



# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER  
2001

**Showing God at work around the world**



## **Giving Children the Missions Mandate**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

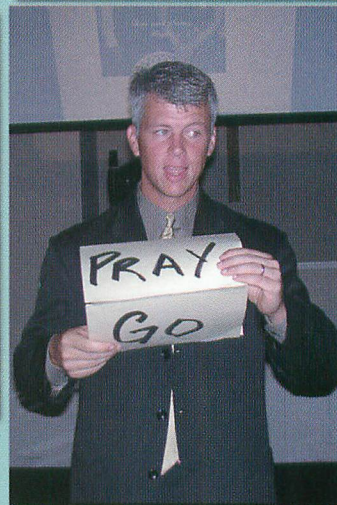
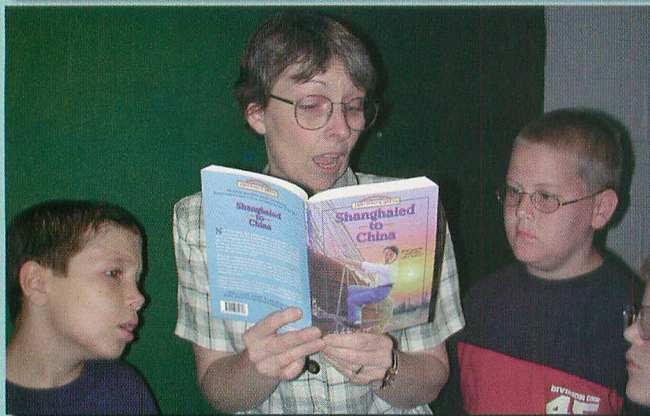
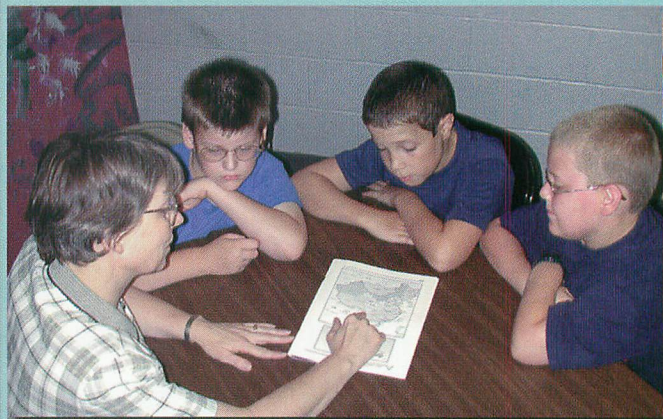
**Japan Issues Urgent Plea for EFL Teachers, page 4**

**Gibbs, "Team USA" Minister in U.S., page 6**

**Missions Activities Highlight Nationals, page 5**

**Prayer Challenges, page 6**





(Clockwise from the top, left) Bethany Daily helps children locate a mission point on the map, Sarah Fletcher points out a country with an unreached people group, Jeff Nichols urges the children to pray for missionaries and be willing to go as a missionary, and Sarah Fletcher reads "Shanghaied to China," a children's story about pioneer missionary Hudson Taylor.

—PHOTOS ON THE COVER AND THIS PAGE BY RUSS PARHAM

## Giving Children the Missions Mandate *By Brenda Evans*

**"D**rum roll, please!" The 15 first graders know the cue. They wriggle to the edge of their seats and rapidly strike their fingers against the hard table top, simulating a drum roll.

"Ladieees and gentlemen, may I have your attention? The show is about to begin."

Reverently, two tiny men (two first-grade boys) enter the classroom. Each stoops to remove his shoes, then bows his skullcapped head to a mat while chanting the Muslim creed: "There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is the messenger of Allah."

Behind them, barely visible through the open door, stand two Muslim wives (first-grade girls) who are forbidden to enter and worship

with their husbands. At the end of the drama the girls introduce themselves and explain their Muslim attire, particularly the yashmak each wears to veil all except her eyes.

***Teaching the culture of unreached peoples will encourage the children to embrace the view that the field is the world.***

Finally, the child actors are applauded and the teachers ask questions. The five-minute drama is an acculturation event in Matt and Katie Markins' first-grade Sunday school class.

The Markins believe that teaching the culture of unreached peoples will

encourage the children to embrace the view that the field is the world. Sometimes that "world" sits next to a first grader at school; sometimes that "world" resides on another part of the globe.

The children's comments and questions after the drama reveal they are eager to do something about getting the good news of Jesus to both "worlds." Immediately they pray for a Muslim child one girl knows at her school. They also pray for Sean and Jill Warren who plan to work among Muslims in France. Then they turn to a 10/40 window map on their classroom wall and talk about UPG (unreached people groups) and Romans 10:14b: "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"

In one session the children have



learned the Five Pillars of Islam, a few religious practices of Muslims, and how Islam differs from Christianity. They also have learned that Muslims live in their city and need Jesus as Savior. They have a job to do.

But acculturation and prayer are not the only missions elements that the children of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church experience. At the other end of the building older elementary children are immersed in missions history.

### ***Children read "Shanghaied to China," a children's version of Hudson Taylor's story.***

Under the guidance of their teacher, Sarah Fletcher, they are reading "Shanghaied to China," a children's version of Hudson Taylor's story. They study maps of China, tracing the footsteps of Taylor, father of missions in China. Students call him a "faith missionary" and say he was 19 when he answered God's call. They know that he was caught among three political worlds; the British, Imperial China, and rebellious Red Turbans. Taylor, they say, dressed in Chinese garb and wore a fake pigtail.

In addition to missions history, Sarah and the children talk about missions strategy and current evangelism needs in China, about house churches, and about the peoples among whom Hudson Taylor was never able to minister. The children want to know more.

Next door, fourth graders commit themselves to personal involvement in missions. Using a special children's version of the church's ME-GO form (acronym for My Enlistment in Global Outreach), Mark Williams challenges his fourth graders to consider what they will do for the next 12 months. Before students sign up, he tells them,

"Mark what you want us to do as a class. We'll work together. That is what missions is about."

ME-GO covers five categories: prayer, scripture memorization, communication with missionaries, missionary biographies, and money. The children are reflective as they make their commitments. Later, Mark tabulates the responses and is elated with the level of engagement his students want. The Great Commission is not just for adults!

Later that day in Kids Kompany, Jeff Nichols challenges his elementary worshippers to the biblical mandate of missions. Not that he uses those multisyllabic words. He does not even say the word missions. Instead, he uses Psalms 67:1,2 and a jar of Starbursts.

To the children Jeff makes one main point: We are blessed to be a blessing. He alludes to Abraham, to Psalms, to the tantalizing jar of Starbursts, back to Abraham, then back to Psalms. Quickly, he comes to rest on his point: "Today one of you will win this humongous jar of Starbursts. Then you will have to decide what you will do with it. You can keep it all to yourself, or you can stand at the back door and share your Starbursts with everyone who is here today.

"The Bible is the same way. You can keep it for yourself or share it with all the world. Six billion people live in more than 200 nations. Most of them don't know Jesus. Are you going to keep Him to yourself or share Him with someone else? Remember, we are blessed to be a blessing."

Dark-haired Adrienne won the

Starbursts. Ten minutes later she stood at the back door and shared the treats with the children who had come. At the end she had candy left to share with still others. Adrienne had learned the principle.

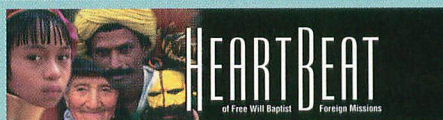
### ***A recent survey showed that 85 percent of missionaries began considering a commitment to missions before sixth grade.***

Statistics bear out the validity of missions education for children. A recent survey showed that 85 percent of missionaries began considering a commitment to missions before sixth grade. One of those is Carla Fannin, current home missionary to Puerto Rico. Carla was eight years old when God first dealt with her about missions. A missionary couple came to her home church. "I couldn't believe that you could actually have a job telling people about Jesus....I remember deciding that night that I wanted to be a missionary when I grew up."

Children can grasp it all—biblical mandates, missions history, cultural studies, missions strategies, personal involvement. And they want to do it all. We adults must be committed to showing them how. That's missions education.

"Drum roll, please!" Our children are ready to follow the cue.

Brenda Evans teaches English at Brentwood Academy in Brentwood, Tenn. She is serving with a group of five people who are developing WorldKids 20/20, a missions curriculum for children. Her husband, Bill, is director of the board of retirement and insurance for Free Will Baptists.



Vol. 41, No. 5

September-October 2001

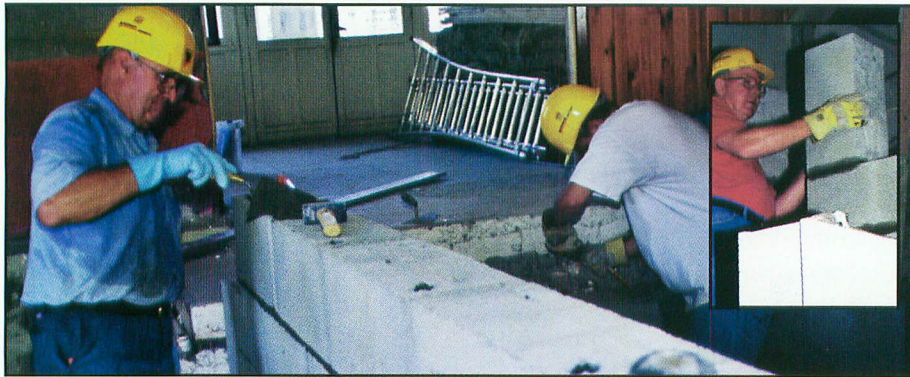
**Heartbeat** (USPS 239-020) is published bimonthly by the Board of Foreign Missions of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, Tenn. 37013-2306. Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tenn. and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Heartbeat**, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tenn. 37011-5002.

Don Robirds, Editor

Deborah St. Lawrence, Editorial Assistant

Jim Johnson, Artist





Vernon Sykes of Missouri (left) and Ben Martin of Tennessee lay blocks for the renovation of the newly purchased building for Nantes Free Will Baptist Church in France. John Murray of Tennessee (inset), a former missionary to Nantes, aligns a block. He led the U.S. construction team which spent one week to a month in France.

## Team from U.S. Helps in Nantes, France

A team of workers from the United States went to France on June 30 to help in the remodeling of the newly purchased building in Nantes. Those who gave their time, money and energy were John and Pansy Murray and Ben Martin from Tennessee, Vernon and Thelma Sykes from Missouri, and Chad Zabik from Michigan.

Missionary Steve Riggs wrote in early July, "The team that is here is doing a great job and it's exciting to see the progress being made on the building."

Steve noted that an accident occurred on July 9 as Jean-Paul Locatelli, one of the men from the church, fell through the roof of a metal shed. He dropped about nine feet onto a concrete floor, suffered a broken arm and fractured two vertebrae in the back.

## BI Renovation Advances; Fall Classes to Begin

According to Mike Corley in Chelyabinsk, Russia, the heating system and bathrooms are almost complete in the new Bible institute building. Corley noted that approximately \$15,000 is still needed to complete the work.

Missionary Cathy Crawford and David and Henrietta Ashley of

Ohio went to Russia on August 12 to help with the remodeling. National Christians from various churches have volunteered their labor to finish the construction.

The second class of pastoral training students will begin their session on September 17. Students of the first class are scheduled to meet again in October to complete the second half of Systematic Theology with Professor Leroy Forlines.

Mike requested prayer for Pastor Igor Maksakov, director of the institute, who was in a serious auto accident on July 4.

## Fern Phillips Concludes Teaching, Returns to U.S.

Retired school teacher Fern Phillips has returned to the United States from Brazil after spending two years teaching in the American school in Belo Horizonte and helping missionaries in the church.

A special service was held on Sunday, June 17, as Jim Sturgill baptized Flavio and William Jr. About 60 people were on hand for the baptism and a going-away party for Fern. She had desired to see the young men baptized before her departure.

Fern left Brazil on June 18. "It was sad in a lot of ways," says

Sturgill. "But we realize that she had health needs. She cried as she left Brazil."

## Japan Issues Urgent Plea for EFL Teachers

Missionaries in Japan have issued an urgent plea for at least 10 new short-term teachers by January 1, 2002, to teach English as a Foreign Language (EFL). According to missionary Mirial Gainer, the minister of education in Japan has decided to require all elementary school children to study English, but they must study in private language schools or language programs (such as churches).

"This is a major open door before us but one with a definite time frame," says Mirial. "If we Free Will Baptists do not have a program to offer in April of 2002, we will lose the opportunity to be a part of fulfilling the new requirement. We desperately need folks who will partner with us in the EFL arena."

## Missouri Church Gives \$15,000 to Brazil Effort

The Verdella Free Will Baptist Church in Verdella, Mo., recently took \$15,000 from their building fund to help Curt and Mary Holland finish the church in São José, Campinas, Brazil.

The Verdella church is the home church of Curt and Mary. "I

Missionary Curt Holland of Brazil (left) stands with Brother Milan Ruble in front of the Verdella Free Will Baptist Church in Verdella, Mo.

## VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH







*Clockwise, Carlise Hanna receives a plaque from General Director James Forlines (inset, Dr. Larry Reesor), James speaks to NYC and Yolanda of Spain stands with Susan Turnbough and daughter, Melissa, at the WNAC luncheon.*

answered the call to preach at the Verdella church, attended there during my last two years of high school, and pastored the church following my graduation from Hillsdale in 1986," says Curt.

Milan Ruble is the current pastor.

## Missions Activities Highlight Nationals

Free Will Baptists from across the nation and beyond met in Cobo Hall in Detroit, Mich., July 15-19 with 5,031 registering for the three concurrent conventions: The National Association, the National Youth Conference and Women Nationally Active for Christ.

Some 27 foreign missionaries and 64 home missionaries graced this year's session which culminated with a challenging message on Wednesday evening by Carlisle Hanna, pioneer missionary to India. A missions offering of \$23,500 was received. Undesignated gifts were divided between Home and Foreign Missions.

A special Foreign Missions/Home Missions joint rally on Tuesday morning featured Dr. Larry Reesor, president of Global Focus, who offered a series of principles to involve churches in global evangelism.

Tuesday morning at WNAC,

missionary Carol Pinkerton of Côte d'Ivoire gave a moving powerpoint devotional. Mrs. Alvia Martinez de Escobar, president of Mexico's WNAC, greeted the group as Ruth Bivens translated.

Susan Turnbough of Spain ministered to the women and visitors at the WNAC luncheon. Susan's guest, Yolanda Almeida del Campo, from Villalba, Spain, gave her testimony which was translated by MK Melissa Turnbough.

James Forlines, general director of Foreign Missions, targeted the indispensable role of women as mothers, life partners and women of zeal.

The youth conference followed the theme of "No Reserves, No Retreats, No Regrets." On Sunday morning Raymond Riggs, first general director of Foreign Missions, poured out his heart as he challenged the young congregation. Susan Turnbough communicated to the hearts of the young people on Sunday night as she gave her testimony and presented Yolanda who also shared how her life was changed through the gospel.

James Forlines spoke to the youth on Tuesday evening. They were already primed by the earlier activities and many made decisions to pursue a life of missionary service. Over 200 filled out response cards.

## Afghanistan Charges 24 with Preaching Christ

Islamic authorities arrested 24 members of Shelter Now International in early August in Kabul, Afghanistan. They face charges of promoting and preaching Christianity. This is strictly forbidden by the Taliban Islamic Law. Two Americans were among those arrested.

## News Capsules

**Uruguay**—The Malvin church in Montevideo, Uruguay, held its first service in the newly purchased building on July 22 with 20 people in attendance. The congregation has decided to call the church Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church. Gerardo Acevedo has moved from Rivera to pastor the church.

**Brazil**—Bobby and Sue Aycok in Barbacena, Brazil, are rejoicing that the Lord has called another young man in Barbacena to preach. Michel, who is 22 years of age, was scheduled to begin studies in the Bible institute in August.

**Korea**—Dr. John Chang in Seoul, Korea, reported 23 enrolled for the upcoming semester at the Asia Free Will Baptist Seminary. Several hundred students are also studying on-line.

**Russia**—According to missionary Mike Corley, 27 people were baptized on June 16 at the Good News Church in Chelyabinsk, Russia.

**Spain**—Anthony and Lea Edgmon left Madrid, Spain, on August 17 to begin their stateside ministry. They left early due to some health needs.

**Brazil**—Missionary Bobby Aycok was hospitalized on August 1 with viral bronchitis and a touch of pneumonia. He was released from



# News In Review

the hospital on August 3 with a prescription of antibiotics.

**Korea**—United Youth Camp was held July 26-28 at the FWB Association Mission point which is the Bible institute property located about 35 miles from Seoul.

**Brazil**—Missionary Vicki Sturgill in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, broke her left wrist in mid-July. She had follow-up outpatient surgery after the broken bone slipped out of place.

**France**—Missionaries Dennis and Carol Teague and their son, Justin, left France for the United States on July 22 to begin stateside assignment. The Teagues' two older

sons, Jered and Joel, remained in France for work and school.

**Brazil**—Youth camp was held July 21-27 near Belo Horizonte, Brazil, with a total of 72 people, including campers and helpers, participating. Bobby Aycock and national pastor Flavio did studies based on Joshua 14:12.

## Bowermans Unable to Minister to Kuna

Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman returned to the village of the Kuna Indians in Panama on May 31 to speak to the chiefs about permitting them and/or another group to come into the village. The chiefs indicated no church would be allowed, so the Bowermans have withdrawn for the present and are currently on stateside assignment. They are praying that God will reopen that door or give them a new direction.



Members of "Team USA" from St. Nazaire, France, give a mime performance (top) during the NYC program in Detroit, Mich., and sing for the Foreign Missions staff in Antioch, Tenn.

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in June and July 2001:

Donor	In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Fulton Smyrna, Tenn.	Jonathan Thigpen
Ivory Coast Field Council Antioch, Tenn.	Elma Ruth Lee
Mrs. Millie Middleton Florence, SC	Elma Ruth Lee
Mrs. Lena Mae Anderson Coward, SC	Elma Ruth Lee
Mrs. Belva Lee Coward, SC	Elma Ruth Lee
Mrs. Alma A. Matthews Coward, SC	Elma Ruth Lee
Mike and Lee Nunn Florence, SC	Elma Ruth Lee
William and Gwynne Jeffords Florence, SC	Elma Ruth Lee
Leah Nell Smith Tulsa, Okla.	Mr. Lee Bunton
Wendell and Lucille Steward Royal Oak, Mich.	Elma Ruth Lee Jonathan Thigpen Volena Wilson
Mrs. Irene Keener Gary Keener Rev. and Mrs. Howard Messer Rev. and Mrs. John Messer Canton, NC	Rev. Elmer Keener
Mrs. Mildred Hampton Nashville, Tenn.	Joangela G. Hampton
Linda D. Reep Marion, NC	Martha Taylor
Clarence and Billie R. Johnson, Sr. Knightdale, NC	Inez Barnes Norwood J. Talton

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer Challenges

- 1—The **30 Day Muslim Prayer Guide** is designed to have people praying during the entire month of Ramadan which begins NOVEMBER 17 and ends DECEMBER 16. (Call for prices.)
- 2—The **Calendar for Praying Through the 10/40 Window** has an entire month of prayer goals for the month of OCTOBER.
- 3—NOVEMBER 4 is the **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**. For additional information see the web at [www.persecutedchurch.org](http://www.persecutedchurch.org).

Order these materials now or at least one month in advance of date from Foreign Missions. Please call toll free **1-877-767-7736**, go directly to the Foreign Missions website at [www.nafwb.org/fm](http://www.nafwb.org/fm) or write to **Foreign Missions**, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

## Gibbs, "Team USA" Minister in U.S.

Encouraged by visits to France by youth groups from First Free Will Baptist Church in Russelville, Ark., missionaries Jerry and Barbara Gibbs led a team of French youth to minister to supporting and partnering churches in the United States July 12-31.

The 10 team members—including Jerry, Barbara, Joel and Ryan Gibbs—ministered through mime, music and testimonies as they demonstrated what is being accomplished through gifts and prayers.

The group traveled over 3,500 miles and were amazed at God's provision. For example, Marshall Phelps, a member of First FWB Church in Knoxville, Tenn., provided a full-size van for the team to use. Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Mich. provided hotel rooms at the National Association. In addition, Jerry notes, "Generous offerings were given by every church where we ministered."

Gibbs says "incredible" best de-





Miss Traci Epps has resigned from missionary service in Côte d'Ivoire.

scribes the three weeks of life-changing experiences they spent in the States. Michel, one team member, said, "I will never be the same."

## Epps Resigns After Four Years at ICA

Miss Traci Epps has submitted her resignation from missionary service in Ivory Coast, West Africa, effective September 30, 2001.

Traci says, "Serving with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions at International Christian Academy the past four years has been a wonderful and rewarding experience that I will always cherish."

Miss Epps will be teaching at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Okla., this fall. She plans to be married in December.

The Foreign Missions staff commended Traci for her significant contribution to world evangelism as she ministered to many MKs at International Christian Academy.

## Church in Uberlandia Marks Twelfth Year

The Second Free Will Baptist Church of Uberlandia, Brazil, celebrated its twelfth anniversary on the weekend of June 23, 24.

Missionary David Aycock was the special speaker on Saturday night as 14 couples gathered to hear about the biblical model for

husbands and wives.

During Sunday school the teens and adolescents joined the adult class to hear David and Annette give their testimonies. On Sunday evening David challenged the 155 people present with a message on missions. According to missionary Nancy Hughes, three new members were received into the church.

## Turnbough Completes Doctoral Studies

Jeff Turnbough, missionary to Spain, has been studying at Biola University in Los Angeles, Calif., during the past year to finish his doctoral program. He completed his comprehensive examinations on May 18 and 25.

Jeff will be teaching missions at Free Will Baptist Bible College during the fall semester under the new "missionary-in-residence" program.

## Spanish Pastor Goes Full-time in Ministry

José Manuel Parron, pastor of the Free Will Baptist church in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, recently announced plans to begin full-time in the ministry in September.

José has dreamed of this possibility and recently has felt the Lord leading him to take this step of faith.

## CHE Vision Seminar Held at Booko, IC

Missionaries Verlin Anderson and Dr. Kenneth Eagleton held a community health and evangelism vision seminar in Booko, Ivory Coast, in early August. The duo traveled some 1,000 kilometers one way to make the presentation.

Anderson and Eagleton were scheduled to travel to Western

Côte d'Ivoire to present their first seminar on training of trainers. This is required by Medical Ambassadors before they can use the organization's materials. The two men were expected to be gone from July 20 through 29.

## FINANCIAL BEAT

### Through July 2001

Income for June.....	\$ 415,294.28
Income for July.....	445,042.40
Total income through July.....	3,036,686.56
Projected income through July.....	4,636,752.46
Total expenses through July.....	3,572,686.52
Total 2001 Budget (including VISION projects).....	\$7,948,718.51

These accounts are in the deficit:

Blanchard.....	\$ 117.51	West.....	\$ 16,169.44
Callaway.....	17,817.69	India Bible Inst.....	18,689.60
Chang.....	88,831.42	Russian Ministries..	37,208.86
Gainer.....	7,491.48	Project RAC.....	106.95
Gibbs.....	5,649.05	Korean Ministries.....	33,535.43
Holland, C.....	10,000.00	JLA Com Dev.....	314,176.54
Little, S.....	13,194.43	VISION.....	
Martens.....	33,631.92	IC/Bouake.....	281.90
Owen.....	15,000.00	IC/Abidjan.....	11,300.13
Poole.....	3,957.06	France/Nantes.....	13,057.51
Teague.....	10,000.00	Russian Bible Inst.....	13,920.42
Turnbough.....	1,005.01	Support Services.....	260,196.25
Totals.....			\$925,338.60

These accounts are low and needy:

Bailey.....	\$ 592.02	Epps.....	\$ 223.46
Barker.....	33.39	Holland, E.....	526.37

## STATES IN ACTION

State	2001 Goal	Goal Thru June	Contributions Thru July
Alabama.....	438,000	255,500.00	207,038.97
Arkansas.....	607,000	354,083.33	303,235.35
Arizona.....	7,000	4,083.33	4,030.88
California.....	66,000	38,500.00	31,320.95
Canada.....	10,000	5,833.33	2,191.80
Colorado.....	4,000	2,333.33	1,484.52
Florida.....	176,000	102,666.67	93,527.88
Georgia.....	326,000	190,166.67	130,882.95
Idaho.....	6,000	3,500.00	1,853.48
Iowa.....	3,000	1,750.00	290.73
Illinois.....	166,000	96,833.33	78,339.07
Indiana.....	57,000	33,250.00	37,973.29
Hawaii.....	1,000	583.33	251.00
Kansas.....	10,000	5,833.33	1,456.36
Kentucky.....	101,000	58,916.67	41,901.40
Louisiana.....	3,000	1,750.00	3,180.16
Maryland.....	82,000	47,833.33	38,010.08
Michigan.....	217,000	126,583.33	85,892.52
Missouri.....	633,000	369,250.00	251,081.68
Mississippi.....	454,000	264,833.33	49,301.58
Montana.....	3,000	1,750.00	1,290.00
North Carolina.....	830,000	484,166.67	386,218.47
Nebraska.....	11,000	6,416.67	1,750.00
New Mexico.....	3,000	1,750.00	744.36
*Northeast Assn.....	3,000	1,750.00	6,859.19
**Northwest Assn.....	7,500	4,375.00	2,241.88
Ohio.....	192,000	112,000.00	71,611.86
Oklahoma.....	575,000	335,416.67	231,227.68
Pennsylvania.....	1,000	583.33	1,715.00
South Carolina.....	472,000	275,333.33	248,345.32
Tennessee.....	990,000	577,500.00	402,503.19
Texas.....	118,000	68,833.33	43,594.64
Virginia.....	92,000	53,666.67	46,699.60
Virgin Islands.....	3,000	1,750.00	450.00
West Virginia.....	180,000	105,000.00	78,246.82
FWB Foundation.....	34,000	19,833.33	26,872.81
Miscellaneous.....	25,719	15,002.46	2,020.18
WNAC.....	177,000	103,250.00	100,834.24
Totals.....	\$7,084,218+	\$4,132,460.80+	\$3,016,469.89

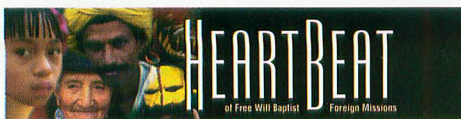
\*Northeast Association  
New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine, Connecticut,  
Washington, D.C., and Massachusetts

\*\*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](http://www.nafwb.org/fm)

## Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director



### Influencing Children

Children learn what they live. We all know that to be the case. It is an established fact that children who grow up in an abusive home often inflict abuse on their own children later in life. Those whose parents are involved in addiction (alcohol, drugs, etc.) many times follow the same destructive course.

But it is not only true in the negative sense. Children who are exposed to positive examples are likely to follow them as well. Knowing this is a powerful incentive to parents and to church leaders where children attend church.

### Parents and Churches

In this issue's lead article, "Giving Children the Missions Mandate," Brenda Evans stated that a recent survey indicated that among missionaries currently serving on the field, 85 percent of them began considering a commitment to missions before sixth grade. That same survey goes on to state that

the two leading factors in bringing about this interest were missions-minded parents and missions-minded churches.

It is my opinion that you can tell more about a person's priorities by what he or she teaches the children than any other way. If our main priority in life is the accumulation of wealth and the life of ease it brings, this will come across clearly to our children. In turn, they will likely live their lives in pursuit of the same things. The same could be said if a person's main priorities were sports, hobbies, academics, or pleasure. Children learn what they live.

### Building Foundations

This is also true when it comes to children attending church. From the moment they come to the church we begin filling their minds with beliefs, values, and world views. Their behavior in life will be based on the foundations built during the formative days as a child. They will develop ideas concerning what a good sermon is, how worship services are conducted, and what priorities a church should have.

Before a child knows what is happening, his church culture will be well established in his thinking. He will carry on what he has observed and heard throughout his

life. For this reason, congregations must take care to follow biblical truth and example rather than culture's view of Christianity.

### Imparting the Heart of God

But imagine what could happen in a denomination if hundreds of churches were to make a concerted effort to impart the heart of God to reach the world in the lives of their children. Twenty years from now our denomination would explode in outreach in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the very uttermost parts of the earth.

### Mobilizing Children

This is one of the guiding principles of Foreign Missions. We want to mobilize an entire generation of Free Will Baptist children and young people to touch their world for Christ. These efforts will include producing materials and serving as a clearinghouse for materials already in existence.

Yes, children learn what they live. God willing, we want to pass along to our children God's heart to reach the world. Eternity could be changed for millions of people. It certainly is worth our best effort.

*James Forlines*