

MAY-JUNE 1998

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work around the world

A photograph of two men standing outdoors in front of a building with a thatched roof. The man on the left is wearing a blue and red plaid shirt and glasses, and is gesturing with his hands. The man on the right is wearing a blue and pink floral shirt and is pointing towards the other man. The background shows a large thatched roof and a building with blue pillars.

It's Beginning to Change

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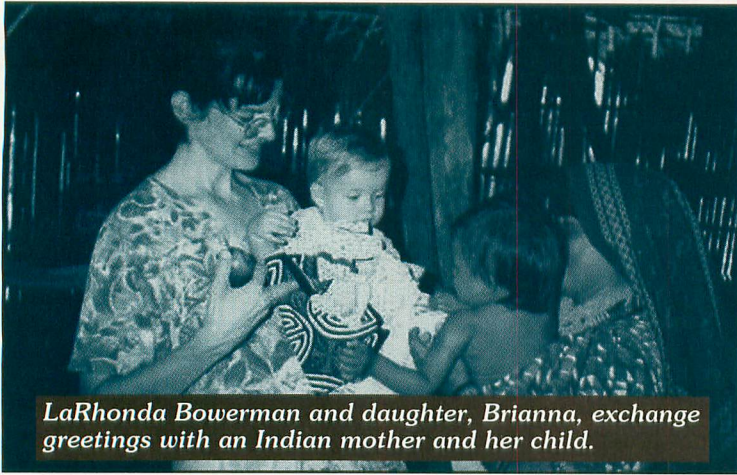
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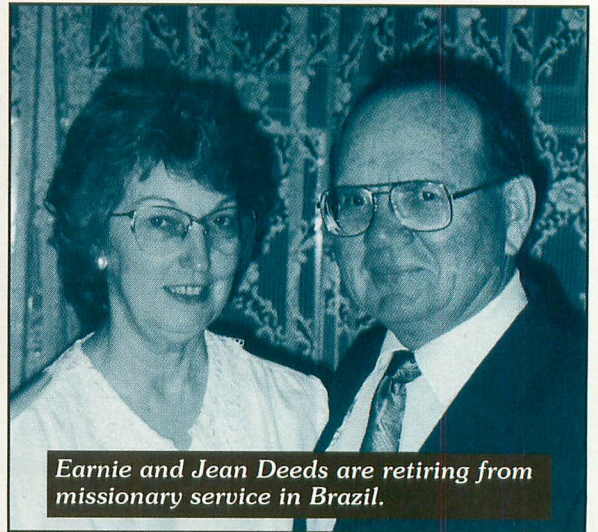
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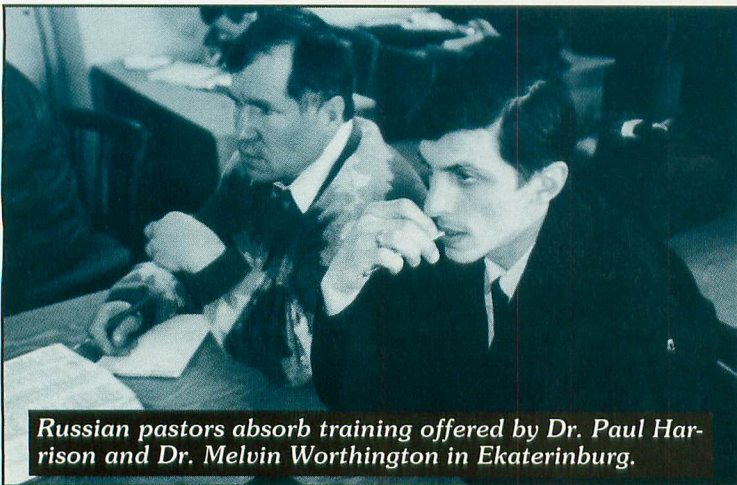
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LaRhonda Bowerman and daughter, Brianna, exchange greetings with an Indian mother and her child.



Earnie and Jean Deeds are retiring from missionary service in Brazil.



Russian pastors absorb training offered by Dr. Paul Harrison and Dr. Melvin Worthington in Ekaterinburg.

INTO THE NEXT DECADE

by R. Eugene Waddell
general director

A wealthy man decided to build a palatial home for his family, so he selected a site that overlooked thousands of acres. He hired the very best carpenters, stonemasons and skilled craftsmen to build his mansion. He gathered rare and expensive materials from all over the world. Then he went on a world tour, leaving the builders with no instructions.

The builders queried, "Where are the blueprints? Where is the general contractor to lead us?" To the builders' surprise, no architect, no plans and no general contractor were to be found. Although the workers were available and eager to build, they were frustrated

because the house plans existed only in the mind of the wealthy landowner.

"How ridiculous!" we say of the rich man's failure to reveal his plan. Yet, those of us in Christian ministry often approach the building of the kingdom of God in just such a haphazard, almost irrational way. This usually results in the loss of skilled workers, available resources, and potential fruit from our efforts.

In light of this, the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions believes we need to establish long-range plans. Consequently, after extensive research and study, the Foreign Missions staff has made some

projections and plans which stretch over the next ten years.

We began by summarizing our biblical mandate in a new mission statement:

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions exists to labor as members of the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

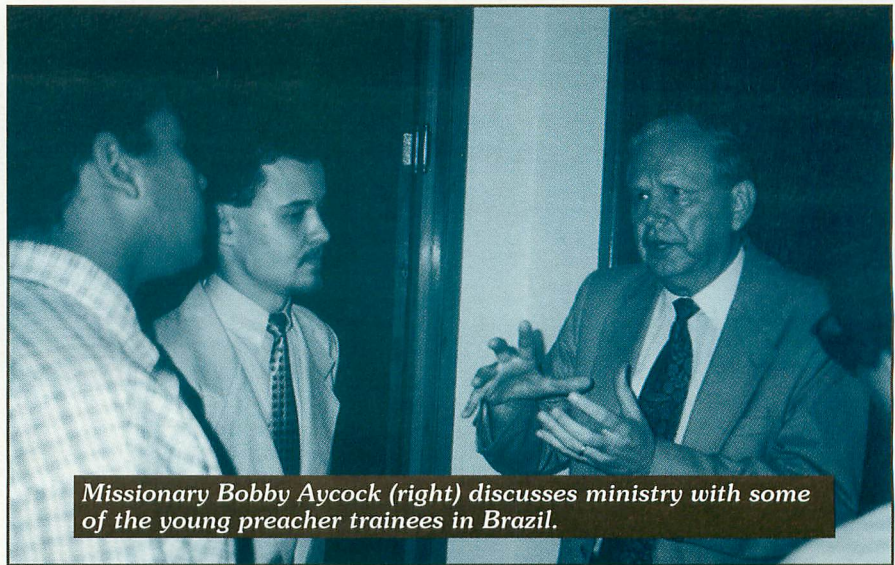
Then we rewrote our purpose statement to define our goals more specifically:

The primary task of the mission in this endeavor is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the unevangelized of the world and to disciple those who evidence personal faith in Christ. The ultimate goal is

to develop believers into self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating Free Will Baptist churches. The Great Commission would be actualized in the organization of associations of churches for the purpose of world evangelism.

As we reviewed our status and evaluated our present ministries, we rejoiced for the souls won in the 12 countries where our representatives minister. We praise God for the churches begun in all but two of these countries (it is illegal to plant churches in these two). Now we recognize the need for stronger leadership training programs. We also hope for more creative efforts to develop strong local churches that are self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating.

In addition to evaluating our present ministry, we looked at needs around the world. We faced the reality that more than 4,000 ethnic groups are still completely unevangelized, so we determined to include some of these unreached peoples in our plans. God certainly



Missionary Bobby Aycock (right) discusses ministry with some of the young preacher trainees in Brazil.

included them in the Great Commission.

We faced the reality that more than 4,000 ethnic groups are still completely unevangelized.

Our staff responded with a two-pronged, long-range plan: to assist existing churches to reach maturity and to reach out to unreached peoples.

This plan calls for our eight

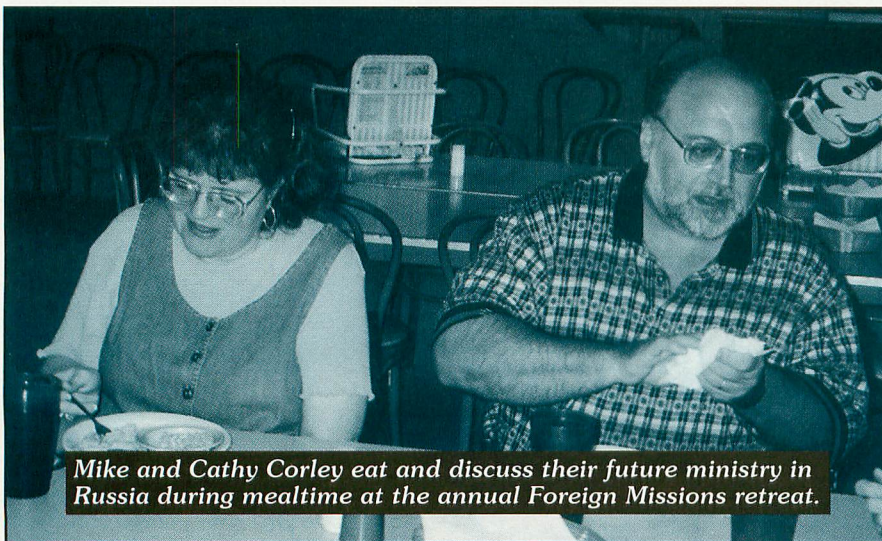
existing field councils to engage in strategic planning. Missionaries must first focus on bringing national churches to maturity so they will no longer depend on United States personnel and funds.

This commitment has led us to adopt this basic philosophy of ministry:

Missionaries must view their role as facilitators and catalysts for planting churches and training leaders, not primarily as pastors or leaders of local churches.

Our field councils were asked

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Mike and Cathy Corley eat and discuss their future ministry in Russia during mealtime at the annual Foreign Missions retreat.

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Vol. 38, No. 3

May-June 1998

Editor: Don Robirds

Editorial Assistant: Charity VanWinkle

Artist: Jim Johnson

Heartbeat (USPS 239-020) is published bimonthly by the Board of Foreign Missions of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, Tenn. 37013-2306. Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tenn. and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Heartbeat**, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tenn. 37011-5002.



It's Beginning to Change

by Robert T. Bryan

What do you know, Ken?" Jim asked as he stuck his head in the door.

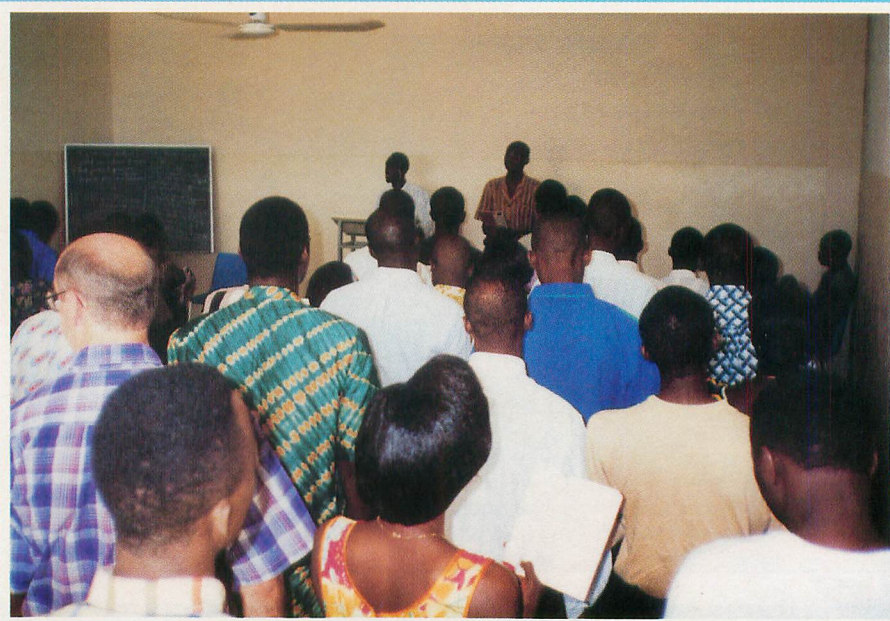
"Oh, not much," Ken replied.

"Hey, you knew that yesterday!" Jim shot back.

Well, that's about the way the Abidjan team members feel at times about the ministry in the capital city of Côte d'Ivoire. Though Jerry and Carol Pinkerton and Judy and I studied, prayed and planned as we began working in Abidjan, we were ignorant. The more we learned and continue to learn about the city and how to make an impact, the more we realize how little we know.

With the vision God has given us, we started last year to do

A Neighborhood Outreach Group (NOG) meets in a home (above) for Bible study and evangelism. Many people from the NOGs gather with the church group (below) for Sunday services.



more than just gather a group of believers and teach them the Word. We wanted to CHANGE THE FACE OF ABIDJAN, to make a genuine impact on this city. To do this, we knew we would have to spread out and make contacts all over the city.

We decided to establish Neighborhood Outreach Groups where we would first train Christians to present Jesus by their lives as well as their words. Then they could receive and nurture new converts. As each NOG reached 15 members, we planned to divide into two new groups and establish yet another "preaching point" for the gospel.

In Abidjan hundreds of religions are vying for people's attention. Islam claims 30 percent of the city's population, and Roman Catholicism declares it has about the same number. Cults like Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are also active. In addition to these, multiplied African religions combine a dash of misinterpreted Bible, a pinch of deformed morality, several jars of "heavenly" visions, and a bowl of traditional animism. All of these are served with a side dish of strong legalism to make up some confusing religious systems.

Animism tends to underlie all of life in Côte d'Ivoire, and Abidjan is no exception. Recently, I was in the physical therapy room of the most advanced hospital in Abidjan. The patients are all well off by Ivorian standards, mostly business and professional people. When one of them mentioned he had been involved in three minor traffic accidents the previous week,

everyone present responded that the spirits were out to get him.

Amid this animistic background we've discovered some new things over the past year. First, people in Abidjan are incredibly busy! Their schedules are always full, whether they be students, workers or professional people. It's just not worthwhile to schedule weeknight meetings, for example, simply because almost no one is available to attend until 9 or 10 o'clock.

We wanted to CHANGE THE FACE OF ABIDJAN, to make a genuine impact on this city.

Contributing to the already busy schedules is the difficulty of travel. Although public transportation in Abidjan is far better developed than in most African cities, it has been outstripped by population growth. For example, our pastor intern, N'Guettia Silas, spent three-and-a-half hours one morning going from his house to Jerry and Carol Pinkerton's house, a distance of only eight miles. Several of our members leave their houses before 7:00 a.m. on Sunday so they can be on time at the 9:00 o'clock service!

We've also learned that building a stable congregation will not be easy because people are constantly moving into and out of the city. Several people have attended services for a month or more then suddenly disappeared. We discovered they had moved to a distant part of Abidjan or to another

town.

The task of evangelism and discipling converts is complicated by the way people get their lives into awful messes! Satan misleads, tricks and cajoles folks into living by his ideals. When they come to Christ, their souls are saved but their lives are in shambles. Straightening out mixed up relationships and occult habits takes patient teaching and loving, along with a willingness to wait on the Spirit to convince individuals they need to take some action.

From the beginning, church leaders and members have been committed to do more than just hold services. They want every person in the church to be involved in ministry through personal witness and a local NOG. To have a strong impact on the 3.25 million people here, leaders are convinced that the Free Will Baptist church in Abidjan must be present in every section of town. That is why they encourage the NOGs.

We began training NOG leaders a year ago. The first two groups began in November 1997. One of them continues to do well, but the second one folded after a month. Two others were begun in early 1998 and a fourth in March. We are praying for and working toward at least six functioning groups by June.

Starting outreach groups isn't easy! Some of the members haven't yet grasped the importance of NOG meetings and how they can help them to witness to their neighbors. We also have had difficulty finding homes or courtyards in which to meet. And because it takes time

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to train leaders for new groups, only about half the congregation can participate in NOGs right now.

In spite of the difficulties encountered, the church has set ambitious goals for 1998.

Last year over 50 people made professions of faith, but only about 10 were still with us at year's end.

We want to double in size, to 120 people in Sunday services. We presently have around 45-50. This calls for EVANGELISM—both personal and as a group—and PRAYER.

We want to follow up every single convert. Last year over 50 people made professions of faith, but only about 10 were still with us at year's end. We're not satisfied with that! Our experience indicates folks tend to drop out of large follow-up classes, so we want to nurture young Christians one on one, and use the NOGs to do so. This means TRAINING, COMMITMENT and PRAYER.

We want to have 100 baptized believers by the end of the year. Right now, we have about 25. This means EVANGELISM, FOLLOW-UP, TEACHING and PRAYER.

We are asking God for at least 10 NOGs by year's end, with three or more outside Yopougon, where the present, rented worship center is located. This requires LEADERSHIP TRAINING, PRAYER and COMMITMENT.

And last, we want to purchase land (at least two acres) and begin building the temporary worship center. We thought in February that we had found the perfect place. However, the Lord closed that door, so we're still looking. Getting land will require PATIENCE, PRAYER and DONATIONS.

We thank the Lord for those of you who have given, but we need another \$50,000 to complete the funds for a land purchase. And we are grateful for the youth who are raising funds for the buildings. These gifts will enable us to advance more quickly toward changing the face of Abidjan.

Robert Bryan and his wife, Judy, have served as missionaries in Ivory Coast since 1970.

→Continued from page 3
to look for unreached people groups in their respective countries of service. They were urged to focus on emerging urban centers and groups with special needs, such as political and economic refugees and university students.

Wherever possible, we want to partner with our overseas Free Will Baptist churches in evangelizing ethnic groups. For example, our Panamanian brethren have made us aware of a group of Kuna Indians who have never heard the gospel in their own language and culture. As a result we are sending missionaries to the Kuna, and our Panamanian Free Will Baptists are praying and talking about sending missionaries to join in this work.

We are praying to increase our missionary staff from 94 career missionaries at the end of 1997 to 187 by the year 2007.

In Russia we are following through on our commitments to help the Arminian Baptists reach the unreached Khantis and Mansis in Siberia.

Another witnessing team is targeting an unreached ethnic group in Central Asia and is hoping to enter within the next two years. We hope to send a second team to that area as soon as God provides the personnel and resources.

Furthermore, we intend to assist tentmakers—such as teachers, business persons and medical personnel—to serve Christ through creative means in limited-access countries.

COMMITMENT

Because I realize the importance of reaching out to the vast population of Abidjan, I want to make the following commitment:

- I will pray for the work
 Daily Weekly Twice a week Once a month
- I will seek to enlist others to pray
- I will give to the Abidjan project:
 \$ _____ current gift \$ _____ monthly
 \$ _____ annually

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

To accomplish these objectives, we are praying to increase our missionary staff from 94 career missionaries at the end of 1997 to 187 by the year 2007. To replace retiring missionaries and adequately staff new fields and ministries, we must experience a growth in career personnel of almost 97 percent over the next 10 years. We also expect to send out eight overseas assistants (short-term workers) each year.

Obviously such growth in personnel will require a commensurate growth in income. We are trusting the Lord to meet our needs, which will probably be \$12.7 million a year by 2007.

We have surveyed and evaluated our denomination's interest in missions and believe Free Will Baptists are committed to carrying out the Great Commission. Evidence of this interest is seen in the efforts on the state level. Eight state associations of Free Will Baptists have already committed themselves to worldwide

outreach as never before. Each has adopted an individualized plan to underwrite support for the foreign missionaries God calls from its state. Two more states are now working on a support plan, and several others are considering the idea.

Another encouragement lies in the fact that 90 students in our Free Will Baptist colleges are majoring or minoring in missions. Inquiries also are received regularly from other people who feel God may be calling them into missionary service.

Encouragement lies in the fact that 90 students from our Free Will Baptist colleges are majoring or minoring in missions.

Not long ago a young man met with the Board of Foreign Missions and made a passionate appeal to all of us: "Send me to a hard place." We were deeply

moved. His missionary vision reminded me of the dedication of our pioneers, Laura Belle Barnard and "Pop" and "Mom" Willey. I believe the Lord is raising up a new generation of self-sacrificing servants for the final battle for souls of the unredeemed and the unevangelized multitudes.

As never before, the fields are "white unto harvest." We believe this interest merits a bold forward thrust in world evangelism. Like a good farmer, we are making plans for the harvest. God will send laborers if we are faithful to pray.

The Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department is merely the facilitator—the conduit through which missionaries pass. You, our Free Will Baptist people, are the real senders. Yes, you are the ones who provide the financial resources, prayer support and encouragement for our missionaries. As you and Foreign Missions work together, the possibilities for world outreach are unlimited!



Joe Grizzle
Chairman, Board of
Foreign Missions

Commendation

Commendation definitely is due the administrative staff for the careful study and precise details demonstrated in the 10-year mission development strategy. The long-term goals and practical methods

of this bold and visionary plan are incredibly exciting. Assuredly, the impact of such careful planning will be profound.

The 10-year strategy provides the following:

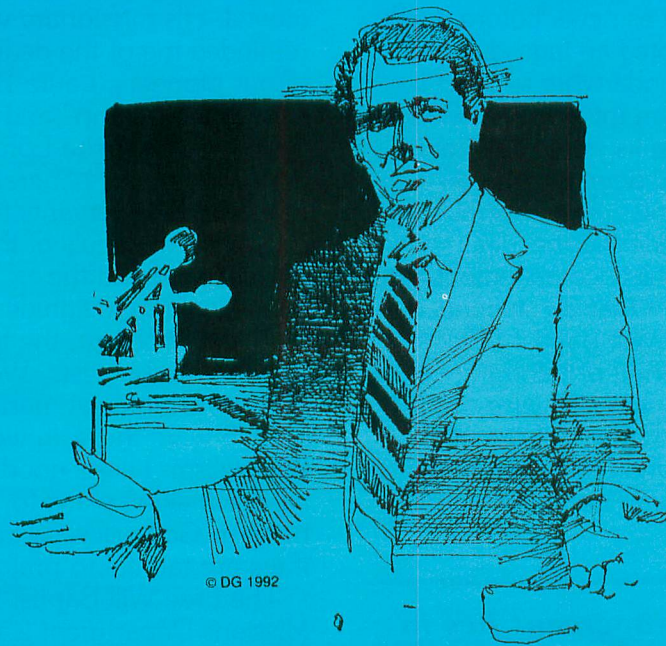
Assertiveness—The strategy focuses upon opening new fields while strengthening current ministries. It includes efforts to broaden the missionary staff and meticulously pursue

improved approaches to missionary funding.

Goals—This plan establishes challenging, yet achievable, goals by which we can measure our efforts year by year. These clearly-defined aims will help the Foreign Missions department accurately measure our growth.

A Plan of Action—The strategic design defines realistic and practical methods for every aspect of the missions task. Detailed time lines push every person to prioritize and maximize energy.

Accountability—The plan requires annual evaluations which will be compared to pre-established targets. This will encourage our missionaries to concentrate on the most important tasks.



Listening to Key Supporters



by **Mark McPeak**

“**A**re we on target? Are we fulfilling the mandates of Christ and Free Will Baptists? Can we do more and expect the denomination to support the efforts?”

The Foreign Missions staff and board felt these and many other questions needed answers.

In an effort to get these answers, a mail survey was conducted in 1996 among almost 400 Free Will Baptist pastors, missionaries and missions supporters selected at random. The study was conducted by an independent market research group of which I was a part, and the findings from this survey were presented in detail to the administrative staff and the Board of Foreign Missions at the December 1996 meeting. They also were shared with missionaries.

Interpreting and Applying the Results

Because the sample of respondents was limited, we realize the survey results are not a completely reliable measure of the feelings and attitudes of the entire Free Will Baptist constituency. However, the findings should be interpreted as “directional”; that is, they provide some basis for better understanding and further investigation.

Those Who Responded

The Free Will Baptists who responded to the survey are clearly part of the “core” of missions supporters. Most respondents are very involved in missions. Nearly all of them

regularly pray and give to support denominational missions efforts. Many of them volunteer their time and energy in other ways to support missions. The survey is very valuable since it provides insight into how the critical support base feels about the foreign missions program.

What We Learned

Mission Leaders

Respondents generally were satisfied with the overall missions program, its leaders and missionaries. Overwhelmingly, those surveyed trusted the integrity and motives of the leadership team in Nashville. Some, especially pastors and missionaries, indicated a need for board members to be more knowledgeable about missions and cross-cultural issues.

Missionaries

Impressions of missionaries were generally positive, especially as it relates to their commitment, training and spirituality. On the other hand, respondents rated the missionaries as less effective than they should be in communicating with supporters and in evangelizing and planting churches.

Heartbeat Magazine

Nearly 100 percent of those surveyed regularly read *Heartbeat* and use it as a primary source for prayer information.

Missions Giving

Most missionary giving among these respondents is directed to individual missionary accounts. When asked what most influenced their giving,

respondents rated highest the biblical basis for giving to missions. However, relationships with individual missionaries and missionary visits to their churches were also major influencing factors. Most of those surveyed support other denominational causes in addition to foreign missions.

The Giving System

A dramatic difference of opinion was found as it relates to the system of individual missionary accounts. Most lay persons surveyed were satisfied with the current system, but many pastors and missionaries were not satisfied with the status quo. The most common explanations for the dissatisfaction with the current system concerned the stress that fund-raising places on missionaries, the mandate to give to missions rather than individual missionaries, and the desire to have one general account instead of individual accounts.

Demographics

As mentioned, most of the respondents were core supporters. Many have been members of Free Will Baptist churches for more than 30 years. More than two-thirds of those surveyed were over 40 years of age, and almost 40 percent were over 55. Responses were collected from all over the United States (and from missionaries serving in foreign countries).

Implications

The value of the findings is found in their contribution to strategy development and decision making. The following implications should be considered as Foreign Missions

moves forward:

- Respondents "believe" in the leadership of the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions program but would like to see the program produce more results. The leadership and missionaries should see this as an endorsement of their character and a challenge to lead into greater efforts and further fruitfulness.
- *Heartbeat* magazine is a key tool for core missions supporters. Opportunities must be investigated for enhancing the value and use of the publication, as well as expanding the readership.
- Those missing from the respondent group raise a critical issue: Is the support base aging in such a way that in a few years it will be depleted? Are we adding committed, younger supporters to replace the older generation as they pass off the scene? Effort must be made to involve younger Free Will Baptist people in a lifetime commitment to the denominational mission program.
- Many indicate their giving is based largely on relationships with individual missionaries, yet some key respondents would like to see less emphasis on individual accounts. Creative new ideas must be explored and tested to involve more people in giving while reducing the burden of fund-raising on the missionaries.

Mark McPeak is a member of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN. He currently is director of the Nashville office of RDA Group, a market research and consulting firm.



Curt Holland, left, and David Aycock, right, share in a home Bible study service in the São José area of Campinas, Brazil, where they are starting a new work.

First Service Held in New Campinas Work

Brazil—According to missionary Curt Holland, the first preaching service in the São José area of Campinas, Brazil, was held on Thursday evening April 9.

Holland indicated that those Christians from the São José area were able to attend along with five visitors from the First Free Will Baptist Church across town. One other visitor, Ana, and her two children also attended. Curt noted that the lady is not a Christian but is the sister of one of the Christians from the group in the area.

In preparation for the first service an open-air meeting was held on Saturday, April 4, with 35 young people and adults from the First church participating. During the singing, testimonies and preaching, almost 200 Bible tracts with invitations to the first preaching service were handed out.

Foreign Missions Seminar to Be Held in Tulsa

Antioch, Tenn.—A special foreign missions seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, at the Convention Center in Tulsa, Okla., during the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

According to seminar coordinator Jimmy Aldridge, the meeting is scheduled for 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Convention Hall D and will feature Nickolay Sobolev of Chelyabinsk, Russia. The seminar is designed to discuss ministry opportunities in Russia, Eurasia and among other unreached people groups.

A unique panel made up of those who have gone to the former Soviet Union for seminars, special training conferences, etc., will field questions. The meeting hall will accommodate 200 people and is open to those who are interested in learning more about new challenges and opportunities for world outreach.

Bowermans Make Another Contact with the Kunas

Panama—Missionaries Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman and their two children made a trip during March to the villages of the Kuna Indians in Panama. In July of last year Eddie had accompanied new missionaries Justin and Leslie Banks to the Kuna villages.

Reporting on the March trip, Eddie writes, "Things went really well with the family. There were lots of small adjustments to make with two little

LaRhonda Bowerman and her two children make the crossing by boat to visit the Kuna Indians. Eddie is taking the photo.



girls and a lot more to worry about where there is no running water."

Bowerman continued, "The Lord gave us reassurances as we went along that all would be well. We were moved at how the Lord is working. There was a genuine desire to have missionaries."

Eddie did acknowledge that one chief was somewhat opposed to their coming. Although the chiefs had not made a decision, they did make it clear that if they did permit missionaries, they would allow only one missionary from one religious group in each village. Some Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons have visited with the Kunas in the past.

"It is imperative that we get in soon and keep great contacts with the people," Bowerman concluded.

Two Groups of TEAM to Go to Japan and Cuba

Antioch, Tenn.—Two groups of TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions) are scheduled to travel to the fields of Japan and Cuba during the summer of this year. According to TEAM coordinator Ken Eagleton, eight teen participants will travel to Japan with TEAM directors Fred and June Hersey while 10 other young people will go to Cuba with him and directors Ron and Linda Callaway.

Those making up TEAM Japan '98 include Misty Beem of Joelton, Tenn.; Daniel Brown of Antioch, Tenn.; Natalie Crowson of Nashville, Tenn.; Chrissy Daws of Hamburg, Ark.; Amanda Eleyet of Lynchburg, Oh.; Aimee Mayo of Baytown, Tex.; Adam Raymer of Slidell, La.; Joel Riley of Tuckerman, Ark.; and Lewis Krajecki of Benton Harbor, Mich.

Those going to Cuba with TEAM Cuba '98 include Leah Chamberlin of Greeneville, Tenn.; Alicia Bunch of Chitre, República de Panama; Bethany Holstein of Johnstown, Oh.; David Lytle, Panama City, República de Panama; Neil Morgan of Pamplico, S.C.; Mandy Springs of Lake City, S.C.; Jessica Welch of Greenwood Springs, Miss.; Amy Taylor of Cisne, Ill.; Timothy York of Ashland, Ky.; and Laine Young of Warren, Ark.

TEAM Japan leaves June 23 and returns on July 7 while TEAM Cuba departs on June 23 and returns on July 8.

Spain Youth Retreat Focuses on Study

Spain—The Villalba and Alcala de Henares Free Will Baptist churches in Madrid, Spain, sponsored a joint youth retreat March 6-8 at Pina de Horeb, a Christian camp about four and one-half hours from Madrid. Some 25 to 30 young people and approximately 10 workers attended the gathering.

Sam McVay, one of the newest missionaries in Spain, directed the effort. The main speakers were Javier Roa, from the Villalba church, and a medical doctor, who is a friend of some people in the Villalba church. Roa addressed the topic of how to study the Bible effectively, and the doctor dealt with methods of study from a biblical perspective.

Ruben Cordero, a young Spaniard, helped Sam with Spanish and acted as "on-site director."

16 Missionaries Get Set for Stateside Assignments

Antioch, Tenn.—Sixteen missionaries have started or will soon begin their stateside assignments.

Arriving in the United States from Côte d'Ivoire on April 2 were Robert and Pam West. Alice Smith is to arrive on May 29, Mark and Kathy Paschall and Paul and Tammy Gentuso plan to return to the U.S. in June, Robert and Judy Bryan and Paul and Rhoda Creech are to arrive in July.

Mirial Gainer arrived from Japan on April 17 for her regular stateside ministry.

Bobby and Sue Aycok of Brazil are to be in the United States for a short, two-month assignment in July and August.

Stan and Brenda Bunch are scheduled to arrive from Panama during the first week in May.

India Holds Forty-sixth Annual Convention

India—The forty-sixth annual convention of Free Will Baptists in North India met March 5-8 at the Sonapurhat Free Will Baptist Church. According to former Ivory Coast missionary Sherwood Lee, over 2,000 people attended.

Sherwood, currently moderator of the South Carolina state association



Indian Christians line the bank of the pond (above) to watch as 94 converts are baptized. Indian pastors (right) baptize one of several Nepalese converts.



of Free Will Baptists; Floyd "Buddy" Seay, assistant moderator; and Todd Smith, clerk; were the speakers for the meeting. Lee brought the keynote message on Thursday, March 5, following the theme of "Fellowship in Christ." The highlight of the convention was a baptismal service held on Sunday, March 8, with 94 new believers following the Lord in baptism.

Reports indicate a total of 479 conversions and 334 baptisms were recorded during the year.

Betania Church Holds Medical Evangelism Day

Panama—A medical evangelistic outreach was held on March 15 by the Betania Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City, Panama. Some 50 adults, young people and a few children drove to Nueva Esperanza for the special event.

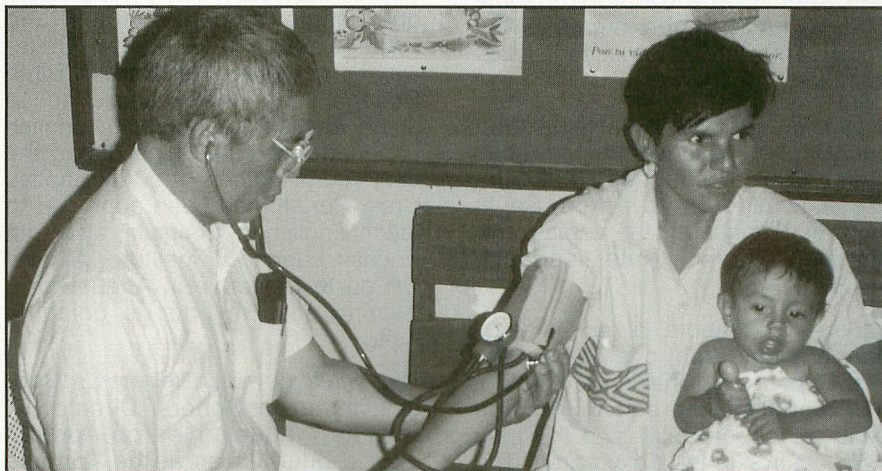
The group divided up into four

teams: medical, evangelistic, music ministry and clothes distribution.

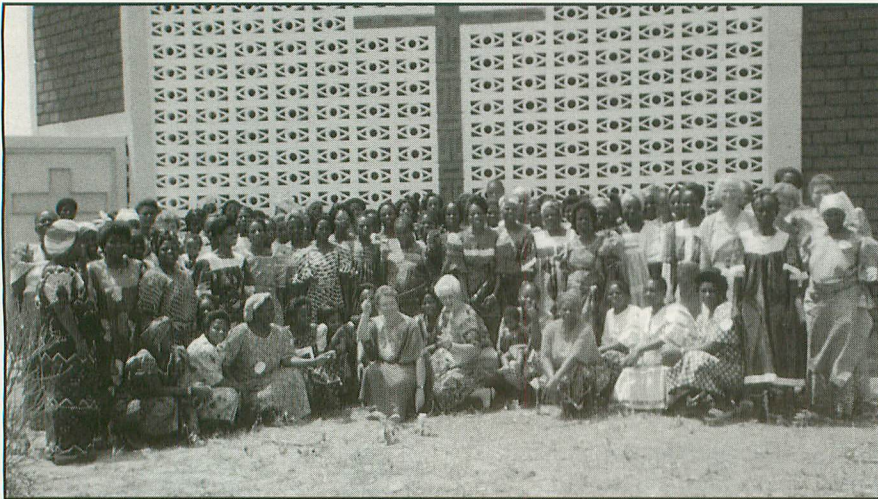
According to missionary Steve Lytle, the medical team was composed of a pediatrician, a general practitioner, a nurse, two physical therapists and two dentists in addition to those who helped with the pharmacy. All together the medical team saw close to 200 patients during the day.

Approximately 15 people from Betania divided up into teams and went into the community to pass out tracts, give away New Testaments, and share the gospel. At least 10 people made decisions for Christ, and another couple rededicated their lives to the Lord.

Dr. Alexis Lokee examines an adult patient at Nueva Esperanza during the special medical evangelistic outreach sponsored by the Betania Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City, Panama.



News Update



Delegates and visitors for the annual Women's Retreat in Agnibilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire, gather in front of the new church building.

96 Attend Women's Retreat in Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire—The National Women's Retreat for Free Will Baptist women in Côte d'Ivoire was held February 18-21 in Agnibilekrou. A total of 96 women, including seven missionary ladies, gathered for the special event.

Two women speakers were featured: Dr. Brenda Clark, a pediatrician with The Christian Mission, spoke on family planning, and Mrs. Cissoko, the wife of an African Conservative Baptist pastor, addressed Christian unity.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Brazil—The northern regional association of Free Will Baptist churches in the Minas Gerais area of Brazil met April 10 at the Belo Horizonte FWB Church. Approximately 105 people from churches in four cities attended.

Mongolia—Terry and JaNelda Walker, English teachers in Mongolia under English Language Institute, are scheduled to move from South Gobi to Ulanbaatar, the capital, this summer. They will enter language study.

Japan—Mr. Sabuta, a recent seminary graduate from one of the Free Will Baptist churches in Hokkaido, has tentatively agreed to assume pastoral responsibilities at the Iriso FWB Church in the Tokyo area. The

Ken Baileys are hoping to start another work in Tokyo.

Côte d'Ivoire—Word was received from Darrel Nichols in late February declaring the beginning of construction of a new parsonage in Tanda, Côte d'Ivoire. "They have the masonry walls . . . almost up," says Darrel.

Antioch, Tenn.—Two MKs, Michael Lytle of Panama and Miranda Owen of Uruguay, are to be married this summer. Miranda is to marry Jason Craddock on June 6, and Michael is to marry Diane Milom on June 27.

Brazil—David and Annette Aycock, overseas assistants, have been studying Portuguese in Campinas, Brazil, since January. They will be moving to Barbacena in May to begin their ministry assignment.

San Dimas, Calif.—One couple and one single student—James and Danelle Mann and Rachel Callaway—from Free Will Baptist Bible College have been approved to teach English in China with English Language Institute/China during the next year. Another Free Will Baptist, Craig Portell, has been approved to teach English in Mongolia, also with English Language Institute. All four will go to California in August for a training session prior to going to Asia.

Wilson, N.C.—Mr. Robert L. Waddell, father of General Director R. Eugene Waddell, died on April 23 after a brief illness at the Triangle

East Nursing Center in Wilson, N.C. He was 90 years of age. Funeral services were held on April 25 at Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Kenly, N.C.

Bunch Baptizes Two at Parita, Panama

Panama—Missionary Stan Bunch baptized two people, Flavia Giron and Lourdes Ramirez, on February 15 in Parita, Panama. The women had some Free Will Baptist background and remember the Tom Willeys as well as some other past Free Will Baptist missionaries.

Stan reported that the Parita church had unanimously voted to call Uriel Velasquez as pastor of the church. He requested prayer regarding this important step. The Bunches are scheduled to leave for stateside assignment on May 5.

"Go and Be" Team to Learn in Côte d'Ivoire

Nashville, Tenn.—Ten students making up the "Go and Be" team will be leaving the United States on May 17 to begin an intensive training and ministry program in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire. Tom McCullough, missions teacher at Free Will Baptist Bible College, will join the group in Africa.

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

Stan Bunch baptizes two converts at Parita, Panama.





Marie Hanna went to be with her Lord on April 23 after 46 years of missionary service in India.

Lindsey of Chester, Ga., Brenda Wendlandt 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.

The students are scheduled to return on June 30.

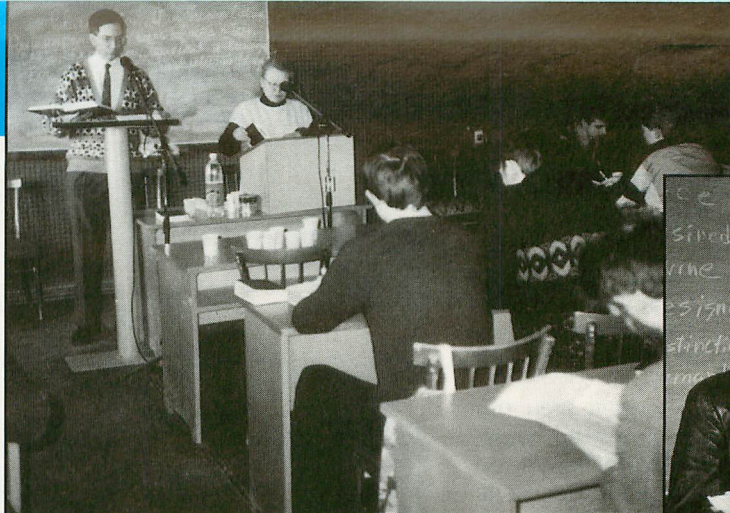
Marie Hanna Suffers Heart Failure, Dies in India

India—Pioneer missionary Marie Hanna suffered heart failure in mid-April in North India and died on Thursday, April 23. She was 70 years of age.

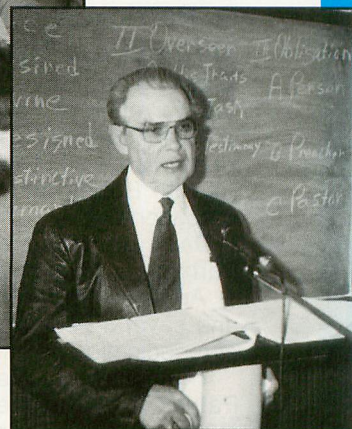
When Marie's body arrived at the mission station, Christians started ringing the church bell. Hindu and Muslim shops in the market closed out of respect for her. Her body was placed on the veranda and thousands of people filed past. Due to conditions in India and lack of embalming, she was to be buried Thursday evening, but the large crowd caused them to wait until Friday morning, April 24. She was buried on the church compound in Sonapurhat near the belltower.

Carlisle and Marie had just returned to India in January after a short stateside assignment.

Marie leaves her husband, Carlisle; a daughter, Brenda Kay Hanna (Roach) of South Carolina; and two sons, Donald of South Carolina and Mark of Ohio. She also leaves five grandchildren, three in South Carolina and two in Ohio.



Dr. Paul Harrison (above) and Dr. Melvin Worthington (right) teach 43 Russian pastors at a special seminar held at Ekaterinburg, Russia, March 30-April 3.



Donald, a medical doctor, left for India on April 24 to be with his father. He and Carlisle are scheduled to return to the United States on May 5 to attend a memorial service in South Carolina to be held on Marie's behalf.

The next issue of *Heartbeat* will provide follow-up information.

Aldridge, Worthington, Harrison Train Russians

Russia—Three Free Will Baptist men from the United States gave time in March and April to help train church leaders in Russia: Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary for Foreign Missions; Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary for the National Association of Free Will Baptists; and Dr. Paul Harrison, pastor of Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, Tenn.

Jimmy Aldridge and Melvin Worthington rendezvoused in Germany on March 12 and traveled to Moscow, Russia, on March 13. Starting March 17, they spent four days with the evangelical Christians/Baptists

as guests for their congress which convenes every four years. The Russian Christians had guests from approximately 20 different countries and a total of 569 delegates representing 1,250 churches from all across Russia.

Dr. Harrison joined Aldridge and Worthington in Moscow on March 24, and they traveled to Ekaterinburg on March 26. The trio visited the mission works in Kamyshlov and Pyshmar. Aldridge and Worthington participated in a deacon ordination service in Ekaterinburg on March 29.

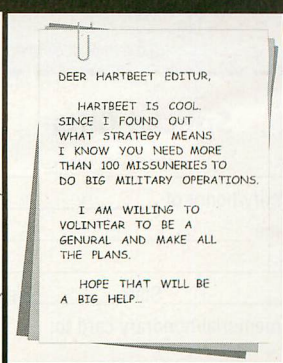
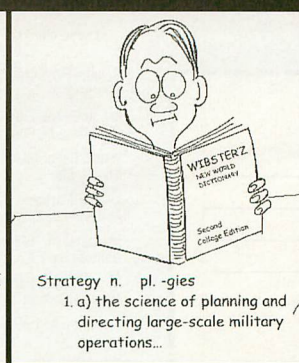
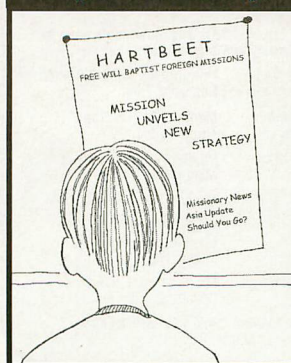
A special leadership training program was held in Ekaterinburg March 30-April 3 with 43 pastors and church leaders attending. Dr. Harrison taught an introduction to systematic and biblical theology. Dr. Worthington taught pastoral theology.

Pastor Nickolay Sobelev stated, "We understand now from having studied several times with Free Will Baptist teachers that we are the Free Will Baptists of Russia."

The men returned to the United States on April 16.

Payne's People

By Eddie Payne



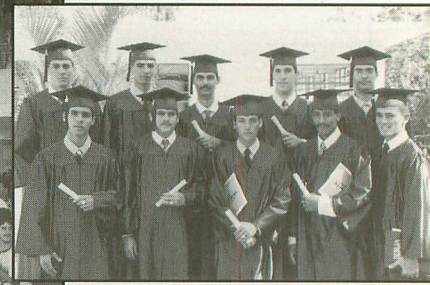
News Update

D. Patrick, N.C. Pastor, Ministers in Brazil

Brazil—The Reverend and Mrs. Dann Patrick of Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro, N.C., traveled to Brazil on March 30. They spent April 1-11 with Bobby and Sue Aycock in Barbacena.

Dann preached a revival at the Barbacena church during the week of April 1-5. Three were converted and several people made decisions of rededication and commitment.

The following Wednesday night Patrick spoke to the Bible institute students, and Thursday night he preached at Antonio Carlos, a mission outreach. Dann spoke twice at the Belo Horizonte church on Good Friday and again on Easter Sunday evening. According to Jim Sturgill, nine people went forward at the invitation. Four either made salvation decisions or made public their professions of faith. The others reaffirmed their commitments to faithful-



Cubans fill the Willey Memorial Tabernacle (left) during the annual convention of the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists. Ten of the 12 institute graduates (above) grasp their diplomas.

ness in sharing the Good News.

Dann rejoiced as he reported that many youth had responded with commitments when he preached at a youth rally Saturday night, April 11.

In all, Dann spoke 12 times in Brazil. The Patricks returned to the United States on April 15.

Cuban Convention Hosts Between 800 and 1,000

Cuba—The annual convention of the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists was held February 26-28 at the Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute near Pinar del Rio. Between 800 and 1,000 Free Will Baptists were present for the special services on Saturday, February 28, when 12 young preachers graduated from the Bible institute.

Missionaries Ronald and Linda Callaway attended the convention, and Ron spoke at the meeting. General Director R. Eugene Waddell had been scheduled to attend but was unable to get a visa cleared in time to go. Ron preached and addressed the graduating class on his behalf.

Altogether the Callaways were in Cuba for 21 days. "I preached 16 times in 13 different churches," says Ron. "I spoke for a three-day pastors' retreat which focused on the theology of salvation and the doctrine of inspiration. I also was asked to officiate for the Lord's supper and feet washing at the close of the pastors' retreat."

Hospital Transition Is Moving on Schedule

Côte d'Ivoire—According to an April report from missionary Clint Morgan, field chairman of the Ivory Coast field council, the transition of the hospital and clinic ministries to Ivorian hands is "moving along pretty well."

Morgan noted that a board of directors had been named and was scheduled to meet on April 27. One obstacle so far has been the location

Special Gifts

These individuals, churches and organizations gave special gifts in February and March in memory or in honor of these friends or loved ones:

Donor	In Memory of	Donor	In Memory of
Fellowship FWB Church Church Hill, Tenn.	Don Sexton	Rev. James Earl Raper Turbeville, S.C.	Mabel Willey Dan Cronk
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dale Bishop Antioch, Tenn.	Don Sexton Mabel Willey	Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lytle Antioch, Tenn.	Don Sexton
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Campbell LaVergne, Tenn.	Inabelle Hamilton	Mr. and Mrs. Sam McVay Antioch, Tenn.	Don Sexton Dan Cronk
Rev. and Mrs. Steve Pate LaVergne, Tenn.	Inabelle Hamilton	Mr. and Mrs. William Barrett Tulsa, Okla.	Inabelle Hamilton
Rev. and Mrs. Fred Hall Nashville, Tenn.	Mollie O'Briant	Kathryn Hendricks Skiatook, Okla.	Inabelle Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Fulton Carol Stream, Ill.	Dan Cronk Mabel Willey	Cross Creek FWB Church WAC Olive Branch, Miss.	Don Sexton Archie Mayhew Dan Cronk
Rev. and Mrs. Ledgel Ferguson Vienna, Ga.	Mabel Willey Don Sexton	Mr. and Mrs. Rick Mayo Algood, Tenn.	Dillard Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Rolla Smith Nashville, Tenn.	Dan Cronk Mabel Willey	Judy Delong Hager Hill, Ky.	Alice J. Stambaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Steward Royal Oak, Mich.	Dan Cronk Archie Mayhew Mabel Willey	Rev. and Mrs. R. Eugene Waddell Nashville, Tenn.	Verna Morgan Christine Ganey Don Guthrie Dan Cronk Stanton White Mabel Willey
Faith FWB Church Knoxville, Tenn.	Geneva Lam		
Rev. and Mrs. Thurman Pate Knoxville, Tenn.	Geneva Lam		

Clip and Mail Coupon

These churches, organizations and individuals gave in memory of Mabel Willey:

Rescue FWB Church WAC Whittington, Ill.	Horton Heights FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Denton Republica de Panama	Margaret A. Peterson Titusville, Fla.
World Relief Miami Office Miami, Fla.	Mr. George Luis Fraga Jr. Miami, Fla.
Leonard Urbach Asheville, N.C.	Mr. and Mrs. Jim McLain Greentop, Mo.
Margaret M. Holton Gainesville, Fla.	Mr. and Mrs. José Diaz Miami, Fla.
Mr. and Mrs. Hendrix Harper College Station, Tex.	Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Norris College Station, Tex.
The Refugee Medical Clinic and Patrick Leban Miami, Fla.	

Special Gifts

Amount \$ _____ Date _____

Given in memory/honor of _____

Given by: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send memorial/honorary card to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

of qualified medical personnel and a person who can and will assume responsibility for the hospital administration.

10 Overseas Apprentices to Depart for Fields

Antioch, Tenn.—In December the Board of Foreign Missions appointed 10 students to serve as overseas apprentices in 1998.

These will serve: Spain—Bethany 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.; Brazil—Allysa Hampton of Nashville, Tenn., Wendy Skelley of Oakley, Ill., and Katrina Smith of Greeneville, Tenn.

Most of these will depart in May and spend between eight and ten weeks on the field.

Anticipated Heartbeat Changes Postponed

Antioch, Tenn.—Proposed alterations of *Heartbeat* reported in the January-February 1998 issue have been delayed due to loss of personnel in the Foreign Missions office, according to Editor Don Robirds. Readers can expect to see the changes take place with the January-February issue of 1999.

Abidjan Land Deal on Hold; Five Baptized

Côte d'Ivoire—Missionaries Robert and Judy Bryan and Jerry and Carol Pinkerton were disappointed in March when the land purchase for the new church in Abidjan seemed to fall through. Later they received word that the owner had died. Now the owner's children appear interested in selling the property to the church.

The Bryans reported five young women were baptized in the afternoon of April 19. All five of these had completed an 18-lesson convert follow-up course prior to being baptized.

**Dial MISSIONS HOTLINE
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Financial Summary Through March 1998

\$ Substance

Total income for February.....	\$ 417,828.04
Total income for March.....	389,868.44
Total income through March.....	1,073,596.32
Projected income through March.....	1,446,062.86
Total expenses through March.....	1,319,537.71
Total 1998 Budget (including VISION projects).....	\$5,784,251.45

\$ Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey.....	\$ 936.12	West.....	\$ 12,392.61
Callaway.....	3,531.99	Willey, M.....	1,770.13
Combs.....	2,347.88	Wilson, V.....	967.35
Deeds.....	2,123.87	Ekaterinburg Church Planter.....	3,811.66
Eagleton Sr.....	13,792.37	Kamyshlov Church Planter.....	4,740.45
Ellison.....	4,210.66	Kopeysk Church Planters.....	6,197.63
Hersey.....	1,787.66	Kurgan Church Planter.....	2,237.64
McFall.....	990.52	Noyabrisk Church Planters.....	1,274.45
McLain.....	396.06	Russian Pastor's Conference.....	12,449.30
Midgett.....	484.68	Special Committee, Africa.....	18,882.34
Morgan.....	1,148.83	Information Promotional Fund.....	54,927.25
Owen.....	2,895.68	International Consultation of FWB.....	3,954.40
Robinson.....	3,866.64	Support Services.....	69,714.05
Tallent.....	6,089.38	Third World Development.....	1,488.20
Teague.....	22,143.56		
Total.....	\$261,553.36		

\$inking

The following account is in the black but in serious need:

Banks.....	\$ 881.68
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State Goals—1998

States/ Organizations	Goal 1998	Goal Through March	Contributions Through March
Alabama.....	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 62,500.00	\$ 75,152.06
Arkansas.....	367,000.00	91,750.00	82,844.54
Arizona.....	8,000.00	2,000.00	1,465.00
California.....	72,000.00	18,000.00	14,200.53
Canada.....	9,000.00	2,250.00	1,946.22
Colorado.....	6,000.00	1,500.00	1,317.04
Florida.....	85,000.00	21,250.00	29,027.35
Georgia.....	227,000.00	56,750.00	40,037.34
Idaho.....	1,000.00	250.00	1,715.89
Iowa.....	3,000.00	750.00	598.30
Illinois.....	152,000.00	38,000.00	27,345.46
Indiana.....	59,000.00	14,750.00	10,045.15
Hawaii.....	750.00	187.50	-
Kansas.....	10,000.00	2,500.00	1,151.90
Kentucky.....	76,000.00	19,000.00	14,333.78
Louisiana.....	2,500.00	625.00	3,894.00
Maryland.....	46,000.00	11,500.00	11,355.35
Michigan.....	185,000.00	46,250.00	36,005.01
Missouri.....	378,000.00	94,500.00	85,732.27
Mississippi.....	76,000.00	19,000.00	16,003.77
Montana.....	2,500.00	625.00	350.00
North Carolina.....	656,000.00	164,000.00	138,069.07
Nebraska.....	2,000.00	500.00	116.00
New Mexico.....	4,000.00	1,000.00	823.64
*Northeast Association.....	2,000.00	500.00	180.00
**Northwest Association.....	10,000.00	2,500.00	1,296.84
Ohio.....	178,000.00	44,500.00	30,268.55
Oklahoma.....	457,000.00	114,250.00	77,632.89
Pennsylvania.....	2,000.00	500.00	70.00
South Carolina.....	275,000.00	68,750.00	66,880.21
Tennessee.....	777,000.00	194,250.00	178,135.93
Texas.....	91,000.00	22,750.00	16,842.99
Virginia.....	107,000.00	26,750.00	15,807.56
Virgin Islands.....	2,300.00	575.00	437.15
West Virginia.....	127,000.00	31,750.00	20,634.86
Free Will Baptist Foundation.....	23,000.00	5,750.00	12,166.24
Miscellaneous.....	83,351.45	20,837.86	4,107.87
WNAC.....	198,000.00	49,500.00	41,388.99
Totals.....	\$ 5,010,401.45***	\$ 1,252,600.36	\$ 1,059,379.75

*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

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Post Office Box 5002
Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002

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.

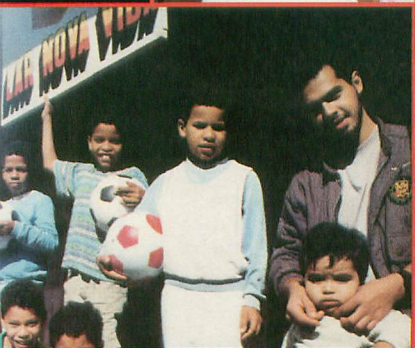
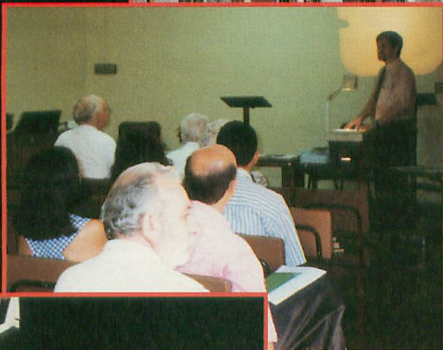
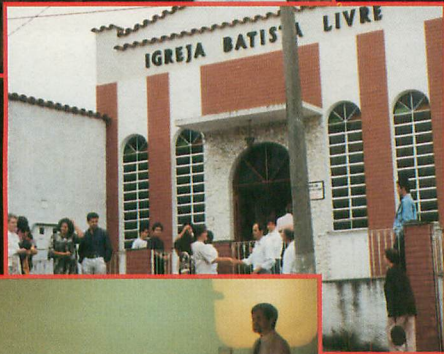
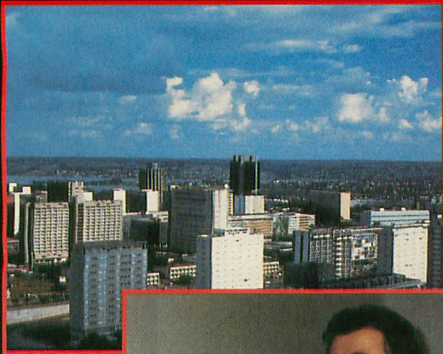
Administrative Staff: R. Eugene Waddell, general director; Fred Warner, director of stateside ministries; Don Robirds, director of communications; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary; Robert Conley, treasurer.

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