



# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
2000

**Showing God at work around the world**



## **Hospital Under New Management**

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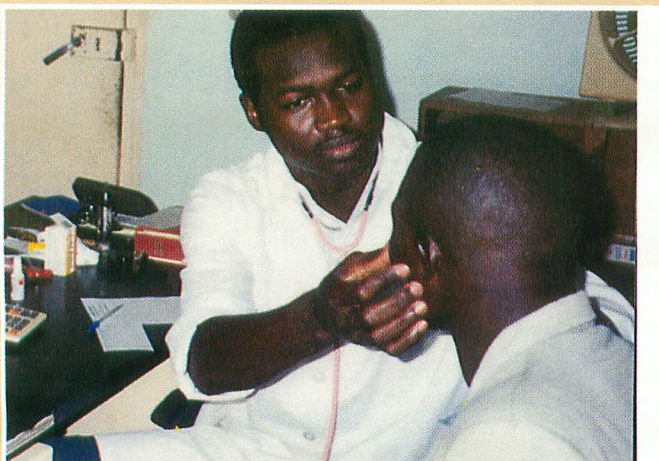
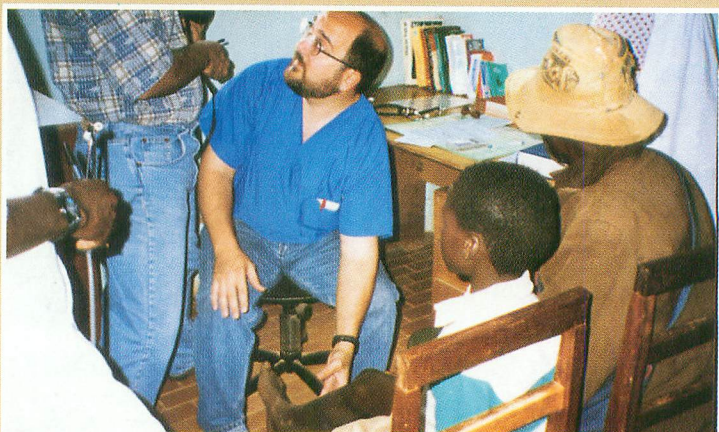
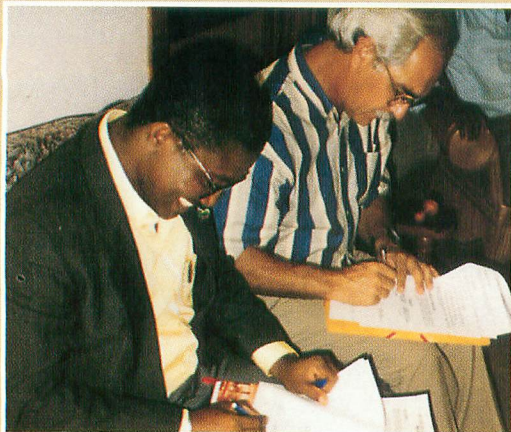
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*Clockwise from the top—Field Chairman Clint Morgan and Kouadio Gboko Pascal sign the contract between the Côte d'Ivoire mission and the new hospital board; prior to the transition, Dr. Paul Gentuso treats a patient; Dr. Kenneth Eagleton and a nurse consult with a patient (not pictured); and Dr. Ballo, the new resident physician, examines a patient.*

# Hospital Under New Management

*By Kenneth P. Eagleton Jr., M.D.*

**I**mpossible! You can't just turn over the management of the hospital to Africans and have it work! The hospital will go under in no time!"

These were the words to me by the Doropo area representative to the Côte d'Ivoire parliament. He said this right after word got out that we were considering a turnover of the hospital work to our African Christians. What a statement! What a challenge!

The doctors at the hospital had a growing assurance it was time for the African believers to assume more responsibility in the direction and management of the hospital. They had worked alongside us for years and we

knew they could do the job. Many hours and months were spent in meetings planning for this change.

Several things prompted this move. The medical missionaries were spending more and more time dealing with technical and administrative aspects of the medical work. They felt they could be more efficiently employed

***One year later the hospital was still functioning normally.***

elsewhere in community health and disease prevention. This appeared to offer more widespread opportunities

for evangelism and church planting.

We also recognized that Doropo is no longer as isolated as it once was; consequently, other government health facilities are available in the area, even though most people still prefer to come to the Free Will Baptist Hospital. Missionaries were convinced the African believers were maturing in their faith, and therefore were ready to take on more responsibility. In light of this, we wanted to train them so they could carry on the work.

The first step in transition development involved the creation of a hospital board composed of seven African believers. The original board included a pastor, a female primary school



teacher, a commercial transportation owner, an information technology engineer, an editor, a medical doctor and an official that works in the labor department. (The board has since been reduced to five members.) They became responsible to make policy decisions. They were challenged to prove to the skeptics that they could keep the hospital functioning properly.

Mr. Palé, a Christian from our church in Bouna, was hired by the board to be the administrator. He assumed the role of supervising the everyday operation of the hospital. Dr. Ballo, an African Christian doctor, and a Christian registered nurse were also hired. The only missionary involvement since the transfer has been in an advisory capacity to the new administration.

***It is serving as a model for what can happen to other aspects of our Free Will Baptist ministry.***

The actual transition took place on May 31, 1998. One year later the hospital was still functioning normally. It has given our believers new confidence in themselves and a sense of ownership. Late in 1999 it continued to function well; consequently, it is serving as a model for what can happen to other aspects of our Free Will

### **Medical supplies still needed by the Doropo Hospital:**

Sterile and/or exam gloves  
Gauze sponges  
Rolled bandages  
Hypodermic syringes and needles  
Empty medicine bottles or film containers

Send these directly by post to:

**Centre Medical de Doropo**  
B.P. 20  
Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire

(Note: It is more cost effective to send cash gifts to the Doropo Hospital account at Foreign Missions, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. This will allow the hospital to use it where needed most.)

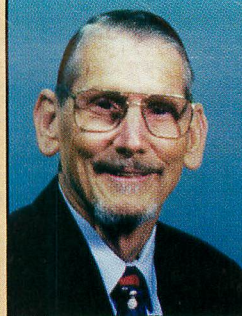
Baptist ministry in Côte d'Ivoire.

Everything has not run smoothly during this transition. One of the most formidable challenges has been financial support. The hospital has seen the need to hire professionals (an administrator, a doctor and a registered nurse) who are paid from the hospital income. In the past, these positions had been filled by missionaries who took no support from the hospital.

To make the transition financially sound, all the workers, including the professionals, agreed to take smaller salaries and work longer hours. Missionaries also agreed to help them with the purchase of medicines outside of the country and with special projects that would include the purchase of necessary equipment or major repairs.

From 1960 until 1998 Free Will Baptists in the USA sent medical and support missionaries to the hospital in Doropo. These missionaries treated the sick, trained national workers and opened up an unreached area to the Good News of salvation in Christ. Now, our converts are carrying on the work that was begun. They are facing a tremendous challenge, but they have shown they can successfully manage the hospital, treat the sick and evangelize the lost. And I am confident they will continue to do that!

Those interested in helping the hospital continue its ministry to the peoples of northeastern Côte d'Ivoire can send donations to the Doropo Hospital account maintained by Foreign Missions. The hospital can also use everyday medical supplies sent directly to the hospital (see box at left).



## **He Was a Stepper!**

**By Don Robirds**

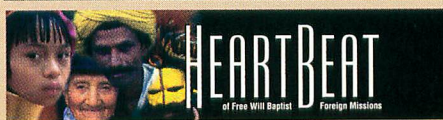
Those who knew **Kenneth Paul Eagleton Sr.** recognized in him a commitment to God's Word and a diligence about doing God's work that sparked admiration.

At age 70 Ken seemed to have the vigor and stamina of a young man. He appeared to be unstoppable, and his vitality was contagious—often convicting. So, when a respiratory ailment snatched his life so swiftly on August 26 of this past year, it left many of us stunned.

Ken Eagleton had an impact on my life before, during and long after my family and I went to Brazil to serve as co-workers. He was a friend and a willing helper whenever needed.

The Foreign Missions staff misses his optimistic quips such as, "That's no problem for a stepper." His keen insights into God's Word made him a valued consultant for students and preachers alike.

God blessed Ken and Marvis during 42 years of ministry with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. We are happy for a well-deserved rest but we still miss Ken. Now, the retirement of Marvis Eagleton on December 1 makes us doubly aware of our loss. But thank God for precious memories!



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Pastors and missionaries line the stage of a church in Panama City, Panama, as they are honored by the Panama Association of Free Will Baptists.

## Panama Missionaries and Pastors Honored

Pastors, American missionaries and Panamanian missionaries were honored by the leaders of the Panama Association of Free Will Baptists at a special service in Panama City on October 30. Approximately 200 people were on hand for the special event.

According to Ronald Callaway, pastors in good standing received a certificate and most former missionaries as well as the pastors were honored through a video presentation prepared by Eddie Bowerman.

The Panama executive committee initiated the effort, planned the program, and carried it through. All current pastors in good standing were present.

## Café y Algo Mas in Spain Uses Pianist, Ballerina

According to Jeff Turnbough in Spain, the special outreach program Café y Algo Mas (Coffee and Something More), sponsored by the Villalba church, was held November 21.

The program featured pianist Lisa Benton, who presented four classical pieces, and former ballerina Rosa Vera, who gave her testimony of coming to Christ as a famous person without inner peace.

Mrs. Benton is sister of missionary Anthony Edgmon. She and her husband, Scott, were visiting the Edgmans at the time. Rosa Vera was the former first ballerina of the Colombian National Ballet.

Turnbough says, "Several people filled out response cards requesting more information and some asked for Bible studies."

## Board Appoints Five Career Missionaries

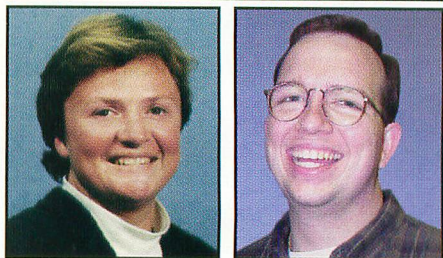
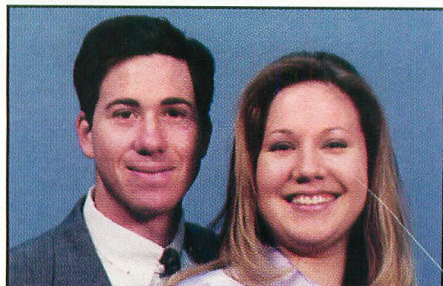
The Board of Foreign Missions convened for its semi-annual session December 8 and 9 at the Free Will Baptist National Offices building in Antioch, Tenn.

● Two couples and one single young lady were appointed to serve as career missionaries: David and Annette Aycock of Tennessee, Andy and Andrea Moore of North Carolina to serve in Brazil, and Miss Kim Zegelen of North Carolina to serve at International Christian Academy in Côte d'Ivoire.

● The Board also approved Shane Davison to serve as overseas associate for two years at International Christian Academy in Côte d'Ivoire.

● Fifteen young people were appointed as overseas apprentices to serve during the summer of 2000 (see page 5).

● Robert and Judy Bryan of



David and Annette Aycock (top), Andy and Andrea Moore (middle), and Kim Zegelen (bottom, left) are new career missionaries. Shane Davison (bottom, right) is a new overseas associate.

Côte d'Ivoire were granted a one-year leave of absence beginning August 1, 2000.

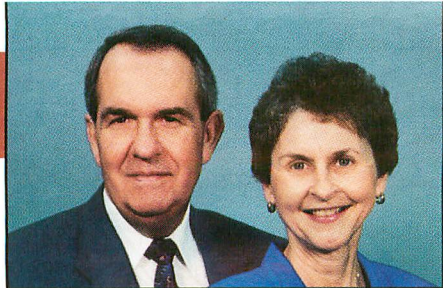
● The Board interviewed Marvis Eagleton and expressed honor and appreciation for the ministry she and Ken had with the department. She has retired.

● The Board expressed appreciation to Jimmy Aldridge for his and Janie's 37 years of service with Foreign Missions and acknowledged his retirement date of January 31, 2000.

● These dates were set: April 27-28, 2000—meet with field chairmen; May 1-4—annual Board meeting; and July 31-August 3—annual foreign missions retreat.

● The Board also approved the recommendations of the general director for a restructuring of the Department of Foreign Missions.





*Jimmy and Janie Aldridge are retiring after serving 37 years with FWB Foreign Missions.*

## Aldridge Retires After 37 Years with FWBFM

Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary for Foreign Missions, will be retiring from service with the missions department on January 31, 2000. He and Janie have been serving under the Board of Foreign Missions since October of 1962 (37 years) when they were appointed as missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire. He assumed his present position in September of 1984.

As overseas secretary, Jimmy and Janie traveled to all Free Will Baptist mission fields to help missionaries plan strategy, resolve problems, discover effective ways of spreading the gospel, offer encouragement and gain insights for leadership development.

The Aldridges will be moving to their Alabama home near Jasper.

## 15 to Serve Overseas in Summer of 2000

In December the Board appointed 15 overseas apprentices to serve during the summer of 2000. These young people were appointed:

**Brazil**—Amanda Springs of Lake City, S.C., and Kimberly Johnson of Wewoka, Okla., are to serve with Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras and Heather Paul of Morgan, Ga., will serve with Jim and Vicki Sturgill in Belo Horizonte; **India**—David Dodson of Park Hills, Mo., and Neil Morgan of Pamplico, S. C., will serve with Carlisle Hanna in Sonapurhat; **Côte d'Ivoire**—Angela Young of Canal Winchester, Oh., will work with Alice Smith in Agnibilekrou; **Japan**—Bridget Bowman of Batesville, Ark., and Christina Doss of Muldrow, Okla., will serve with Mirial Gainer in Bihoro.

**Panama**—Working with Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman will be Roy Carney of Thompsonville, Ill.; and Joel Riley of Tuckerman, Ark., and Michael Williford of Chipley,



*The new building of Second FWB Church in Uberlândia, Brazil, was dedicated during special services on November 27 and 28.*

Fla., will serve with Stan and Brenda Bunch in Chitré; **Uruguay**—Vera Sturgill of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and Stephanie McVay of Nashville, Tenn., will serve with Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster in Montevideo; **Russia**—Leah Chamberlin of Greeneville, Tenn., and Joy Taylor of Cisne, Ill., will serve with Mike and Cathy Corley in Chelyabinsk.

## Building Dedicated in Uberlândia, Brazil

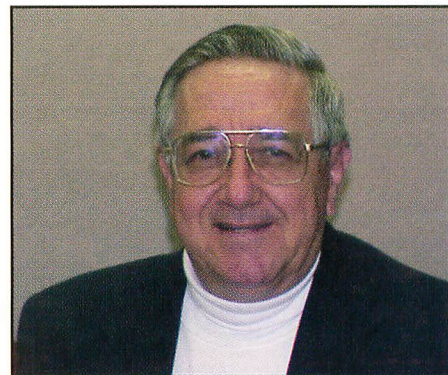
Special services were held on November 27 and 28 to dedicate the new building for the Second Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlândia, Brazil. According to missionary Tom Hughes, the guest speaker for the special dedication services was Bobby Aycock of Barbacena.

The church was started in Jardim das Palmeiras (Garden of the Palms) in September of 1988 as an outreach of the First FWB Church of Uberlândia.

Hughes noted that God has blessed the work with steady growth. Eighteen conversions were reported during 1999 and the congregation currently numbers over 100 people.

## St. Sébastien Church Experiences Growth

"Our meeting room has been full for some time now, and our people are talking among themselves as to how to make more seating space!" writes Dennis Teague in his November newsletter from St. Sébastien, France. "We now have four Sunday school classes and three of them are taught by French people."



*Eddie Payne is the new Director of Mobilization and Recruitment.*

## Board Revamps Foreign Missions Department

Upon Board action in December, the Department of Foreign Missions will begin 2000 with a new structure geared to better serve the missionaries and the denomination.

The following positions were named along with those who were appointed to fill the positions: Director of Stateside Development, Fred Warner; Director of Mobilization and Recruitment, Eddie Payne; Director of Public Relations, Don Robirds; Director of Financial Operations, Rob Conley; Director of Field Operations, to be appointed later; and Director of Member Care, to be appointed later.

## Bowermans Progress in Kuna Language Study

Although missionaries Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman have had difficulty getting in and out of the area to work with the Kuna Indians in Panama, they have



# News In Review

been able to spend several days in the villages and have begun language study.

"We also were able to start

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in October and November:

Donor	In Memory of
Rick and Donna Mayo Pleasant View, Tenn.	Elizabeth Anderson
First FWB Church of Dickson Dickson, Tenn.	Edward and Clara Hogue Walter and Louellar Burgess Hobb and Effie Burgess Christopher Cannon Floyd and Allen Dotson Rev. Carlos Craft Mrs. Rosa Smith Vernon Graybill Donald and Louise Hargrove Edward Thomas Gracie Gibbs Ora Dean Crymes
First FWB Church Billings, Mont.	Gordon Schroeder
Steve Lytle Antioch, Tenn.	Edgmon Triplets
Jeweline Gilbert Adamsville, Ala.	Elsie Cole
Dorcas Kirkpatrick Adamsville, Ala.	Elsie Cole
Mildred and William Daniel Murfreesboro, Tenn.	Dillard and Elizabeth Anderson

The following gave gifts in memory of Ken Eagleton Sr.:

Dr. and Mrs. Thurman M. Pate Jr. Nashville, Tenn.	Jim and Nell Stell Bellevue, Texas
Mrs. Shirley Coleman Jacksonville Fla.	Ron and Linda Callaway Antioch, Tenn.
Valley Baptist Church North East, Md.	Rev. and Mrs. Alvin Halbrook Bryan, Texas
Rick Nicholson Joelton, Tenn.	Jim and Shirley Lauthern Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
Seminary and Bible Institute Brazil	Don and Carol Robirds Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. and Mrs. Bobby Aycock Antioch, Tenn.	Lowell FWB Church Gastonia, N.C.
Southside FWB Church Glen Deering Class Cattlettsburg, Ky.	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ragan Hermitage, Tenn.
North Warren FWB Ladies Aux. Warren, Mich.	Emma Eagleton Tucson, Ariz.
Bradley Gap FWB Church Louisia, Ky.	Mr. and Mrs. James Forlines Nashville, Tenn.
Miss Wanda Aigner Yona, Guam	Mr. and Mrs. Sam McVay Antioch, Tenn.
Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Norris College Station, Texas	James and Barbara Evans Nashville, Tenn.
Lowell FWB Church Gastonia, N.C.	First Bible FWB Church New Castle, Ind.
Mrs. Calvin L. Henderson Brunswick, Ga.	Eugene Workman Antioch, Tenn.

Donor	In Honor of
First FWB Church Dickson, Tenn.	Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Beasley Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Daniel
Mount Olive FWB Church Dayton, Ohio	Rev. Eugene Waddell

Clip and mail

## Special Gifts

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send memorial/honorarium card to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

chronological Bible lessons with our language helper," says Eddie. "We feel like he might be the key person for us in bringing the gospel into Aguas Claras."

## Corleys Flee Y2K Doubts in Russia

Overseas associates Mike and Cathy Corley returned to the United States from Chelyabinsk, Russia, on December 14 upon the advice of the U.S. Embassy. They are expecting chaos in the country due to their lack of Y2K preparation. The State Department told U.S. citizens the Embassy would be unable to meet the needs of people should they require food and shelter.

The Corleys expect to return to Russia when things level out, probably in a month or two.

## Missions Giving Drops Two Percent in 1999

According to the Foreign Missions finance department, missions giving through November of 1999 dropped two percent below receipts during the same period in 1998. Income through November of this year totaled \$4,604,841, while receipts totaled \$4,703,291 during the same period of 1998.

General Director James Forlines expressed concern that gifts were \$1,208,816 below the budget, but he noted expenditures were only \$145,702 over income.

Mr. Forlines said, "While we are troubled about the decrease in receipts, we are extremely grateful for all of those who faithfully give to get the gospel to the unreached in our world. I trust giving will pick up after the Y2K uncertainty is past. Support Services particularly needs some solid giving so we can do what we have been commissioned to do without burdening missionary accounts."



Marvis Eagleton

## Marvis Eagleton Retires After 42 Years of Service

Forty-two years ago Ken and Marvis Eagleton entered missionary service in Brazil with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. Ken went to be with the Lord on August 26 and Marvis realized that her work as a career missionary was finished. She officially retired on December 1, 1999.

"I join the Apostle Paul in saying, 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith,'" says Marvis. She added, "I would appreciate it if supporters would continue to support my account after my retirement until the account deficit is erased."

## News Capsules

**India**—An All-India Christian Martyrs' Day is scheduled to be acknowledged on January 23 in Calcutta, India. Missionary Carlisle Hanna urged people to pray for families who have suffered for their faith.

**Russia**—Brad Sneed, youth minister from Oklahoma who went to Russia on November 8 to conduct a youth worker's conference, lost his visa during his entrance into the country. He had to delay his return to the United States from November 15 to November 21 in order to obtain a new visa.

**Côte d'Ivoire**—Jerry and Carol Pinkerton say progress is slow on the new mission house being built





*This new building of the mission church in the town of Antonio Carlos, Brazil, was dedicated on October 31.*

in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Although the builder had promised the house by the end of June 1999, latest projections indicated finishing by the end of December.

**Spain**—Missionary Tim Johnson organized a concert of prayer for the Villalba church on November 28. Those participating prayed for the world, Spain, the city of Madrid, the Villalba church and the families involved.

**Côte d'Ivoire**—Robert and Pam West, who are laboring in the village of Kafalo, Côte d'Ivoire, say the foundation of their house has been laid and outside storage buildings are now finished. They also report 12 new converts in a previously unreached village.

**Brazil**—Geneva Poole in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, underwent surgery on one eye on November 24 to remove a cataract and do a lens implant. She had surgery on the second eye on December 1.

**Panama**—Since August, Ron Callaway has been serving as the Protestant chaplain at the remaining American army base in Panama. He concluded this special military ministry sometime in December.

**Côte d'Ivoire**—Missionary Alice Smith reported two young men were saved in the Sunday services at the Agnibilekrou church in Côte d'Ivoire on October 24.

**India**—Carlisle Hanna in India was injured recently when the vehicle in which he was riding hit a hole in the road. Reports indicate he has a compressed fracture of the T-12 and L-1 vertebrae. The injury is very painful and will take several weeks to heal.

## Aycock Reports New Building Dedicated

According to missionary Bobby Aycock, 150 people attended the dedication of the new church building in Antonio Carlos, Brazil, on Sunday, October 31. A large number of visitors from the Antonio Carlos area were present, and others came from Barbacena, Conselheiro Lafaiete and Belo Horizonte.

At least 18 salvation decisions have been registered at Antonio Carlos this year. "We are excited about the work and the prospects for the future," said Bobby.

## Memorial Service Held for Edgmon Triplets

A special memorial service was held November 13 in the Villalba church in Spain for the stillborn triplets of Anthony and Lea Edgmon. The three girls—Victoria Gayle, Elisabeth Joy, and Olivia Grace—were born on October 27.

Jeff Turnbough conducted the service.

**PLAN NOW**  
and order materials for  
**APRIL,**  
**FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
**MONTH.**

Call 615-731-6812

## FINANCIAL BEAT

Through November 1999

Income for October .....	\$ 349,078.51
Income for November .....	547,121.76
Total income through November .....	4,604,840.91
Projected income through November .....	5,813,656.84
Total expenses through November .....	4,750,543.23
<b>Total 1999 Budget (including VISION projects) .....</b>	<b>\$6,342,171.10</b>

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey .....	\$ 16,609.27	Third World Development .....	3,768.20
Beck .....	873.39	Support Services .....	199,400.41
Deeds .....	6,002.92	Info Promo .....	49,459.90
Eagleton Sr. ....	12,382.73	VISION	
Holland, C. ....	1,777.45	Villalba Building .....	1,356.75
Korean Ministries ..	8,104.86	ICA Apartment .....	82.40
Owen .....	7,704.02	Abidjan Land/Ch .....	21,239.88
Snow .....	1,297.14		
Teague .....	8,444.30		

**Total .....** **\$338,503.62**

These accounts are in the black but in serious need:

Dr. Chang .....	\$ 1,252.55	Turnbough .....	\$ 2,537.86
Combs .....	311.80	Midgett .....	4,090.07

## STATES IN ACTION

State	1999 Goal	Goal Thru Nov.	Contributions Thru Nov.
Alabama .....	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 224,583.33	\$ 300,078.46
Arkansas .....	355,000.00	325,416.67	351,439.61
Arizona .....	11,000.00	10,083.33	4,792.08
California .....	75,000.00	68,750.00	45,073.32
Canada .....	11,000.00	10,083.33	6,815.83
Colorado .....	13,000.00	11,916.67	2,568.67
Florida .....	142,000.00	130,166.67	110,797.54
Georgia .....	250,000.00	229,166.67	205,424.12
Idaho .....	7,500.00	6,875.00	3,928.17
Iowa .....	3,000.00	2,750.00	1,299.07
Illinois .....	175,000.00	160,416.67	111,401.36
Indiana .....	50,000.00	45,833.33	35,042.99
Hawaii .....	1,000.00	916.67	300.00
Kansas .....	12,000.00	11,000.00	6,459.11
Kentucky .....	90,000.00	82,500.00	65,712.44
Louisiana .....	2,500.00	2,291.67	2,085.00
Maryland .....	60,000.00	55,000.00	56,144.86
Michigan .....	210,000.00	192,500.00	122,686.87
Missouri .....	460,000.00	421,666.67	378,578.17
Mississippi .....	90,000.00	82,500.00	328,921.40
Montana .....	3,000.00	2,750.00	2,005.00
North Carolina .....	685,000.00	627,916.67	554,657.83
Nebraska .....	1,500.00	1,375.00	7,083.10
New Mexico .....	5,000.00	4,583.33	2,055.96
* Northeast Assn ...	4,000.00	3,666.67	320.00
** Northwest Assn ..	11,000.00	10,083.33	5,428.45
Ohio .....	200,000.00	183,333.33	122,744.95
Oklahoma .....	505,000.00	462,916.67	361,917.44
Pennsylvania .....	1,000.00	916.67	135.00
South Carolina .....	375,000.00	343,750.00	296,235.64
Tennessee .....	850,000.00	779,166.67	651,138.07
Texas .....	95,000.00	87,083.33	74,227.47
Virginia .....	100,000.00	91,666.67	61,089.44
Virgin Islands .....	4,000.00	3,666.67	2,153.95
West Virginia .....	130,000.00	119,166.67	118,699.30
FWB Foundation ...	27,500.00	25,208.33	25,135.84
Miscellaneous .....	135,821.10	124,502.68	26,555.60
WNAC .....	170,000.00	155,833.33	125,448.66
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,565,821.10+</b>	<b>\$ 5,102,002.68+</b>	<b>\$ 4,576,580.77</b>

\* 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





P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

**Board of Foreign Missions:** Bill Jones, chairman; Milton Worthington, vice-chairman; David Shores, secretary; Bill Reagan, David Williford, Bill Van Winkle, Sherwood Lee, Douglas Little, Terry Eagleton.

**Administrative Staff:** James Forlines, general director; Fred Warner, director of stateside development; Don Robirds, director of public relations; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary; Robert Conley, director of financial operations; Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment.

Please clip and mail this label with all correspondence.

Web address: [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org)

## Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director



This is the first issue of Heartbeat in the year 2000. Every area of society is looking forward during this millennium, trying to predict what the future may hold. In the area of world evangelism none of us knows what doors will open and what opportunities will be presented to us. I do think it valuable, however, to **look back** at the foundational purposes of this ministry to see if we are still on target.

### Working Ourselves Out of a Job

As a missions agency our purpose statement says, **"Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions exists to labor as members of the body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission."** It goes on to say that our primary task is to proclaim the gospel to the unevangelized of the world. The ultimate goal, however, is **"to develop believers into self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating Free Will Baptist churches."** In other words, our ultimate goal is to work ourselves out of a job.

Harold Fuller is credited with list-

ing the four stages missionaries go through in establishing an indigenous church: (1) Pioneer—when the missionary serves as evangelist; (2) Parent—when the missionary begins to train and transfer leadership to national believers; (3) Partner—when the missionary becomes an advisor to national leaders; and (4) Participant—when the missionary completes the transfer of leadership and responsibility.

### Phaseout Is a Part of Strategy

This is the goal of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. Phaseout is an integral part of this mission agency's strategy. The church cannot keep pace with the growing world population unless missionaries transfer responsibilities swiftly to trained nationals. We must get beyond addition to multiplication.

Tom Steffen says in his book, *Passing The Baton*, "Evangelism works on the premise of addition. Churches grow by adding new believers to the rolls. Church planting, however, works upon the premise of multiplication! New church plants not only add new believers to the rolls, they launch generations of outreach patterns with the potential of winning multitudes to the Lord."

The lead article in this issue gives an update of the transition of the hos-

pital in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire, to Ivorian leadership. Through the years the medical ministry has been an active part of church planting. It is exciting to see Ivorian believers take over this and other responsibilities. Role changes will always be necessary so maturing adolescents can one day meet their parents as peers.

Such maturity is evident on many of our fields. As we are faithful to our original charge we will see a very bright future. Once we have energized and trained national workers we can rejoice at watching them take steps on their own to become partners with us in the cause of world evangelism. Yes, we want to work ourselves out of a job. But we never want to work ourselves out of a loving relationship. We are all part of God's family.

### The Cycle Continues

While maintaining the relationship, we seek to expand our ministry by moving experienced missionaries back into pioneering roles. Then we try to reinforce their efforts by teaming them with new missionaries and national pastors who can help while learning to be church planters. And the cycle continues until Christ comes!

*James Forlines*