FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

THAT THEY MAY KNOW

STUDY BY
SHIRLEY COMBS
MOORE, OK

GUIDE BY
CAROLYN MICHAEL
HUNTSVILLE, AL

GOAL: **To partner and participate in sharing the gospel with unreached peoples.**
GUIDANCE: **Luke 15:11-32**
GEM: **"I will give you for a light to the Gentiles, that you may be my salvation unto the end of the earth"** *((Isaiah 49:6).*

LEADER PREPARATION AND GUIDELINES

(1) Each person needs a Bible, 3x5 cards, and a notebook for use as a journal.

(2) Begin each lesson with prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide you.

(3) Familiarize yourself with the material for each study and answer all the questions.

(4) Stress memorization of the Scriptures.

(5) Lead with enthusiasm and excitement. Remember, you set the tone.

(6) Use the ideas in the *WNAC Program and Plan Book: THAT YOU MAY KNOW.*

(7) Encourage each lady in your church to attend the study. Give invitations.

(8) Start and end your meetings on time. Value the participant's time.

(9) Allow time for ladies to share their own thoughts, but keep personal experiences to a minimum. You want to stress what the Bible says.

(10) Allow time for fellowship either at the beginning of class or the end.

INTRODUCTION

Feet are a very useful part of our body structure, providing a solid foundation for walking, running, exercise and balance. We use them constantly, without even considering how they are helping us, until they start giving us problems of one kind or another. Feet size varies; some are very tiny, some are medium, while some are really large. Hardly anyone has feet that look exactly alike. We try to make our feet attractive by moisturizing with pedicures, toe rings, and pretty shoes. Our feet need to get us where we want to go and look good while we're going.

Then there are feet that are, for lack of a better word, just plain ugly. Have you ever seen feet with hammer toes? Besides being painful, they are really unattractive. Some feet have bunions, corns, and calluses. Feet can be rough, scaling, dry as the desert, flat, have high arches, low arches, or weak ankles. When feet are unhealthy, they can endanger our entire well-being and provide untold misery for the person enduring them.

Jesus set the example of humbleness and servanthood by washing the disciples' feet. I imagine they were not pretty. These were the feet of seasoned fishermen and other men who had to walk everywhere over dusty, rocky terrain. Yet, Jesus lovingly and tenderly washed away the grime, dirt and cares of their ordinary lives—lives which would very soon become anything but ordi-

nary. Jesus' earthly feet would be pierced with spike-like nails, making scars that would identify Him later to Thomas.

After Jesus' death, it was up to the apostles and disciples to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. Paul wrote to the Romans, "…How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace…" Feet that are pretty, ugly, crippled, diseased or tired become beautiful when traveling all over the world to carry the message of salvation. Paul continued, "...And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Modern day missionaries have beautiful feet. They are working and serving to reach as many people as they possibly can. It's not an easy task. The study this month provides information on how our missionaries are partnering and participating in spreading the gospel. Read with interest as we find that missions is changing, but the goal remains the same.

WEEK ONE: THE CHANGING PARADIGM OF MISSIONS

- Write the GEM (Isaiah 49:6) on a 3x5 card for review this month.
- What is a *paradigm*? *(The dictionary says, "One that serves as a pattern or model.")*
- Read the material on pp. 16-17 of *TWG* magazine.
- The emphasis on missions has shifted from what to what? *(Places to Peoples)*
- Go over the questions and answers for Week One, Resource p. 1, found online.
- Why does Jesus refer to people as "sheep" in Luke 15:4 and John 10:15-16? *(Because they were like helpless, wandering sheep lost on their own.)*
- Name some other passages where "sheep" are mentioned. *(Psalm 100:3; Psalm 78:52; Psalm 79:13; Matthew 9:36; John 10:3; John 10:27; Ezekiel 34:6)*
- Why is there a need for missionaries? *(All nations and people need to know the Lord; without Him, they are walking in darkness—Psalm 22:27; Isaiah 9:2; Psalm 86:9.)*
- There were many missionaries in the Bible. Let's look at some. *(Jonah—Jonah 3:2-3; Philip—Acts 8:5; Peter—Acts 15:7; Apollos—Acts 18:24-26; Noah—2 Peter 2:5)*
- The most recognized missionary was Paul. How many missionary journeys did he make? *(Three major ones and then several other smaller trips.)*
- Who went on the first missionary journey with Paul? *(Barnabas and John Mark—Acts 13:2-5)*
- Who do we find on the second journey? *(Silas—Acts 15:40-41)*
- Who was on the third journey? *(Timothy and others—Acts 20:4; 1 Corinthians 4:17)*
- Paul also made a voyage to Rome where he was a missionary to the crew of men during a terrible storm. He preached to them and tried to encourage them during the tempest. (Acts 27:22-26)
- Do you ever need someone to preach to you during your "storms"? (*I think we all do. We need the inspiration and encouragement that comes from hearing God's Word.)*
- Even Paul did not do his missionary work by himself. Our missionaries need help and support from people they come in contact with and from us. How can we help? *(The most important thing is our prayers and our money.)*
- Start a journal to pray for missionaries around the world. List missionary families, one on each page. You may want to glue or tape a prayer card at the top of the page. You can order prayer cards from the WNAC office. Take a missionary and their family to pray for daily. When you hear anything about them write it down on their page. *(For instance: Brooke Atwood, Missionary to Spain—Pray for Brooke and her family in the loss of her father during the week of March 10th. The funeral was March 13th.)*

- Close in prayer. Pray for missionaries and their works all over the world. Ask God to bless them in trying to reach every group of people for Christ.

WEEK TWO: CHANGING ROLE OF MISSIONARIES *(Romans 8:31-39)*

- Go over the GEM together. Encourage the group to memorize it.
- Read the material together under "The Changing Role of Missionaries," pp. 17-19, of *TWG*.
- Go over the questions and answers for Week Two, Resource pp. 1-2, found online.
- Do you have a missionary's heart?
- How can you be a participant in missionary work? *(We mentioned this last week, also. Give of your money, in special offerings or monthly in faith pledges, send email, cards, letters, phone calls and prayers.)*
- Does your state support and give to the Missionary Provision Closet, located in Antioch, Tennessee?
- Do you think MKs (missionary kids) are staying on the field or going to other fields of work when their parents leave?
- Do you know of retired missionaries who are helping in another area but still remain "connected" as missionaries? *(For example: Former FWBIM missionaries, Mike and Cathy Corley (Russia) are now in Eldridge, Alabama. Mike is the Director of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, yet, he still serves as a consultant for Russian missions.)*
- Why would a retired missionary be a good choice for consultant? *(Experience, language capabilities, knowledge of the region, and numerous other valuable reasons.)*
- There are excellent suggestions for different ministries in the WNAC Program and Plan Book. Check out the websites of some of these.
- Choose a missionary this week and note different things about them in your journal. Don't forget to pray specifically for them.
- Close in prayer. Ask God to give you a heart for mission work and the strength for following through with what He wants you to do.

WEEK THREE: THE CHANGING VIEW FROM OUR DOORSTEP

- Review and read the GEM together.
- Read the material on pp. 19-20 of *TWG*.
- Go over the answers and questions on Resource p. 2, found online.
- How do you feel about ministering to the different groups Jesus mentioned? *(hungry and thirsty, strangers, sick, down-trodden and in prison)*
- Which do you think would be the hardest group for you to minister to?
- Are we to be reckless in our ministering to others? *(No, we should always be careful, check things out, but try not to miss opportunities when the need arises.)*
- Was Paul concerned for his own personal welfare with any of his missionary work? (*Philippians 4:12; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Romans 8:37-39)*
- Name some difficult places where Paul was at his "Missionary Best". *(Acts 14:19-21—He was stoned; Acts 16:22-25—beaten and thrown in prison; Acts 28:2-9—bitten by a poisonous snake.)*
- Do we know where Paul's strength came from and can we have that same strength? *(Yes, and yes, we can—Philippians 4:13.)*

- In your journal, make notes about one of the missionaries and pray specifically for them, their family and their challenges on the field.
- Close in prayer. Ask God to give you the opportunity to witness to your neighbors or tell someone of the hope within you.

WEEK FOUR: THE CHANGING PROCEDURE FOR MISSIONS

- Have someone say the memory verse.
- Go over the material for this section in *TWG,* pp. 20-23.
- Answer the questions on Resource pp. 2-3, found online.
- What are the steps involved in a Church Planting Movement?
  (1)The church planter seeks to establish friendships with disconnected people.
  (2)They serve and love these disconnected friends.
  (3)They identify a "person of peace" within the new circle of friends.
  (4) They work with this person to invite his family, friends, acquaintances into a Bible study.
  (5) Over time, this group decides to follow Jesus and become a church.
  (6) The new church then sends our church planters to start the process again.
- How do you feel about the direction missions is now taking?
- Do you believe mission efforts will be successful under these new procedures?
- Does it affect the way you would support a missionary or his field of ministry?
- Why or why not?
- Will people always need the Lord?
- Wouldn't you like to be a part of spreading the gospel around the world so that every person can have the opportunity to hear and receive the good news?
- Does your state, district or area hold an annual Missions Conference where you get to hear from missionaries, meet their families and hear about their fields?
- How will you help or be a part of the Church Planting Movements going on throughout our denomination?
- In Luke 10:2, what is Jesus' main concern? *(for spiritual laborers)*
- What is the main concern of churches and leaders today? *(for spiritual laborers)*
- What does Jesus tell His disciples in Acts 1:8 that is intended for us today as well? *(to be witnesses)*
- Do you feel a calling towards missions?
- If not, are you rejecting His calling in another area of your life?
- Write some missionary birthdays in your journal. Don't forget to mail these persons a card.
- Close in prayer, asking God to bless the efforts of Free Will Baptist missionaries, both state-side and abroad.

IN CLOSING...

Are you using your feet to the best advantage? Jesus wasn't speaking just to the apostles. We're all messengers with a message to proclaim. We can be useful in spreading God's Word wherever we are. Yes, the face of missions is changing, but God still expects the same from our feet: to go to those who need the Lord. I want to have beautiful feet.