

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1998

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work around the world



**REACHING
UNREACHED PEOPLES**

**This issue focuses on
Taking the Gospel to People Groups
Who Have Never Heard**



A UIGHUR[†] EXPERIENCE . . .

by Kevin Stacy

Establishing and maintaining relationships in a new culture can be both rewarding and frustrating. One hopes the relationships will bring opportunity to share the truth of Jesus Christ. In some of my relationships, I have seen God radically shake the world to bring people to faith in Him, and in others I have done everything I could but still saw no fruit.

One of my most rewarding experiences came during a year I taught English in central Asia. One night Hobar, one of my Uighur friends, invited me to

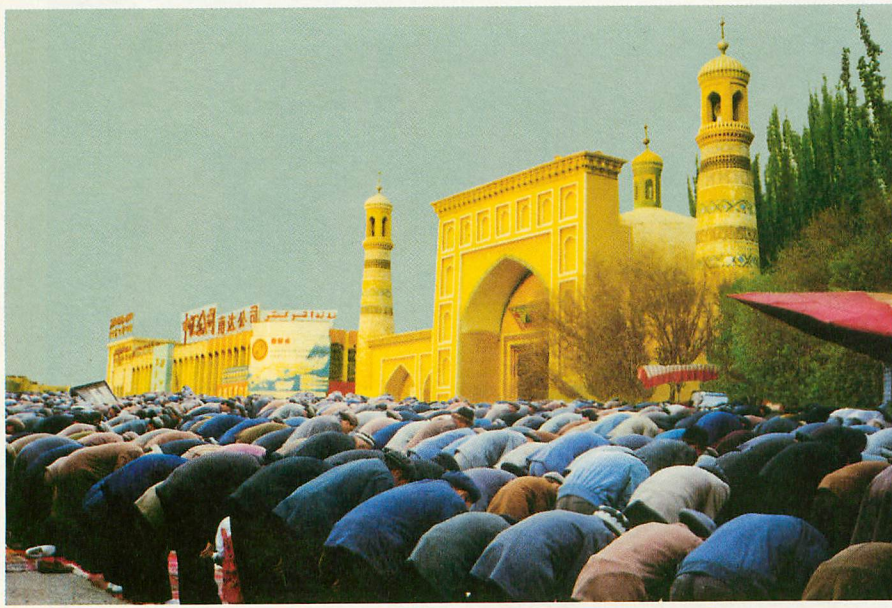
share a special holiday with him and his family. I accepted the invitation.

Most of the people at one meal could speak English except a person named Adlejon. I did not want to leave him out of the English conversation, so I asked my friend to translate for me. After the meal Hobar and Adlejon visited with me in my apartment.

Over a short period of time, Adlejon and I became good friends. In one month his English had improved unbelievably. I was able to converse with him about

everyday situations and topics. Then one day we were talking about the differences in Muslim and Christian beliefs. I told him I had a movie in the Uighur language, the *Jesus* film, which explains the life of Jesus.

Not long after our conversation we set a time for Adlejon to see the movie. He watched the film with great interest, and I could tell the Lord was convicting him. After the movie he asked me if I had any material in the Uighur language he could read. I gave him several tracts and the book of Luke in Uighur. In about two



weeks he had read the information and came to my house. Adlejon said he wanted to follow Isa (the name of Jesus in Uighur). I couldn't believe it. I told him I was having many guests that night but asked him to come back when everyone was gone.

During the time he was deciding to follow Christ, Adlejon was telling his roommate in the dorm all that I was teaching about Jesus.

Later that night Adlejon returned, and we talked of how some believers in his country face persecution. Adlejon said he would not deny Christ as his Savior. What's more, during the time that he was deciding to follow Christ, Adlejon was telling his roommate in the dorm all that I was teaching about Jesus.

He brought his friend to my house and told him he needed to watch the *Jesus* film. After

watching the film, his friend was ready to receive Christ. At that time Adlejon told him it was too soon, but later his friend came to my house and accepted Christ as his Savior.

It is amazing how the Lord radically turned the hearts of these two friends to show them the light of the gospel. Unfortunately, stories like this are not the norm. Relationships in foreign cultures usually develop more slowly, and communication of the gospel is normally a long process.

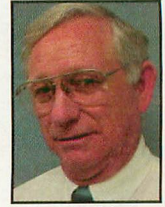
Most of my cross-cultural relationships have proceeded like my contact with another student—also named Adlejon. He invited me to share an important holiday, Korban, with him and his family.

We took a 32-hour, bumpy, dusty bus ride through the desert to reach his hometown, a small central Asian village. College, lack of money and other circumstances had kept Adlejon from going home the past three years. He was really excited to see his relatives

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What is an UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP?

Perhaps you have asked this question. Or maybe you have some concept of what such a group is but just aren't sure how to define it. Well, here it is in one sentence:



Don Robirds

"An unreached people group is an ethnolinguistic people among whom there is no indigenous group with enough believers and resources to evangelize their own people without help from outside."

To put it in other terms, it is a **group of people with the same language and ethnic origin but without enough Christians and resources to reach its own people with the gospel message.** Although statistics do vary on the number of such groups in the world, it is generally accepted that over 4,000 such groups exist today. Some would do an even more detailed breakdown and speak of 11,000 groups without a significant gospel witness.

While 62 percent of the world's people have been exposed to the gospel, 38 percent have not had that opportunity. Yet 89 percent of all Christian workers are ministering where people have access to the gospel through a significant Christian community. This leaves only 11 percent of the workers to reach out to the 38 percent still unreached.

Among those listed in the 211 least evangelized megapeoples (*GEM*, March 12, 1997) are the Uighurs and others in China and Mongolia. Free Will Baptists are particularly concerned about reaching these as well as the Khanti, the Nenets and Mansi groups in Siberia. The Kuna Indians in Panama are also being targeted by the Bowermans and Banks.

The Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions staff and Board are committed to do what they can to give the gospel to unreached peoples. Prayer and support partners are essential to reach these people before it is too late. Won't you help? Please see the back cover in this *Heartbeat* and send your gift today.



China's Challenge

by Sarah Malone

Five years ago, I left home for China with a long list of questions and only one answer—go. Along with the concerns of where I would be living, what I would be teaching, and how I would communicate with no knowledge of the language, were the concerns of ministry. I had no idea of really what was allowed or how I would manage to share Life with students and friends, but I knew this was the direction I was to take.

Less than a week after arriving in Beijing, I had already met with over 100 students. Most of them wanted to get to know the American and learn all about her life, culture and beliefs. So there I was with a captive audience, anxious to talk, question, understand. They

started coming over in groups of five or six and by the end of the first term nearly all of them had been to visit at least once. I soon discovered opportunities far beyond my expectations as conversations both in and out of class led to areas such as the purpose for life, the measure of

success and how to face difficulties.

These conversations would naturally involve my faith and its impact on my life. At other times my students would ask me to share a story from the Bible or ask me what the Bible taught about a specific area of life.



Very simple ideas which we assume to be universal were totally new concepts to most of them. It was a constant challenge to make these truths understandable and real to their situation. Though Christianity is often viewed as a Western idea reserved for the poor, weak or uneducated, my students would still listen intently to the things I shared. They longed for something to fill the emptiness they felt inside.

By the end of my first month, I was having a weekly discussion with one of my graduate students concerning the evidence of truth and our need to accept this truth for ourselves. I must admit that when she first approached me I was a bit skeptical. Was her interest real or was she setting me up? But knowing that we are not to have a spirit of fear, I turned it over to His sovereignty, and we began meeting on a weekly basis.

The countless opportunities and the great need in China constantly motivated me to be with my students as much as possible.

This student and I read and shared many things over the course of about five weeks. This led to deeper questions and an increasing thirst for knowledge. As we met one evening, she began to talk about the peace and joy which she now had and about the Father's meeting her needs that past week. Upon questioning her, she told me she had accepted the Truth one evening alone in her room. She still had many questions, but her

acceptance was real and life-changing. Her thirst for understanding was a challenge and encouragement to me.

As we continued to meet, my student began to teach me about Chinese thought, giving me vital insights into the mind of those with whom I was working. I learned of the struggles they face, not only in life itself, but in accepting the Word and its teaching. This proved to be an invaluable resource in my understanding of how to be more effective in my conversations with students and friends.

The countless opportunities and the great need in China constantly motivated me to be with my students as much as possible and to look for ways to share more about His love and Word. Knowing that I would have my students for only a short period of time increased my concern for them. What would happen after they left school and I was no longer in contact with them? How would they learn more about His Word and love for them?

As I was facing many of these questions, I met a graduate student from another university who had become a brother through the sharing of his American teacher. His roommates were not like-minded; however, three of them had foreign teachers who had shared with them, so they had some knowledge of the Word. During the first term the Christian brother was burdened for his roommates and shared his life with them. By the end of that year, three of the four had accepted the Truth, proving that some Christians plant, others water, but the Father gives the increase.

During the past five years I have found this to be true time and again as I encounter students who have continued to search based upon the things we discussed in my class. Some have become a challenge to me as I have seen their growth and trust. His faithfulness and love have been proven many times over, not only in my life in China, but in the lives of those that He has allowed me to serve. The intense conversations have multiplied over the years. There is rarely a week that goes by without several talks about the Father.

At this point in time there are tremendous opportunities to impact lives. Students come to my home daily, looking for answers to life's questions and someone to help them make sense of the world around them. They need something to give them hope. We have the answer they need: the Truth which will give them a real and lasting freedom.

Let me challenge you, our readers, to consider this opportunity. Qualified people are needed to teach in Asia. Call 1-800-366-ELIC and discuss how to make your life count in the lives of others.

Sarah Malone is currently serving as a teacher and personnel supervisor with ELIC in Beijing, China.

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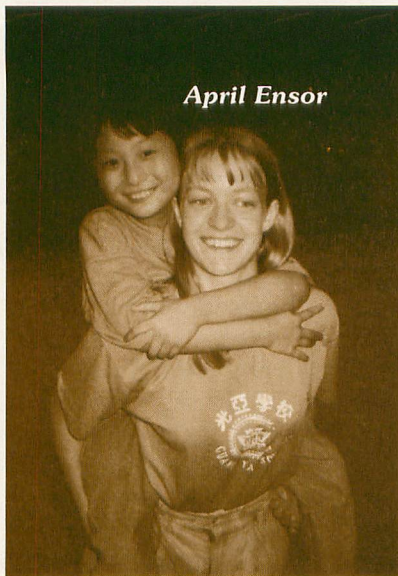
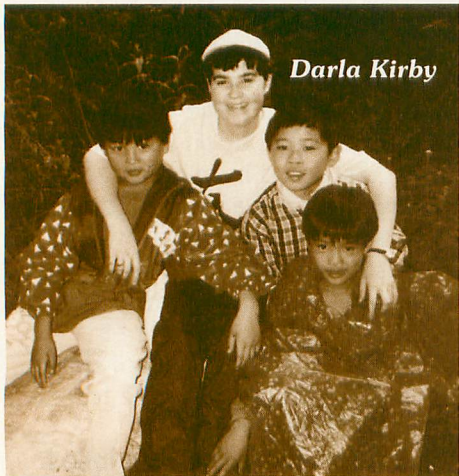
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My Summer in China

by **April Ensor**

I cried for China today. I wept for my students. The thought of them brings a smile to my face and a tear to my eye. I think of their smiling faces and the many happy hours we spent together. Then I remember the tears when we parted, and I realize it may have been the last glimpse of their faces I will ever see. I wonder where those students are today, what they are doing, and if they remember me. Those days in China were some of the most wonderful of my life. I developed a love for my students and for China.

I went to China to teach, to build relationships, and to share love. It was I, however, who learned great lessons from the Master. I experienced love and learned the meaning of friendship.

Going to China was no sacrifice. No, it was the greatest joy. But one month was not enough time to learn much

about such a different language, people and culture. Yet it was enough time to learn about love and about a God of all nations and peoples. A month was enough time to see Him work and realize the joy of being His servant. It was also enough time to see precious faces that I hope to see again and to learn the value of love.

Those days in China were some of the most wonderful of my life.

I wept for China today and for all of those who are without hope. I also wept for those here who refuse to share the endless amount of hope and love that God has given them. I wept because the harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few. I wept because some do not have the chances we take for granted. I wept because He loves all people equally and His love amazes me.

by **Darla Kirby**

I will never forget the summer of 1997. I was able to experience something that most only dream about. I taught English for four weeks in the People's Republic of China with a team of seven others.

Many unexpected things happened in China this summer. I was expecting to teach 10 students, ages 14 through 17, who each had studied English about three years. However, that wasn't the case. My students were not as advanced as I had anticipated, so I had to adjust my curriculum. Until I was able to find a curriculum suitable for my particular students, I was frustrated. But through it all I learned to "be still and know" that He is God. He sustained me through the adjustment.

My team also had a medical emergency. One member had to be rushed to the hospital. He was experiencing severe pain in his abdomen, which turned out to be caused by a kidney stone. Fortunately, he was able to pass the stone without surgery. During that night of uncertainty, God's power and strength sustained us. Afterwards, it was wonderful to know that some of our Chinese friends realized that our God answered our prayers.

Probably the highlight of my trip came when the headmaster of the school in China told us he had observed many foreign teachers before but we were different. He said others came as tourists, but we came to serve the people. He said we brought a gentle spirit of love with us. I was grateful to be part of such a positive impact!

April Ensor and Darla Kirby taught English in China with ELIC during the summer of 1997.

A Uighur Experience

→Continued from page 3 again.

We arrived at the village early in the morning. I was excited but tired, having slept only four hours on the bus compared to Adlejon's 16. The town reminded me of Jerusalem with narrow dirt paths going here and there. Donkey carts carried people to their homes, and sheep bleated on every corner. I was a little surprised at how well I blended in with the people when I heard one lady on the bus secretly tell her friend, "Look at that yellow Uighur."

After a few hours of wandering down little paths and taking a million pictures, I decided I needed a nap. So Adlejon left me at his home to rest while he went to visit some high school classmates. As I lay there, many thoughts hindered my sleep. "Is this really where God wants me?" I wondered. Then I thought, "This is not God's will for my life." My heart was so heavy! I knew Satan was hurling darts, so I prayed, "Lord, please show me again why I'm here."

Adlejon returned, and we went to meet some friends at the airport. While there, a Uighur man started asking me the usual questions. Then he confided some problems to me. I told him to let God know about them for "He's the only one who can help." He said, "During this Korban festival you will see many smiles on people, but on the inside their hearts are hurting." As he spoke, I knew the Lord was reminding me why I was there.

The day before Korban we took a bus to a nearby village where Adlejon would celebrate

the holiday with his uncle. After a wonderful meal and a busy evening of my answering questions about America, we went to bed.

The next morning we were awakened at 5:30. All the men went outside to wash—a sign of respect to God before prayer—and begin the ceremonial activities of Korban. First, the men went to the cemetery where their relatives were buried. Since I'm not Muslim, I asked if I could come along to learn Uighur customs of Korban. His uncle replied, "The world belongs to every living thing."

He said, "During this Korban festival you will see many smiles on people, but on the inside their hearts are hurting."

As we were walking to the graves, I sensed despondency as I looked at the people passing us. Adlejon's father had died three years earlier, so all the men gathered around his father's tomb. I could feel their hurt. An Islamic priest came to the tomb to lead the family in prayer, reciting words in Arabic from the Koran (Islamic bible) to pray for his father's spirit.

I asked Adlejon if he could interpret the prayer. He didn't know the meaning; they were only words someone told him to say to help his father's spirit. I thought, "This is a people searching for peace, but they don't know where to look."

After leaving the tombs, we prepared to go to the mosque. Many people gathered outside the mosque waiting for the call

to prayer. This is the prayer for Korban which asks God to give them happiness and safety for their families in the coming year. Around 8:15 a.m., a loud chanting of monotonous Arabic words began to flow over the public address system. People began to rush to the mosque. I waited outside the gate and carefully observed their response to the priest's prayer. The prayer lasted for about 15 minutes.

When the prayer was finished, we went back to the home of Adlejon's uncle. While I was standing in the courtyard, I saw a sheep being led to the home. Korban was about to take place by sacrificing the sheep for the sins of the family. As I saw the blood run from the sheep's neck, I thought about my Korban that took place almost 2,000 years ago—a sacrifice for all mankind. I left Adlejon's family with a deeper burden and a stronger desire than ever to spread the good news.

This experience has helped me share with my friends that Jesus is the ultimate Sacrifice. I urge people to pray that the Uighurs will understand Christ's atonement. The reason they are living in the stronghold of Satan is because no one has told them of the true Korban. Pray that God will burden the hearts of others to reach out to Muslim people groups. By the authority in Christ's name, let's claim them for His Kingdom.

Kevin Stacy has taught English overseas and is currently teaching a couple of courses on teaching English as a second language at FWBCC in Nashville. He plans to work in community development in central Asia next year.

†The Uighurs \wē-garz\, one of many people groups who are unreached with the gospel, can be found in western China, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

When Justin and Leslie Banks and I scouted Kuna villages in the Panamanian jungle for ministry possibilities, I had been prepared for many questions. However, "When will you return?" was not one of them. I was primed with statements about our work, our mission, and our methods, but I had not expected this.

We had sat down with the chief in one of the traditional Kuna huts. Wooden planks formed the walls of the oval structure. Huge gaps between them allowed ample room for the eyes of the little kids to peek in. The banana-leaf-thatched roofing held in most of the smoke from the four logs that produced the fire for cooking. It also kept out most light from the sun and helped the inside of the hut remain cooler and darker. The dirt floor showed the signs of rainy season with ditches created from the runoff

through the hut.

"When will you return?" he asked. How could I tell this man that it would still be almost two years before we could come and live there? These people had been waiting so long. How could I tell him a long wait remained? My heart wanted to cry out and say that I would never leave them, but my mind knew that many things had to be done before we could stay there.

The chief encouraged the villagers to provide good food for the strangers lest God be disappointed and punish them.

I thought back to the previous days. The first evening had been tiring. Bathing in the river had refreshed me somewhat, but the early hours of that day, trying to

get all of our gear readied and loaded, had taken their toll. Most of that morning had been spent trying to get the paperwork we needed in order to go into the Kuna tribes. Then, all afternoon we had bounced over miles of dirt road to get to the village.

Soon we learned that we had managed to arrive during the "chicha fuerte" (strong drink) ceremony. During this drinking festival the Kuna didn't exactly desire visitors. However, they did agree to let us spend the night in the hut of a woman whose husband had abandoned her and their two small children.

I watched our hostess most of that evening as she tried to console her youngest son, who was very ill. The woman had consulted the witch doctor before our arrival and had seen no results. She had joyfully taken what few medicines we could offer, desperately hoping something would help. As I lay

WHEN WILL YOU RETURN?

by **Eddie Bowerman**

Eddie Bowerman stands with the chief of a Kuna village in Panama and some children of the village.

Justin Banks (opposite page, center going away from the camera) accompanied Bowerman on the trip to the Kuna villages.



on the floor of the hut listening to the little boy's cries, I realized those were the cries that would tear any parent's heart in two.

Again I pondered the question, when would I return? I asked myself how many would die before I could come back. How many would go into the cold, dark emptiness of death without the knowledge of Jesus Christ? At that same moment I realized what God must feel as He looks down on the Kuna. He must watch with tears as His children die without the gospel.

Our second day was much different. We boarded a dugout canoe with our packs and started out across the Bayano Lake. The little canoe rocked back and forth in the water, threatening to turn over if any of us shifted our weight too quickly. We nervously skidded along the surface. When we reached the village of Aguas Claras, we were all amazed by its size. With nearly 1,000 people the village was considerably larger than any of the others we had seen.

As we walked from hut to

hut, following the narrow walkways cut out of the hardened red clay and dirt, we had many opportunities to greet Kuna men and women in the few words we had acquired so far.

We spent the day making friends among the villagers. At night we sat in their tribal conference and listened as our Kuna guide translated what was being said. The chief talked about the upcoming meeting among several Kuna villages. He explained how God wanted them to treat their visitors well and to take good care of them. The chief encouraged the villagers to provide good food for the strangers lest God be disappointed and punish them.

How could I tell this man that it would be years before we could return?

Again the question loomed in my mind. When would we return? When would we return

to bring the Kuna the message they so desperately need? The Kuna need the truth about a God who loves them in spite of their evil deeds. They need to know God has paid the ultimate sacrifice of His only Son, and despite all of their good works they can never merit the grace of God.

As we were leaving the next morning, I asked the chief for permission to return and share the message of God and teach the people about Him. He promised to talk to the people and send word to us.

As I sat in front of the chief in the final village of our journey, he said he knew that men went away and never came back. He had heard promises before but wasn't interested in more empty promises, only realities. He wanted to know when, not if, we would return.

I looked into the chief's weathered face and thought back over all that we had seen and done. Again I asked myself how I could tell this man that it would be years before we could return. He had asked for a missionary. He told us how the village needed and wanted a missionary. He even asked if we were going to stay. I felt almost sick when I had to answer that right now I couldn't. Then, he asked the logical question: When will you return?

I realized how Christ must have felt on his last day in this world. I knew I was leaving behind a people that knew nothing of Jesus, just as Christ Himself had to leave a world that needed to hear of Him. I thought about all the Kuna who would die in their sins, looked at the chief and said, "Soon."

Eddie Bowerman and his wife, LaRhonda, are currently living in Chitre, Panama, while they finish preparations for entering the Kuna villages.



News Update



Ginger Harrison signs her commissioning contract as David Shores (left), Board secretary, and Wayne Phillips, pastor, look on.

Harrison Commissioned, Heads for Language Study

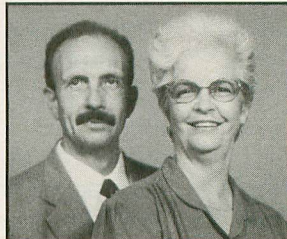
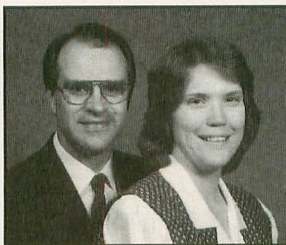
Park Hills, Mo.—Ginger Harrison, appointee to Côte d'Ivoire, was officially commissioned to missionary service on November 23 at the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Park Hills, Mo. Pastor Wayne Phillips brought the message for the service, and the commissioning charge was given by David Shores, secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. Jerry Pinkerton, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, delivered the church charge.

Ginger is scheduled to leave for Quebec, Canada, on January 3 to begin studying the French language at the Université Laval. Following a year of French study, the missionary nurse plans to proceed to Belgium for a course in tropical medicine. She expects to arrive in the Ivory Coast in August of 1999.

Prior to the commissioning service, the Fellowship church held a Thanksgiving banquet with the theme "Gingerbread." Decorations and desserts emphasized the gingerbread motif. The woman's auxiliary distributed gingerbread ornaments made by the people in the church. Donations for the ornaments went to Ginger's mission account. They gave her a \$5,000 check.

Four Couples Leave U.S. for Their Fields of Service

Antioch, Tenn.—Four missionary couples recently returned to their fields of service or are scheduled to do so in January after a time of stateside ministry.



Steve and Becky Riggs (top, left), Dave Jr. and Becky Franks (top, right), Carlisle and Marie Hanna (bottom, left) and Jerry and Carol Pinkerton (bottom, right) all have left or are soon to leave for their fields of service after their stateside assignments.

Steve and Becky Riggs, who were home from France for a short stateside assignment, returned to Nantes on October 30 to resume their ministry with the church.

Dave Jr. and Becky Franks returned to Uruguay on November 24 to continue their ministry in Montevideo.

On December 30, Jerry and Carol Pinkerton returned to Côte d'Ivoire after a short stateside ministry. They resumed their efforts to establish a new work in Abidjan.

Veteran missionaries Carlisle and Marie Hanna plan to return to India January 13 after a short stateside ministry which began in the summer of 1997.

On December 11, Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman, who have been studying the Spanish language in Costa Rica, moved to Panama, where they will labor among the Kuna Indians.

Tennessee Walk-a-Thon Tops \$134,000 for 1997

Antioch, Tenn.—According to a report by Carl Callahan, coordinator for the 1997 Don and Billie Sexton Walk-a-Thon in Tennessee, a new record was set as \$134,586 had been received through December 10.

Carl noted that six people raised nearly \$13,000 and were honored for their efforts. In the men's class

the Reverend Thurman Pate of Knoxville, Tenn., raised \$4,400 for first place while the Reverend Rodney Bailey of Church Hill, Tenn., raised \$3,500 in a wheelchair to take second place. In the ladies' class Pat Ellison of Knoxville, Tenn., took first place with \$4,162, and Margaret Mahaffey of Johnson City, Tenn., took second place by raising \$2,410. In the youth division Lisa Kilgore of Kingsport, Tenn., took first place with \$1,050, and Aaron Dugger of Knoxville, Tenn., placed second by

raising \$325.

Several participating churches were also honored with certificates or plaques at the Tennessee State Association in November.

Medical Ministry Takes New Focus

Côte d'Ivoire—In December the Côte d'Ivoire field council announced plans to refocus the medical ministry in order to more effectively evangelize and address health needs in area villages.

Missionaries claim that growth and changes in the Doropo community necessitate a new focus. Some of the changes in Doropo include the generation of 25 congregations—several with national pastors; community development including electricity, water and educational facilities; new government programs, such as health care, police, military and the establishment of Doropo as a county seat; and greater access to the area due to more paved highways. These changes—and increased government requirements for the medical center—caused the field council to reevaluate the Doropo medical program.

The new emphasis shifts the medical ministry into an intensified program of preventive medicine and evangelism. The program incorporates nationals in the process of educating their communities about health care and presenting the gospel. This strategy will relieve administrative burdens and will give greater opportunity to reach out and help more villages. Many of these have a high infant mortality rate: 30

percent die before their first birthday and 50 percent die before their fifth birthday. Since only one percent of these people are evangelical Christians, they need the gospel message.

A program of training community health and evangelism workers has already begun. On September 24-28, Dr. Kenneth Eagleton taught the basics of the new program to a group of 19 leaders from the Doropo and Bondoukou areas. Training will continue to be provided to three groups: (1) a team of trainers, (2) a village health committee and (3) community health evangelists.

The medical personnel in Doropo have requested prayer for guidance through this transition period.

Cancer Claims Lives of Mayhew and Cronk

Antioch, Tenn.—Former long-time missionaries Archie Mayhew and Daniel Cronk became fatal victims of cancer in October and November.

Archie Mayhew, former missionary to Ivory Coast for 17 years and member of the Board of Foreign Missions for two terms, died on October 26 in Modesto, Calif., due to colon cancer. Archie had pastored in Tennessee, Illinois and California.

Dan Cronk, former missionary to India, died on Thursday, November 20, in Nashville, Tenn. Dan also had served two terms on the Board of Foreign Missions and had taught at Free Will Baptist Bible College for nine years. Dan and Trula served 25 years in India.

Dan had been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus and had undergone surgery in February. But the malignancy reappeared in the fall.

A special memorial service was held for Archie Mayhew at the North Modesto Free Will Baptist Church on October 31. Archie had been pastor of the church for the past six years. He is survived by his wife, Sarah, and four children: Larry Mayhew, Jerry Mayhew, Sheryl Alvernaz and Merry Rorabaugh. He also left five grandchildren.

A memorial service for Daniel Cronk was held in the Horton Heights FWB Church on Sunday, November 23. Dan is survived by his wife, Trula; his son, Randall; a granddaughter, one brother, three



Archie Mayhew (top) and Daniel Cronk longtime missionaries and Board members, became fatal victims of cancer in October and November.

sisters and an uncle.

General Director R. Eugene Waddell stated, "The Free Will Baptist program of world outreach is richer because of the ministry of brothers Archie Mayhew and Dan Cronk. Not only did these men dedicate themselves to taking the gospel to distant lands, they also served with distinction on the Board of Foreign Missions. Their insights helped the staff and Board view our ministry through missionary eyes. We miss their wisdom and compassion. My mind is filled with good memories of Dan and Archie."

Sturgill Reports Spiritist Conversion in Belo

Brazil—Missionary Jim Sturgill in Belo Horizonte recently reported the conversion of a young man from a spiritist background. He was saved after a young church member brought him to services.

Jim noted that Bruno came to their home on a Tuesday following the service and reviewed the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. He prayed

and invited Jesus into his heart.

Jim declared, "I don't think he understands as completely as we probably would in the United States . . . but his heart was touched by the simplicity of true salvation."

Owen Says Cancer Victim Accepts Christ

Uruguay—Dennis Owen writes from Montevideo, Uruguay: "Thursday, November 13, Washington Diaz prayed to accept Christ as his Savior at his home. We praise the Lord for bringing him to this point."

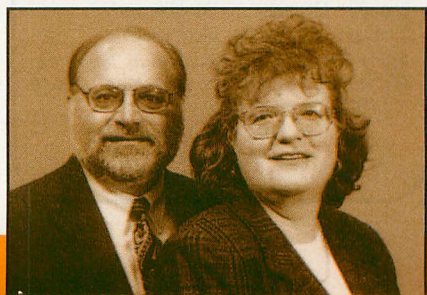
Dennis had previously requested prayer that Washington, who is dying with cancer of the larynx, would be saved and that God might heal him.

Board Meets, Appoints Two New Couples

Antioch, Tenn.—The Board of Foreign Missions met in the Free Will Baptist National Offices building December 3 and 4 for its semi-annual session. The Board appointed two couples to missionary service: Mike and Cathy Corley of Madison, Ala., as overseas associates to work in Russia, and Justin and Leslie Banks of Cushing, Okla., as career missionaries to Panama.

The Board also appointed 10 students to serve as overseas apprentices in 1998: *Spain*—Bethany
Continued on page 12 →

Justin and Leslie Banks (top) and Mike and Cathy Corley (bottom) were officially appointed to overseas service in the December meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions.



News Update

→ Continued from page 11

Crowson of Nashville, Tenn.; *Russia*—Jonathan Turnbough of Greenville, N.C., and John Hayes of Lake City, S.C.; *Uruguay*—Kelly Jo Guyton of Colona, Ill., and Trudy Skelley of Oakley, Ill.; *France*—Rebecca Hale of Taylor Ridge, Ill.; *Japan*—Kimberly Scott of Johnsonville, S.C.; *Brazil*—Allysa Hampton of Nashville, Tenn., Wendy Skelley of Oakley, Ill., and Katrina Smith of Greeneville, Tenn.

Another 10 students were approved to go to Côte d'Ivoire in the summer of 1998 as part of the "Go and Be" team. Included in this group are Wesley Holland of Claremore, Okla., Jerrod Pilgrim of Tulsa, Okla., Timothy Keener of Westerville, Okla., Robert Younce of Stambaugh, Ky., Tori Lindsey of Chester, Ga., Brenda Windlandt of Stigler, Okla., Angie Young of Winchester, Oh., Amy Thompson of Batesville, Ark., Joy Taylor of Cisne, Ill., and Jennifer Harter of Nashville, Tenn. All of these are from Free Will Baptist Bible College except Wesley Holland who is from Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Okla.

In other action the Board voted to increase the budget for land in Abidjan from \$60,000 to \$100,000. They also designated Jimmy Aldridge as coordinator of Commonwealth of Independent State ministries.

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton and Bobby and Geneva Poole were officially reappointed to their fields of service in Côte d'Ivoire and Brazil respectively.

A basic overall missions strategy, drafted by the administrative staff, was also approved by the Board.

International Christian Academy

Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire

Personnel Needed for 1998-99

Teachers:

Music (all grades)	PE: Girls*
4th Grade	High School English
High School French	High School Science*
Middle School English/Social Studies	

Service/Ministry Personnel:

Business Manager	Bookkeeper*
Chaplain	Electrician*

Many positions are available as long-term (4+ years) or short-term (1-3 years); those marked* are short-term only.

Contact **FWB Foreign Missions**
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002



TWO GRADUATES—Carlos Urbina (left) and Grimaldo Vera became graduate numbers six and seven among those who have completed the Bible institute program in Panama.

Two Men Graduate from Panama Bible Institute

Panama—The Bible institute in Panama held its third graduation ceremony on Friday, October 31, at the Betania church in Panama City. Approximately 100 people were on hand for the event. Two men graduated, bringing the total number of graduates to seven since the program was begun in 1984.

Carlos Urbina, deacon and Sunday school teacher at the First Church in Panama City, graduated and is scheduled to teach full-time in the institute. Grimaldo Vera, a deacon from San Miguelito, was the other graduate. Grimaldo also has answered the call to preach.

One Saved, Three Make Public Professions

Japan—According to Dale Bishop in Nopporo, Japan, a single woman in her early thirties accepted Christ as her Savior at his November 15 Saturday Bible study. The woman has attended Koinonia church regularly for several months.

The following day a young man and two young ladies also made public professions of faith. Dale urged people to pray for these new converts.

"A-Team" Experiences Life in Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire—Missionary Clint Morgan reported meeting seven Free Will Baptist men from the States in Abidjan on September 10. The "A-Team" (Awareness Team) spent the next two weeks learning about African life and ministry. They re-

turned to the United States on September 24.

Those making the cross-culture venture included six ministers: Tim York of Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky.; Rick Locklear and David Ervin of Woodhaven FWB Church in Woodhaven, Mich.; Don Arms of New Hope FWB Church in Warsaw, Ind.; Jonas Revis of Watauga Valley FWB Church in Elizabethton, Tenn.; and Jackie Brown of First FWB Church in North Little Rock, Ark. Dwight Mitchell of Limestone FWB Church in Limestone, Tenn., was the only layman in the group.

Aldridge, Braisher Speak in Russian Churches

Russia—Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary, and Mark Braisher, executive pastor of Rejoice Free Will Baptist Church in Owasso, Okla., met in Amsterdam, Holland, on October 2 and flew to Moscow, Russia. The two went from there to Chelyabinsk, where they spent three days ministering in nearby Kopeysk. Jimmy and Mark were in the morning worship service with Pastor Nikolay Sobolev and about 350 people in Chelyabinsk on October 5.

The two men met with 33 believers in Kopeysk on the afternoon of October 5. Sixteen of these gave testimonies of salvation and growth in the Spirit of Christ.

On October 7, Jimmy and Mark went to Betania, a coal-mining town near Kopeysk. They met in a junior high school and answered questions from 56 teachers and students in the afternoon. That evening they met with 60 adults and teenagers in the



Dr. Mark Braisher (left), of Owasso, Okla., converses with Russian pastors through an interpreter (center) during the October pastors' conference in Ekaterinburg in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

cultural center. Jimmy noted, "Many of these people are at the point of receiving Christ."

Next, the two men traveled to Kurgan and met with Pastor Nikolay Novikov and his leadership group. From Kurgan they went to Kamyshlov, where they met with 36 people in the pastor's apartment.

On October 11, the pair went to Ekaterinburg for a pastors' conference. They preached at the church during the Sunday services. Some 86 adults and children had gathered for church and Sunday school. One man was converted that day.

At the pastors' conference October 13-17, Dr. Braisher taught 46 pastors and church leaders biblical principles of church growth, leadership, stewardship, evangelism and discipleship.

Two people were saved on October 19 as Mark and Jimmy preached in two other Baptist churches in the city. From Ekaterinburg the two men flew a few hundred miles south of the Arctic Circle to Surgut. They witnessed God's blessing on the laborers of that area. One man indicated 50 young people, ages 15 to 26, have been saved in the last 18 months.

"I left Russia with deep emotions from seeing God impacting so many lives in such a short period of time," says Jimmy Aldridge. "I also left deeply thankful that God has opened this door of ministry to us. I am committed to do what I can to help bring the knowledge of Christ to these people."

Panama Association Celebrates 25 Years

Panama—The Panama Association of Free Will Baptists celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on Saturday, November 8, in special services held

at the San Vicente church.

According to missionary Steve Lytle, special recognition was given to all of the original officers and delegates. The past and current presidents of the association were also honored.

Slides and a video highlighted the work and showed testimonies from some of the founders. Eusebio Asprilla, a former officer in the association, preached.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Brazil—Earnie and Jean Deeds recently expressed praise over the salvation of Angelica, a 12-year-old girl who has been attending Sunday school regularly at Conselheiro Lafaiete. The Deeds were especially thankful as they were in the final stages of their ministry in Brazil. They returned to the United States on December 6 to begin their state-side ministry.

Fresno, Calif.—Jalayn Martens is currently attending LINK Care Center in Fresno, Calif., after going through some trying times and difficult years of ministry in Côte d'Ivoire. She expressed praise for

God's provision and for the opportunity to rest and receive helpful guidance.

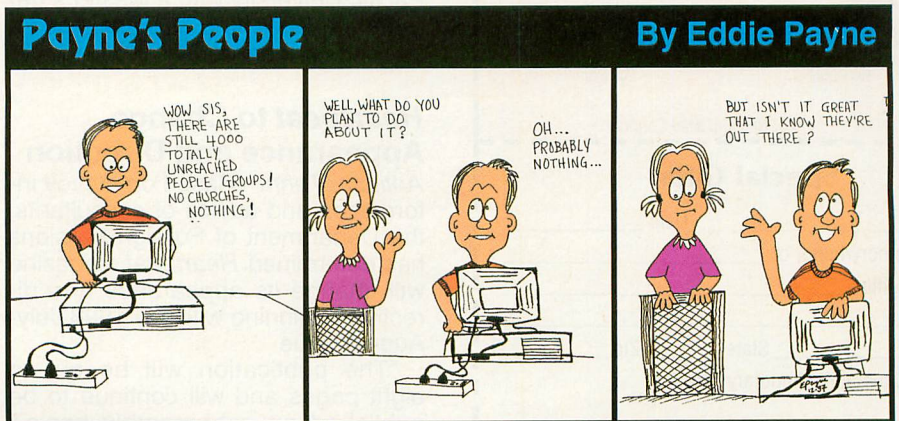
France—In mid-October missionary Jerry Gibbs expressed praise to the Lord for the salvation of a woman at the St. Nazaire church in France. Jerry noted, "The church guitarist, Gilles, led his mother to the Lord last week."

Uruguay—"On the first full day back in Uruguay I had the opportunity to lead two people to rededicate their lives and one to be saved," writes Dave Franks Jr. from Montevideo. The Franks arrived in Uruguay on November 25.

Spain—Jeff and Susan Turnbough report God at work in the Majadahonda area of Spain: "One night Sam and June (McVay) and Susan and I were praying and asking the Lord to provide someone to be our special 'informants' here. The next day Alberto and Luz Marina called and asked if they could visit. They volunteered to work with us!"

France—Missionary Jerry Gibbs recently spent a week in Paris, France, to take part in an evangelization clinic put on by Evangelism Explosion. He and his evangelistic team talked to an Ivorian family who had visited a church in Paris. The team shared the gospel, and the father gave his heart to the Lord. When they left his home, the man said, "I thank the Lord for your visit. I really did not expect to receive eternal life tonight."

Panama—The First Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City, Panama, celebrated its 26th anniversary on
Continued on page 14 →



News Update

→Continued from page 13

November 7 with over 100 people in attendance. Steve Lytle preached the message on the theme: "The Church and Worship."

Lake City, S.C.—Elston Hanna, brother of missionary Carlisle Hanna, died on November 2 after a long battle with cancer. Carlisle and Marie are currently in the States for a short stateside assignment.

Colquitt, Ga.—Debbie Griffin, who has been on stateside assignment since July of 1996, plans to return to Japan around the first of March. She has remained in the U.S. for an extended time, taking courses at Columbia International University,



Fred and June Hersey (left) and Walter and Marcia Ellison will be ending their missionary service after combined ministries in Japan, Brazil and Uruguay totaling 94 years.

and spending time with her family after her father's death in July. Debbie requested prayer that she might be able to internalize and live out the truths she's studying. She also urged people to pray that her financial needs might be met.

Warren, Ark.—The Reverend Stanton White, father of missionary Sue Aycock, died on Friday, October 31. Funeral services were held on November 2 in Warren, Ark. The Aycocks were unable to attend the funeral.

Mongolia—Terry and JaNelda Walker arrived back in Mongolia in September. They taught a seminar to Mongolian English teachers shortly after their return.

Brazil—Bobby and Sue Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, reported two people saved on September 28. Several others had been converted over a period of three weeks. Seven people were expected to start discipleship training in October.

Azusa, Calif.—Sarah Malone, a teacher with ELIC in Beijing, China, graduated August 1 from Azusa Pacific University with a Master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language.

said Don Robirds, editor. "On alternating months we will be sending other small publications directed to specific audiences: pastors, women, laymen and youth."

The eight-page edition of *Heartbeat* will still contain the news section, but the main articles will be shorter. Those who currently receive *Heartbeat* will continue receiving the publication in its new format.

Herseys, Ellisons End Long Overseas Ministries

Antioch, Tenn.—Two veteran missionary couples are officially ending their overseas service after combined ministries of over 94 years.

Fred and June Hersey will officially wrap up their missionary service in Japan and Brazil and end their missionary status on March 21.

Fred and Evelyn Hersey were appointed to Japan in April 1954 and continued their ministry until Evelyn died of cancer in October of 1993 (39 years). June Wilkinson Hersey had served as missionary to Brazil from April of 1959 until March of 1979 (20 years) when she and Sam Wilkinson returned to ministries in the United States. She lost Sam through a heart attack in April of 1988. Fred and June were married in January of 1995 and returned to Japan to serve until June of 1997. They plan to reside in Dothan, Ala.

Fred worked in Hokkaido during his early ministry then moved to the Tokyo area and started the Iriso Free Will Baptist Church. During their last two years in Japan Fred and June worked in the Hokkaido area once again.

Walter and Marcia Ellison are scheduled to arrive from Uruguay in early January and will not be return-

Special Gifts

These individuals gave special gifts in October and November in memory or in honor of these friends or loved ones:

Donor	In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wood Odessa, Tex.	Effie Wood
Rose J. Schmoll Bakersville, Calif.	Nolia Martinson Rena Waddell
Wilson Chapel Sunday School Norton, Va.	Mrs. Jesse Wells
Tony Tilley Reform, Ala.	Bobby Wheatly
Good Springs FWB Church Pleasant View, Tenn.	Lou Ann Nicholson
Unity FWB Church Smithfield, N.C.	Callie M. Williford
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Buttgen Apache Junction, Ariz.	James Beasley
First FWB Church Blakely, Ga.	James Beasley
Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Kirk Ceres, Calif.	Archie Mayhew
Mel Nanney and Karen Taylor Madison Heights, Mich.	Thelma Nanney
Mr. and Mrs. C. Don Robirds Nashville, Tenn.	Archie Mayhew
Tanya Hart Ayden, N.C.	Stanton White
Mr. and Mrs. R. Eugene Waddell Nashville, Tenn.	Archie Mayhew Elston Hanna Helen Albright
Donor	In Honor of
Jim and Joy Hall Smyrna, Tenn.	Carl Houk
Edna Dennis Summerville, S.C.	Alice Smith

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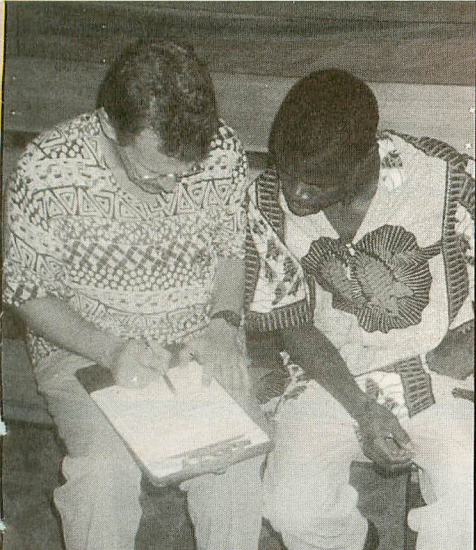
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Heartbeat to Change Appearance and Direction

Antioch, Tenn.—Based on survey information and advice of consultants, the Department of Foreign Missions has determined *Heartbeat* magazine will change its appearance and direction beginning with the 1998 July-August issue.

"The publication will be cut to eight pages and will continue to be published on a bi-monthly basis,"



Robert Bryan goes over plans with a neighborhood outreach leader in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

ing to that ministry. The Ellisons were appointed to missionary service in Brazil in November of 1963 and served until the latter part of 1977 (14 years) in Livramento, Brazil, where they established a self-supporting church.

Following a leave of absence to fulfill family needs, the couple moved to Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1982 to work with The Sower Bible Institute and to start another work. Walter spent much of the last term in construction of the Central FWB Church in Rivera.

Although returning from the foreign field after another 16 years, the Ellisons emphasized they are not retiring, just changing ministries. They felt their time was too short to start a new work in Uruguay and see it come to maturity before they would have to leave it.

The Board of Foreign Missions expressed gratitude and deep appreciation for the faithful ministries of these two couples.

Neighborhood Outreach Picks Up in Abidjan

Côte d'Ivoire—According to missionary Robert Bryan, the first Neighborhood Outreach Group (NOG) met on Saturday night, November 8. Originally, seven people made up this group, but 15 people were on hand for the evening.

The group met in a courtyard of a family who had visitors at the time. One of the visitors attended church the following morning and prayed to receive Christ as his Savior.

Robert indicated that two more NOGs were scheduled to start during the month of December.

Financial Summary Through November 1997 \$ubstance

Total income for October 1997	\$ 457,579.31
Total income for November 1997	432,391.93
Total income through November 1997	4,233,483.50
Projected income through November 1997	4,542,048.20
Total expenses through November 1997	4,173,906.28
Total 1997 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$4,954,961.67

\$hortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey	\$ 1,941.60	Noyabrisk Church Planter	\$ 948.65
Callaway	7,034.16	Robinson	4,559.49
Combs	1,024.42	Stacey	1,920.13
Crosby	1,056.34	Tallent	5,065.95
Eagleton Sr	16,005.89	Teague	18,414.32
Ekaterinburg Church Planter	4,369.06	West	6,470.36
Franks Sr	10,172.34	Willey	4,568.50
Hersey	8,533.91	Wilson	1,210.35
Kamyshlov Church Planter	5,088.90	General Fund	42,348.07
Kopeysk Church Planter	3,797.63	Info Promo Fund	53,214.23
Kurgan Church Planter	3,270.52	International Consultation of FWBs	3,954.40
Lancaster	1,162.75	Russian Pastor's Conf	6,449.30
McFall	1,164.65	Third World Development	1,706.03
Midgett	4,099.75	Special Committee IC	18,882.34
Morgan, Adam	15.80		
Total	\$238,449.84		

\$inking

The following accounts are in the black but in serious need:

Bryan	\$ 857.36	Owen	\$ 906.24
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State Goals—1997

States/ Organizations	Goal 1997	Goal Through November	Contributions Through November
Alabama	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 178,750.00	\$ 189,116.47
Arkansas	300,000.00	275,000.00	275,537.71
Arizona	6,500.00	5,958.33	8,198.01
California	83,000.00	76,083.33	55,806.78
Canada	10,000.00	9,166.67	6,249.71
Colorado	8,000.00	7,333.33	9,611.04
Florida	85,000.00	77,916.67	112,794.42
Georgia	200,000.00	183,333.33	203,272.24
Idaho	1,000.00	916.67	3,630.10
Iowa	3,000.00	2,750.00	1,888.53
Illinois	150,000.00	137,500.00	135,643.59
Indiana	40,000.00	36,666.67	37,679.40
Hawaii	1,000.00	916.67	125.00
Kansas	9,000.00	8,250.00	7,518.76
Kentucky	80,000.00	73,333.33	68,963.43
Louisiana	2,000.00	1,833.33	1,695.00
Maryland	29,000.00	26,583.33	40,574.64
Michigan	200,000.00	183,333.33	131,645.44
Missouri	325,000.00	297,916.67	334,773.20
Mississippi	75,000.00	68,750.00	59,355.69
Montana	2,500.00	2,291.67	1,750.00
North Carolina	570,000.00	522,500.00	553,689.40
Nebraska	1,000.00	916.67	1,035.00
New Mexico	2,000.00	1,833.33	3,096.77
*Northeast Assoc	2,400.00	2,200.00	2,780.00
**Northwest Assoc	10,000.00	9,166.67	5,262.01
Ohio	135,000.00	123,750.00	132,268.18
Oklahoma	420,000.00	385,000.00	391,301.78
Pennsylvania	1,000.00	916.67	401.00
South Carolina	255,000.00	233,750.00	266,174.85
Tennessee	715,000.00	655,416.67	702,929.66
Texas	100,000.00	91,666.67	66,442.06
Virginia	110,000.00	100,833.33	78,640.05
Virgin Islands	3,000.00	2,750.00	2,411.13
West Virginia	110,000.00	100,833.33	96,030.53
Free Will Baptist Foundation	23,000.00	21,083.33	20,144.24
Miscellaneous	19,365.88	17,752.06	19,309.47
WNAC	170,000.00	155,833.33	154,323.36
Totals	\$ 4,451,765.88***	\$ 4,080,785.39	\$ 4,182,068.65

*Northeast Association

New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine, Connecticut, Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts

**Northwest Association

Alaska, Oregon and Washington

***Does not include VISION projects.

HEARTBEAT

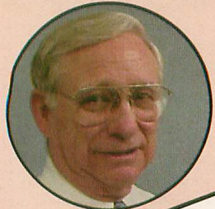
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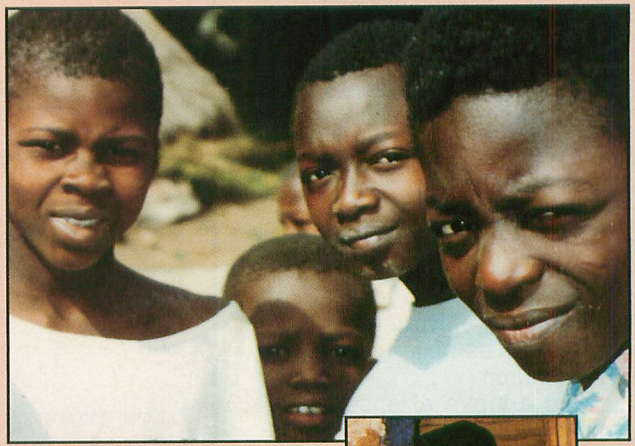
Board of Foreign Missions: Joe Grizzle, chairman; Dean Dobbs, vice-chairman; David Shores, secretary; Bill Reagan, Bill Jones, Milton Worthington, James Forlines, David Williford, Bill Van Winkle.

Administrative Staff: R. Eugene Waddell, general director; Fred Warner, director of stateside ministries; Don Robirds, director of communications; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary; Robert Conley, treasurer.

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