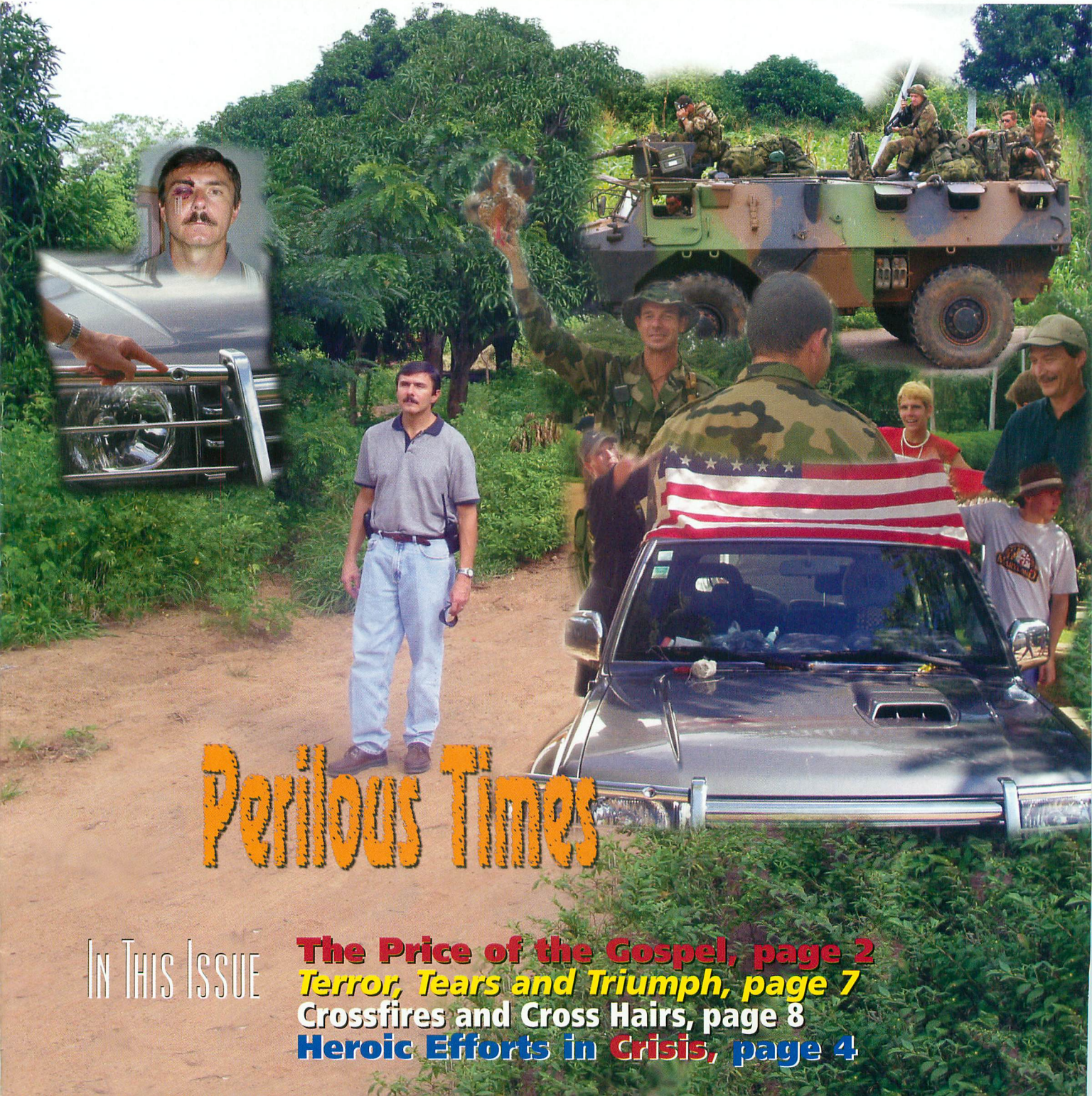


HEART BEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2002

Showing God at work around the world



Perilous Times

In This Issue

The Price of the Gospel, page 2
Terror, Tears and Triumph, page 7
Crossfires and Cross Hairs, page 8
Heroic Efforts in Crisis, page 4

Perilous Times

Events and conditions today clearly fit the statement by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1. "Perilous times" (difficult times, circumstances difficult to deal with) certainly have come.

Since Paul wrote those words thousands of situations could have been labeled "perilous." However, many current circumstances fit the scriptural picture of "the last days." Events of September 11, 2001, persecution of the church worldwide, and anti-God movements appearing in force all lend credence to the thought that we are in the final countdown for the consummation of the ages. How should we respond?

This issue features some of the events which have taken place in Côte d'Ivoire since July 17 of this year. Missionaries and staff members unfold the drama, pain, fear and faith which surrounded the lives of missionaries Mike and Deleen Cousineau, the staff and students of International Christian Academy and our other Ivory Coast missionaries.

Deleen Cousineau shares her heart and hurts in "The Price of the Gospel." The *HEARTBEAT* staff follows up with "Heroic Efforts in Crisis." Neil Gilliland, director of member care, describes the "Terror, Tears and Triumph" of those who passed through the trauma of coup d'état. Clint Morgan, long-time missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, casts a vision in the midst of uncertainty as he shares "Crossfires and Cross Hairs."

ON THE COVER—Mike Cousineau walks down the road where he was taken to be killed. Insets show his face two days after the incident, a bullet hole in part of his car, French military and the evacuation of ICA with flags flying.



The Price of the Gospel

By Deleen Cousineau

I always knew the price of the gospel was high. After all, it cost Jesus His very life's blood. But the price of the gospel in our family just went up.

On July 17, 2002, seven armed men attacked the campus at International Christian Academy in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, where Mike and I have ministered since 1998. Mike suffered several blows to the head. One of these was with a 9mm pistol.

At least three bullets were fired, but God miraculously allowed those bullets to miss.

Mike was then kidnapped at gun-point and taken off campus in his own car. Once the car was stopped, he was ordered to get out so they could kill him. In the split second that it took the driver to reload his gun, Mike took off running behind the car in a zigzag fashion. At least three bullets were fired, but God miraculously allowed

those bullets to miss him. He escaped without further harm.

Dangers have always confronted those on the mission field, especially in Africa where malaria, illness, snake bites, treacherous roads, etc. were standard. These dangers have lessened over the years with antimalarial drugs, vaccinations, antivenom, and paved roads.

But the most dangerous thing of all is the depravity of man and what he is capable of doing. Jeremiah 17:9 states: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" One translation says it is "beyond cure. Who can understand it?" We know that only the Lord can cure a heart like this.

Has our family been traumatized? Yes. Did we choose what happened? No. Did we want it to happen? No. Has God's grace been sufficient? Yes!

In 1976, at a missions conference called URBANA, Helen Roseveare asked, "Are you willing for your life to be used as a platform for God to display His glory?" I have never for-



Left to right are the FWB Brethren dorm, Mike pointing to the bush where he escaped, Deleen with the pastor's wife, and the building crew from the States with Terry Vandivort, Pastor George and his family.



gotten that question.

I have spent 22 years on the mission field, borne two children, faced many challenges and not a few dangers in my life. And I have never forgotten her question. In fact, I've applied it to every difficult thing that has happened in my life since that date.

How grateful I am to Helen Roseveare for giving me this perspective on which to hang my life's difficulties.

I never realized the many phases one goes through in a situation like this. The actual incident is only one phase. But the effect continues in my life, even a month after the incident. The Lord is still working, speaking, molding and changing me.

Two building teams from the States were with us during the robbery, assault, kidnapping, and murder. Yes, even murder. One of the guards at ICA gave his life that fateful night. Soro was our favorite guard. He made it a point to greet us each evening when he came on duty. He loved Mike, and he called me "Mama." He often brought me gifts.

In Africa the gift of eggs has a special meaning for eggs represent life.

Several times I would get up in the morning and discover a flat of eggs (three dozen) outside our back door. The price of these eggs was about one-half a day's wage. Soro loved us and we loved him. Yet, he went into eternity without the Lord. Our hearts still grieve this fact.

Since September 11, 2001, the world is a more dangerous place in which to live.

Since September 11, 2001, the world is a more dangerous place in which to live. This is especially true

in most areas overseas. When Free Will Baptist missionaries went abroad 30 years ago, many felt safer in their host country than in the States. Now our missionaries daily put themselves in harm's way. They may not do it consciously, but even the media has warned all Americans to exercise caution when traveling abroad.

If the price of the gospel has gone up for our missionaries, what does that mean for you, a Christian in America?

Mike and Deleen Cousineau came to the United States under the care of Dr. Neil Gilliland, director of member care, following the assault on ICA. They returned to Ivory Coast and the ICA campus on August 16, 2002.



Vol. 42, No. 6

November-December 2002

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*

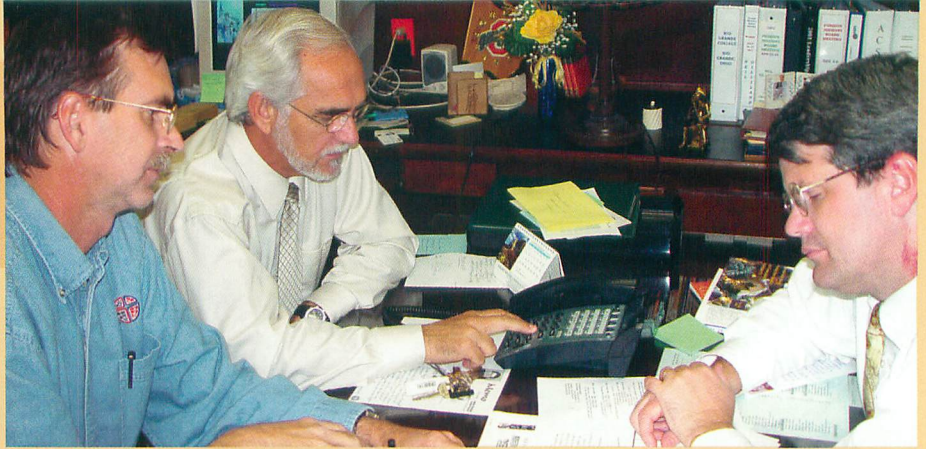
Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editorial Assistant*

Jim Johnson, *Artist*

Perilous Times

*“For unto you it is given
in the behalf of Christ, not
only to believe on him, but
also to suffer for his sake.”*

—PHILIPPIANS 1:29



Dr. Neil Gilliland, Clint Morgan and James Forlines (left to right) listen to Mike Cousineau on the speakerphone in the office.

Heroic Efforts in Crisis

By the HEARTBEAT staff

When the story finally broke that over 100 American children at the International Christian Academy in Bouaké, Ivory Coast, were trapped as rebel forces fired artillery and tracer bullets over the compound, many people became alarmed and concerned. But that was three days after it started!

Why did it take so long? Why weren't media personnel on the scene sooner? Why didn't the State Department of the United States get involved earlier? Where were other government officials, embassy people, missions agencies, etc. during the early stages of such a crisis?

Many of those questions remain unanswered. But one thing is clear. Had the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions staff not taken the task seriously, things could have been disastrous. The staff stayed on the phone regularly from Thursday evening, September 19, through Wednesday, September 23, to monitor the situation and seek relief. They literally lived in the Foreign Missions office during three of those days and nights.

The saga really started with a second shocker for Mike and Deleen Cousineau and the ICA family. Having just recovered some sense of

assurance and peace following the attack on the campus by armed gunmen in July, the academy suffered the sudden loss of 44-year-old Dave Golding, a well respected and faithful dorm parent with Christian and Missionary Alliance of Canada. Although he was a specimen of health and vigor, Dave dropped dead on the running track on September 18, of heart failure. He left his wife, Denise, and three children: Josh, age 14; Mark, age 12; and 11-year-old daughter Nicky.

“How much is enough?”

Mike and Deleen were overwhelmed and Mike asked Dr. Neil Gilliland, director of member care, “How much is enough?” Before funeral arrangements could be finalized, residents at ICA were aroused by gunfire at 5:00 a.m. on September 19. Word arrived of an attempted coup d'état in Abidjan and an assault underway in Bouaké, the second largest city in Ivory Coast. Soon rebel forces were spotted just outside the campus walls.

On Friday, September 20, it was relatively calm and Saturday the rebel forces left. However, on Sunday they were back and academy residents had

no way to leave the compound. They also were unable to conduct the funeral services and burial for Mr. Golding since the body was in town. Mike, obviously shaken, shared their dilemma with Neil and with James Forlines, general director.

In spite of the rebel forces just outside the compound and gunfire sounding in the area, the ICA family did conduct a special memorial service for Dave Golding on Sunday, September 21, about 4:00 GMT.

Dr. Gilliland monitored the events as anxious moments added to the stress. Clint Morgan, Ivory Coast missionary on special assignment in the States, joined Gilliland and Forlines as efforts intensified to secure the safety of those at ICA. They continued monitoring the phone and making calls until around midnight Nashville time.

At 2:50 a.m. Monday, just over two hours after the men had left the office, Mike contacted Mr. Forlines declaring things were really heating up. James, Neil and Clint returned to the office around 3:30 a.m. Military action increased in the vicinity of the academy and Christians were urged to pray. Government officials were challenged to do something quickly.

Just after Monday's evening meal as the children were leaving the dining hall, gunfire broke out and tracer bullets were seen over their heads, just above the rooftops. Everyone took cover until it quieted down, then they



Mike Cousineau (left) talks with the colonel of the French forces just a short time before the ICA caravan left for Yamoussoukro.

gathered the kids with on-campus members of their own family in the dorms and declared a lockdown.

Although Mr. Forlines had reported the activities to someone at the American Embassy in Abidjan and at CNN on Friday, little was heard until Reuters ran an interview with Cousineau on that Sunday. After that, ABC called the Missions office. CNN contacted Dan Grudda at ICA and put the story on their Web site. Shortly after it appeared, Jack Marquis from the U.S. State Department called the office. He informed the staff that Secretary of State Colin Powell was aware of the situation and was working with the French.

On Monday morning Ambassador Arlene Render called Foreign Missions and answered many questions while assuring the staff and those at ICA that things *were* happening.

"Several times on Monday and Tuesday I talked with representatives from Senator Fred Thompson's office," declares James. "I kept in constant contact with the State Department."

Even though the school is owned by CBI International, Dan Grudda, director of the school, asked FWB Foreign Missions to represent the academy to the media. He felt he could not handle that role in addition to the other responsibilities at ICA and our staff was better informed at that

point than anyone outside the area.

"Monday through Wednesday was an unending barrage of media," says James. "People from everywhere in the world were calling. Newspapers, live radio programs, and television networks contacted us. All four local television stations conducted taped interviews in our office."

Many, many mistakes were made in the reporting, but they were trivial mistakes. Three main issues were reported correctly: (1) 160 children were

"We have learned that suffering is not the worst thing in the world—disobedience to God is the worst."

—A VIETNAMESE CHRISTIAN PASTOR IMPRISONED FOR HIS FAITH.

on the ICA compound, (2) they were pinned down, and (3) the only way out would be a military escort with French and/or U.S. troops being the options.

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Hotline subscribers were updated regularly via e-mail by Carole Ragan, secretary to the director of stateside development. And people prayed.

On Tuesday, September 24, Grudda requested the U.S. Embassy to implement a swift evacuation of eight people—the Golding family and four oth-

ers considered strategic to the successful evacuation and placement of the students and staff. No evident response was forthcoming.

Gilliland says, "I think Tuesday was one of the most anxious times for Mike Cousineau. About 60 soldiers were just west of the campus shooting toward the wall." That afternoon Mike and Alan Shea, ICA's computer technician, were walking across the campus when .50-caliber bullets started ripping through the trees just over their heads. "I thought it was curtains," Mike declared.

After learning that shots were fired into the campus, the State Department let the Foreign Missions staff know that an evacuation plan was in progress. Details had to be worked out with the French government which had already deployed troops to Ivory Coast. They asked the staff to get those at ICA to provide specific information about everyone on the compound: names, countries of citizenship, passport numbers, parental notification numbers, mission agency connected with each, etc.

The relayed message of possible rescue gave those trapped new hope. Later that night word was given that help was imminent. At one point Mike said, "If they don't get here in an hour, it may be too late."

Finally word came that French troops were in Yamoussoukro and were expected in Bouaké by Wednesday morning. According to a report from Nancy Grudda, Dan's wife, the French military arrived about 10:15 a.m., to the great relief of all involved. "Dan presented the colonel with a chicken, an African custom when visiting someone," says Nancy. "Over the next few hours the French set up troops, trucks and tanks around the campus, inside and out."

In the Foreign Missions office in Antioch, Tenn., the staff continued

Continued on page 6 ➔

Perilous Times

→ Continued from page 5

answering phones, getting pictures and news to the media, and following up on developments in the rest of Ivory Coast. All Free Will Baptist missionaries were still in danger, though not being threatened at that time. Decisions had to be made concerning their status.

Phone conversations with field chairman Jerry Pinkerton in Bouna assured the staff and families of missionaries that all was well as of Monday.

French troops in Bouaké kept things quiet at the ICA campus until 3:00 p.m. Bouaké time when they told

“Persecution does not take us away from home.

Persecution helps send us along the way to our true ‘home.’”

—PASTOR J. COLAW

The trip to Yamoussoukro normally takes one hour and 15 minutes. It stretched to 10 hours as the caravan wound its way over back roads to avoid rebel troops. When some of the vehicles ran low on fuel, the military helicoptered more gasoline to the group. At Yamoussoukro they were met by United States and Canadian embassy personnel along with American special operations forces who had been flown in from Germany. One of the soldiers was a former student at ICA.

The evacuees received word that Chris Marine and Wes Nevius had left

the students and adults they had one hour to get ready to depart. At 4:00 p.m. a convoy of 22 vehicles pulled out, escorted by the French troops. Only Dan Grudda, Chris Marine, and Wes Nevius stayed behind because they had missionary personnel in town.

Bouaké with French and Lebanese expatriates who were evacuated. Dan Grudda remained and was able to gather up some of the personal items people had left behind such as laptops, keepsakes, yearbooks and even the school bell.

ICA staff and students left Yamoussoukro about noon on September 26 and arrived in Abidjan late that afternoon.

“I was beginning to think we might not make it out without casualties.”

Although Dan planned to get the body of Dave Golding and bury him on the campus, it was not possible. The French military negotiated with the area’s rebel leader to allow Dan to go across town and pick up the body in a van. Early on the morning of September 27 a jeep escorted him to the edge of town. Although Dan traveled the main road and was stopped several times by the military, he had no problems. He turned the body over to the morgue in Yamoussoukro and left a Christian and Missionary Alliance missionary in charge of completing the details.

In Bouna, missionaries met on Monday afternoon, September 23, and discussed evacuation plans. On Wednesday the Verlin Andersons, Alice Smith and two Wycliffe missionaries left Bouna for Agnibilekrou and went on to Abidjan on Friday. Robert and Pam West were already in Abidjan and safe.

Threats of rebel takeover in Bouna continued to grow so the Pinkertons and the Eagletons finally left Bouna



Students show the American flag (top) on Cousineau’s car before journeying out with autos and buses filled.

along with 18 New Tribes missionaries (seven vehicles) on Saturday, September 28. They arrived in Abidjan that evening. All Free Will Baptist missionaries except the Cousineaus left Abidjan on October 1 for the United States. They were safe due to the heroic efforts of those in the Foreign Missions office, the U.S. State Department, the French and U.S. troops and the prayers of God’s people.

Mike Cousineau concluded, “Thanks to all who stepped up to the plate to assure our safe exit from Bouaké. When events were deteriorating so rapidly, I was beginning to think we might not make it out without casualties. On behalf of the entire community of International Christian Academy, I want to thank the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions staff for their unique role in helping to get us to safety.”

Terror, Tears and Triumph

By Dr. Neil Gilliland



International Christian Academy students played board games during lockdown.

Emotions are woven tightly into the fabric of the human experience. Each of us has felt peaceful, content, and happy. We have also felt anxious, sad and frustrated. We can't escape our emotions. Emotions are part of what God "knitted together in our mother's womb." We dread and try to avoid two emotions, but at some point both intersect our lives: *fear* and *grief*. These definitely were experienced in Ivory Coast.

Fear. "I'm not embarrassed to tell you that we are scared to death," were the words of missionary Mike Cousineau, as we listened to the sounds of gunfire in the background and the bullets of war zipped through the trees above him.

Fear. With hearts pounding, the staff and students at ICA took refuge behind tables and under desks or huddled in corners.

Fear. "Mothers were terrified," said Deleen Cousineau who had taken refuge under a table in the dining hall during one intense moment. "Some of the children were outside. We had just finished supper when the shots began. Some of the mothers never knew where their children were. The gunfire was so loud. And we could see the tracer bullets."

Fear. "There are trucks of soldiers coming down the hill and they are firing in this direction." Mike's voice echoed hollow and our hearts were seized with fear as we were gathered around the phone in my office. Later,

after that intense moment had passed, Mike's voice drifted into calm, "I really thought they were going to massacre us."

Relief. Joy. Even in the midst of a fearful situation there was a sense of cognitive dissonance. "Yes, we were scared but there was a sense of calm in our hearts at the same time. We knew people were praying and we felt God's presence."

"I really thought they were going to massacre us."

Fear. But the fear remains for the African nationals left behind.

Fear. "Can't you take us with you?" cried one godly African carpenter who worked on the campus of International Christian Academy for many years, as the staff and students were evacuated.

Fear. One heartbreaking news report told of the anguish still present: "'We have nothing left to eat. Are you going to let us die,' screamed back a woman called Rosalie as tears of terror streamed from the eyes of the women and their wailing children."

Grief. The day before the fighting began, grief had engulfed the campus of ICA. One of the most respected and loved dorm fathers, Dave Golding, unexpectedly died. The dark clouds of

grief hovered over the campus casting sad shadows into the hearts of staff and students.

Grief. The subject line of Mike's e-mail about the death was "my heart is heavy." Heavy hearts and tear-stained cheeks dotted the campus. A wife and three children bore the weight of losing a husband and dad. And now the grief of leaving. One missionary who was evacuated to another country put it this way, "Our daughters cried themselves to sleep

our first night here and one asked, 'When can we go HOME?' It's such an awful feeling to leave our whole life behind us like this."

Grief. The loss of what had been home to so many MKs rang heavy in the hearts of the ICA alumni. "It's been hard emotionally, too, to deal with the loss of ICA. I imagine its future is in serious question, particularly at the campus in Bouaké. It was hard enough to leave when I graduated. Now it feels like someone just leveled my hometown. I never got to go back, but at least it existed. I dreamt of taking family there, pointing out memories at spots around the campus, but that probably will never happen. ICA, for me, was as much a time as a place. The time, I know, is gone. But as long as the place was there I felt I had an anchor, a place where I belonged, where I was from—an identity."

Grief. Additional grief encompassed not only ICA but also the entire missionary community: the grief of leaving everything behind without knowing if they would be able to return. With just a few belongings in a suitcase, our entire missionary force was evacuated. They had poured years into the ministry of taking the gospel to the people of Côte d'Ivoire. They had given their all. The value of the "things" they left behind, while per-

Continued on page 8 ➔

—Continued from page 7

haps sentimental, paled in comparison to the land and people they had come to love. These were now fading in the rearview mirror as they drove away. The missionaries plan and intend to return as soon as possible but they had no guarantees.

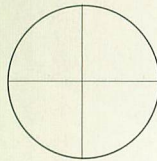
The missionary family is a group of very resilient people.

Grief and **fear** have become the traveling companions of so many who have been impacted by the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. However, the missionary family is a group of very resilient people. Their resolve is not easily shaken. As we have marched through the terror and grief-filled days, the reaction of these godly servant soldiers echoed the words of Paul as he bid farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus.

"... behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:22-24).

Fear...sure. **Grief**...yes. But the resilient men, women and children are not moved, for their lives are not dear unto themselves. They march forward in triumphant victory.

Dr. Neil Gilliland has served as director of member care since August 2001. He and his wife, Sheila, spent eight years as dorm parents at ICA in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire.



CROSSFIRES AND CROSS HAIRS*

By Clint Morgan

The three harrowing days that we, the office staff, spent manning the phones and availing ourselves of every avenue possible to ensure the evacuation of International Christian Academy paled in comparison to what those caught in the crossfire went through. The uncertainty, anxiety, stress and confusion surely stirred within many of them emotional and spiritual conflicts. Perhaps at times these were more paralyzing than the fear of the bullets flying overhead.

Now that we are somewhat removed from the physical dangers and emotional stress perhaps we can breathe a sigh of great relief and reflect on the experience. Then we can attempt, in our feeble way, to make some order and sense of it all.

One thing I noted was a question asked by several of the reporters who interviewed us about those being evacuated: "Would they return to Côte d'Ivoire if things calmed down?" The answer for the great majority would be unequivocally, "Yes." This response led to a second question: "Why would they want to go back when they know it is so dangerous?"

The brief response to such a soul-searching question was, "Before missionaries go to the field they must ask themselves the supreme question, 'Am I willing to lay down my life for the

cause of Christ?' If the answer to that question is a direct 'No,' or even a hesitant 'Yes,' then it is best for one not to go. However, if the answer is a resounding 'Yes,' then one has no choice but to go wherever He leads."

Obviously, this could mean at some point in one's missionary experience, he, she or the family might be found either in the "crossfire" of fighting factions or in the "cross hairs" of religious fanatics.

Approximately 80,000 evangelical Christians are killed each year for their faith.

As a Mission we have said "yes" to the big question and are sending out soldiers of the cross who are engaging the forces of evil for the lost souls of this world. We have not shied away from areas such as Cuba, India, China and Mongolia where the battle is raging.

The dangers and perils have not forced us to back down from our commitment to world evangelism. We are presently developing strategies that will lead Free Will Baptists to join forces with other evangelical missions. Together we can penetrate the last frontiers of missions, countries which are referred to as "restricted" or "closed." These are areas where it is

Time Line of the Coup d'etat and Evacuation

Wed., Sept 18	C&MA missionary Dave Golding collapses and dies at ICA.	Thurs., Sept. 26	ICA evacuees arrive in Yamoussoukro. Remaining missionaries and expatriates evacuated from Bouaké to Yamoussoukro. C&MA students and staff arrive in Abidjan.
Thurs., Sept. 19	Attempted coup d'etat begins in Côte d'Ivoire.		
Sun., Sept. 22	Fighting escalates, afternoon memorial service for Dave Golding at ICA.	Fri., Sept. 27	C&MA missionaries from second evacuation arrive in Abidjan.
Mon., Sept. 23	Fighting continues to escalate, shots fired over top of campus. French soldiers move from Abidjan to Yamoussoukro. FWB missionaries meet in Bouna to discuss evacuation plans.	Sat., Sept. 28	ICA students flown to parents in various countries. All FWB missionaries arrive in Abidjan.
Tues., Sept. 24	Various scattered bursts of gunfire, artillery shelling, etc. around ICA and town of Bouaké.	Tues., Oct. 1	All FWB missionaries but Cousineaus leave Ivory Coast for United States.
Wed., Sept. 25	French troops arrive to secure ICA. French begin evacuation of ICA children and staff from Bouaké to Yamoussoukro. Andersons and Alice Smith leave Bouna for Agnibilekrou.	Thurs., Oct. 3	Mike and Deleen Cousineau leave Côte d'Ivoire for United States. Kristina Cousineau leaves for Dakar, Senegal, where other MKs from ICA go to complete the school year.

often forbidden to even mention the name of Christ in a public setting. Often in these countries life threatening danger pursues those listening to the gospel as well as those preaching.

If we are to take the Good News to these lands, it is not just possible that one day we might have our first Free Will Baptist martyrs, it is probable! Are we ready to face and live with this reality?

Approximately 80,000 evangelical Christians are killed each year for their faith. Estimates indicate over 69 million have lost their lives for the cause of Christ since A.D. 33. All of these martyrs have lived out Matthew 10:39: "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." We can only ask ourselves why we should shy away from this holy conclusion to our earthly life when so many have already walked that road.

From the very moment the Great Commission was given, the probability of risk and danger was introduced. Christ warned His disciples that they would face losses and crosses.

However, they were to understand that these obstacles were not to deter them from introducing this hostile world to the celestial message of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul did not shrink from this call to expendability. After much suffering and rejection he made a two-edged declaration: "I will gladly spend, and be spent for you" This passionate statement reveals his total commitment to win the lost at any cost.

Mike and Deleen Cousineau, students and staff of ICA, our Free Will Baptist missionaries and many others have answered "Yes" to the big question. Through their lives they have proven they meant it! As we look to our future ministries in restricted access countries the call will go out for more believers who are willing to become completely expendable for Him. Who among us is truly willing to GO if it means either being caught in a "crossfire" or a "cross hair"?

Clint Morgan and his wife, Lynette, are veteran missionaries of 24 years in Ivory Coast. Clint is currently on special assignment to develop ministry to restricted access countries.

*Cross hairs are crossed lines, as fine as hair, mounted in the optical system of a telescopic gun sight.

Quotes on persecution are from the book "Extreme Devotion" by The Voice of the Martyrs, W Publishing Group.

Wrap up of Praise and Prayer

- (1) *Praise God for the provision of a director of member care and a Foreign Missions staff with the willingness to "be spent" in order to see deliverance for the ICA students and missionaries.*
- (2) *Pray for the persecuted church and those who have gone through traumatic experiences such as those portrayed here.*
- (3) *Ask God to give wisdom to the board, staff and missionaries as they seek direction for the future.*
- (4) *Pray for God to call those who will make a commitment to serve creatively in adverse, risky places to make Christ known.*
- (5) *Ask God to show you what you should do to help those who have faced this crisis. Costs of evacuation will be close to \$40,000 and these were not budgeted. A special "Crisis Intervention Fund" has been set up so missionary accounts will not be hit by these expenditures.*

"Jesus said that we should go. He never said we would come back."

—UNKNOWN



Executive Secretary Keith Burden (at the microphone, left) welcomes delegates and observers to the International Fellowship. Those attending the IF sessions at Camp Garner Creek are seen on the stairs.

Hughes Baptizes Two at Uberlândia, Brazil

Missionary Tom Hughes in Uberlândia, Brazil, baptized two people in September. According to the Hughes, "Rildo was a transfer from the Presbyterian church who became engaged to one of the young ladies in the church. Rosalene is a 15-year-old girl saved in February of this year."

International Fellowship Meets in Tennessee

The triennial gathering of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches met in Nashville, Tenn., October 7-11. Eleven countries were represented by delegates and observers.

France, Spain, Panama, Uruguay, Mexico, United States, Canada, and Japan sent delegates. Brazil and Côte d'Ivoire were represented by missionaries who work in those countries. Cuban delegates were unable to obtain visas. The Russian Baptist Union sent two observers.

The opening service on October 7 followed dinner at the Donelson FWB Church. Delegates and observers were welcomed by Keith Burden, new

Executive Secretary for the National Association. Music by the Donelson Celebration Choir and "Rejoice" from Free Will Baptist Bible College prepared hearts to worship. Pastor Robert Morgan preached.

After the service the international participants went to Camp Garner Creek near Dickson, Tenn., where they met Tuesday through Friday.

Five major papers were presented, business was conducted, and officers were elected: Daniel Dorati of Panama, president; José Manuel Parrón of Spain, vice-president; and Melvin Worthington representing the U.S., secretary-treasurer.

Web Site to Resume PowerPoint Programs

PowerPoint presentations on the Web site, suspended for a time due to technical complications, are expected to resume in November.

According to Cheri Ham, network administrator for Foreign Missions, "The short presentation will be on the Web site along with a written script. The actual PowerPoint must be downloaded to see its transitions and hear any sound bites."



Jean-Daniel Doli, newly ordained pastor in Téhini, Côte d'Ivoire, clutches his Bible as he sits with his wife, Virginie, during the ordination service.

Ordination Service Held September 8 in Téhini

A special service was held on September 8 at the Téhini church in Côte d'Ivoire as Jean-Daniel Doli was ordained to the gospel ministry. Jean-Daniel is a 1995 graduate of the Bible institute and has been pastoring full time at Téhini for the past two and a half years.

Pastor Amiezi Paul, president of the ordaining council, delivered the message. Pastor Jérôme Kambou, president of the Ivory Coast National Association of Free Will Baptists, gave the charge, and Dr. Kenneth Eagleton presented a Bible to Jean-Daniel.

According to Dr. Eagleton, Jean-Daniel was a nurses' aide who worked at the hospital in Doropo until God called him to preach.

Youth from Arkansas Minister in Spain

According to youth pastor Allen Pointer, a 15-member group from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Russellville, Ark., went to Spain in late June to help with literature distribution, work on the church property, and other activities.

The group also went to the Alcalá de Henares and Villalba churches to perform a mime program five times in two days.



The concert choir, led by Jerry Carraway of Donelson FWB Church, sings at the St. Nazaire church in France.

Thieves Strike Again, Cousineau Victimized

When Mike Cousineau and two other missionaries from Bouaké went to Abidjan in September, they did not expect thieves to strike again so soon after the July incident at ICA.

While they were in a paint store on September 4, thieves broke into their car and stole their bags and money. According to Deleen Cousineau, one of the missionaries lost a good sum of money and Mike and the other man lost their bags, clothes and toiletries.

51 People from Three States Learn in France

According to missionary Jerry Gibbs in St. Nazaire, France, a group of 51 people from three states went to France on September 23-30 to learn about the missionary ministry and to minister through music. Concerts were held in the St. Nazaire and St. Sebastien churches. One day was spent learning about ministry to Muslims.

Gibbs noted that national Christians sought to share their vision for France with the visitors. Many of the U.S. group stayed in French homes, some Christian and some not.

The choir concerts "were great," says Jerry. "We had several people who had never put their feet inside a Protestant

church."

Travelers included three people from Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana, Ill.; eight from Temple FWB Church in Darlington, S.C.; four from Franklin FWB Church in Franklin, Tenn.; and 36 from Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, Tenn. Robert Morgan, pastor of Donelson, and Sean Warren, of the French M Team, led the group.

Lytle Visits, Speaks in Korea and Japan

Steve Lytle, director of field operations, left for Korea and Japan on September 19. While in Korea September 20-25, he met with Dr. John Chang to discuss the Korean work.

Steve went to Japan on September 26 where he visited with the FWB missionaries in Sapporo. He attended the Japan Free Will Baptist Association meeting September 28-29. Lytle preached three times as Dale Bishop interpreted. Approximately 60 people were at the meeting.

The Japanese churches commissioned Rev. Matsuda, former pastor of the Bihoro FWB Church, as a home missionary among the Chinese in Tokyo.

Lytle also attended the field council meeting in Sapporo on September 30 and October 1 before returning to the United States on October 2.



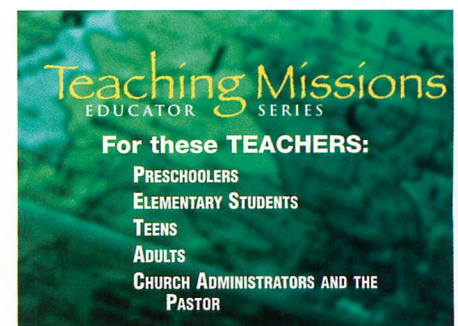
The field council in Japan works through reports, plans and strategies during their regular field council session.

Teaching Missions Video Series Available

The educator series "Teaching Missions" is now available on three videotapes with coordinating curriculum and five PowerPoint presentations on CD. Five 45- to 55-minute sessions present teachers with practical ways to incorporate missions into their curriculum.

These sessions were presented as part of the Mid-Tenn Christian Workers' Conference held at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., April 20, 2002. The series targets teachers of four levels: preschool, elementary, teens, and adults. A fifth session is included for pastors and church administrators.

Cost for the series is \$45.00 plus shipping and handling. Orders may be placed on our Web site (www.nafwb.org/fm) or by calling toll free (877-767-7736).





Ivory Coast missionaries and the administrative staff (above) meet to discuss their status. Dan Grudda, ICA director (left), expresses thanks to Free Will Baptists for their help in the evacuation.

I.C. Missionaries Meet for Crisis Intervention

Missionaries evacuated from war-torn Ivory Coast met in Antioch, Tenn., October 21, 22 for reentry care, debriefing and strategic planning for their future.

Dan Grudda, director of International Christian Academy, made a special effort to appear and thank the Mission and Free Will Baptists for their role in the safe evacuation of the ICA staff and students.

Time was spent in prayer, field council discussion and outlining possible steps toward returning to Ivory Coast should things become stable. For the present, missionaries will go on stateside assignment.

Missionary and field status will be reviewed in the spring.

Andrea Moore Has Baby Prematurely

Missionary Andrea Moore was hospitalized in Uberlândia, Brazil, on Saturday evening, October 19, with high blood pressure. Being pregnant, doctors feared for her and the baby. A Caesarean section was

performed and the baby was delivered seven weeks early. Andrea and the baby, Andrew Levi, were placed in intensive care.

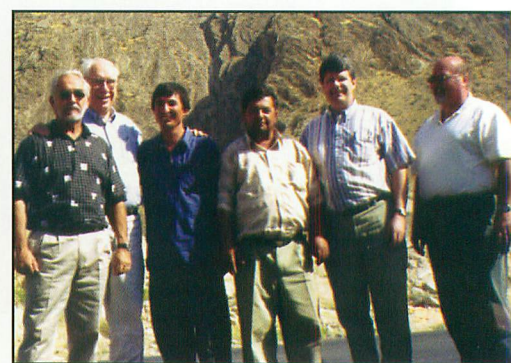
Latest reports indicated Andrea's blood pressure had dropped and the baby's breathing was improving. Levi only weighed three and a half pounds. He is Andy and Andrea's first child.

Video to Show God's Vision Put into Action

A new Foreign Missions video is set for release early in 2003 for use in conjunction with Foreign Missions Month and the World Missions Offering. Focusing on gratitude for participation of Free Will Baptists, the video will demonstrate what God is doing through their partnership to reach the world for Christ.

While not a series, this new video will carry the subtitle, *Embracing the Vision III*. The actual title has not yet been chosen, but the video continues the Foreign Missions mobilization challenge to the denomination.

Churches which have not shown *Embracing the Vision*



(Left to right) Clint Morgan, Ted Hope of the McClelland Foundation, two taxi drivers, James Forlines, and Mike Corley stand at roadside in Uzbekistan.

and/or *Embracing the Vision II* are encouraged to view them prior to showing the new video. Orders may be placed through our Web site (www.nafwb.org) or by calling Foreign Missions toll free (877-767-7736).

Forlines, Morgan View Central Asia Prospects

General Director James Forlines and Clint Morgan (assigned to develop ministries to restricted access countries) traveled to Central Asia on August 18.

Their first stop was Istanbul, Turkey. Missionary Mike Corley of Russia joined the duo in Kazakhstan and translated for them there and in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Clint says, "We were amazed at the lack of evident radical Islam in Turkey. We were also surprised to see the strength and number of believers in the churches in Central Asia."

Four main objectives stimulated this visit: (1) to meet with church leaders and hear of their works in Central Asia, (2) to determine the viability of partnership with them, (3) to better understand the demands of living in restricted access countries, and (4) to discover new opportunities for Foreign



Dr. Kenneth Eagleton (left) and Alice Smith (right) participate in Community Health and Evangelism training in Gouméré, Côte d'Ivoire.

Missions ministries.

Potential opportunities were opened to partner with the Baptist Union to plant new churches, particularly Project Central Asia 300 (plant 300 churches by 2005). They also learned it is possible to set up a non-government organization (NGO) to send relief and development workers to the region as a means of outreach and witness.

The men returned to the United States on September 2.

CHE Training Held at Gouméré Church

A special training program for trainers of the Community Health and Evangelism program was held in Gouméré, Côte d'Ivoire, August 26-31. Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, Verlin Anderson and Alice Smith conducted the sessions during the week.

Alice, who taught a session on the "why" and "how" of evangelism, saw some putting it into practice. "I accompanied a young woman and she and I were able to lead a 14-year-old girl to the Lord," says Alice. "A young man also received Christ as Savior after another team member shared the gospel with him."

South Carolina Leader Visits, Speaks in Brazil

Mike Jones, promotional director of South Carolina Free Will Baptists, and his wife, Paula, went to Brazil in August and visited with Andy and Andrea Moore in Uberlândia. Jones spoke to the couples of the Second FWB Church on Saturday night, August 17, gave his testimony on Sunday morning and preached on Sunday night. According to Nancy Hughes, "Mike was a blessing to our church."

News Capsules

Côte d'Ivoire—On September 29 following the coup d'état in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, Pastor George, his wife and their two young girls left Bouaké by foot. Mortar fire had literally shaken their home for several days. They hoped to find transportation back to their own area close to Bondoukou. They walked two days and spent one night in the bush before arriv-

ing where they could get a bus. They actually walked 25 miles.

Uruguay—Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster in Uruguay expressed praise that Jaimie was able to baptize their nine-year-old son, John William, at First FWB Church in Russellville, Ark., on July 28, just two days before the family returned to Uruguay.

Côte d'Ivoire—Alice Smith, missionary in Agnibilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire, requested prayer recently for five children from the church in Agnibilekrou who are demon possessed. According to Alice, the children were initiated into sorcery by a teenage boy who attended the church for three years.

Brazil—Overseas assistant Kimberly Johnson has been state-side to obtain her visa to Brazil and raise support. She returned to Brazil on September 5 to resume her ministry as "dorm mom" to two young women at the children's home in Araras.

Côte d'Ivoire—Jerry and Carol Pinkerton expressed praise that 22 people were present for the

Prepare NOW for the 2003 World Missions Offering!

April 27, 2003

If your church gives (undesignated) . . .

\$10,000 or more—The pastor and his wife receive a trip to Free Will Baptist work in Cuba. The church receives a beautiful framed historical missions picture.

\$5,000 or more—The church receives a beautiful framed gemstone wall map (right) and the pastor receives a very nice framed historical missions picture.

\$1,000 or more—The church receives a beautiful framed historical missions picture.

Pastors of all these receive special recognition at the 2003 National Association in Tampa, Fla.



NEWS IN REVIEW

first service at the third Free Will Baptist work in Abidjan on September 15. The Pinkertons urged people to pray for Pastor Samuel and his family as they share the gospel in this large city.

Nashville, Tenn.—Steve and Judy Lytle announced the birth of their first grandchild, Caia Gabrielle, born in Nashville, Tenn., on September 16. The baby weighed six pounds 11 ounces. The parents are the Lytles' oldest son Michael and his wife, Diane. Steve is the director of field operations for Foreign Missions.

Brazil—Andy Moore in Uberlândia, Brazil, says, "I was approached on the street in front of the church by a man. The first thing he said to me was that he wanted to be converted." Moore took the man to Tom Hughes who was able

to lead him to the Lord. Andy has been giving new convert lessons.

Uruguay—According to Jaimie Lancaster, six people made decisions for Christ at the Malvin church in Montevideo, Uruguay, on Sunday, September 22. It was the first anniversary of the church.

Brazil—A special Father's Day program was held at the Second Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlândia, Brazil, on August 11 with 156 people present. Twenty-eight of these were fathers.

Korea—Dr. John Chang in Korea reported recently that he had preached to over 6,000 youth during summer crusades in Korea. About 4,000 made decisions for Christ.

Bowermans Unable to Get to Kuna Village

When Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman sought to return to the Kuna village in Panama on October 3, they discovered that the alternate site through the electric company property from which they expected to launch their boat was unavailable.

"We were informed by the security guard that they have now closed the facility completely to us and everyone else," writes Eddie. "We will not be permitted to launch the boat."

"For all practical purposes we are cut off from entry into the Kuna by boat. The Bayano Bridge has proven inadequate for launching the boat and there are no other access points that aren't owned by the electric company."

The Bowermans requested prayer for God's direction for their ministry.



People of Prospect FWB Church in Dunn, N.C., gave \$10,000 to the WMO and Pastor Phil Davis will receive an awareness tour of Panama.

Record 2002 WMO Brings Words of Praise

According to General Director James Forlines, churches and individuals showed an unprecedented response to the 2002 World Missions Offering. "We praise God for this outstanding offering to reach the lost around the globe," says Mr. Forlines. "To date, a record \$140,169.60 has been received as undesignated WMO funds. An additional \$12,899.01 has been received for various missionary accounts or projects."

Prospect FWB Church in Dunn, N.C., sent \$20,200 with \$10,000 undesignated. As a result Pastor and Mrs. Phil Davis

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in August and September 2002:

Donor	In Memory of
Clarence and Billie Johnson Knightdale, N.C.	Dan Merkh
Van and Sue Paschall Royal Oak, Mich.	Bill Daniel
Eugene Waddell Nashville, Tenn.	Mrs. Harold Hancock Gwen Hendrix
Bonnie Bartram Lakeland, Fla.	Louise Owen
Maj. and Mrs. Michael Mammay Harker Heights, Tex.	Lois Reagan
Mrs. Winifred Kimball Augusta, Me.	Lois Reagan
Richard and Beverly Ryan Closter, N.J.	Lois Reagan
Donor	In Honor of
Clarence and Billie Johnson Knightdale, N.C.	Melvin Worthington

Clip and mail

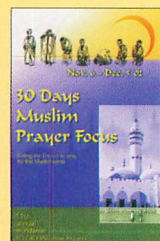
Special Gifts

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 _____

Muslim Prayer Guide

The *30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus* delivers a month of information and requests to help Christians pray for Muslims during Islam's holy month of Ramadan. In the United States Muslims will celebrate their month November 6–December 5.

To order the prayer guide call Foreign Missions toll free (877-767-7736) or see (www.nafwb.org/fm) on the Web.





The Terry Vandivorts have resigned.

of Dunn are eligible for an all-expense-paid awareness trip to Panama. Trinity FWB Church in Greenville, N.C., also contributed \$10,000, but they are without a pastor. Each church received a large gemstone globe.

First FWB Church in Gastonia, N.C., responded to Pastor Randy Sawyer's challenge and gave \$8,000 which yielded a large gemstone globe for both the church and pastor.

Thirty other churches gave \$1,000 or more to the World Missions Offering.

VW Van from Brazil Children's Home Stolen

According to Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras, Brazil, the Volkswagen van belonging to Lar Nova Vida (New Life Children's Home) was stolen on September 7. The children had been taken to an Independence Day parade and when they returned to the parking area the van was gone.

The Combs indicated the 1996 van, donated by the Nestle Company, had just been repaired at a cost of \$400. People were urged to pray that the vehicle might be found intact since the home really needs it.

13 from Florida Church Minister in Spain

Thirteen people from the Beulah Free Will Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., went to Spain on July 26 where they spent eight days assisting missionaries by working on the church property and distributing literature. They also ministered in the Villalba and Alcalá de Henares churches.

Pastor David Baker led the

group and declared, "It really opened the eyes of those who went on the trip to see what 'missions and being a missionary' is all about. The trip helped each of us to solidify our relationship with the Lord and examine the role we are to have in missions service."

Vandivorts Resign After One Year at ICA

Due to family needs and time required to prepare for another ministry abroad, Terry and D.D. Vandivort resigned from missionary service effective August 31. They had been dorm parents at International Christian Academy in Côte d'Ivoire for one year.

The Vandivorts returned to the United States at the end of July. They were at ICA during the robbery and shooting.

Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church

November 10, 2002, marks the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church and calls for broad participation.

Persecuted Christians face the threat of arrest, beatings and death every day because they follow Jesus as Lord. Their comfort is in knowing that God will never leave them nor forsake them and that you are upholding them in fervent prayer.

Hanna Says Churches Starting Fast in India

Missionary Carlisle Hanna says people are accepting Christ as Savior and new churches are being started faster than buildings can be erected. "Many of

our people have no place in which to worship during the monsoon," Carlisle declared.

Persecution and opposition to evangelism are widespread. In spite of this, Hanna indicated the church is growing much faster today than at any time during his 50 years in India.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through September 2002

Income for August	\$ 414,978.41
Income for September	408,010.96
Total income through September	3,967,347.89
Projected income through September	7,628,061.58
Total expenses through September	4,165,717.73
Total 2002 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$ 10,170,748.77

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey, K.	\$ 12,241.99	Martens	\$ 28,846.40
Bishop	1,502.20	Owen	1,867.68
Blanchard	1,646.25	Snow	9,318.40
Bryan	15,877.02	Vandivort	11,604.12
Chang	38,277.02	Wendlandt	3,059.10
Gainer	7,013.37	India Bible Inst.	19,742.80
Hanna	2,200.01	Russian Ministries ..	32,303.98
Holland, C.	12,450.74	Support Services ..	343,578.18
Lancaster	2,199.62		

Totals **\$538,729.11**

This account is low and needy:

Sturgill

STATES IN ACTION

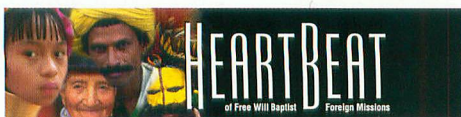
State/Source	Gifts in Sept. 2002	Gifts thru Sept. 2001	Gifts thru Sept. 2002
Alabama	\$ 39,733.55	\$ 246,464.62	\$ 237,100.09
Arizona	581.04	5,185.62	4,597.57
Arkansas	40,504.09	418,242.28	366,272.24
California	5,897.29	37,539.08	47,368.31
Canada	233.32	2,822.64	2,900.72
Colorado	191.00	1,865.55	1,944.32
Florida	15,127.54	113,034.33	122,297.65
Georgia	18,979.69	166,066.14	142,925.56
Hawaii		251.00	-
Idaho	121.10	2,147.45	1,885.09
Illinois	2,939.00	94,303.68	122,631.45
Indiana	6,601.28	46,525.56	44,913.77
Iowa		856.86	720.44
Kansas	252.75	1,866.50	1,320.43
Kentucky	5,527.57	52,902.31	67,248.87
Louisiana		3,513.08	2,040.00
Maryland	5,002.06	47,554.86	47,941.20
Michigan	9,954.92	117,515.84	120,519.28
Mississippi	8,742.66	58,695.51	67,152.41
Missouri	33,191.72	321,320.02	361,610.75
Montana	50.00	1,670.00	1,850.00
Nebraska		2,000.00	1,500.00
New Mexico	214.02	852.42	1,520.14
North Carolina	76,480.72	497,063.45	624,265.60
*Northeast Assn.	337.00	7,824.19	2,740.00
**Northwest Assn.	56.34	2,321.88	2,497.13
Ohio	4,383.79	89,094.75	111,959.27
Oklahoma	36,047.56	297,758.89	326,237.23
Pennsylvania	85.00	2,040.00	1,808.70
South Carolina	26,249.75	300,160.66	263,309.37
Tennessee	56,137.12	489,546.28	502,864.01
Texas	5,380.67	53,365.77	49,085.95
Virgin Islands		1,540.00	-
Virginia	3,267.04	53,924.95	56,355.41
West Virginia	8,404.47	95,324.80	100,659.91
WNAC	4,186.28	107,908.52	122,373.39
FWB Foundation		28,100.53	-
Miscellaneous	210.00	2,761.96	5,391.63
Totals	\$ 415,070.34	\$3,771,041.98	\$3,939,347.89

*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.



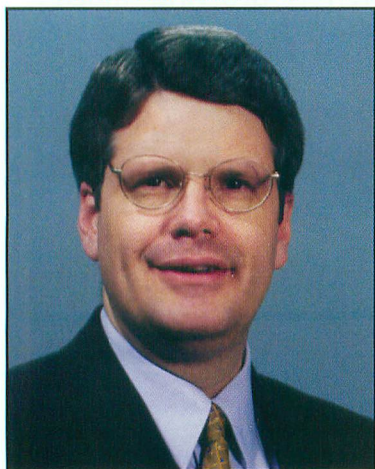
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

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

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; Dr. Neil Gilliland, director of member care.

Please clip and mail this label with all correspondence.

Web address: www.nafwb.org/fm



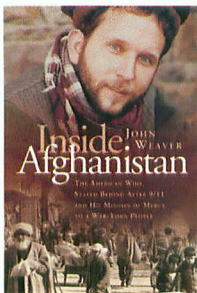
Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director

Soldiers of the Cross

Our world is rapidly becoming a very unsafe place. This is true even in our own country, but it is more acute in certain places around the world.

In the last issue of *HEARTBEAT* we featured the story of John Weaver. John, a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College (serving with Shelter For Life), remained at his mission in Afghanistan during some life-threatening circumstances. We encourage people to purchase the book *Inside Afghanistan* which tells the inspiring story of his commitment to serve as Jesus did. See our Web site to order the book or visit your local Christian bookstore.



In this issue we had planned to tell the story of Mike Cousineau and how he and his family returned to Ivory Coast even after he had been abducted, beaten up, and shot at. While we were finalizing the copy, news came of the

attempt to overthrow the Ivorian government and the subsequent siege on the campus of ICA (International Christian Academy). For a week, warring factions in the immediate vicinity of the campus pinned down the Cousineaus and others on the campus.

Yes, our world is rapidly becoming a very unsafe place. What should the Christian's response be to the dangers we see? In 2 Timothy 2:1-4 Paul gives "lessons from the battlefield" that are applicable for us today.

Strength from Unseen Places

During the crisis in Ivory Coast we talked with Mike on a cell phone numerous times a day. Often we heard the automatic weapons and mortar fire in the background.

Tense and uncertain times arose, but throughout everything we could sense an undergirding peace. Jesus promised this peace at the end of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:20 when He said, ". . . and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Deleen Cousineau said, "We could sense the prayers of Christians." Whether we are in Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, or anywhere in the world, we can be sure His strength will come to us when we need it the most.

Not Surprised by Hardship

A soldier on the frontline is never surprised upon taking enemy fire. He

comes to expect it. Verse three calls for a faithful endurance of the circumstances though the conflict be great. We must never forget *we also are in a war*. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6 that our war is not with people we can see, but wicked spiritual forces, which we cannot see. Yes, we live in a very unsafe world, but we go forward having confidence He has sent us (compare to Paul's experience in Acts 9:16). Jesus said in John 16:33, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Allegiance Must Be Absolute

The more we have to lose, the more we tend to play it safe. For a Christian this world is not our home. We are called not to entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life. When we heed this call it gives us freedom to serve Him in any circumstance, no matter how challenging. We are to be committed to Him and His purpose to save the lost. This is true of missionaries, but it should also be true of us all.

Without doubt we live in an unsafe world. In the midst of all of these challenges we must remember that Jesus has promised to build His church and He will do that through us as we are yielded to Him.

James Forlines