. Eugene Wolfe, Spanish, California  
Mrs. Danny L. Brinkley, home and church, Costa Rica  
Mrs. Woodrow F. Fletcher, home and church, Peru  
I. Gene Legg, preaching, Nigeria  
Mrs. Hubert K. Middleton, education, Chile  
Mrs. Glen M. Swicegood, home and church, North Brazil  
Thomas L. Watson, radio-TV, Peru

John William J. Williams, home and church, Nigeria

#### 13 Monday 1 John 3:1-10

Randy Cash is "a new missionary serving the Northmen. He writes: 'The major emphasis of my ministry is training lay workers in the language of signs and in methods of ministering to the deaf. I request prayer for those dedicated persons who have accepted the call of this task.'"

Randy Cash, deaf, Pennsylvania  
Robert W. Barlow, education, Taiwan  
Thomas A. Chaffy, English language, Austria  
Randy M. Moore, education, Nigeria  
Mrs. Gerald W. Plakston, home and church, Indonesia  
William S. Weaver, preaching, Malawi  
Mrs. Ronald B. Wilson, home and church, Dominican Republic  
Ann Wallerman, retired, Brazil

#### 14 Tuesday 1 John 2:7-11

Gerald and June McNeely of Madrid are rejoicing along with our other missionaries in Spain over a recent

development. Quasa Sofia made an initial donation toward support of a plan of studies which enables different groups, including Baptists, to express their beliefs through Spain's university system. Pray for Baptist work in Spain.  
Mrs. Harold E. Cunningham, retired, South Carolina  
Mrs. Adam Espinosa, Spanish, Texas  
Mrs. S. L. Fambush, Baptist center, Virginia

Mrs. Ray J. Ferguson, associational missions, Idaho  
Mrs. Ray Gilliland, Christian social ministries, New York  
Mrs. Donald E. Orsick, deaf, Florida  
Leo Koppert, doctor, Mexico  
Mrs. J. Phillip Cole, education, Liberia  
Mrs. William H. Gray, Jr., home and church, Mexico  
Jerry L. Harris, religious education, Barbados  
Mrs. George S. Lamb, radio-TV, Venezuela  
Gerald A. McNeely, education, Spain  
Mrs. Frank W. Patterson, retired, Mexico, El Paso  
C. Thomas Stephens, Jr., preaching, Indonesia

#### 15 Wednesday 1 John 3:11-18

Serving in Sao Paulo, Brazil (said to be one of the world's fastest growing major cities), Marshall and La Verne Flournoy wrote in a Christmas letter: "We praise God for giving us his Son Jesus that we might have salvation, great joy, and peace in him." Join the Flournoys in that prayer.

Robert L. Foster, student work, Montana  
Mrs. Eric Frys, Indian, New Mexico  
Rand Gaudin, Spanish, Florida  
William E. Beck, Christian social ministries director, Texas  
LaVern Isner, mountain, Nevada  
Allen D. Lohman, US-2, resort work, California  
Mrs. L. B. Martin, National Baptist, Louisiana  
Leslie Mayman, pastor, Texas  
Kenneth Oliver, Christian social ministries, Kentucky  
Mrs. Gilbert Shaw, associational missions, Oregon  
Mary Lou Varian, US-2, Spanish, Illinois

[Continued on page 61]

News from the foreign missions field is as close as the nearest phone now that the "Foreign Missions Hotline" has resumed operation.

For the sixth consecutive year, the hotline will provide not only the latest news of Baptist work amid crisis, but also the everyday thoughts and prayer requests of Southern Baptist missionaries.

The prerecorded message, which will be changed each Thursday, will be available November 15 to December 15 for the price of a three-minute station-to-station call to Richmond, Virginia—(804) 355-6581.

"The purpose of the hotline is twofold," says R. Keith Parks, director of the Foreign Mission Board's mission support division. "It is designed to provide current and fresh information about foreign missionaries and Southern Baptist missions work around the world. Hotline will also help guide and motivate Southern Baptists in personal prayer involvement."

"We can't all go to the missions field, but we can all pray. Prayer is a vital part of missions work," he said.



"Will you ask your mother if you can come play with me one afternoon?" a little girl asked Southern Baptist missionary Carol Henson.

"Miss Carol," as she is called by children and adults in Santiago, Chile, directs much of her ministry to reaching children. Though she has been a missionary for sixteen years, the children view her as one of them. She talks to them on their level.

Long before Chile declared 1976 the International Year of the Child, Miss Henson was teaching Bible classes for children. Today she can be seen alongside the road, in a park, or on the steps of an apartment building teaching Chilean children, many of whom would otherwise be playing in the streets.

Her Bible classes serve as feeder groups for local churches, starting points for the opening of new works, or as extension Sunday Schools.

In Penalolén, the member of a Baptist mission expressed an interest in reaching the spiritual needs of people in her area. Although she and her husband worked during the day, they offered their home to Miss Henson as a meeting place for a children's Bible class.

After six months of weekly Bible study classes in the home, Miss Henson started working with the Sunday School of Penalolén Baptist Mission and began "feeding" the children into the church.

After eight months of Bible study, sixty-six children were enrolled in the Penalolén Sunday School. Having completed her work in that area, she moved on to start a feeder group for another church.

"Miss Carol" finds the children are eager to learn. One child said, "Miss Carol, I went to visit a sick friend last week, but I didn't know until today that I could pray for him, too. Why didn't you tell me that last week?"

A group of women in one community gave Miss Henson a party to express their appreciation for her work in the community. They related how after six months of Bible classes in the area they began to notice a definite change in the behavior of the teen-age boys.

One of the boys said, "Miss Carol, I used to drink on the weekend and had started smoking marijuana, but I have stopped both."

Love the children? Yes. "Miss Carol" does. That is why she works with them so faithfully. But more than that, she likes them. That is why she enjoys working with them and why many respond by making professions of faith in Christ—O. D. (Bill) Dyches, Southern Baptist missionary, Chile.

Item in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Chile \$68.00 for audiovisual aids.

Roger L. Capps, education, Malaysia  
John S. Cooper, preaching, Panama  
John J. Murray Edwards, home and church, Mexico  
G. Marshall Flournoy, preaching, South Brazil  
Wayne L. Hunsmyer, preaching, Japan  
B. Leon Mitchell, business administration, Indonesia  
D. Phillips, preaching, Rhodesia  
Mrs. Jerry G. Simon, home and church, Taiwan  
Lloyd W. Smith, doctor, Hong Kong

#### 14 Thursday 1 John 3:1-10

Betty and Webster Carroll were to return to Uganda in July after a busy tour. However, they and the two other missionary couples serving in Uganda have relocated in Kenya. Mr. Carroll had been serving as missionary adviser for evangelism and membership training in local churches. Pray for the continuation of this work by local Christian leaders.

Enrique Cepeda, Spanish, New York  
Daniel Fison, retired, Texas  
Audrey Hamrick, Indian, New Mexico  
Mrs. John F. Pace, associational missions, Indiana  
Mrs. Ima Sanchez, retired, Texas

Mrs. A. W. Thomas, associational missions, California

H. Wesley Willey, National Baptist Maryland

Mrs. Ronnie K. Bostick, home and church, Zambia

Mrs. G. Webster Carroll, home and church, Uganda  
Mrs. Arthur R. Haylock, home and church, Dominican Republic  
Samuel G. Shepard, education, Portugal

William L. Smith, preaching, South Brazil

Mrs. J. A. Tumbille, Sr., retired, Brazil  
Mrs. Ronnie G. Whitstead, home and church, Taiwan

#### 17 Friday 2 John 6-11

Angel and Maria Acosta, both born in Cuba, work in the midst of Florida's sugar cane fields at Belle Glade. Some of their people are migrants, others are permanent residents. Angel's prayer requests are similar to those of other missionaries: (1) more Spanish-speaking leaders to help in the mission, and (2) that his children will grow up "strong in the Lord."

Angel L. Acosta, Spanish, Florida  
Paul F. Hodge, retired, Kansas

Mrs. Larry Martin, metropolitan missions, Michigan

Mrs. H. Victor Davis, home and church, South Brazil

James F. Gilman, business administration, Tanzania

#### 18 Saturday 3 John 4-11

Serving in two Spanish-speaking missions, Carmen and Nore Ortiz of Premont, Texas, ask us to pray that they will have spiritual and physical

strength, that their ministry will help members of both missions to grow as Christians, and that they will lead many to Christ.

Mrs. John E. Dent, associational missions, South Carolina

Fernando G. Dawson, pastor-director, New Jersey

Thomas Fanna, language missions, New Mexico

Mrs. Nore Ortiz, Spanish, Texas

Mrs. Abigail J. Nore, Spanish, Georgia

Maximo Vazquez, retired, Florida

Leo Williams, National Baptist, North Carolina

Catherine Flo Chappell, social work, South Brazil

Enrique B. Kinder, Jr., preaching, Venezuela

Dona W. Moore, business administration, Ghana

Mrs. F. A. Morgan, retired, Brazil

19 Sunday Nahum 1:7-18

Sahra and Fred Ladd are finishing language school in Davao City, Philippines, and preparing to move to Mati on the island of Mindanao. Pray for Sahra as she settles into her new home, begins to teach her children, and becomes acquainted with her neighbors.

James O. Beck, center director, Georgia

Mrs. David Fink, Indian, Oklahoma

Jackie H. McHugh, center director, Georgia



Dallas L. Bateman, religious education, Kenya  
 Bradley D. Brown, education, Liberia  
 Mrs. Darby E. Cadher, home and church, North Brazil  
 R. Edward Carden, preaching, Philippines  
 Robert C. Hendley, preaching, Panama  
 Mrs. Fred C. Ladd, home and church, Philippines  
 Mrs. Paul C. Porter, retired, Brazil  
 Charles D. Sanda, M.D., medical, Korea  
 Charles W. Shirley, English-language, Argentina

#### 20 Monday Habbakuk 3:17-19

Imagine missionaries getting excited over the arrival of goats! Paul and Vera Johnson, Philippines, did get excited. But these were VIGs—very important goats! They were flown from the United States to Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center. Filipinos were amazed that each of these goats could produce over a gallon of milk a day, instead of the cupful each of their goats produced. Thank the Lord that even goats can help on the mission field.

Glenn Ayala, Spanish, Texas  
 Jane Flores, retired, Texas  
 Mrs. Daniel Gomez, Spanish, California  
 Mrs. Robert Edward Parrish, deaf, Arkansas  
 Theodore Virgin, retired, Texas  
 Mrs. Albert I. Bagley, retired, Brazil  
 Mrs. Mangel Herrin, home and church, Grenada  
 Stanley P. Howard, Jr., missions administration, Japan  
 Paul B. Johnson, education, Philippines  
 Mrs. Gerald A. McNeely, home and church, Spain  
 Daniel W. O'Wen, preaching, Japan  
 Donald V. Phlegar, preaching, Thailand  
 J. W. Trimble, English-language, Lebanon

#### 21 Tuesday Haggai 2:10-19

In July Oneida and Jack Mahaffey began working in Haadysai, Thailand, which has several colleges and universities. Pray that they will know the best way to reach these students for Christ. Also pray for their two youngest sons as they attend school away from home for the first time.

Clair T. Cunningham, pastor, Kansas  
 Mrs. Jerry Sanders, Spanish, Texas  
 Mrs. Thomas E. Bryant, home and church, South Brazil

Mrs. Louis L. Barham, home and church, Israel  
 Chester S. Caldwell, Jr., publication, El Salvador  
 Anna Camen, education, Jordan  
 Lab Hunt, nurse, Chile  
 Tema H. Hayes, education, Lebanon  
 Frances Horton, religious education, Japan  
 Mrs. Jack E. Mahaffey, home and church, Thailand  
 Mrs. J. Glenn Morris, home and church, Thailand  
 Lee H. Nichols, preaching, Korea  
 Robert M. Pugh, retired, Nigeria

#### 22 Wednesday Revelation 2:8-11

Marie and Hoyt Eudaly, Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, ask us to pray that well-trained Baptists from Spanish-speaking nations will feel led to edit and write materials for the Spanish-speaking Pray, too, for Marie as she directs children's work in Bethel Baptist Church in Juarez, Mexico, just across the border from El Paso.  
 Marvin O. Berry, Spanish, Illinois  
 Mrs. Joe O. Cantelero, Spanish, Texas  
 Gladys McLamb, retired, Florida  
 C. Boris Putter, director of associational missions, Maryland  
 Mrs. Mollie Sweetman, retired, Louisiana  
 Mrs. Robert Wiley, rural-urban missions, Indiana

Herman F. Wooten, director of associational missions, California  
 Mrs. Fred M. Allen, home and church, Zambia  
 Mrs. Robert L. Carls, retired, Uruguay  
 Mrs. N. Hoyt Eudaly, Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas  
 Mrs. Thomas E. Goodman, home and church, Nigeria  
 Mrs. James V. Hendon, Jr., home and church, Korea  
 Mrs. John M. Landrea, home and church, Equatorial Brazil  
 Mrs. Clyde D. Mendor, Jr., home and church, Indonesia  
 Henry W. Schwab, preaching, Spain  
 Ben H. Weinbauer, education, Colombia

#### 23 Thursday Revelation 3:14-20

Hal Lee writes: My wife, Lou Ann, and I hope to begin this fall a pioneer church-planting ministry in the western suburbs of Paris. Pray with us that we shall adjust well to this new involvement and experience a good beginning. Pray for our six missionary couples in France.

Mrs. Frank M. Almon, retired, Arizona  
 L. P. Beckett, retired, North Carolina  
 William I. Burnett, director of associational missions, New Mexico  
 Mrs. Froula Harris, center director, Kentucky  
 Harold P. Hitt, language missions, Oregon  
 David Hobden, director of associational missions, Iowa  
 Burton Pavy Purvis, Christian social ministries director, Florida  
 George Shabane, Arabic, Illinois  
 W. D. Sharp, director of associational missions, West Virginia  
 Halshere Silva, Spanish, Texas  
 Mrs. Joseph S. Wan, Korean, California  
 John T. Adams, doctor, Kenya  
 J. Larry Cox, religious education, Ivory Coast  
 C. Donald Langford, doctor, Hong Kong  
 Hal B. Lee, Jr., English-language, France

William F. Mathews, education, Peru  
 Mrs. Donald W. McNeill, home and church, Equatorial Brazil  
 Mrs. Robert N. Nash, home and church, Philippines  
 Donald E. Turner, social work, North Brazil

#### 24 Friday Zechariah 7:8-14

Ruth and Thomas Lowe were both born in China. After World War II, when he came to the United States to study, he waited six and a half years before she and the children could join him. He became pastor of three Chinese churches in California, but now serves as missionary for the entire state. She works particularly with Chinese children.  
 Mrs. Jane Beltran, Spanish, Texas  
 Mrs. Thomas Lowe, Chinese, California  
 Mrs. Glenard I. Norris, church extension, Massachusetts  
 David J. Sordano, religious education, Costa Rica  
 Mrs. H. B. Johnston, retired, Nigeria  
 Ghana  
 Mrs. James F. McAtee, home and church, Indonesia  
 Herbert K. Middleton, preaching, Chile  
 H. Jerold Palmer, Jr., education, Niger Republic  
 Mrs. Glen Patton, home and church, Lebanon  
 C. Ray Rogers, preaching, Indonesia

25 Saturday Zechariah 10:5-12  
 Pray a special prayer for all our Christmas-born missionaries. Last year Maxine and Bob Stewart, missionaries

in Thailand, spent Christmas without their children (they were all away in school). However, Maxine was busy supervising three "new" missionary families, who had been forced to leave Laos. Pray for the Stewarts.

Phyllis Brodie, National Baptist, North Carolina  
 David L. Coleman, Christian social ministries director, Texas  
 Mrs. Jane B. R. Custer, retired, Texas  
 Glenn Field, director of associational missions, Montana  
 Mrs. Victor Orin, retired, California  
 C. Ben Wilbey, preaching, Antigua  
 W. Jackson Hale, Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas  
 Roy D. Hawkins, preaching, Venezuela  
 Mrs. Robert A. Hofffield, home and church, Italy  
 Mrs. R. Elton Johnson, Sr., retired, Brazil  
 James H. Lambert, radio-TV, Ivory Coast  
 Yarn W. McMillan, education, Tanzania  
 Daniel B. Ray, preaching, Korea  
 Daniel Schellenberg, education, Kenya  
 Raymond L. Shelton, radio-TV, Thailand  
 Mrs. Robert R. Stewart, home and church, Thailand

#### 26 Sunday Zechariah 12:9-14

Have you ever thought of a crisis as a miracle waiting to happen? There are many facing crisis who are waiting for those miracles. Pray today for wisdom and strength for Harry Hearne in his crisis ministry in Washington, DC.  
 Harry B. Hearne, Christian social ministries, Washington, DC  
 John W. Houghman, Jr., pastor-director, Massachusetts  
 Mrs. John C. Abolt, Jr., home and church, Nigeria  
 Mrs. C. Allen Alexander, home and church, Mexico



Annabeta Campbell, education, Bahamas  
 J. Dale Carter, agriculture, North Brazil  
 Zach J. Deal, Jr., preaching, Colombia  
 Mrs. Darrel E. Gurner, home and church, Malawi  
 Jerry B. Gantley, medical, Nigeria  
 Valde Long, nurse, Nigeria  
 James L. Wooten, education, Korea

#### 27 Monday Zechariah 14:16-21

Velma and John Tollison have served in Ohio since 1971. He is director of missions for the Greater Cleveland Association, and she is associational WMU director, seeking to start missions organizations in each chapel and church. Their field has a population of 3 million, with twenty-six Southern Baptist churches. Velma asks us to pray particularly for the international churches—the newest in Arab.  
 Rufus S. Carlin, retired, Oklahoma  
 Mrs. Donald G. Gurney, special missions ministries, Colorado  
 Mrs. John Tollison, associational missions, Ohio  
 Harold W. Wilcox, migrant, South Carolina  
 Mark M. Alexander, preaching, Argentina  
 Ruth Ford, retired, China, Indonesia  
 Farrel E. Wrayne, preaching, Senegal

#### 28 Tuesday Malachi 3:1-6

Mangel and Elaine Herrin (her birthday was eight days ago) are our one missionary couple in Grenada, southernmost of the Windward Islands. They began work there last year. The first thrust for Mangel's work was in a prison, where a small group of prisoners had become believers through Baptist radio ministry. Pray for the Herrins as they lay Baptist foundations in the island.

Mrs. Angel L. Acosta, Spanish, Florida  
 Mrs. Hortense Benavides, Spanish, Texas  
 G. David Fikes, US-2, Christian social ministries, Georgia  
 Mrs. James H. Pope, church extension, New Jersey  
 Mrs. Jerry M. Inaba, deaf, South Carolina  
 Mrs. James E. Warren, associational missions, California  
 Vella Jane Burch, education, Hong Kong  
 Mrs. Sidney L. Goldbach, Jr., home and church, Costa Rica  
 Yvonne Mallum, religious education, Guatemala  
 Mangel Herrin, preaching, Grenada  
 James D. Mullis, preaching, Hong Kong  
 Mrs. John D. Smith, home and church, Indonesia  
 Mrs. James R. Wood, home and church, Venezuela

#### 29 Wednesday Revelation 18:1-6

Music is the universal language. During this season music missionaries are unusually busy. Dolores and Clint Kimbrough both serve as music missionaries in South Brazil. Margaret Tucker serves in music in Venezuela while Robert does educational work. Pray for these couples as they seek to use music to express the gospel in South America.  
 Rev. G. Barnett, weekday ministry director, New York  
 Mrs. Harold R. Hamrick, home and church, Korea  
 Mrs. W. Thomas Ham, home and church, Paraguay  
 Mrs. Clint Kimbrough, music, South Brazil  
 Mrs. Jackie G. Parula, home and church, Tanzania  
 Martin Phillips, student work, Nigeria  
 Ann Swenson, Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas  
 Mrs. N. Robert Tucker, music, Western South America  
 I. Paul Williams, preaching, Liberia

#### 30 Thursday Malachi 3:12

Betty and Curtis Dixon were one of our three missionary couples forced to leave Angola. They went first to Johannesburg, then earlier this year to Salisbury, Rhodesia. Curtis is busy with radio programs in Portuguese which are sent both to Angola and to Mozambique. Betty writes, "We don't know what the future holds for Angola or for us, but we trust it to our Lord."



Mrs. Jack Duke, associational missions, California

Mrs. Harley D. Sheld, Eskimo, Alaska

Mrs. John L. Deal,\* home and church, Malaysia

Mrs. Curtis L. Dixon, home and church, Angola

Mary Sue Meuth, secretary, Indonesia

Joe T. Poe, Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas

Eva Sanders, retired, Nigeria

Mrs. Fred L. Williams, home and church, South Brazil

#### 31 Friday Revelation 21:1-8

Norman and Gunita Harrell live in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. They direct the Bible Correspondence Course offered through the convention's radio programs and churches. The students learn about Jesus, and

many accept him as Saviour. About one hundred and thirty new pupils enrol each month. Pray for this work and for the Harrells.

Jose Correa, Spanish, New Jersey

Valentino C. Cuellar, retired, Texas

Curry Hardan, director of associational missions, Ohio

Mrs. Marshal Hunkel, associational missions, Arizona

Mrs. Cornal Pascu, Romanian, New York

Beaula T. Griffin, general administration, Nigeria

Norman L. Harrell, preaching, Portugal

Walter B. McNulty,\* preaching, South Brazil

Buddy V. Norville, publication, Ivory Coast

## ORDER FORM FOR WMU MATERIALS

Order from Baptist Book Store

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Charge \_\_\_\_\_ Book Store Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

BankAmericard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_

Master Charge # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_

4-digit bank # \_\_\_\_\_ (if Master Charge)

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

(number in lower left corner of card MUST be supplied)

ITEM	HOW MANY	COST	TOTAL
Baptist Women/BYW Record, Report, and Planning Forms		\$1 50	
Baptist Women Manual		1 50	
Cooperation (game)		3 00	
"In the Spirit of Christmas" Lottie Moon booklet		1 00	
Lottie Moon Note Card Package		1 00	
Mission Action Group Guides		1 50	
The Aging		1 50	
Alcohol and Drug Abusers		1 50	
Child Care		1 50	
Combating Moral Problems		1 50	
Disaster Relief		1 50	
Economically Disadvantaged		1 50	
Headliners		1 50	
Internationals		1 50	
Juvenile Rehabilitation		1 50	
Language Groups		1 50	
Military		1 50	
Nonreaders		1 50	
Prisoner Rehabilitation		1 50	
Resort Areas		1 50	
The Sick		1 50	
Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions Hymnbook Wrapper (100)		4 50	
Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions Program Cover (25)		1 00	
Working in a Missions Group (100)		3 75	
WMU Year Book 1976-77		35	
Yes A Woman's View of Mission Support		1 00	
		1 50	
		Sub total	
		Sales tax	
		TOTAL	

On cash orders less than \$2.00 add 50¢.

\$2.01 to \$5.00 add 75¢, over \$5.00 add

\$1.00 for delivery and handling.

On cash orders shipped by freight or express, customer will be billed for charges.

Different kinds of learning take place at the same time. For example, a child is learning that God loves all people while also acquiring missions information. He is learning how to make a decision as he follows directions, and perfecting a physical or mental skill. All this learning may take place in the simple act of choosing and putting pictures of missions on a card.

Here are examples of kinds of learning that take place in *Wonders of Creation*:

- A child learns to make choices while solving a puzzle, making a decision about missionary decisions, dealing with blocks, or looking at a book.
- A child learns to make decisions while playing with clay dough rather than playing with blocks or giving answers to some of the story questions without thinking it all himself.
- A child learns to solve problems while he comes to the form of puzzles to solve or stacking blocks, putting papers in a box.

Moan Christmas (offering help)

• A child learns to remember. He hears "Mama" and he sings it. He remembers the way

A man who is a beggar, he can beg for anything and take. Conyunt has money, pictures and photo, scraps of cloth, and seeds can become what he wants them to be.

Does your church provide religious education for preschool children? Talk to your WMLL director about it!



# A BUNDLE OF GIFTS

**Good News Bible—Special Limited Women's Edition.** Flexible, sturdy binding; colorful, stay-clean cover; cross references, historical notes, many reader aids. \$2.95 each from Miss Alice Hall, American Bible Society, 1965 Broadway, New York, NY 10038.

Christmas cards featuring the 1975 and 1976 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions art (one box for each year) Each box has 12 cards and 12 envelopes; \$1.50 for 1975 art (No. 96); \$1.65 for 1976 art (No. 593).\*

**Little Noon Note Card Package,** 12 cards with matching envelopes, \$1.00\*

**Christmas at Home** by Elizabeth Swadley (Broadman 1975)—a book of ideas for celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. \$3.95\*

**"In the Spirit of Christmas,"** booklet about Little Noon, \$1.00\*

**Cooperation: The Cooperative Program Game,** a fun-in-learning table game for all the family. \$3.00\*

**Which Way to Post To? Foreign Mission Graded Series** book for children in grades 1-3; 80 cents\*

**School Someday, Foreign Mission Graded Series** book for children in grades 3-4, 90 cents\*

**Four-Winds-Blowing, Home Mission Graded Series** book for children in grades 3-6; 75 cents\*

**New Faces, New Friends, Home Mission Graded Series** book for children in grades 1-3; 75 cents\*

\*Available through Baptist Book Stores.