



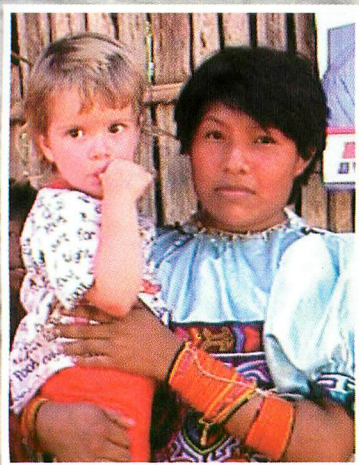
# HEART BEAT

of Free Will Baptist

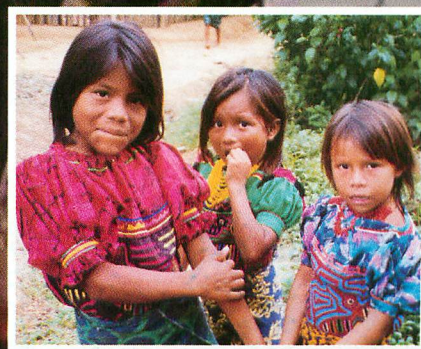
Foreign Missions

MARCH  
APRIL  
2000

**Showing God at work around the world**



God meant  
it for good!



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# God meant it for good!

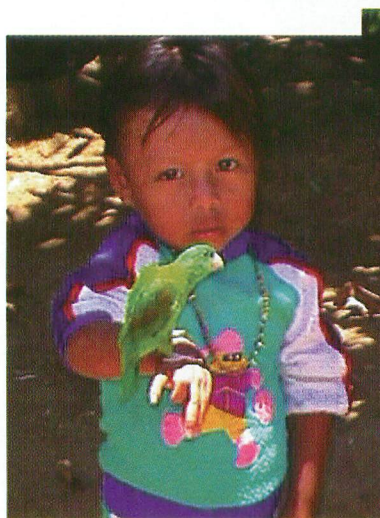
By Eddie Bowerman

No one greeted us when we went to the village of the Kuna Indians in Panama on Tuesday morning, February 8. This seemed very odd. We immediately sensed something was wrong. Our national co-worker, Raúl Sanés, suggested that I go and check things out while he waited with LaRhonda and the girls.

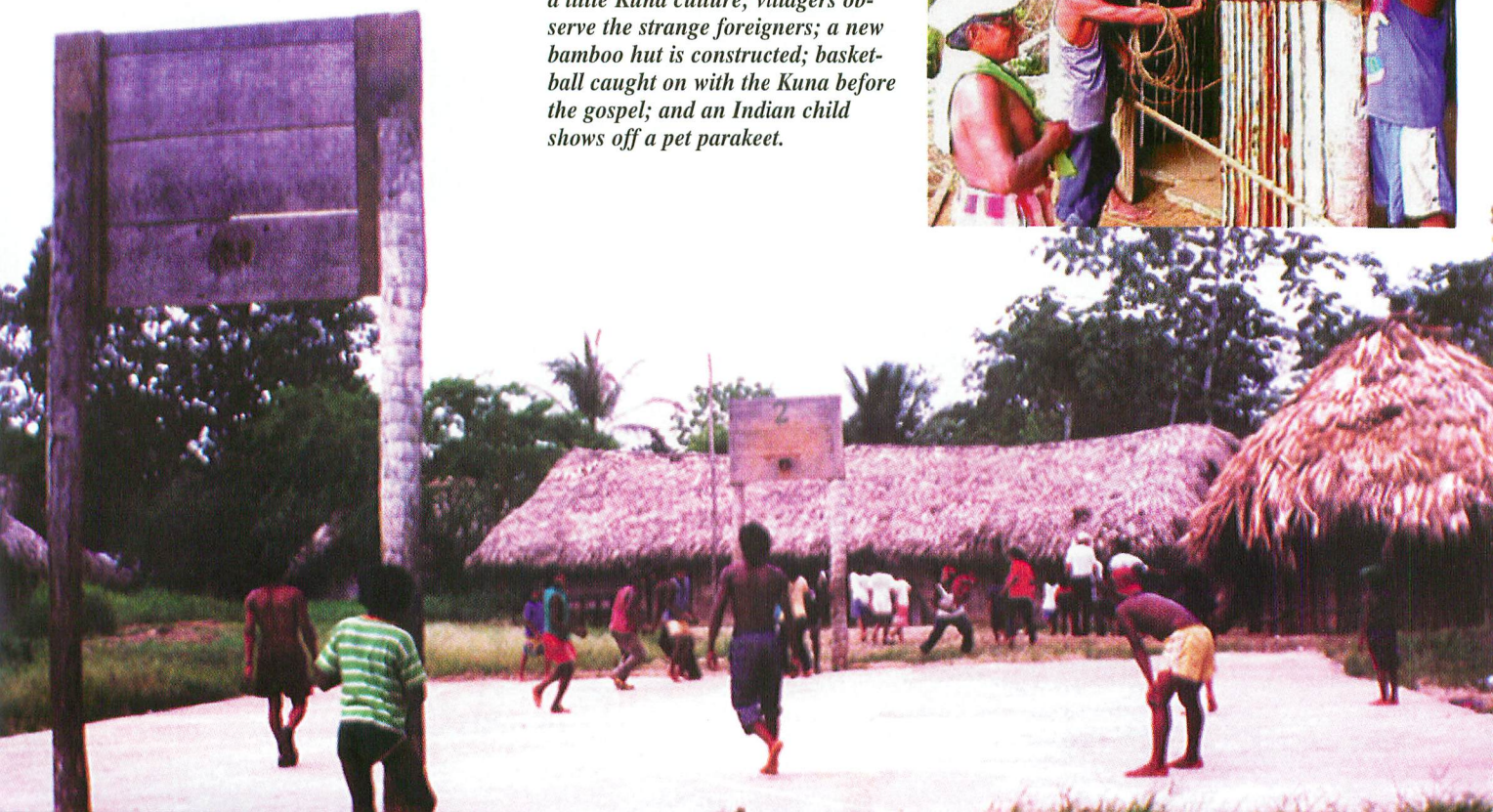
After quickly looking around, I concluded the Kuna were in a special ceremony (smoking the pipe). We had been told they would not do this before February 10. I hurried to leave since I know it is their custom to have no one leave or enter during that time.

It was too late!

When I returned to the boat, we were surrounded immediately by all



(Clockwise) Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman and their children take on a little Kuna culture; villagers observe the strange foreigners; a new bamboo hut is constructed; basket-ball caught on with the Kuna before the gospel; and an Indian child shows off a pet parakeet.





the Kuna men of the village. They were very hostile and threatening toward us and demanded we pay them a fine of \$50 for coming during the ceremony. We had not seen that side of them before. Several of them began trying to take our things from the boat, and even threatened to take our motor. We told them we would pay the money but that we hadn't brought \$50 with us.

***We were surrounded immediately by all the Kuna men of the village.***

The men told us we would have to leave the motor and row back to the bridge. This is practically impossible since it would involve returning against the wind. This is difficult to do with a motor, much less with the boat oar. The trip normally takes approximately 35-40 minutes with a 25hp motor.

We presented our side of the story, explaining that we had understood they would hold the ceremony on February 10. We assured them we had come on February 8 to avoid coming later in the week.

We would have done better speaking to the water!

Eventually we explained it would be impossible to return to the bridge without the motor. They didn't care. Raúl pointed out we had a woman and two small girls. Then he asked if they were willing to take responsibility if something should happen in the return trip. Finally they agreed to allow us to go and return the next day with the money.

LaRhonda and I were very shaken by the whole experience. We felt very uneasy since I knew we had to return to the Indians the next day. It would be a very important meeting, but we

didn't know what we should do in light of all of these events. Our confidence in the people was jolted.

When we returned to pay our fine, we had reason to praise the Lord! The meeting went much better than expected. No one was even waiting to mob us when we arrived. Everything seemed to have returned to normal, and I marveled at the power of God in our ministry.

After hanging around the boat a few moments to make sure we weren't about to be set upon by a group of Indians, we got out and went up to the house of Armando, our language helper, like we usually do. We were greeted warmly by "Mu," Armando's mother.

Following the exchange of greetings, we asked to see the chief about paying our fine. We were escorted to a different hut than usual. We met a different chief—the second in command—who is in charge of fines. This was our first time to meet and talk with him.

Once again we explained why we had come the day before. Then we pointed out that we had returned to pay the \$50 fine. We were surprised with the action of the chief. He did something we have never seen before with the Kuna. He admitted they had made some errors and were to blame for our showing up as we had. He acknowledged that the villagers should have informed us of the change in dates and should have sent word that they were not to be disturbed.

The chief also said they would put up a signal in the future so we would

know not to come into the village on such an occasion. He pointed out that this ceremony is the strictest of all because they must leave their wives alone in the huts for approximately five days. Someone arriving could harm the women, etc.

The leader told us that many had spoken about how they had mistreated us the previous day. He also noted that some didn't believe we would come back to pay the fine. The fact we had returned was evidence that we were honest and truthful men. He assured us that he would present this fact before the "congreso" and would hail us as people of our word and men of God.

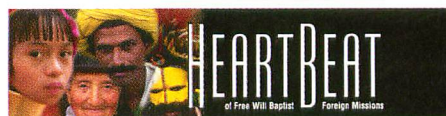
***He asked us to bring him a Bible when we come again.***

The chief gave each of us a coconut—a gift of value for the Kuna. As we thanked him and turned to leave, he surprised us once again with another "first" for the Kuna in Aguas Claras. He asked us to bring him a Bible when we come again.

Now we know what Joseph meant when he said, "... you thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

It seems all our prayer warriors have been praying and have made a remarkable difference for the Kingdom of God among the Kuna.

Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman live in Panama City, Panama, and make regular trips to the Kuna to study the language and share God's love.



Vol. 40, No. 2

March-April 2000

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*Dr. Alton Loveless of Randall House signs an agreement with Korea (top) as James Forlines and Dr. Hack Bong Chung look on. Dr. Tom Malone, president of FWBBC (bottom, right), signs an agreement of cooperation with Asia FWB Theological Seminary in Korea as Dr. Chung observes.*

## Korean Sets Plans with FWBBC, Randall House

Dr. Hack Bong Chung, a well-known Korean seminary professor, arrived in Nashville, Tenn., on February 4 to visit the Free Will Baptist National Offices, Randall House Publications, and Free Will Baptist Bible College. Dr. Chung has taught in seminaries in Hawaii, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea.

Professor Chung will be teaching in the new Asia Free Will Baptist Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea (see page 5). While here, he and Dr. Tom Malone signed an agreement for the Bible college to cooperate through exchange teaching programs, etc. He and Dr. Alton Loveless of Randall House Publications also signed a basic agreement to exchange publishing on five of his books and *more than 10* Randall House books.

Dr. Chung spent time with Gen-



*Lining the stage of the Willey Memorial Tabernacle (above) in Cuba are 13 newly ordained preachers of the gospel. Eleven students (right) are in their second year of studies at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Cuba.*

eral Director James Forlines and the foreign missions staff and spoke in three churches in the Nashville area before departing for Korea on February 11.

## 13 Men Ordained in Cuba; 19 Studying

Thirteen men were ordained to the gospel ministry in February during a pastors' conference in Pinar del Rio, Cuba. Ronald and Linda Callaway participated in the conference in addition to teaching during a week-long family retreat at the First FWB Church in Pinar.

The Callaways went to Cuba on January 2 and spent most of January and February teaching 19 students at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary. Classes were held Tuesday through Friday. They ministered in churches on the weekends.

Callaway expressed praise that for the first time in many years they were able to have two seminary classes studying at the same time. The second year class had 11 students and the first year group had eight students.

Ronald taught "Introduction to the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit" to the first-year class while he helped the second year students with "Preparation of Expository



Messages." Linda taught two classes of English.

They returned to Panama February 29.

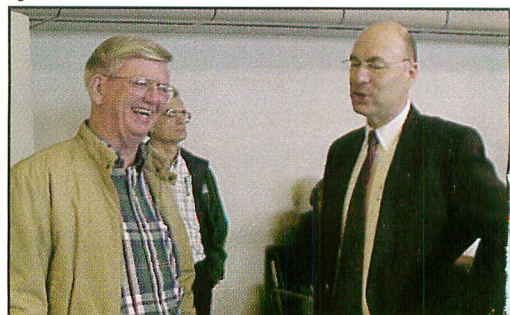
## Picirilli to Teach N.T. Survey in Russia

Dr. Robert Picirilli, former academic dean of Free Will Baptist Bible College, was scheduled to leave Nashville, Tenn., on March 10 for Russia. He is to teach an intense course on New Testament Survey to approximately 25 pastors or church leaders at the new Bible institute in Chelyabinsk.

This course will be a follow-up of the Old Testament Survey course taught by Dr. Garnett Reid in October of last year.

Dr. Picirilli planned to return home on March 28.

*As he awaits departure for Russia, Dr. Robert Picirilli (left) converses with Steve Lytle.*







Standing in front of the newly dedicated Free Will Baptist Church for All Nations and the current location of the new Asia FWB Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea, are (left to right) Dr. James Cox, Dr. Tom Malone, Brother James Forlines, Dr. Milton Fields, and Dr. John Chang (insert shows new seminary property).

## Seminary and Church Dedicated in Korea

General Director James Forlines—accompanied by Dr. Tom Malone, Dr. Milton Fields and Dr. James Cox of Free Will Baptist Bible College—traveled to Seoul, Korea, on February 28.

The new Asia Free Will Baptist Theological Seminary in Seoul was dedicated on March 1. Dr. Malone spoke on "Training Christian Workers for the World," Mr. Forlines challenged those present with a "Free Will Baptist Global Vision," and Reverend Hyun Kyun Shin preached the dedication message.

Two buildings in Kyonggi-do, approximately 20 miles southeast of Seoul, were purchased for the seminary. The newly formed Free Will Baptist Church for All Nations, pastored by Dr. John Chang, was also dedicated and Brother Forlines spoke to the congregation on Sunday, March 5.

Dr. Chang will be president of the seminary while Reverend Kyu Suk Park will serve as academic dean and Dr. Hack Bong Chung will head the graduate program.

Those from FWBBC returned to

the United States on March 3 though Mr. Forlines remained until March 6 to finalize the purchase of the property, etc.

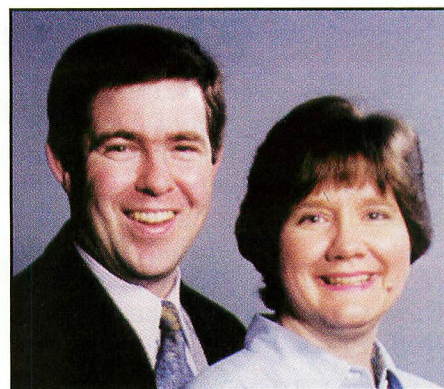
## Missionaries Shaken by Coup d'état; None Hurt

On Christmas Eve of 1999 things drastically changed in Côte d'Ivoire when the army took control of the government in a coup d'état that canceled all services, set strict curfews and forced out the president and his regime. President Henri Konan Bedie took shelter in the French embassy before leaving the country.

According to missionaries Jerry and Carol Pinkerton in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, looting and vandalism were rampant. "Jerry and I were never in danger," reports Carol. "It was a tense time but thankfully it only lasted three days."

By God's grace, none of the Free Will Baptist missionaries was hurt although Alice Smith had her car stolen (see article on page 7).

The army, under General Robert Guei, has continued to run the country with promises to restore elections in July.

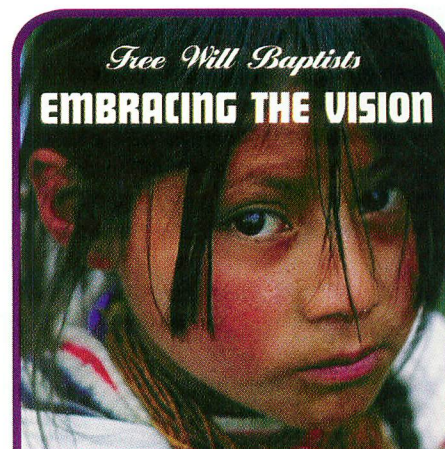


Verlin and Deborah Anderson are currently in Belgium.

## Andersons Depart for Belgium, Tropical Study

Verlin and Debbie Anderson, new missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire, have completed language study in Quebec, Canada. They left on February 14 for Belgium where Verlin is enrolled in a course on tropical medicine.

The Andersons had been witnessing to Kosovar Muslim refugees in Quebec. Although three of the families decided to move to Ontario, the Andersons expressed joy that either 14 or 15 of the 17 family members had been in their apartment to see the "Jesus" film in Albanian.



**World Missions Offering**  
**April 30, 2000**



# NEWS IN REVIEW

## News Capsules

**Guin, Ala.**—Mrs. Autie Franks, mother of missionary Dave Franks Sr., died on February 8 at the age of 88. She had been in declining health for some time. Funeral services were held February 10 at the Mount Olive FWB Church in Guin. Dave was able to make it home from Brazil in time for the funeral.

**Korea**—Dr. John Chang reported over 1500 young people saved during January in a crusade for

youth in the area of Seoul.

**Panama**—A late February report from missionary Stanley Bunch in Panama indicated five people had been saved in Las Tablas, two in Parita and five during a youth retreat in Canita.

**Brazil**—Since Mary Holland began teaching the fourth grade at the American school in Campinas, Brazil, she indicates, "It has opened a whole new door for me to witness and make my faith in Christ real to those around me."

**Côte d'Ivoire**—Pam West writes from Kafalo, Côte d'Ivoire, on January 4: "Our house is coming along well. Robert is getting ready to put in the ceiling and finish up the wiring. The well-diggers are digging the well and they struck water today!"

**Sciotoville, Ohio**—Miss Cathy Crawford is scheduled to return to France at the end of March to resume her ministry in St. Sebastien following a year of stateside ministry.

## Banks Commissioned, Go to Explore Compatibility

Justin and Leslie Banks were commissioned to missionary service on January 29 in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Cushing, Okla.

The Banks departed for Pan-



Dave Sr. and Pat Franks with daughter, Regina, will leave Brazil in April after 42 years of ministry.

ama on February 1 to begin a one-year affirmation of their health compatibility as they minister to the Kuna Indians.

Justin has been diagnosed with Reiter's syndrome but doctors indicated he might be able to work in Panama.

## Dave Franks Sr. to Retire After 42 Years

Dave Sr. and Pat Franks have notified the Foreign Missions office that they intend to retire from missionary service in Brazil after 42 years in that country. Dave went to Brazil at the end of 1957 as the first Free Will Baptist missionary to Brazil, and he did it while still unmarried.

Campinas was the first site of Dave's ministry but after he and Pat Sturgill were married, they served in Pirassununga, Jaboticabal, Conselheiro Lafaiete, Barbacena and Belo Horizonte.

Dave, Pat and daughter, Regina, plan to leave Brazil at the end of April.

## S.C. Men Go to India, Attend Conference

South Carolina pastor Sherwood Lee, former missionary and current member of the Board of Foreign Missions, was scheduled to leave for India on March 12 to attend the Free Will Baptist annual conference in North India set for March 16-19 at Sonapurhat.

Accompanying Lee were Pastor

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in December and January:

Donor	In Memory of
Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Hart Ayden, N.C.	Edgmon Triplets Juanita Jackson Ardell Wilson Marguerite Ringenberg Bill Phillips Michael Turnage Sandy Roberts Otts
Marguerite E. Busby Exeter, Calif.	Ken Eagleton
Pearce Chapel FWB Church Smithville, Miss.	Annie Burrow
Mildred Bates Royal Oak, Mich.	Hazel Hendrickson
Edward and Rosalee Burns Henderson, Texas	Ken Eagleton
Jerry and Donna Mayhew Modesto, Calif.	Archie Mayhew
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Hall, Jr. Smyrna, Tenn.	Carl Houk
Forest Grove FWB Church Knoxville, Tenn.	Mable Wiley Loftis Lectie McClain
Melba Scott Burch Harold and Ruth Scott Glenn Underwood Maryland Heights, Mo.	Delbert Adams

The following gave gifts in memory of the Edgmon triplets:

Oak Park WNAC Pine Bluff, Ark.	Santana Family Hollywood, Fla.
Bloss Memorial FWB Church Arlington, Va.	Cross Timbers FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.
Sam and June McVay Antioch, Tenn.	

Donor	In Honor of
Cross Timbers FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.	Greg Ketteman

Clip and mail

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_



Justin and Leslie Banks are in Panama.





Steve Lytle is the new director of field operations for Foreign Missions.

Buddy Seay of White Savannah FWB Church in Conway, S.C., and Robert Shelley, a contractor from the First FWB Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C. They plan to return to the United States on March 23.

## Lytle Takes on New Foreign Missions Role

Steve Lytle, veteran missionary to Panama, has been appointed to fill the newly created office of director of field operations for Foreign Missions. He assumed the new position on February 1.

Lytle is responsible for overseeing ministries and missionaries on all foreign fields. He and his wife, Judy, will be traveling abroad quite frequently. They were ap-

pointed as missionaries in 1975 and have served in Panama since August of 1976.

## Alice Smith Car Taken After I.C. Coup d'état

On December 27 in Agnibilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire—three days after the coup d'état—missionary Alice Smith had her car stolen at gunpoint.

Alice and Pastor Jérôme were leaving the Youth Center and had just closed the doors on her four-wheel drive Suzuki when two men appeared, one on each side of the car. They opened the doors and ordered Alice and Jérôme to get out and leave the keys.

"As soon as I was out, he jumped in," says Alice. "I heard the other one tell Pastor to stay put. Without thinking, I opened the back door and asked that he please let the pastor go free. I hurriedly reached in and took my purse which I had placed on the back seat."

The thieves picked up a third man and sped off. At press time her car had not been located.

## Bunch Reports Deadly Virus in Panama

In late February missionary Stan Bunch reported that the National Health Department in Panama had declared the provinces of Herrera and Los Santos to be an epidemic area for the deadly Hanta Virus, also known as Bubonic Plague.

Stan noted a few deaths had been reported and the government was taking strong measures to handle the situation. Carnival (Mardi Gras) was canceled in that area.

Bunch stated that the disease is spread by rats and mice and so far they have found none in their house. "We are in no danger,"

says Stan. "I have been working in the Las Tablas area where the deaths have occurred but have not been exposed to any situation where the virus should be present."

## FINANCIAL BEAT

### Through January 2000

Income for December 1999.....\$ 775,815.94  
**Total income for 1999.....\$5,380,656.84**  
**Total 1999 Budget (including VISION projects).....\$6,342,171.10**

Income through January 2000.....224,632.57  
 Projected income through January 2000.....685,484.13  
 Total expenses through January 2000.....559,121.52  
**Total 2000 Budget (including VISION projects).....\$8,225,809.51**

These accounts are in the deficit:

Beck.....\$ 873.39	Third World Development.....\$ 3,768.20
Chang.....14,224.48	Support Services.....173,516.96
Combs.....601.74	Info Promotional.....45,362.41
Corley.....12,707.14	Church Planter
Cuba.....2,824.26	Noyabrisk.....951.06
Deeds.....5,653.92	Korean Ministries.....10,419.03
Eagleton Sr.....2,600.82	Marie W Hanna
Martens.....1,027.22	Bible Inst./India.....5,820.23
Moore.....670.29	VISION
Owen.....5,555.11	Abidjan Land/Ch.....19,675.58
Snow.....4,702.72	
Teague.....2,687.40	
<b>Total.....\$313,641.96</b>	

These accounts are in the black but in serious need:

Holland, E \$ 517.44 Banks, \$

## STATES IN ACTION

State	1999 Giving	2000 Goal	Contributions Thru Jan.
Alabama.....\$ 325,110.32	\$ 325,000	\$ 33,994.16	
Arkansas.....449,974.51	455,000	1,865.67	
Arizona.....5,102.08	12,000	339.00	
California.....48,945.68	70,000	4,035.56	
Canada.....7,035.53	10,000	703.00	
Colorado.....2,796.97	10,000	160.00	
Florida.....130,797.94	145,000	1,487.59	
Georgia.....241,942.36	265,000	2,168.67	
Idaho.....4,437.90	10,000	325.68	
Iowa.....1,605.29	5,000	435.00	
Illinois.....123,144.78	170,000	10,157.77	
Indiana.....42,453.18	60,000	4,484.16	
Hawaii.....300.00	1,000	0.00	
Kansas.....6,974.08	7,000	70.00	
Kentucky.....75,069.15	95,000	3,336.78	
Louisiana.....2,140.06	10,000	65.00	
Maryland.....60,454.25	80,000	5,918.76	
Michigan.....161,001.29	240,000	2,040.16	
Missouri.....469,701.94	485,000	4,877.00	
Mississippi.....336,508.07	150,000	5,467.50	
Montana.....2,180.00	5,000	175.00	
North Carolina.....615,901.99	700,000	62,900.40	
Nebraska.....8,088.10	3,000	295.00	
New Mexico.....2,165.07	6,000	0.00	
* Northeast Assn .. 2,047.51	5,000	0.00	
** Northwest Assn 5,428.45	13,000	232.81	
Ohio.....142,227.43	210,000	3,614.96	
Oklahoma.....426,771.58	550,000	2,234.89	
Pennsylvania.....145.00	2,000	20.00	
South Carolina.....349,807.07	420,000	1,393.42	
Tennessee.....734,505.12	890,000	48,831.65	
Texas.....87,839.03	105,000	1,466.76	
Virginia.....68,024.72	105,000	6,581.84	
Virgin Islands.....2,153.95	4,000	0.00	
West Virginia.....132,803.00	135,000	3,369.62	
FWB Foundation .. 25,135.84	25,000	5,970.23	
Miscellaneous.....27,383.30	224,685	642.21	
WNAC.....131,117.75	170,000	3,258.47	
<b>Totals.....\$5,259,220.29*</b>	<b>\$ 6,177,685+</b>	<b>\$ 222,918.72</b>	

\*Northeast Association  
 New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine, Connecticut,  
 Washington, D.C., and Massachusetts

\*\*Northwest Association  
 Alaska, Oregon and Washington

\*Donations only (does not include interest or other gains)

+Does not include VISION projects

## TEAM 2001

Hey teens! Now is the time to consider participation in **TEAM 2001**. Applications are being received now for TEAMS (*Teens Equipped and Active in Missions*) going out next summer. Young women and men who have musical and ministry abilities are needed for **TEAM CUBA**. Some knowledge of the Spanish language is desirable. Interested teens should not wait. Apply now for this exciting and challenging opportunity!

Other TEAM destinations also will be announced soon. This is a lifetime opportunity to discover what God is doing in the world and perhaps find out where you fit.

Request applications from **TEAM**, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.





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; Steve Lytle, director of field operations; 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



### A Defining Moment

When you read this article we will not be far from the most holy days in the Christian calendar. The "holy week" reminds us that the defining moment of Christianity, the resurrection of Christ, is also its distinguishing characteristic. We serve a risen Savior! Jesus Christ has victoriously declared that He will build His church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

Let's wait just a moment though before we break into singing "He Lives!" Yes, the ultimate success of the Church around the world is determined, but the part we play as individuals, churches, and a denomination is not! Each of us will face defining moments. What we do during these times will determine our place in His Kingdom work. This is true in biblical as well as church history. God calls. We respond. And the results of those responses are felt for generations!

### A Pivotal Decision

Abraham faced a pivotal decision in Genesis 22. After years of promise, God had finally blessed him and his

wife Sarah with a son. Then God asked him to sacrifice that for which he had long prayed. His prompt obedience was a defining moment for the nation of Israel. It was, in fact, the beginning of the nation of Israel.

### God's Call

God called (verse 1), Abraham responded (verse 10), and the results are still being felt over 3,000 years later: "And in thy seed shall **all the nations** of the earth be blessed because thou hast obeyed my voice" (verse 18, emphasis mine).

*What we do during these times will determine our place in God's Kingdom work.*

Similar situations were faced by Moses at the burning bush, David as he heard the blasphemy of Goliath, and Elijah as he withstood the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. In each case God called, His servants responded in faith, and the results were profound.

### The Call Is Alive!

The call of God is alive! Can you hear it today? Eternal issues are at stake! God has called us to take His gospel to the ends of the earth. God has heard the prayers of His people and opportunities are available today which were impossible only a few years ago.

We are distinctly privileged by the Lord. It is now realistic to take the Good News to every unreached people group on earth. Who knows? Perhaps we have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this!

We are your Foreign Missions department. On your behalf we are trying to take advantage of these defining moments to enable every Free Will Baptist to respond to the Lord's call. We clearly sense the call of God to move boldly and decisively. Now is the time! The door is ajar. We must respond, and our response will be felt around the world!

### Be Decisive!

We need you to be decisive with us. The ability to respond quickly to developing situations is contingent on our financial ability to do so. Once a year, in the month of April, we ask all of you to send a special gift for Foreign Missions Month. **Please encourage your church, your friends and your family to give sacrificially to the World Missions Offering on April 30.**

We must have a record offering or we will have to curtail planned advancements. Please make an effort during April to partner with us and all of your missionaries through Support Services. This is a defining moment!

*James Forlines*