

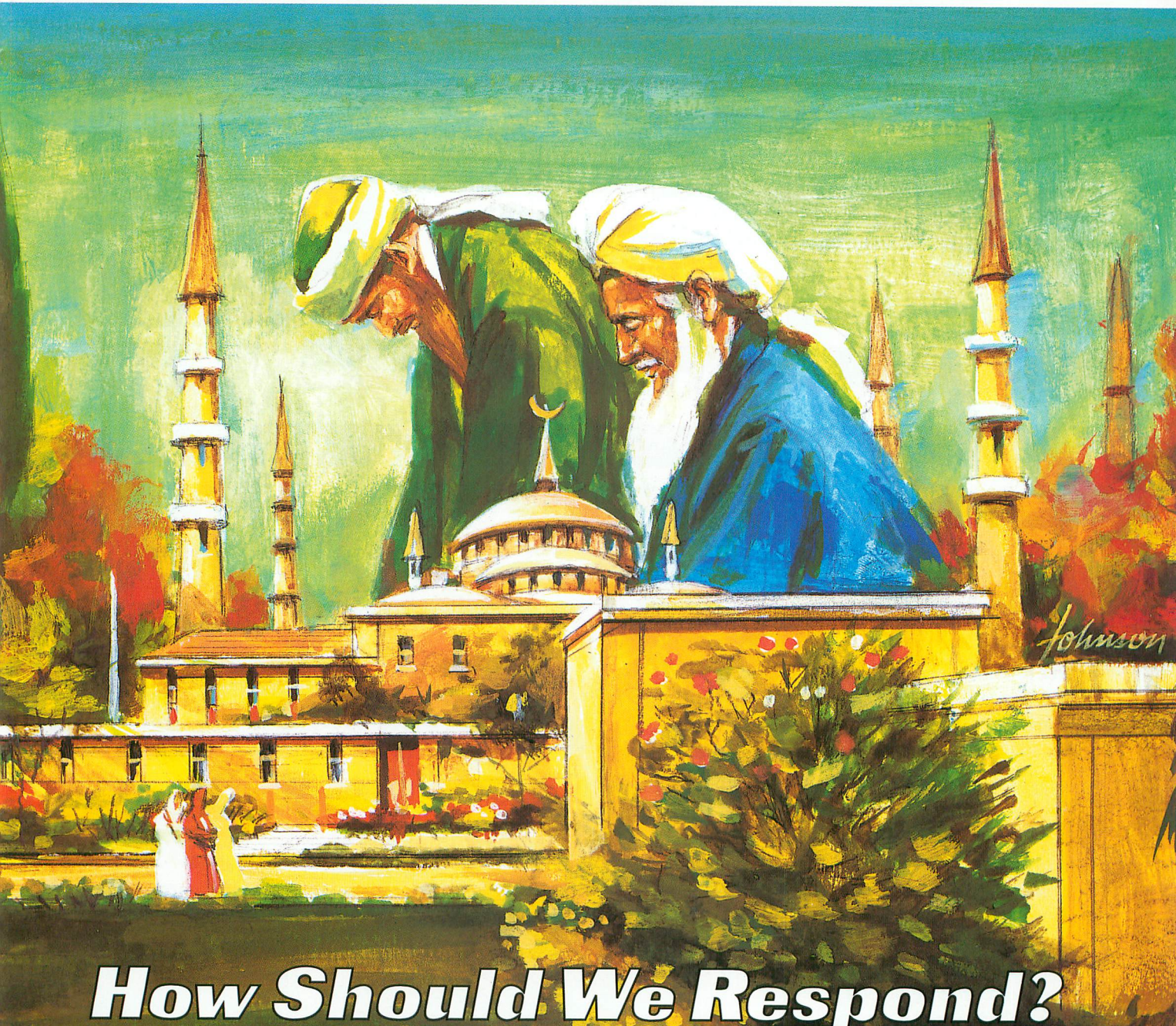


HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2001

Showing God at work around the world



How Should We Respond?

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On September 11 the worst terrorist attack in American history occurred. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center collapsed after being hit by hijacked airliners. The terrorists have been identified as a part of the world's fastest growing religion, **Islam**. Who are these people who have declared a **Jihad** ("to struggle" or "to war against") against our nation?

Islam is the religion founded by Mohammed in the seventh century.

Followers of Mohammed are called **Muslims**. Islam means "submission or surrender to God." Muslim means "the one who submits." More than one billion Muslims can be found worldwide; over seven million call the United States home.

The **Quran** ("reading") is the holy book of Islam made up of revelations

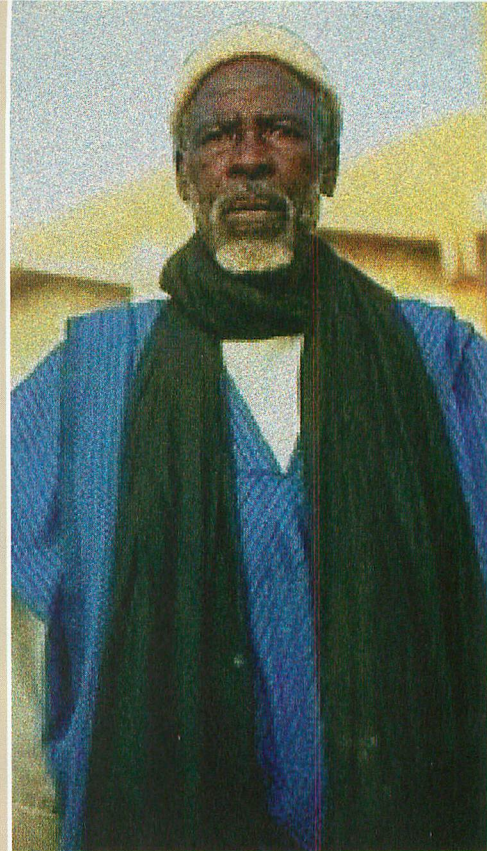
names of Allah that help to describe him.

The second assumption is human goodness. Muslims view sin as a lack of obedience to Allah. Islam teaches that man does not have a sinful nature. He merely performs sinful acts.

The third assumption is a belief in divine guidance. This guidance is found in the Quran and other holy books as well as in the words of the prophets.

The fourth assumption relates to the community of submission. P. M. Holt observed, "Islam is a religion. It is also, inseparably from this, a community, a civilization, and a culture." This community, or *umma*, is based on submission to the will of Allah.

The fifth assumption regards the teaching that the Muslim culture is heavenly in origin. Because of its ori-



How Should We Respond?

By Sean Warren
and
Larry Hampton

received by Mohammed and written in Arabic. The **Hadith**, the teachings of Mohammed, are equally important to Muslims.

Islam has no priesthood or sacraments. The place of worship for Muslims is called a mosque. A **minaret** is a tall, slender tower attached to the mosque. The **muezzin** or crier stands on a balcony of the minaret and calls the people to prayer.

Muslims believe that Allah is far above man and cannot be known by him.

According to William J. Saal, Muslims hold five basic assumptions. The first assumption is a belief in the absolute transcendence of God. Muslims believe that Allah is far above man and cannot be known by him, although the Quran lists 99



The dress of a Muslim man (left), a large group of Muslims praying (left, bottom) and a minaret (below) are all distinct characteristics of the Islamic faith.

gin it is thought to be superior to all other cultures.

The central teachings of Islam are referred to as the **Five Pillars of Islam**. The first pillar is called **Shahada** or creed. "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet." The acceptance of this creed is all that is required to become a Muslim.



The second pillar is **Salat** or prayer. Muslims are to pray at five set times each day facing the city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Mohammed. **Zakat** or almsgiving is the third pillar. Muslims seek to gain God's favor by helping the poor.

The fourth pillar is **Saum** or fasting. Each year Muslims observe a month-long fast called **Ramadan**. **Hajj** or pilgrimage is the fifth pillar. Each Muslim is expected to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in his lifetime.

Since Mohammed was an Arab and Arabs are descendants of Ishmael, the son of Abraham by Hagar, Sarah's maidservant who was cast out, enmity

between them and the Jews has continued for thousands of years. Much of the conflict witnessed in all of the Middle East has its roots in this fact. Most of the non-Jewish peoples of this region are Muslims.

God loves them and Jesus died for them just as He did for us!

In part, what happened in New York stemmed from this ongoing dispute, yet not all Muslims are extremists. The perpetrators must be dealt with, but what should be the Christian's response to this tragedy?

Jesus said to "love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44). God loves them and Jesus died for them just as He did for us! We must share our faith and pray for them that they might be saved.

How can Muslims be reached for Christ? Patiently, over a period of time. Missionary George Braswell, Jr., gives these guidelines for sharing your faith with Muslims.

- † *Don't accentuate the negative at the beginning of a conversation. Leave the deeper, more controversial subjects for later.*
- † *Don't demean Islam, the Quran, or Mohammed.*
- † *Don't start arguments or hostile disputes.*
- † *Don't relate one-on-one with members of the opposite sex.*
- † *Show honor and respect for Muslims and their beliefs.*
- † *Cultivate relationships with*

Muslims by discussing common areas of interest.

- † *Learn Muslim social customs, especially those pertaining to the roles of men and women, greetings, and diet. This will minimize embarrassing moments during interactions with those you are witnessing to.*

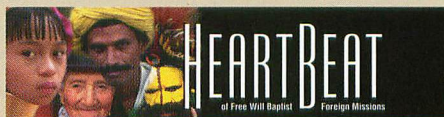
Keep in mind these qualities and characteristics of Muslims as you attempt to win them to Christ. Muslims are a family-oriented people. They will often put the needs of the whole family above their personal needs. When meeting with a Muslim friend, show interest in his entire family.

Muslims are a hospitable people. They will often go to great expense to provide for their guests. However, a Muslim may need to be invited to your home several times before he accepts. In his culture, to accept an invitation too readily would seem rude, almost greedy.

One Islamic scholar pointed out, "there is no separation between the sacred and the secular, between church and state" for the Muslim. His religion provides the structure and framework for every aspect of his life, and he will view you as a Christian in the same way. To him, your culture is your Christianity.

Sean Warren is a member of a team of six Free Will Baptists preparing to be missionaries among Muslims. Larry Hampton is adult curriculum editor at Randall House Publications and assistant editor of *PASTORS' BEAT* for Foreign Missions.

For more information about sharing your faith with Muslims, see "Ministering to Muslims" by Sean Warren in *Focus* (Winter Quarter 2001-02) available from Randall House Publications. To order the *30-Day Muslim Prayer Guide*, call 1-877-767-7736 or e-mail heartbeat@nafwb.org.



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Dr. John Chang gives a report to the National Association of Free Will Baptists of Korea meeting in the FWB Church of Peace in Seoul, Korea.

Korean National Held in Seoul September 27, 28

The annual convention for the National Association of Free Will Baptists of Korea was held September 27, 28 at the Free Will Baptist Church of Peace in Seoul. Dr. Hack Bong Chung was re-elected president of the association.

Missionary Ken Bailey of Japan attended the convention as a representative of the Department of Foreign Missions.

According to missionary John Chang, the Free Will Baptist Church for All Nations moved September 24 to the property at Mission Point. The name of the church was changed to FWB Garden Church for All Nations.

ICA Outreach Records 11 Saved in Village

According to Shane Davison at International Christian Academy in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, the student outreach on September 22 recorded 11 decisions for Christ. Between 70 and 80 people went to a Baoulé village where they set up a medical team to treat open

wounds, cuts, scrapes and other minor medical needs. After their Evangelism Explosion team did their work, the group concluded the evening by showing the *Jesus* film in the Baoulé language.

Three NTM Hostages Killed by Their Captors

A late September report from New Tribes Missions indicated that missionaries Dave Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tenenoff were killed by their captors in mid-1996.

The three missionaries had been abducted in January of 1993 by guerrilla forces deep in the Darien jungles of Panama and taken across the border into Colombia. Two-way radio contact with the guerrillas brought demands, threats, and deadlines, but also a chance to hear the voices of the three missionaries. Since that time the plight of the captives has been uncertain.

In September a captured member of the guerrilla forces in a Colombian prison revealed what happened and confirmed the death of the three hostages.



The first service in the new building of the São José FWB Church in Campinas, Brazil, was held on September 29.

São José Holds First Service in New Building

The São José Free Will Baptist Church in Campinas, Brazil, held the first service in their new building on Saturday, September 29. The young people of the church were in charge of the service which dealt with drugs and hope in Christ. The teens handed out approximately 1,000 invitations to the service.

Curt Holland noted that while the building is not finished, it is usable. He says, "The pews that we have are now full and we hope to order more this week."

Holland added that two people were saved during the past month and 10 candidates were awaiting baptism in the new building on October 14.

Creeches Resign after Leave of Absence

When Paul and Rhoda Creech began a leave of absence in June of 1999 to address the educational needs of their son, Joseph, they expected their stay in the United States to be of a short duration. "We now recognize that this process will be more ex-

Paul and Rhoda Creech have resigned from missionary service in Ivory Coast.





Clint Morgan (standing) welcomes new students to the new session of the Bible institute in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire, as Dr. Kenneth Eagleton waits behind him.



People gather around the sign in front of the new Emanuel church building in Malvin, Montevideo, Uruguay, during its inauguration on September 15.



Jimmy Aldridge (right) speaks to pastors during a pastors' conference in September at a camp near the Black Sea in Russia.

tended than we had originally thought," writes Paul in a letter addressed to General Director James Forlines.

"Please accept our letter of resignation from overseas missionary service as general missionaries with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. We offer this letter with heavy hearts. This is certainly not our plan, but we believe it to be God's will."

The Creeches' resignation was effective as of September 1, 2001.

Three Follow the Lord in Baptism in Villalba

Ivan, John, and Patricia, three Colombian believers, were baptized on September 23 in Villalba, Spain. The three gave testimony of how God has worked in their lives, and Javier, a young preacher, brought a brief message on the significance of baptism.

Bouna Institute Opens with Nine Students

The Bible institute in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire, opened on September 17 with the fourth group of students since the program began. "We opened with nine pastoral students, but we have a tenth student who is signing up late," writes Kenneth Eagleton.

Eagleton indicated four of the new students are married and five are single. Pastor Jérôme, president of the national association; Pastor Kobena, president of the

southern association; Pastor Roger, president of the north-eastern association, and other national pastors and missionaries were present for the opening ceremony.

Clint Morgan and Kenneth Eagleton will be the professors during this session.

New Emanuel Church Holds Inauguration

The new Emanuel church in Malvin, a suburb of Montevideo, Uruguay, held its inauguration service for the recently-purchased building on September 15. A total of 115 people were on hand.

Missionary Jaimie Lancaster declared, "We had a great service."

Four Alabama Men Minister in Russia

Jimmy Aldridge, former overseas secretary for Foreign Missions; Rick Cash, promotional director for Alabama Free Will Baptists; Richard Hendrix, pastor of Madison FWB Church in Huntsville; and Danny Williams, pastor of First FWB Church in Winfield, left for Russia on September 3 to minister at a Russian pastors' conference.

Forty-nine senior pastors, 52 second and youth pastors, six Americans and Nickolay Sobolev were registered for the meeting which was held September 9-12 at a camp near the Black Sea. According to Jimmy Aldridge, the

pastors were a little reserved at first but they received the Americans warmly and voted to form a relationship with the Alabama State Association.

Danny Williams returned to the States on September 15 and the others returned on September 20.

News Capsules

Brazil—New missionaries Andy and Andrea Moore participated in a special retreat of the Uberlândia FWB Church in Brazil on September 7 and 8. Andy preached four times. Seventy people were present. Andy also preached at the church on Sunday night.

Smithfield, N.C.—Mrs. Pearl Lasser, mother of Pam West, died on September 12 in Charlotte, N.C. She was admitted to the hospital on August 12 with failing kidneys which progressed to include respiratory distress. Robert and Pam were in the United States at the time of her death.

Côte d'Ivoire—According to Shane Davison, a new website has been set up for the Bouaké Project in Côte d'Ivoire. Check out www.bouake2002.org and see pictures of the people of the Bouaké Free Will Baptist church and the city.

Brazil—Vicki Sturgill in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, had surgery on her wrist in August and had her stitches removed in September.

NEWS IN REVIEW

She has begun daily physical therapy.

Iran—Satellite television in the Middle East is giving Christian television producers more opportunities for outreach. Christian programs are expected to be aired in the Farsi language of the region on November 1. Programming will be limited at the start.

Nashville, Tenn.—Anthony and Lea Edgmon were very disappointed recently when Lea suffered a miscarriage. "Emotionally, we both have been affected during this time," says Anthony. Christians are urged to pray for the couple following this loss

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in August and September 2001:

Donor	In Memory of
Carlisle Hanna N. Charleston, S.C.	Mrs. Elma Ruth Lee
Andrew Dahl Jacksonville, Fla.	Irene Waurzynski
Steve and Judy Lytle Antioch, Tenn.	Rev. Robert Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tomlinson Enterprise, Ala.	Alma Mayo Audrey Falkner
Unity FWB Church Smithfield, N.C.	Pearl Lassiter
Abidjan Believers and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Pinkerton Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Pearl Lassiter
Ed and Gladys Gragg Nashville, Tenn.	Judy Hingst Evelyn DeWeese
Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Antioch, Tenn.	Judy Hingst Pearl Lassiter
St. Paul FWB Church Bakersville, Tenn.	Lee Hughes

These gave special gifts in Memory of Judy Hingst:

Jim and Shirley Lauthern Mt. Juliet, Tenn.	C. B. Hingst Cottontown, Tenn.
Jim and Carole Ragan Hermitage, Tenn.	Erin C. Hawkes Family Albany, Ga.
Phillip Pinion Family Union City, Tenn.	Steve and Judy Lytle Antioch, Tenn.
Jim and Cheri Ham Mount Juliet, Tenn.	

Donor	In Honor of
Phillip Pinion Family Union City, Tenn.	Charlie Hingst

Clip and mail

Special Gifts

Amount \$ _____ Date _____
 Given in memory/honor of _____
 Given by: Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Please send memorial/honoratory card to:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

which comes relatively soon after the stillbirth of their triplets on October 27, 1999.

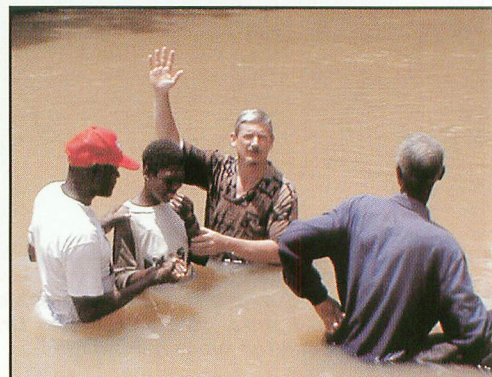
Brazil—Missionary Nancy Hughes in Uberlândia, Brazil, says Walder accepted Christ on August 12, which is Father's Day in Brazil. In addition to the salvation of the 12-year-old boy, Marli, a married lady, was saved on August 26.

Nashville, Tenn.—Christa, the 16-year-old daughter of Foreign Missions editorial assistant Deborah St. Lawrence, underwent surgery October 8 to repair an artery damaged during a laproscopic appendectomy August 9. Heavy blood loss and three surgeries have left her very anemic and malnourished.

South Roxana, Ill.—English Language Institute/China has appointed Sarah Malone of South Roxana, Ill., vice-president for Asia.

Antioch, Tenn.—Geneva Walker, accounting clerk for Foreign Missions, underwent a hip replacement on September 5. She is recovering well and has resumed her position on a part-time basis.

Côte d'Ivoire—Dr. Kenneth Eagleton has been preaching in village churches which have no pastor. He traveled to the village of Tehini at the end of September and baptized seven converts. Pas-



Dr. Kenneth Eagleton baptizes a convert from the village of Tehini, Côte d'Ivoire.

tor Jérôme of Bouna went to the village of Djorbane and baptized 18 new believers.

225 Attend Carandai Building Dedication

Missionaries Bobby and Sue Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, recently expressed praise that 225 were present for the dedication of the new church building in the neighboring city of Carandai on September 30.

David Aycock, Bobby and Sue's son, brought the message and the youth and adult choirs from Barbacena presented special music. In addition to believers from other Free Will Baptist churches, many visitors from the Carandai area attended the special service.

Embracing the Vision II Set for March Release

A new video series, "Embracing the Vision II," is in production and is scheduled for release in March of 2002. The new series will include leaders' guides as did the first series.

This is the second series in a three-year program using the theme "Embracing the Vision." Those interested in reserving a copy of the materials may do so by e-mail, via the web, by mail or by telephone. See the back cover for addresses, etc.

Prayer Challenge

The **30 Day Muslim Prayer Guide** for praying during the entire month of Ramadan, NOVEMBER 17 through DECEMBER 16, is available for \$1.50 each (plus postage for quantity purchases) from Foreign Missions while supplies last. It also may be ordered from World Christian News and Books (719-380-0507) for \$3.00 each.



Rubén and Jhon Fredy finish up a wall of the new church building in Nantes, France. Inset shows Rubén, June and Sam McVay, Jhon Fredy and Hernando from Spain.

Brazil Children's Home Dedicates Building

Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras, Brazil, reported the dedication of their newest building at the New Life Children's Home on October 13.

The Combs indicated the new facility has four classrooms and an auditorium that will seat 200 people. Besides this building, the children's home now has three houses. They currently are caring for 22 children.

Côte d'Ivoire National Association Meets

The National Association of Free Will Baptists in Côte d'Ivoire met in Bondoukou on August 13 for their annual business session. Approximately 70 voting delegates came from about three-fourths of the 53 churches. Business concluded on August 15.

A Bible conference was held August 16 and 17 with approximately 300 attending.

Aldridges Miss Trip to France Due to Health

Former Overseas Secretary Jimmy Aldridge and his wife, Janie, were scheduled to go to St. Nazaire, France, from November to February; however, Jimmy had to undergo surgery at the end of September. Surgeons placed a stent in an artery to clear a partial blockage, a similar procedure to that done in June of 2000.

According to Aldridge, "The location of the second stint requires some watching for the moment. We feel it is more prudent not to go to France at this time."

Spain Group Ministers, Labors in Nantes, France

A group of five adults from the Villalba Free Will Baptist Church in Spain traveled to Nantes, France, on the weekend of October 12. The group, which included missionaries Sam and June McVay, helped with the remodeling of the church building and participated in the services on Sunday.

Jhon Fredy, a Colombian in the Villalba church, preached during the Sunday services.

Fredy and his uncle have both worked in construction, consequently they were able to help put up a special type of wall needed by the building. The church had expected to hire professionals to do the job.

Christian/Muslim Fury Suspends B.L. Ministry

Long-running tensions between Muslims and Christians in the Plateau state of Nigeria, Africa, ignited in September on the Muslim day of prayer. According to Jerry Farouk, director of the Bible League in Nigeria, dozens of cars were torched, and bodies of murdered victims lay in the streets.

Farouk maintains that although the violence is being la-

beled a Muslim/Christian conflict, "the ones doing most of the fighting are not really born-again."

The conflict virtually shut down evangelistic activity by all Christian groups.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through September 2001

Income for August	\$ 371,273.99
Income for September	385,240.92
Total income through September	3,793,201.47
Projected income through September	5,961,538.88
Total expenses through September	4,535,900.23
Total 2001 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$7,948,718.51

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey	4,009.33	Vandivort	13,474.09
Blanchard	1,311.01	West	8,398.69
Callaway	15,196.07	Cuba	1,351.48
Chang	86,360.87	Korean Ministries	36,659.85
Epps	6,760.34	Project RAC	9,074.49
Gainer	23,569.74	Russian Ministries	34,231.26
Hanna	2,369.88	Third World Dev.	3,768.20
Holland, C	13,979.51	VISION	
India Bible Inst.	15,626.67	Belo Bldg Fund	5.03
Lancaster	3,489.07	France/Nantes	13,057.51
Martens	41,789.39	IC/Abidjan	10,876.63
Owen	23,093.37	Russian Bible Inst	13,421.06
Teague	13,985.16	Support Services	290,638.30
Totals			\$686,497.00

These accounts are low and needy:

Gibbs	\$ 2,628.59	Midgett	\$ 4,809.65
Holland, E	5,769.21	Sturgill	2,120.83

STATES IN ACTION

State	2001 Goal	Goal Thru Sept.	Contributions Thru Sept.
Alabama	\$ 438,000	\$ 328,500.00	\$ 246,464.62
Arkansas	607,000	455,250.00	418,242.28
Arizona	7,000	5,250.00	5,185.62
California	66,000	49,500.00	37,539.08
Canada	10,000	7,500.00	2,822.64
Colorado	4,000	3,000.00	1,865.55
Florida	176,000	132,000.00	113,034.33
Georgia	326,000	244,500.00	166,066.14
Idaho	6,000	4,500.00	2,147.45
Iowa	3,000	2,250.00	856.86
Illinois	166,000	124,500.00	94,303.68
Indiana	57,000	42,750.00	46,525.56
Hawaii	1,000	750.00	251.00
Kansas	10,000	7,500.00	1,866.50
Kentucky	101,000	75,750.00	52,902.31
Louisiana	3,000	2,250.00	3,513.08
Maryland	82,000	61,500.00	47,554.86
Michigan	217,000	162,750.00	117,515.84
Missouri	633,000	474,750.00	321,320.02
Mississippi	454,000	340,500.00	58,695.51
Montana	3,000	2,250.00	1,670.00
North Carolina	830,000	622,500.00	497,063.45
Nebraska	11,000	8,250.00	2,000.00
New Mexico	3,000	2,250.00	852.42
*Northeast Assn	3,000	2,250.00	7,824.19
**Northwest Assn	7,500	5,625.00	2,321.88
Ohio	192,000	144,000.00	89,094.75
Oklahoma	575,000	431,250.00	297,758.89
Pennsylvania	1,000	750.00	2,040.00
South Carolina	472,000	354,000.00	300,160.66
Tennessee	990,000	742,500.00	489,546.28
Texas	118,000	88,500.00	53,365.77
Virginia	92,000	69,000.00	53,924.95
Virgin Islands	3,000	2,250.00	650.00
West Virginia	180,000	135,000.00	95,324.80
FWB Foundation	34,000	25,500.00	28,100.53
Miscellaneous	25,719	19,288.00	2,761.96
WNAC	177,000	132,750.00	107,908.52
Totals	\$ 7,084,219+	\$ 5,313,163.88+	\$ 3,771,041.98

*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.



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Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director



Dealing with Hatred

"Why They Hate Us." That is the title on the cover of the October 15, 2001, issue of *Newsweek* magazine. Pictured is a young, turbaned Muslim boy at an anti-U.S. rally in Islamabad, Pakistan.

When we are confronted with this unexpected rage most of us are like President George W. Bush when he said that he just couldn't understand why anyone would hate the U.S.A.

The U.S. military and intelligence departments are trying to fully understand this question, "Why do they hate us?" This is a worthwhile question. But perhaps Christians should ask another question: "What should be our response to this expression of hate?"

Human beings have an innate response to those who hate us. We respond in kind. Visual images of thousands marching, burning the American flag, and chanting "Death to America!" can cause our pulse to quicken and a knot to come in our stomach. The emotion of hate can take root deep in our heart.

This is the natural response. But is it the appropriate response for a Christian? I don't think so. You see, Jesus turned the value system of the world on its ear. He pronounced blessings on those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, and the meek of the earth. He said the least will be the greatest and the first will be the last. His teaching was very strange to those committed to this world's values. Yet His words were words of authority.

Considering Our Enemies

Jesus also had some things to say about how we should treat our enemies. As He stood teaching on the mountain in Matthew 5, He declared, "*Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you*" (Matthew 5:43, 44).

In Luke 6 He expounded on the same theme in verses 35 and 36, concluding with, "*Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*"

Does this mean that the United States should not retaliate for the terrorist attacks committed against us? I do not believe the Bible teaches such passivity. In Romans 13 the Apostle

Paul clearly shows the governmental leader is, "*the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil*" (Romans 13:4c).

Maintaining A Witness

While this is right for government, I believe Christians should be clearly manifesting the love of Christ to Muslims around the world even while our government is retaliating. This may mean reaching out in love and understanding to those who live in our communities. It certainly means we should support efforts to share Christ with unreached Muslim people groups around the world.

In the Old Testament a foreign missionary had to deal with this problem of hate. Jonah hated the Assyrians, yet God called him to go to their capital city and preach repentance. He never completely overcame his hate, but read Jonah chapter four to see how God views those who are His enemies.

We serve a compassionate and merciful God. He wants to redeem to Himself worshippers from every people group on the face of the earth. This includes every Muslim people group. Let us recommit ourselves to have the mind of Christ who said to each of us, "*as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you*" (John 20:21b).

James Forlines