



HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2000

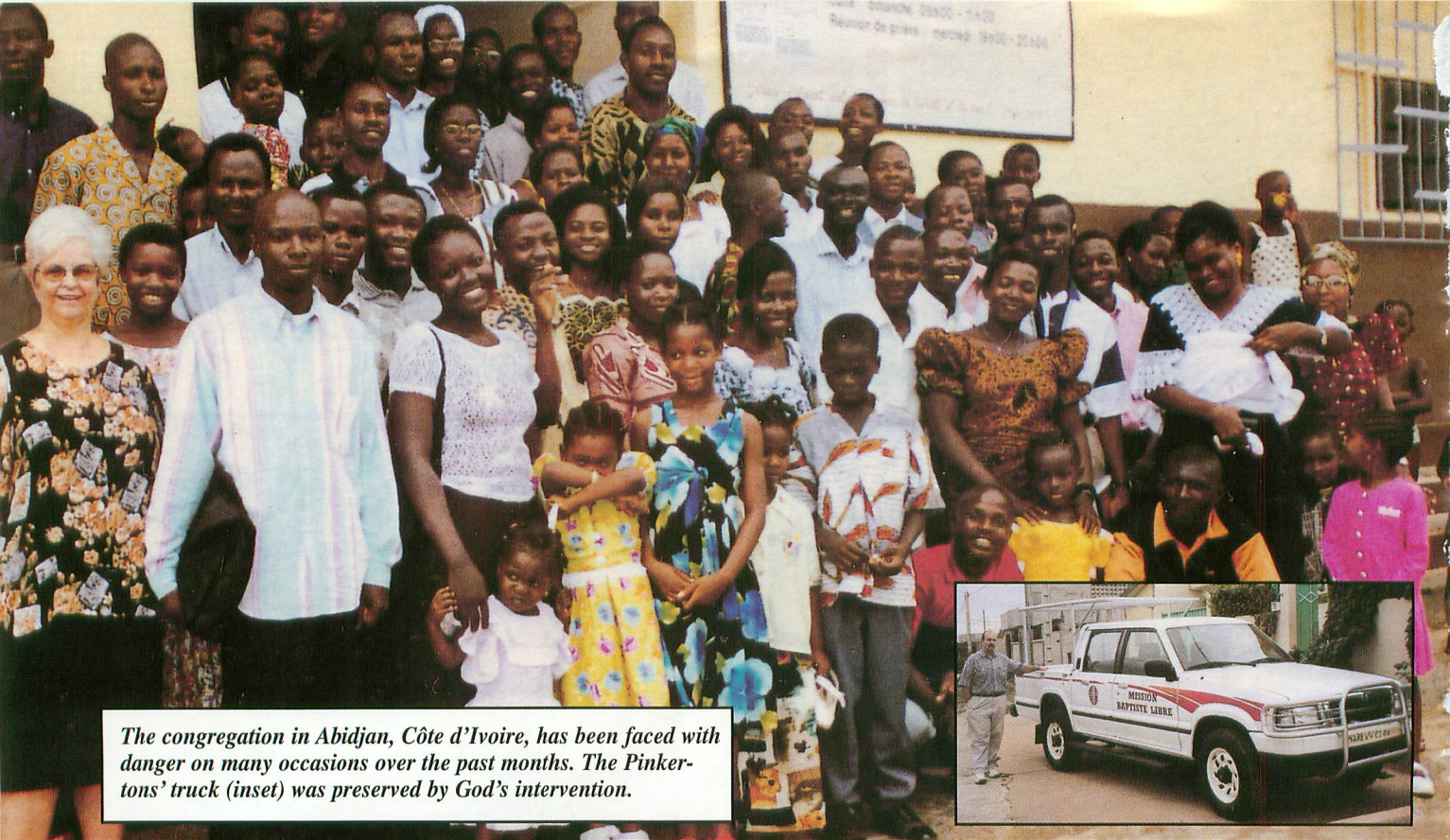
Showing God at work around the world



When a Coup d'état Strikes

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The congregation in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, has been faced with danger on many occasions over the past months. The Pinkertons' truck (inset) was preserved by God's intervention.

When a Coup d'état Strikes

By Carol Pinkerton

Last December a group of girls were in our kitchen in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, preparing fruit drinks for a meal to be served at the church on Christmas Day. I answered the ringing phone but could barely hear our friend as she declared soldiers were running up and down her street, shooting guns into the air. The girls went home immediately, promising to call when they arrived.

That was the beginning of a coup d'état that brought glee, followed by fear and uncertainty!

Côte d'Ivoire has prided itself on remaining a stable, solid country since gaining independence from France 40 years ago. Most of its African neighbors have learned firsthand about soldiers with guns. They have witnessed murders, the looting of homes and

damage to people and buildings.

"Stay in the house. Don't get out," our friend whispered. We were instant believers; however, we only heard distant gunfire in our black neighborhood. Some "white" neighborhoods were kept alert for three days with erratic gunshots.

A coup d'état brought glee, followed by fear and uncertainty!

Even though bullets were fired into the air, eventually they did return! One bullet was found in the kitchen of our guest house. A Christian girl from church was in her kitchen preparing the evening meal when a bullet landed

between her and the counter.

Cars were "borrowed" from individuals and used until the gas tank ran empty, then abandoned for new ones. Several car dealerships were emptied as soldiers took the new 4x4's on display. Soldiers drove around town with guns prominent in open windows. Their yelling and shooting frightened people of all ages.

Jerry took back streets in an attempt to make an early morning run to place the Christmas juice in refrigerators at the guest house. He almost made it—only one street to cross—when a group of people stopped him. They told him he should return home because soldiers were at the next intersection taking vehicles. Jerry came home and we shared the juice with our neighbors.

All Christmas activities were canceled. People stayed inside their homes, glad that a law required property within the city to be enclosed by a wall. Public transport halted. Local taxis were parked. Stores were closed. Many suffered because grocery shopping is a daily affair. Thankfully, we were somewhat prepared. Due to the anticipated Y2K problems, we had fuel for the generator, extra water and groceries in the cabinet.

No one rang our doorbell. The only phone calls came from Christians checking to see if we were okay. Electricity and water continued to function. The phone lines were never disrupted, so we were in daily e-mail contact with family and friends in the U.S.A.

Gradually, people began coming out. Taxi horns blared again, the bread store opened for business and life was back to normal. Well, almost normal. Something very serious had happened to this country. A peace had been shattered.

At first, people danced in the streets, knowing the corrupt former president had left the country and the military had control. Stores that had been looted began to rebuild and most cars were returned to rightful owners.

However, university campus unrest continued. Men with clubs and gas bombs invaded the rooms; some students were injured, others jailed.

Vandalism continues to escalate. Thieves do not wait for darkness to hide their deeds. Having a guardian at one's home or business is now a necessity, not a luxury.

One day in July our '98 double-cab pickup truck was parked just outside our fence with Yao, a Christian young man, washing it. A convoy of soldiers drove past giving it a careful look. The convoy returned and stopped beside the truck. One of the men said, "Go get the keys, I'm taking this truck." "Oh no, please. This truck be-

NEWS FLASH!

Elections on October 22 in Côte d'Ivoire showed Mr. Gbagbo was the people's choice for president. Military ruler Robert Guei sought to overturn results but massive demonstrations led to Guei's apparent flight from the country.

Reports on October 25 indicated Mr. Gbagbo had been declared president. Then riots erupted and destruction of mosques and churches took place as those of two opposing parties clashed. International Christian Academy closed and sent students back to their parents. Field council personnel are closely monitoring the situation.

longs to the Mission," Yao responded. Patting his chest, the soldier replied, "I, too, am with the Mission. Get me the keys!"

We have a mission: sharing Christ through our WITNESS, our WORD and our WALK.

The soldier walked to the front gate—open only enough for the water hose—and began to push it to enter. He was met by Bear, a 3-year-old, 100-pound dog, barking eagerly, anxious to have new skin to lick! Bear's 80-pound little brother was right be-

hind him, also barking. The soldier misread their "welcome." He pulled the gate shut, walked backwards to their truck, got in and left.

As time passed, dancing people started to grumble. Elections were not coming as quickly as the people desired. Rumors of troubles in the military were heard. Since then, we've experienced two more disturbances. "Stay home, keep a low profile," the U.S. Embassy told its citizens.

This dear country is in deep troubles. Financial aid from foreign countries has been cut; foreign investors are waiting to see what will happen before they promise large investments. Medically, one in three people who live along the coastline is infected with the HIV virus. The radio states that a teacher dies weekly from HIV-related problems.

Is the country worth saving? Free Will Baptists believe so. That's why we, and your other missionaries, are here sharing Christ with people who have lost hope and confidence.

We don't know what will happen next. However, we cannot spend our days fearing what might be. We have a mission: sharing Christ through our WITNESS, our WORD and our WALK. Believers have been earnestly praying for this country and its problems.

People here want peace! But true peace can be found only in the Prince of Peace. Pray we will be faithful and effective as we share Jesus Christ.

Carol Pinkerton and her husband, Jerry, have served as missionaries in Côte d'Ivoire since 1971. They are currently working with a national pastor and his wife, seeking to establish a strong church in the capital city of Abidjan.



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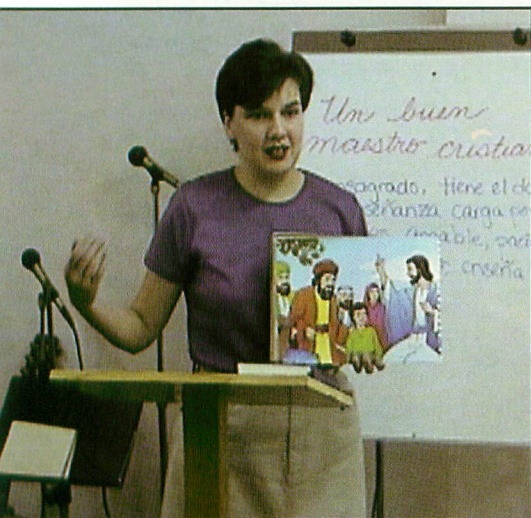
November-December 2000

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Lea Edgmon in Villalba, Spain, demonstrates the use of flash cards during a seminar on teaching children.

Special Teacher Training Seminar Held in Spain

Missionaries Lea Edgmon and Kristi Johnson teamed with Nieves Roa in the Villalba church in Spain to conduct a teacher training seminar during September. Eighteen attended the first session on September 17.

After Lea had explained some teaching techniques, she showed some examples such as puppets, games, flannelgraph, songs, etc.

In one session they divided into three simulated classes with the attendees as students: Lea taught ages six through 12, Kristi taught nursery, and Nieves taught pre-schoolers.

November 12 Marks Prayer for Persecuted

November 12 has been set as the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church worldwide. The organization, Prayer for the Persecuted Church, has indicated 200 million Christians in 40 nations around the world face discrimination, imprisonment, and death because of their faith.

Statistics indicate that more Christians have been martyred in



Participants relax (above) in front of the new buildings of the theological seminary during the Korean National Association of Free Will Baptists. Dr. John Chang greets Mr. Jerry Atwell (right) of Amory, Miss., in front of a plaque memorializing his wife, Joyce Brandon Atwell.

the last 100 years than in the previous 19 centuries combined.

Resources such as the video, *The Narrow Road*, and other materials may be ordered online at www.persecutedchurch.org or by calling 1-800-538-7772.

National Association of South Korea Meets

The National Association of Free Will Baptists in South Korea met October 2-4 at the mission point in Kyonggi-do, about 20 miles southeast of Seoul.

They selected these officers: Dr. Hack Bong Chung, president; Dr. John Chang, vice president; Reverend Paul Park, general secretary; and Reverend Dong Jae Cho, clerk. They also chose directors of evangelism, education, missions, and public relations.

Dedication of the buildings for the Asia FWB Theological Seminary in memory of Joyce Brandon Atwell was held October 3. Jerry Atwell of Amory, Miss., and General Director James Forlines were on hand for this special service.



Outreach Ministries in Russia Face Opposition

Resurging prejudices in Russia sparked the recent loss of the meeting place in Kopejsk where Free Will Baptists were helping to start a church. According to Mike Corley, "The city fathers passed a law that religious groups could not meet in city-owned buildings."

The church is currently meeting in a small, one-room apartment and attendance is seriously dropping. The pastor and other church leaders are concerned that the church might die if they can't find another location soon.

In an encounter a few weeks earlier, an evangelization team from the Good News Church in Chelyabinsk was barred from a movie theater they had reserved in a nearby town for a Christian



Tom McCullough (left) and Steve Lytle (right) stand with Dr. Hack Bong Chung, head of the graduate program of Asia FWB Theological Seminary in Korea.

music concert. The group was escorted from the city and told never to return.

Lytle, McCullough Visit Korea, Offer Guidance

Steve Lytle, director of field operations, and Tom McCullough, professor of missions at Free Will Baptist Bible College, traveled to South Korea September 26. They met with educational leaders and gave guidance to those in charge of the Asian FWB Theological Seminary in Seoul.

The two men sought to help Dr. Hack Bong Chung and Dr. John Chang to set up curriculum and counseled them concerning special cross-cultural training for missionaries.

Both Lytle and McCullough taught a missions seminar during the Korean National Association which was held October 2-4.

Lytle took a short trip to China October 3 and visited Paul and Tanya Dean who are working with English Language Institute/China. He returned to Korea the next day to travel home with McCullough on October 5.

9 Baptized, 16 Join Candida Church

According to Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras, Brazil, nine people were baptized on October 15 and 16 people joined the Candida Free Will Baptist Church that evening.

The Combs indicated the church has been busy in various ministries. The newest includes taking soup to the homeless. On the average, they have been feeding 100 people every Friday.

The church had a special children's crusade recently. Children from *Lar Nova Vida* (New Life Children's Home) sang for many of their relatives who were present.

Lancaster Rejoices Over Conversion in Uruguay

Mauricio, a young man in Montevideo, Uruguay, was saved in September. He had heard the gospel when Jaimie Lancaster preached one of his first sermons in Spanish. Finally, he returned to church, heard Pastor Gerardo preach, then talked to Dennis Owen. Pastor Gerardo and Jaimie dealt with him after the service, and he prayed to receive Christ.

New Video Series Set for Release in March

A four-part video series is being professionally produced by the Department of Foreign Missions and will be released in March 2001 to help churches develop a vision for mobilization to reach the world for Christ.

The new series, under the title of "Embracing the Vision," will feature four 15- to 18-minute programs: God's Heartbeat, The World in Need, Our Potential, and My Personal Involvement. The tape series will be accompanied



Children from *Lar Nova Vida* sing during a children's crusade at the Candida FWB Church in Araras, Brazil.

by printed materials and leader guides.

Information on booking the series will be posted on the web www.nafwb.org/fm and will be published in subsequent editions of *HeartBeat*.

News Capsules

Brazil—Tom and Nancy Hughes in Uberlândia, Brazil, report five people baptized on Sunday, October 8. They expressed hope that another baptismal service would be held this year since several other people are taking the new converts classes.

Macon, Ga.—Paul and Rhoda Creech, missionaries currently on leave of absence, had a baby boy on August 15 in Macon, Ga. Caleb Mark weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces. He is the Creeches' fourth child.

Brazil—According to missionaries Jim and Vicki Sturgill in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 16-year-old Flavio recently answered the call to preach.

Panama—Missionary Eddie Bowerman was hospitalized in Panama City, Panama, on October 5 with a kidney stone. Doctors were successful in breaking up the

NEWS IN REVIEW

stone, and he returned home on October 8.

France—Bruno, a Christian man from the St. Nazaire church in France, recently led his hospital roommate to the Lord. According to missionary Jerry Gibbs, Bruno had attended the Evangelism Explosion program in the church. Christophe later came to church and gave his testimony.

Antioch, Tenn.—Alan Conley, four-year-old son of Robert Conley, director of financial operations, was hospitalized several times in October due to infection and side effects from chemother-

apy treatment for leukemia. An old port-a-cath was surgically removed and a new one inserted to help avoid infection.

Nashville, Tenn.—Missionaries Don and Ruth McDonald became parents of a baby girl, Caroline Grace, born September 26 at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 14 and a half ounces. The McDonalds, who are on stateside assignment from their ministry in Sapporo, Japan, have three other children.

Bixby, Okla.—Reverend Calvin Morgan, father of Ivory Coast missionary Judy Bryan, died on October 19 in Bixby, Okla. He had suffered a stroke about a week earlier and had been placed in a nursing home. He was 93 years of age. Funeral services were held on October 23 at First Free Will Baptist Church of Bixby.

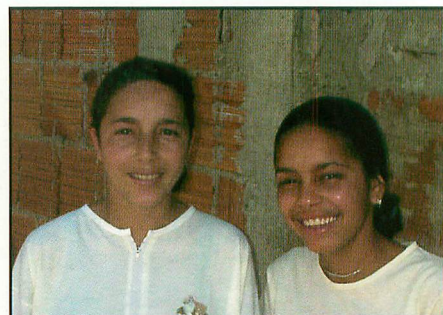
Pooles Mark 40th Anniversary in Brazil

According to missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole, December 14 will mark the fortieth anniversary of their arrival in Brazil.

The Pooles have started four Free Will Baptist churches in the area of Ribeirão Preto during their time in Brazil. One church had to be closed in 1995. The three remaining include First FWB, started on March 10, 1962; Ipiranga FWB, started in October of 1974; and Marincek FWB, started July 6, 1992. The couple also established the Bible institute program in Ribeirão Preto.

Basketball Camp Aids Ministry in France

In August Dennis Teague and 11 members of his girl's basketball team traveled from St. Sebastien, France, to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Norman, Okla., for



Maria and Fabiane were among those converted during September in São Jose, Campinas, Brazil.

a week of basketball camp. Coaches Kelly Archer and Larry Cariker conducted the camp.

The girls were hosted by local Free Will Baptist families during their travels in the States. Dennis chose to coach the team in an effort to reach young people in France with the gospel.

Teague indicated only two of the girls had ever been in a Protestant church service prior to their trip. While in the States they participated in services with the Maranatha FWB Church in Ardmore, Okla., and the Calvary FWB Church in Norman, Okla. Dennis translated for the group.

Upon their return to France the team asked Dennis to lead in prayer before each of their games, like Coach Archer.

Holland Reports Eight Saved in September

Missionary Curt Holland in the São Jose area of Campinas, Brazil, has expressed praise to the Lord for eight people who experienced salvation during the month of September.

Three sisters accepted Jesus as Savior Sunday evening, September 3. Maria, Sandra and Fabiane are cousins of some of the people in the São Jose church. They had attended evangelistic services held in homes.

During the next week four more people—Gercina, Janaina,

Pray for the Muslim World

The 30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus starts November 27 and goes through December 26. You may order Prayer Guide booklets from www.ywam.org at \$3.00 each or write to World Christian News and Books, Colorado Springs, CO 80936. Quantities are available at reduced rates.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in August and September:

Donor	In Memory of
Willing Workers SS Class Forest Grove FWB Church Knoxville, Tenn.	Mrs. Edith Bess
Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Norris College Station, Tex.	Rev. Alvin Halbrook
Dr. and Mrs. Irvin Hyman Albany, Ga.	Audrey Falkner Rev. Fred Rivenbark Ray Sanders

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 _____



Mrs. Thelma Wren remembered Foreign Missions in her will.

Regina and Mayara—made professions of faith.

Silvado, whose father plays guitar in the church, began his walk with the Lord Sunday, September 24. He had begun attending services at the end of August. Holland had requested prayer for his salvation and that of Gercina only a month earlier.

Thelma Wren Estate Helps Foreign Missions

The estate of Thelma Wren, long-time member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., recently contributed \$23,762 to Foreign Missions.

R. Eugene Waddell, Wren's former pastor, says, "I knew Mrs. Wren for almost 40 years. From the time faith promise giving was initiated, Thelma and her husband, John, became faithful supporters. They took a strong personal interest in 'their missionaries'—those who went out from Cofer's. When she was preparing her will, Thelma made sure Foreign Missions was included. I know she is happy that her support continues."

Readers interested in information on providing for world evangelism at their death may contact the FWB Foundation or Foreign Missions at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Three Men Repent, Submit to Church

According to missionary Robert West in Kafolo, Côte d'Ivoire, three men recently expressed repentance over sin and have sought a right relationship with the church.

"The last Sunday in August, after the morning message, one old man—a family chief—came to see me to repent of his sins," says Robert. The man, Nicodem, confessed to stopping his tithing a year earlier and cited the difficulty he had brought on his family.

Benjamin, another man who had been excommunicated in 1984 for sin, has been working on getting things right since last year. He is now ready to submit himself to the correction of the church.

Albert, a third young man, had taken a second wife and was fired from a hospital position in Doro. The church dealt with him, but he refused to acknowledge his sins. Finally, he has repented.

West also noted that two young men in their area had answered the call to preach.

Aycock Baptizes Six, Says 10 Saved Since July

Missionary Bobby Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, expressed praise recently that 10 people there had been saved since July. On Sunday, October 15, Bobby baptized six people. Four of these were from Barbacena and two from Antonio Carlos.

Aycock expressed gratitude for the election of Flavio Grossi as pastor of the Barbacena church. Flavio will assume leadership January 1, 2001. The Aycocks will be starting a new work in Carandai, a city about 20 miles from Barbacena with a population of over 30,000 people.

For up-to-date
prayer requests from the
mission fields, call

MISSIONS HOTLINE

Dial

615-731-3839

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through September 2000

Income for August.....	\$ 491,775.13
Income for September.....	429,596.87
Total income through September.....	4,000,450.41
Projected income through September.....	6,169,357.13
Total expenses through September.....	4,581,194.93
Total 2000 Budget (including VISION projects).....	\$8,225,809.51

These accounts are in the deficit:

Banks.....	\$ 8,035.73	West.....	\$ 5,265.19
Barker.....	1,300.05	Wilson, V.....	831.00
Blanchard.....	1,625.45	Church Planter.....	
Callaway.....	3,357.16	Noyabrisk.....	766.06
Dr. Chang.....	87,446.81	Korean Ministries.....	21,045.35
Gainer.....	2,076.07	Marie W Hanna.....	
Holland, C.....	1,629.48	Bible Inst/India.....	9,338.57
Holland, E.....	933.71	Info Promotional.....	11,759.49
Lancaster.....	3739.97	Support Services.....	95,957.37
Martens.....	8,633.18	Third World.....	
Nichols.....	3,366.13	Development.....	3,768.20
Owen.....	2,175.58	VISION.....	
Tallent.....	2,223.06	Abidjan Land/Ch.....	14,897.13
Teague.....	8,370.90	Korean Sem.....	351,145.00
Total.....			\$649,686.64

STATES IN ACTION

State	2000 Goal	Goal Thru Sept.	Contributions Thru Sept.
Alabama.....	\$ 325,000	\$ 243,750.00	\$ 347,183.04
Arkansas.....	455,000	341,250.00	319,561.79
Arizona.....	12,000	9,000.00	4,935.49
California.....	70,000	52,500.00	45,852.37
Canada.....	10,000	7,500.00	3,864.89
Colorado.....	10,000	7,500.00	1,806.00
Florida.....	145,000	108,750.00	112,816.71
Georgia.....	265,000	198,750.00	189,208.28
Idaho.....	10,000	7,500.00	3,520.95
Iowa.....	5,000	3,750.00	1,232.66
Illinois.....	170,000	127,500.00	104,755.51
Indiana.....	60,000	45,000.00	47,620.02
Hawaii.....	1,000	750.00	300.00
Kansas.....	7,000	5,250.00	2,397.11
Kentucky.....	95,000	71,250.00	51,136.56
Louisiana.....	10,000	7,500.00	980.76
Maryland.....	80,000	60,000.00	43,059.43
Michigan.....	240,000	180,000.00	128,553.82
Missouri.....	485,000	363,750.00	333,683.82
Mississippi.....	150,000	112,500.00	65,356.37
Montana.....	5,000	3,750.00	1,750.00
Nebraska.....	3,000	2,250.00	5,717.00
New Mexico.....	6,000	4,500.00	983.15
North Carolina.....	700,000	525,000.00	522,692.88
*Northeast Assn.....	5,000	3,750.00	994.67
**Northwest Assn.....	13,000	9,750.00	11,677.92
Ohio.....	210,000	157,500.00	104,809.63
Oklahoma.....	550,000	412,500.00	310,768.28
Pennsylvania.....	2,000	1,500.00	199.50
South Carolina.....	420,000	315,000.00	298,273.31
Tennessee.....	890,000	667,500.00	481,530.41
Texas.....	105,000	78,750.00	67,598.35
Virginia.....	105,000	78,750.00	62,612.75
Virgin Islands.....	4,000	3,000.00	2,558.25
West Virginia.....	135,000	101,250.00	96,520.80
FWB Foundation.....	25,000	18,750.00	19,070.46
Miscellaneous.....	224,685	168,513.75	26,594.34
WNAC.....	170,000	127,500.00	104,940.83
Totals.....	\$ 6,177,685+	\$ 4,633,263.75+	\$ 3,927,118.11

*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

Note: Miscellaneous includes miscellaneous sources, states and interest income.



P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

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

Administrative Staff: James Forlines, general director; 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/fm

Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director



THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

In 1996 I was still pastoring in Arkansas when General Director Eugene Waddell asked me if I would go with a group to a pastor's conference in Russia. This proved to be a life-changing experience.

For several days we were in the Siberian city of Chelyabinsk. One evening we ate supper in the home of Nikolay Sobolev. Russian pastors were there along with the delegation from the United States. The men sang some Russian songs for us. I remember one song in particular. They said it was a song they sang when going through years of persecution under Communism. It was a song of hope.

Visualized Suffering

As they sang, I visualized all the suffering the Russian church had endured and I wept. Through an interpreter I told the pastors how much that had meant to me. One of them responded with a probing question. He asked, "When we were going through persecution, when we were in the

prison camps and many of our family members died, were you praying for us?"

That question shot arrows of conviction and remorse deep into my soul. Since I had grown up during the cold war fearing the Russians, I could not honestly say that their plight had ever been part of my prayer life. My childhood preconceptions proved to be untrue, at least with common Russian people.

Millions Are Suffering

Since then I have wondered how many millions of Christians today are suffering for their faith around the world. Reports from Sudan, Nigeria, Central Asia, India, China, Indonesia, and North Korea immediately come to mind. Our brothers and sisters worldwide are suffering unspeakable horror. Their voices are silenced by our unconcern.

Never again do I want to ignore the crying needs of my brothers and sisters. While we live in freedom and worship without fear, the mere possession of a Bible or Christian literature is enough to send some of them to labor camps or even invoke a death sentence.

What can you do?

(1) **Educate yourself on the condition of the persecuted church around the globe.** [Check the internet

at www.persecutedchurch.org or call 1-800-538-7772. Also take a look at www.persecution.com and write to *The Voice of the Martyrs*, P.O. Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005 or call 1-800-747-0085 to order a "Voice Packet."] **The National Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12.**

(2) **Help the people in your church become aware of prayer needs.** Thanksgiving also comes in November. As we remember His gracious provision to us, we can remember those who live what Jesus said in John 15:20, "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

(3) **Send letters of concern and outrage** to appropriate government officials in the United States and abroad. We must be a voice for those who do not have the ability to speak on the international stage. Agencies that monitor these developments can assist you in knowing what is appropriate.

(4) PRAY!

May God help us not to become complacent in our comfort. May we have the mind of Christ and see the world as He does.

James Forlines