



**FEBRUARY 17, 2005** Homer Willis, former general director of NAM (1956-1973), dies.

**FEBRUARY 9-13, 2005** Nine Pinar del Rio churches and one mission work hold a children's crusade. Around 1,660 individuals attend at least one service, and 578 children make a profession of faith.



**MARCH 15, 2005** Pioneer medical missionary Dr. LaVerne Miley dies. The Free Will Baptist minister, medical doctor, missionary, and college professor established a hospital in Ivory

Coast, West Africa, where he served as a medical missionary for 19 years while planting eight churches.

**APRIL-MAY 2005** Vladimir Lopuga, one of the first cross-cultural ministry representatives for Home Missions, takes Sacramento FWB Church to self-supporting status.

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# 100 Issues of MISSIONS MILESTONES



Since *ONE Magazine* published its first issue, many events have occurred on the mission field, both at home and abroad. National departments have changed names and staff, new mission fields have been reached, new churches have been planted, and faithful servants have passed into eternity, just to name a few. Though this is by no means an exhaustive list, here's a look at 100 major FWB missions milestones from the last 16 years.

**DATES IN ORANGE ARE EVENTS FOR HOME MISSIONS/NORTH AMERICAN MINISTRIES (NAM).  
DATES IN TEAL ARE EVENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS/IM INC.**



**JUNE 2005** ETEAMS serve in seven countries: Brazil, Cuba, France, Japan, Panama, Russia, and Uruguay; 66 students, 14 leaders, and six interns.

**JUNE 1, 2005** Luis Felipe Tijerina receives official registration document of The Association of Free Will Baptists in Mexico after two and a half years of work.

**DECEMBER 7, 2005**

The FWBIM board votes to open Bulgaria as a field. Less than 1% of Bulgarians are Christians.

**JUNE 30, 2005** Director of Mobilization Eddie Payne, former missionary to Ivory Coast (25 years) and eight years as Welch missions professor, retires. During his tenure, 20 career missionaries appointed, 36 short-term overseas workers approved, 344 ETEAM students, 69 ETEAM leaders, 126 CMP students served.

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2005**

Inman FWB Church hosts the first International Bible Conference in connection with the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. Around 350 people attended the bilingual event.

**AUGUST 24, 2005** Strategic withdrawal of missionaries from Ivory Coast due to expected violence surrounding elections.

**OCTOBER 15, 2005** International Training Alliance forms. Founding members: Wycliffe Bible Translators, Operation Mobilization, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Caleb, Tentmakers, and FWBIM.

**AUGUST 19, 2005**

Paul Amiezi installed as the first African director of the FWB Bible Institute in Bouna, Ivory Coast.

**2006** The Northwest FWB Church in Chicago, led by David Potete, erases \$600,000 in debt.

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**DECEMBER 17, 2005** Anthony and Lea Edgmon and Tim and Kristi Johnson hold the first events at an outreach center in Alpedrete, Spain.



**OCTOBER 7, 2006** Chaplain (Colonel) James B. Bishop, chaplain with Home Missions for 22 years, dies.

**FEBRUARY-MARCH 2006**

Desert Springs FWB Church in Sierra Vista, AZ, dedicates its new church building.

**JUNE-JULY 2006** Randy Ledbetter and Scott Warren begin a work in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**FEBRUARY-MARCH 2006**

Bill and Debbie Pitts lead Cross Pointe FWB Church in Lancaster, OH, to self-supporting status with 145 people present.

**JULY 18, 2006**

Tim and Lydia Awtrey appointed as first missionaries to Bulgaria.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2006**



FWBIM purchases seminary property in Chame, Panama, providing permanent location for a Bible institute as well as retreat center.

**FALL 2006**

HM targets New York state for new churches, beginning in Rochester.



**APRIL 2010**

*Into the Darkness*, 75-year history of FWBIM, published.

**APRIL 27-29, 2009** IM Board adopts new purpose statement and eight core values.

**MARCH 19-21, 2009** Church in Montevideo, Uruguay, sponsors attendance of underprivileged children to festival held in coordination with Franklin Graham crusade; over 20,000 children attend and missionaries Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster lead several children to Christ.

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2008** Jerry and Julie Barron celebrate 38 years of work in Mexico, planting four churches and mentoring young men for the pastorate.

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2008** Chaplain Lt. Col. Tim Sturgill (Air Force) receives Meritorious Service Medal for work as deputy command chaplain.

**FEBRUARY-MARCH 2007** FWBIM launches GPS (Global Purpose Seekers) for youth in grades 7-9; holds first GPS-Xperience September 20-23, 2007.

**JULY 5, 2010** IM celebrates 75 years since the day Laura Belle Barnard set sail for India. Anniversary is accompanied by the release of *Into the Darkness*, a comprehensive history of Free Will Baptist missions work from 1935-2010.

**APRIL 5, 2010** 65 walkers begin the Go10 Walk for the World. During the 84-day, 2,500-mile fundraising effort, nearly 2,000 walkers retrace Laura Belle Barnard's steps from Georgia to the docks of New York City across 14 states, carrying a traditional Indian Bible and passing a well-worn baton from group to group. The walk ends in July at the National Convention in Oklahoma City after raising more than a million dollars.

**NOVEMBER 10, 2009** Missionary to Ivory Coast (1982-2003), Robert West dies.

**APRIL 13, 2009** "Mr. Foreign Missions" Raymond Riggs dies; 35-year ministry with IM, member of first board (1943), promotional director (1950-1953), first general director (1953-1959), board member (1961-1978); opened Brazil, Ivory Coast, Spain, and Japan.

**DECEMBER 21, 2009** Trula Cronk, pioneer missionary to India (1948-1972), dies.

**FEBRUARY 2009** HM holds three-day Summit featuring Dr. Troy Bush.

**MARCH 12, 2009** Long-time HM employee Iva Mae Bracey dies: worked May 1968-March 2009; bookkeeper, missionary mail, mailing lists, prayer warrior.

**MARCH 22, 2008** Côte d'Ivoire celebrates 50 years of FWB work with more than 1,000 people attending; in 2008—70 churches and mission works, Bible institute and Doropo hospital operated by Ivorians.

**APRIL-MAY 2008** Home Missions establishes \$1 million endowment in honor of Richard and Carolyn Adams following her death November 10, 2007.



**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2007** Richard and Carolyn Adams retire from HM; Richard continued development of the Church Extension Loan Fund.

**MARCH 21-22, 2008** Brazil celebrates 50 years of FWB work with about 400 Brazilians present; the first church was planted in Campinas, São Paulo in April 1958; 2008—25 churches and mission works, 20 ordained pastors.

**OCTOBER 21, 2007** Eugene Waddell dies, former general director of FWBIM (12 years), associate director (5 years), board member (20 years);

**FEBRUARY 20-24, 2007** Cuban FWB Association celebrates 65 years at their annual meeting.

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2007** Bobby and Sue Aycok retire from 40 years of missionary service in Brazil.

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2007** Dennis and Trena Owen retire after 16 years in Uruguay; they previously served 11 years in Spain.



led IM into Russia, Mongolia, China, and Central Asia; reinstated contact with Cuba; during his tenure, 64 missionaries appointed and TEAM (later ETEAM) ministry initiated.



**OCTOBER 2010** Final payment of \$50,000 made on Panama seminary property.



**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2010** Tim and Amanda York join church planting team in Buffalo, NY, to reach the large deaf community, 93% unreached with the gospel.



2011

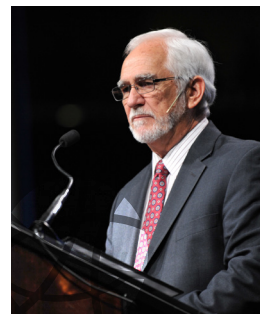
**JANUARY 8, 2011**

First students graduate with three-year degree from Panama seminary.



**FEBRUARY 10, 2011** James Forlines resigns as IM general director after 12 years (1999-2011); saw extraordinary overseas growth in numbers of conversions, baptisms, and churches planted; emphasis on partnering with national leadership.

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2011** The IM Board selects veteran missionary Clint Morgan as general director after a year as interim director.



**MARCH 11, 2011** Earthquake and tsunami devastate Japan; IM missionaries play critical role in relief, partnering with The Hanna Project, Master's Men, and C.R.A.S.H.



**MARCH 2, 2012**

Richard Adams, longtime director of development for HM, dies; raised \$2 million for church-planting endowments.

2012

**JANUARY 2012** Panama (January 6-9) and Uruguay (January 14-15) celebrate 50 years of FWB missions work.

**AUGUST-OCTOBER 2012** IM sponsors Impact Ride, a motorcycle rally and ride in 12 states.



**DECEMBER 1, 2013**

David Crowe replaces the retiring Larry Powell as director of Home Missions.

**OCTOBER 17, 2012** IM's World Missions Offering hits \$1 million enabling all missionaries to return to their host countries.

**MARCH 15, 2013** Rolla D. Smith dies at age 92; general director of FWBIM (1959-62; 1975-86); between his tenures as general director, he served on the board (1962-1975).

**2013**  
HM celebrates 75 years

2013

**2013** Two Brazilian churches send a missionary to Turkey.



**NOVEMBER 15, 2012** ★

Major David Trogdon receives the Witherspoon Award, the highest honor a military chaplain can receive.

2014

**JANUARY 1, 2014**

Molly Barker retires after almost 50 years of service in Uruguay.



**DECEMBER 31, 2013** Bobby and Geneva Poole retire after 53 years of missionary work in Brazil.

**JANUARY 11, 2015**

IM turns Panama work over to national church leaders after 53 years of missions work.



**APRIL 27-28, 2015**

IM board appoints first missionaries to the Samburu, an unreached people group in Kenya.

**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

Larry A. Powell retires as general director of HM after 14 years (1999-2013).



**SEPTEMBER 3, 2014**

HM and IM form partnership for cross-cultural ministry projects in North America with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as first project.

**JANUARY 10, 2015** Trymon Messer, former general director of HM, dies; served 25 years, 22 as associate director (1978-95) and three as general director before retiring in 1998.



**APRIL 27, 2015** IM board appoints Tyler and Kelli Penn to work with international students in Illinois in joint project with NAM.



**MARCH 30, 2014**

After a 25-year quest, the Villalba Church is dedicated, the first Protestant church on the northwest side of Madrid, Spain.

2015

**2015** Ivorian Free Will Baptists organize outreach into Ghana.



**2015** Master's Men becomes an entity of NAM, ceases being a national department.

**APRIL-MAY, 2015** NAM implements 10-week summer internship program for college students.





**APRIL 2018**  
IM Board adopts new logo.

**AUGUST 19, 2018**  
Paul Robinson, pioneer missionary to Uruguay, dies.

**DECEMBER-JANUARY 2019**  
NAM sees five church plants launched in three-month period.

★ **MARCH 28, 2019** Chaplain (COL) Terry Austin awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (36 years in military; 30 years as chaplain) upon retirement; completed final assignment as command chaplain for Joint Force Headquarters, National Capital Region/U.S. Army Military District of Washington, D.C.



**JULY 9, 2017** Jimmy Aldridge, missionary to Ivory Coast (22 years) and first overseas secretary (15 years) dies.

2018

2019

**APRIL-MAY 2019**

Missionaries partner with Operation Christmas Child to evangelize unreached towns and villages in Bulgaria.

**JANUARY 23-24, 2018**  
NAM hosts first Pastors' Boot Camp training.

**MARCH 16, 2017**  
Church planter Billy Bevan dies at age 69 while involved with revitalization project in Dothan, Alabama.

**MARCH 7, 2020**

Women of the Good News dedicate women's center in Bondoukou, Ivory Coast, to provide safe housing for village girls in the city for schooling and to serve as a conference center for women.

2020

**APRIL-MAY 2020**

Chaplain (Colonel, retired) Terry Austin becomes chaplain support officer. ★



**FEBRUARY 23-27, 2017**

Cuban FWB Association celebrates 75 years at their annual association meeting.



**DECEMBER 2016**

Ownership of the Ridge Church (New Durham, NH), founded by Benjamin Randall, is transferred to NAM.

2017



**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2016**

NAM partners with Welch College to plant a church in Gallatin, TN, and train college students in church planting.

**MAY 25-26, 2020** NAM hosts first Hispanic Power Conference, with translation into English provided.

**DECEMBER-JANUARY 2021** Bulgaria missionary team produces gift version of the Gospel of Luke thanks to U.S. church donations.

**JUNE 2020** ETEAM 2020 canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic; first year without ETEAM since 1992.

**JULY 18, 2020** Sandra Bishop, retired missionary to Japan (44 years), dies.



★ **OCTOBER 27, 2016**  
Chaplain (Major) John Carey retires after 30 years of military service, 16 as a chaplain.

**JULY 20, 2016** The retiring Mirial Gainer is honored for 40 years of work in Japan.

2021

**SEPTEMBER 2020**  
NAM launches onsite Church Planter Assessment Center, three-day program required for all church planting candidates.



**MARCH 31, 2021** Veteran missionary Carlisle Hanna retires after 70 years of service in India.

**JUNE-JULY 2021** Summit Church, Missoula, MT, holds first service; planted by father and son team, Clayton (Tammy) and Josh (Kimberly) Hampton.

**APRIL 20, 2021** IM Board approves Philip Bonsu for ministry internship/partnership with Connect Church in Russellville, Arkansas.

**MAY 25-26, 2015**  
NAM hosts first Power Conference with over 300 people from 17 states.

**AUGUST 2015**  
IM Launches *IMages*, an interactive, digital newsletter.

**OCTOBER 1-30, 2015** IM holds 30 Days of Prayer and Fasting with focused requests for each day.



**JULY 20, 2021** HM officially changes its name to FWB North American Ministries.

