



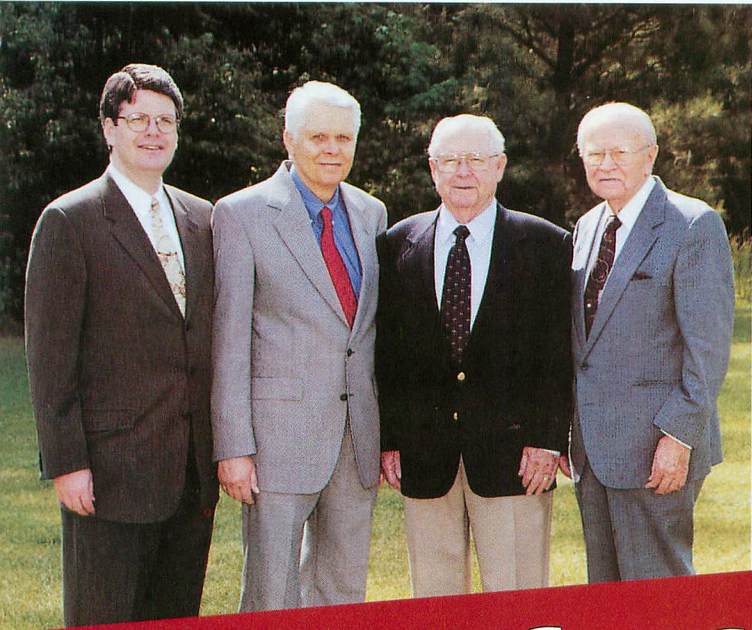
HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist

Foreign Missions

JULY
AUGUST
2001

Showing God at work around the world



Atlanta Consultation 2001 *Where Missionaries Got Together!*



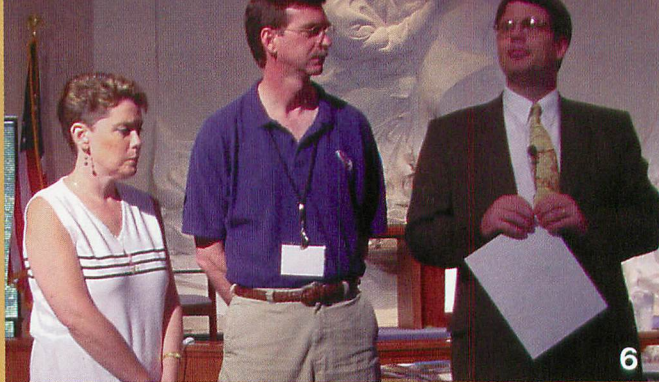
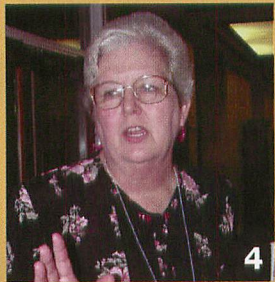
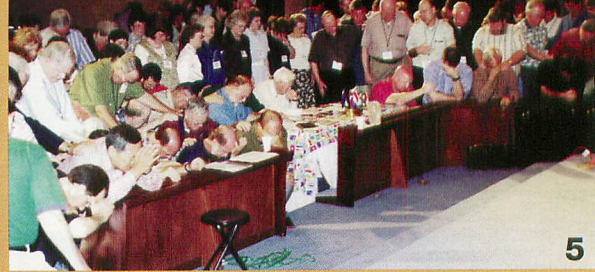
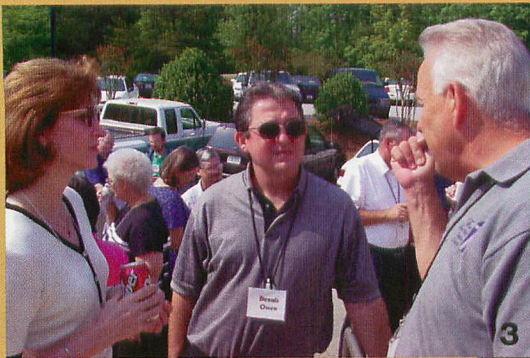
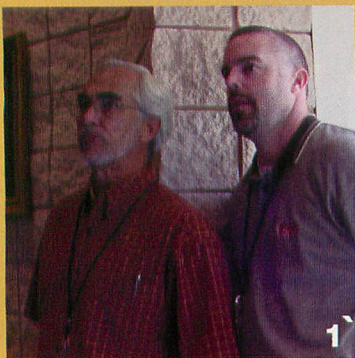
Gilliland Made Member Care Director, page 5

Three Approved for Service Abroad, page 7

Four TEAM Groups Depart, page 6

10 Missionaries Go to Fields of Service, page 7

IN THIS ISSUE



1. Clint Morgan and Cameron Lane, 2. Tim Johnson and Mike Corley face Dr. Larry Reesor, 3. Dennis and Trena Owen with Joe Grizzle, 4. Ella Rae Jones, 5. Commitment time, 6. Neil and Sheila Gilliland and James Forlines

Atlanta Consultation 2001

Where Missionaries Got Together!

It was about change. It involved the entire Free Will Baptist foreign missionary family. And it was a first! We called it Atlanta Consultation 2001.

This unique gathering marked the first time all active foreign missionaries were able to meet in one place at the same time. Only two were unable to attend. Even many former missionaries joined the activities.

The presence of four of the five men who have served as general director made this even more unique. Only J. Reford Wilson who died in 1995 was not with us.

When the 174 participants convened at the Simpsonwood Retreat Center in Norcross, Ga., on April 28, excitement and questioning permeated the air. The Foreign Missions family wondered who they would see for the first time. What proposals would they encounter? What could

By Don Robirds,
HEARTBEAT editor

they expect to take with them when the consultation concluded?

In truth, many were surprised! Some were a little disappointed. But most were challenged and optimistic for the future mobilization of our denomination for world outreach.

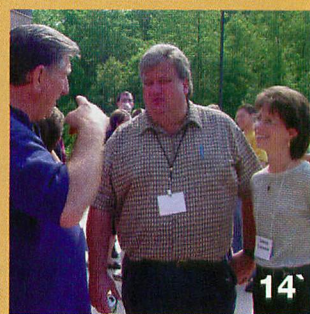
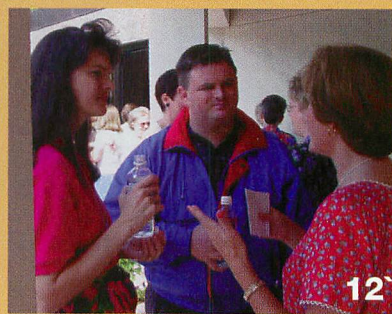
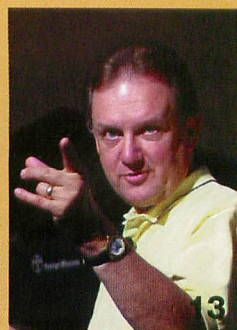
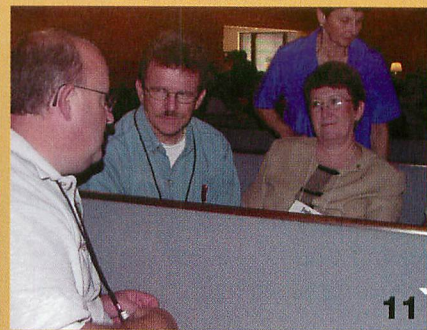
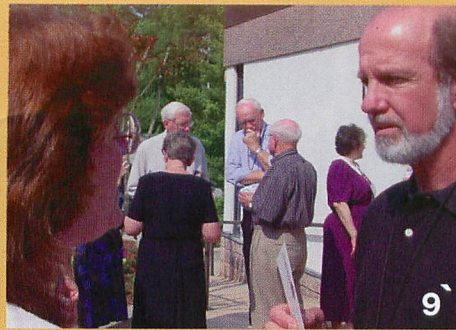
This unique gathering marked the first time all active foreign missionaries were able to meet in one place at the same time.

Since the Foreign Missions staff developed a 10-year strategic plan for world outreach in 1998, missionary field councils have sought to become more strategic in their approach to church planting. Foreign

Missions publications have become more reader oriented, the home office staff has restructured for growth, and a powerful new video series, "Embracing the Vision," has been distributed to more than 600 churches.

One of the chief emphases in the video series is the "paradigm" shift in our approach to missions. Since the staff has regularly sought to communicate this shift to our churches over the past two years, we also felt it necessary to convey this new approach to our missionaries. Equally important was the dynamic gained by having all missionaries, staff, board members and former missionaries together to hear the proposals at the same time.

Global Focus, an independent group headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., provided the main seminar training during three days. The purpose of



7. Dave Franks Sr., Bobby Poole and Rolla Smith, 8. Jimmy Aldridge and Nathan and Linda Snow, 9. Cheri Ham and Dennis Teague, 10. Nancy Hughes, Curt Holland and Annette and David Aycock, 11. Paul Creech, Robert and Judy Bryan, and Janie Aldridge, 12. LaRhonda and Eddie Bowerman and Deleen Cousineau, 13. Dr. Larry Reesor, 14. Jim McLain and Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster

Global Focus is “to serve local churches by helping pastors and church leaders become more effective in leading their churches to reach the world for Christ.”

The majority of those attending declared this to be one of the best meetings ever attempted by Foreign Missions. One missionary declared it was “the best of the best.”

While most attendees had limited prior knowledge regarding the content of this consultation or the seminar, many admitted it provided them insights and challenges. Some renewed their vision of the *whole* world. Eddie Bowerman of Panama put it this way: “I feel challenged overall to dream bigger.”

Jaimie Lancaster of Uruguay declared, “The consultation opened my eyes to the importance of partnerships.” He referred to missionaries and local churches partnering to mobilize people to become more effective in world outreach.

Basically the consultation program began on Saturday evening, April 28, with a special welcome

and a time of singing, prayer and praise led by Doug Little, chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions.

The majority of those attending declared this to be one of the best meetings ever attempted by Foreign Missions.

On Sunday morning R. Eugene Waddell, former general director, plunged into Isaiah 40:27-31 in an effort to fortify those who might be weary or discouraged. “God’s strength is available when we need it,” he declared. Waiting on the Lord “lifts us above the things down here and we see the big picture.”

That evening the group reconvened for a concert of prayer, praise and worship conducted by Doug Little. God really spoke to hearts, preparing them for what followed during the week.

Field councils grouped on Monday morning to discuss their future plans, etc. Then at 1:00 p.m. the Global Focus team, headed by founder and president Dr. Larry Reesor, began the powerpoint seminar presentation “Growing a Great Commission Church.” The seminar continued during the daytime and concluded Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

Reesor and his team made it plain: “The local church is God’s primary instrument to evangelize the world.” Then, they challenged the missionaries to recognize that “mis-



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Don Robirds, *Editor*

Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editorial Assistant*

Jim Johnson, *Artist*

sions is not the ultimate goal of the church; worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't" (John Piper in *Let the Nations Be Glad*).

"Missionaries must no longer see themselves solely as implementers of the missionary task, but also as mobilizers of the missionary resource," emphasized the Global Focus president. "Missionaries are finding that they can accomplish much more through synergistic partnerships than they could ever do alone."

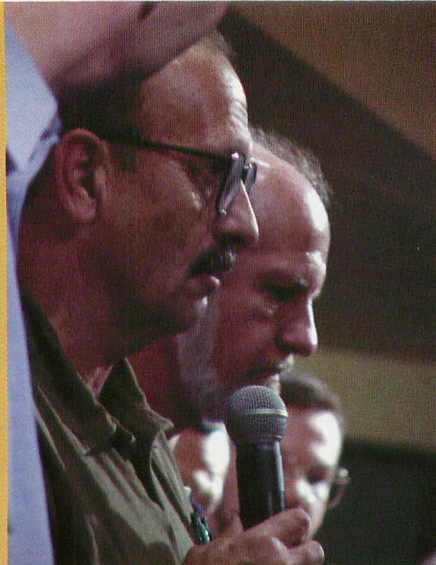
Most missionaries saw the seminar as very good. Jeff Turnbough of Spain indicated the sessions and the consultation provided a "challenge for following God's leading and launching out with something new for our whole mission." Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment, says this "brought an awareness to the missionary family regarding the need for cooperation in scheduling and coordinating visits to mission fields."

Reesor and his team made it plain: "The local church is God's primary instrument to evangelize the world."

While the days were occupied by GF, evenings were reserved for missionaries, staff and board members to spend time reminiscing, praying, rejoicing and laughing.

Monday night appeared to be the highlight of the week for most as we honored our heritage. Participants viewed a short video showing early missions in India and Cuba. It also contained brief scenes taken by missionaries and the staff. The video concluded with a summary take from the film "Letter to Melitino."

Prayer time followed the presen-



Jerry Pinkerton shares a request for praying laborers into the Côte d'Ivoire harvest.

tation. Raymond Riggs, the first general director of Foreign Missions, led the prayer. He wept as he noted all of those present who had gone out since the 1950s when he predicted that one day many would go to the regions beyond. In response to requests from missionaries, the aging leader asked "the Lord of the Harvest" to send many more laborers into the field.

The evening concluded with a succinct video featuring Foreign Missions personnel who are now with the Lord. Hearts were stirred as viewers saw those saints on the screen along with subtitles clarifying where and when they had served and their date of death. This presentation was accompanied by the emotional song "Safely Home" by Steve Green.

A special fun night captured attention on Tuesday evening with missionaries participating and viewing short video clips that brought rousing laughter. The humanness of the missionaries, staff members and the board revealed itself in the antics of the evening. It proved refreshing!

Wednesday's evening service featured former board chairman Joe Grizzle of Norman, Okla. He urged the missionaries to guard their lives

and ministries for the Lord. Through tears of sorrow he told of friends who had not taken heed and had ruined their ministries.

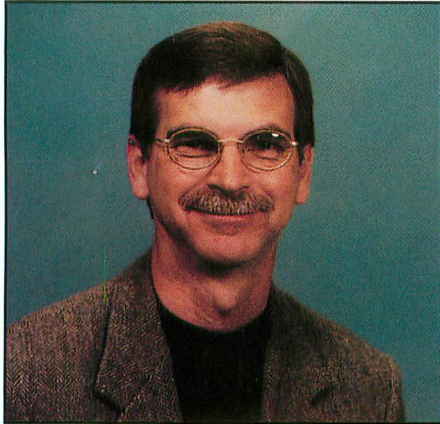
A moving service of communion and feetwashing followed with board members serving. Former director Rolla Smith led in prayer. Missionaries, staff and board members embraced one another in humility and adoration for our Lord's example. Songs of praise erupted and continued throughout the session.

"Missionaries must no longer see themselves solely as implementers of the missionary task, but also as mobilizers of the missionary resource."

On Thursday morning the entire missionary family gathered to recap the week's emphasis, and to share views and conclusions. General Director James Forlines chaired the session and fielded questions. Time ran short with many, many questions left unanswered. Brother Forlines declared he was not surprised at the questions. He urged every missionary and every field council to take what was shared and determine the strategy and cooperation needed to implement a program of partnership to mobilize Free Will Baptists.

So, what conclusion was reached? Were the time and expense worth it? Can we expect immediate results? Board chairman Little says, "The long-term impact of the Atlanta consultation has yet to be seen, but I am confident it will be evident. And the renewed vision, passion, and commitment of our missionary family will help pastors and churches in the States be more effective than ever before in fulfilling the Great Commission."🌐

NEWS IN REVIEW



Neil Gilliland has been appointed director of member care and will assume the position on August 1.

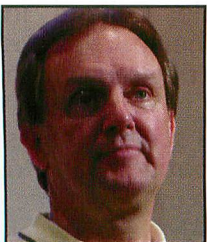
Gilliland Appointed New Member Care Director

Neil Gilliland, former missionary to Ivory Coast, was appointed as the director of member care for Foreign Missions during the May session of the Board of Foreign Missions in Atlanta, Ga. This is a new position created under the recent restructuring of the department.

Gilliland has completed studies for his Ph.D. at Tennessee State University. He is completing his internship in West Lafayette, Ind. Sheila and Hanna, Neil's wife and daughter, have already moved to Nashville but Neil will not arrive until the end of July. He is to assume his new position August 1.

Joint Seminar Offered at National Association

A special seminar on "Growing a Great Commission Church" will be sponsored jointly by Home Missions and Foreign Missions at the National Association meeting in Detroit, Mich. The session will be held 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 17, in the Cobo Center, room



Dr. Larry Reesor



The 18 people from South Carolina who traveled to Brazil to help in the New Life Children's Home are shown with Jim and Shirley Combs (bottom, right) and the four video crew members. Rosana (back row, second from right) organized the trip.

W1—54 and 55.

Featured guest speaker will be Dr. Larry Reesor, president of Global Focus. The session will offer pastors and lay people a challenge and give tips to become "A Great Commission Church," reaching the church's Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

S. Carolina Group Helps at Brazil Children's Home

Headed by Rosana Guimarães, a Brazilian in the Florence First Free Will Baptist Church, a group of 18 people from South Carolina left for Araras, Brazil, on May 31 to help in equipping the New Life Children's Home. The participants took over 700 pounds of clothing, shoes and toys and many needed items for the children and the home. They spent their days painting, building, repairing, etc. as needed.

Accompanying the group was a video team from Foreign Missions including Mark Cowart, Brian Ellison, Keith Johnson, and Scott Johnson. They did preliminary filming for "Embracing the Vision II" scheduled for release in the spring of 2002.

The group returned to the United States on June 9.

17 Missionaries Begin Stateside Assignments

Seventeen missionaries will be fulfilling stateside assignments either short- or long-term during 2001. Jerry and Carol Pinkerton came home in March while Alice Smith and Robert and Pam West arrived in April. Ronald and Linda Callaway returned from Panama on May 26, but left in June for a short assignment with TEAM Cuba 2001.

Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman and Carlisle Hanna arrived June 12, Lynn Midgett started a nine-month assignment on June 19, and Curt and Mary Holland planned 45 days stateside in June and July. Traci Epps returns home July 1, Bobby and Geneva Poole arrive on July 6 for six months, and Dennis and Carol Teague come back on July 24.

News Capsules

Wheaton, Ill.—Mirial Gainer, Tonya Blanchard and Brenda Wendlandt attended classes at the Institute for Cross-Cultural Training in the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton, Ill., June 7-28.

Spain—Overseas apprentices Mitchell Cooper and Chris Ye-

NEWS IN REVIEW

mans went to Spain on June 15 to work with the *JESUS* film project and port ministries.

Brazil—Julie Biggs from Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Okla., and Lori Gaw from FWBBC in Nashville, Tenn., went to Brazil as overseas apprentices on May 22 to work with Jim and Shirley Combs.

MK Graduates

Four MKs graduated from high school: Ryan Gibbs, France; Sarah Nichols, Côte d'Ivoire; Alicia Bunch, Panama; and Doug Bishop, Japan. Three MKs graduated from college: Jonathan Owen, Milliken University; Stephanie McVay and Adam Morgan, Free Will Baptist Bible College.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in April and May 2001:

Donor	In Memory of
Bernice Cantrell Thayer, Mo.	Virgil Cantrell
Rev. Carlisle Hanna Antioch, Tenn.	Volena Wilson
Frances A. Stines Marion, N.C.	Volena Wilson
Mrs. William F. Taylor Asheville, N.C.	Volena Wilson
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Go and Be students are accompanied by missionary Lynette Morgan as they learn about African culture from villagers.

10 Go and Be 2001 Students Study Africa

Ten students, most from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., left for Ivory Coast, West Africa, on May 19 for five weeks of classroom and cultural studies at the Bible institute in Bouna. Clint Morgan was in charge of the group and training sessions.

Morning classroom studies focused on anthropology, the world of spirits, and the history of missions in Africa. The students visited villages in the afternoons to observe the various occupations and their ways of life.

The group included Brandon Atwood, Leah Chamberlin, Natalie Crowson, David Lytle, Daniel Miles, Darin Miles, Jonathan Postlewaite, Jackie Rasar, Jennifer Stone, and Joni Thomas. They returned to Nashville on June 25.

Jalayne Martens Resigns from Missionary Service

Missionary Jalayne Martens, who has been under the auspices of Foreign Missions since her appointment to Ivory Coast in December of 1985, has submitted her resignation from service for personal reasons effective July 1.

Jalayne has been receiving ther-



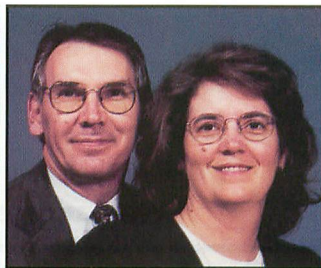
Jalayne Martens has resigned from missionary service in Côte d'Ivoire.

apy at Link Care in Fresno, Calif., since she suffered trauma on the field. She says, "I value the time spent working in Ivory Coast and the many kindnesses that you and my colleagues have demonstrated, especially during this difficult time."

Four TEAM Groups Go to Four Countries

Four TEAMS completed an intensive week of training for overseas ministry on June 23 at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. The four groups departed for their fields of service on June 25.

TEAM Cuba will spend 10 days traveling throughout the island to minister through music, mime, and testimony. TEAM Japan went to Hokkaido to teach English as a



(Top, left to right) Mike and Cathy Corley, Donnie and Ruth McDonald, Sam and June McVay, (above) Charolette Tallent and Patsy Vanhook will all be on their fields of service very soon.

second language and participate in cultural exchange with Japanese children and teens.

TEAM Puerto Rico members were trained to use mime and music to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ in the evenings and work on a construction project during the day.

TEAM St. Croix will be focusing on a vacation Bible school for the local children and painting and cleaning Free Will Baptist Christian School in Christiansted, Virgin Islands.

TEAM Cuba was scheduled to return on July 5 while the other three TEAMS planned to return July 11.

Three Approved for Service, Two Extend

Three missionary candidates were granted two-year assignments abroad when the Board of Foreign Missions met in Atlanta, Ga., April 30-May 4. Two others had their terms extended.

Terry and D. D. Vandivort of Missouri were appointed as career missionaries and were



Brenda Wendlandt (right) and Terry and D. D. Vandivort will serve abroad.



assigned to International Christian Academy in Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire. They will serve two years as house parents for the Free Will Baptist dorm.

Brenda Wendlandt of Oklahoma was granted a two-year assignment to teach English as a contact for evangelism in Japan.

The board also granted a one-year extension to the terms of service of Tonya Blanchard and Shannon Little in Japan.

Ernest and Elaine Holland, missionaries to Ivory Coast, were granted a one-year leave of absence beginning August 1.

10 Missionaries Go to Fields of Service

Ten missionaries are scheduled to depart for their fields of service or have departed during May through September following stateside assignments and deputations.

Mike and Cathy Corley returned to Russia on May 30, Sam and June McVay left for Spain on June 5, Donnie and Ruth McDon-

ald are set to depart on July 12 for Japan, Terry and D.D. Vandivort are to leave August 2 for Côte d'Ivoire, and Charolette Tallent is to depart for France in September as is Patsy Vanhook.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through May 2001

Income for April	\$ 480,646.50
Income for May	488,080.50
Total income through May	2,176,349.88
Projected income through May	3,311,966.05
Total expenses through May	2,681,410.56
Total 2001 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$7,948,718.51

These accounts are in the deficit:

Barker	\$ 1,704.23	Teague	\$ 8,000.00
Bishop	7,383.64	West	16,033.51
Blanchard	2,406.48	India Bible Inst.	19,804.17
Callaway	8,936.91	Russian Ministries ..	35,778.62
Chang, Dr.	89,837.11	Project RAC	44.00
Gainer	8,000.00	Korean Ministries....	11,703.02
Hanna	8,961.99	Third World Dev.....	3,768.20
Holland, C	6,512.34	VISION	
Lancaster	3,570.77	Nantes	13,427.51
Little, S	8,000.00	Abidjan Land/Ch.....	14,110.13
Martens	27,398.11	Russian Bible Inst. ...	25,967.05
Nichols	943.66	Support Services	266,545.46
Owen	15,000.00		
Sturgill	8,757.63		
Totals	\$613,509.54		

These accounts are low and needy:

Epps	\$ 1,505.99	Holland, E.	\$ 2,361.84
Combs	2,414.44	Turnbough	2,871.46
Gibbs	2,000.00		

STATES IN ACTION

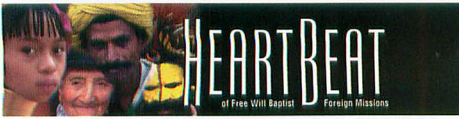
State	2001 Goal	Goal Thru May	Contributions Thru May
Alabama	\$ 438,000.00	\$ 182,500.00	\$ 155,745.64
Arkansas	607,000.00	252,916.67	200,574.31
Arizona	7,000.00	2,916.67	3,355.88
California	66,000.00	27,500.00	22,676.82
Canada	10,000.00	4,166.67	1,633.89
Colorado	4,000.00	1,666.67	1,054.65
Florida	176,000.00	73,333.33	73,024.91
Georgia	326,000.00	135,833.33	89,232.55
Idaho	6,000.00	2,500.00	1,373.91
Iowa	3,000.00	1,250.00	290.73
Illinois	166,000.00	69,166.67	58,599.35
Indiana	57,000.00	23,750.00	27,616.39
Hawaii	1,000.00	416.67	251.00
Kansas	10,000.00	4,166.67	1,366.47
Kentucky	101,000.00	42,083.33	29,883.79
Louisiana	3,000.00	1,250.00	1,990.16
Maryland	82,000.00	34,166.67	26,395.45
Michigan	217,000.00	90,416.67	59,990.76
Missouri	633,000.00	263,750.00	164,737.62
Mississippi	454,000.00	189,166.67	37,056.92
Montana	3,000.00	1,250.00	915.00
North Carolina	830,000.00	345,833.33	295,277.26
Nebraska	11,000.00	4,583.33	1,250.00
New Mexico	3,000.00	1,250.00	427.83
Northeast Assn.	3,000.00	1,250.00	3,602.24
Northwest Assn.	7,500.00	3,125.00	1,986.88
Ohio	192,000.00	80,000.00	42,189.81
Oklahoma	575,000.00	239,583.33	161,984.70
Pennsylvania	1,000.00	416.67	1,615.00
South Carolina	472,000.00	196,666.67	176,401.30
Tennessee	990,000.00	412,500.00	326,406.95
Texas	118,000.00	49,166.67	30,085.10
Virginia	92,000.00	38,333.33	35,564.30
Virgin Islands	3,000.00	1,250.00	450.00
West Virginia	180,000.00	75,000.00	37,780.75
FWB Foundation.	34,000.00	14,166.67	26,872.81
Miscellaneous	25,718.51	10,716.05	1,250.00
WNAC	177,000.00	73,750.00	59,314.92
Totals	\$ 7,084,218.51+	\$ 2,951,757.71+	\$ 2,160,226.05

*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



WOW!

Wow! What else can I say after experiencing Atlanta Consultation 2001? Missionaries gathered from all over the world and even former missionaries came. Our entire board and all the home office staff were there. And God met with us in an unusual way!

At the beginning of the consultation I gave several reasons why I was thrilled to be there.

Historic Occasion

First, it was an historic occasion. Never before in Free Will Baptist history has there been a gathering, in one place, with that many people directly involved in world evangelism. I was reminded of the words of Winston Churchill after World War II when commenting about the pilots of the Royal Air Force. He said, "Never before in history has so much been owed by so many to so few." Tens of thousands of people from all over the world will be in Heaven as a result of the efforts of those gathered in Atlanta.

Fellowship

Second, the fellowship was wonderful. Many commented that it was a foretaste of Heaven. I have been in the homes of our missionaries around the world. They pray for each other, but few of our missionaries have ever met all of their fellow-laborers. Their service on the field has prevented it. It was great to see them as they met, hugged, and shared.



Trena Owen and Shirley Lauthern talk.

Excitement

Third, it was exciting! I firmly believe in the collective power of a group. A dynamic exists which can only occur when critical mass has been achieved. The potential of this kind of meeting created a sense of expectancy, even anxiety. The assembling of this many people who care deeply about world evangelism created an atmosphere charged with excitement.

Those were some of the reasons I was glad to be there, but all of these were really about "me" and the

"missionaries"—not necessarily about HIM. As beneficial as these three reasons appeared, they would not have warranted this meeting. A tremendous by-product, yes! HE works that way sometimes. But our board and staff would never have called the meeting just to make history, or to promote fellowship, or to share the excitement of being together. A purpose that could not be accomplished any other way had to compel such a gathering.

God at Work

We sense that God is working in an unusual way among Free Will Baptists. People from various walks of life are sensing that God has a place for them in reaching the unreached. Local churches are taking greater interest than ever in "hands-on" participation in the worldwide harvest. The opportunities and challenges are greater than ever.

The board and staff concluded that the only way to maximize denominational mobilization was for all of our missionaries to be briefed together concerning what is happening on the home front. As God is at work among us, He was certainly at work in Atlanta! Keep praying with us for wisdom, as we are sensitive to His leading.

Wow!

James Forlines