

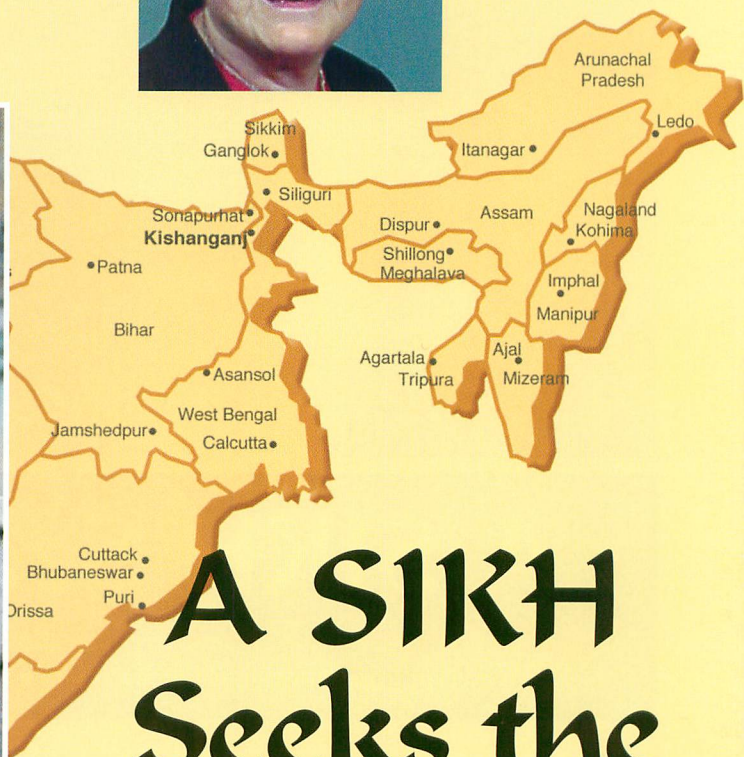
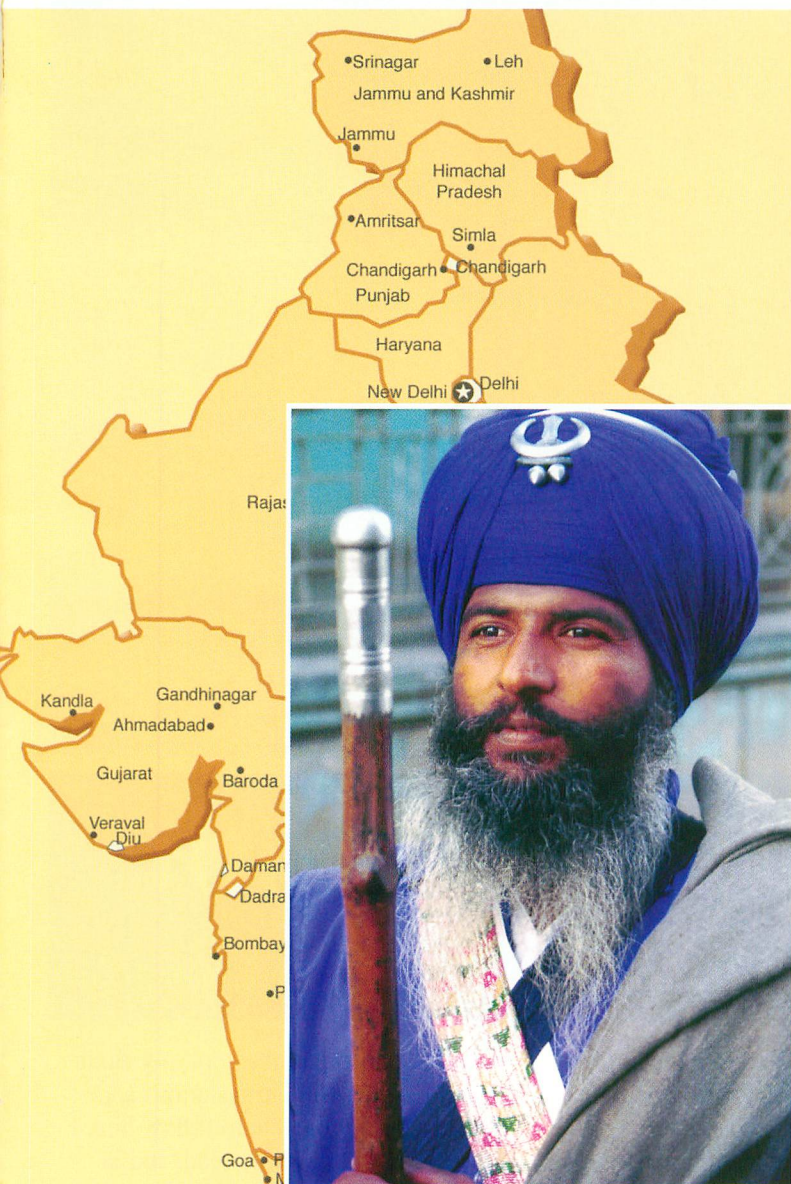


HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
2003

Showing God at work around the world



A SIKH Seeks the Truth

IN THIS ISSUE

A SIKH Seeks the Truth, page 2

Confronting the Gates of Hell, page 6

My Shoes Need Shining, page 8

Board Appoints Three Couples, page 10



Photo of an unnamed Sikh ©2002 Gurumustuk Singh Khalsa—www.SikhPhotos.com

A SIKH Seeks the Truth

By Trula Cronk

(An excerpt from the original manuscript of a book soon to be published by Randall House Publishers)

While Dan was gone on a bicycle tour to the Nepal border in January 1950, the townspeople in Kishanganj decided to honor the memory of Mahatma Gandhi on the anniversary of his assassination. A platform and loud speakers were set up on one end of the playing field (called the midan). The organizers, in a great show of magnanimity, decided to have all religions

present and wanted to include readings from their scriptures. At the last minute someone remembered Christians had come to town, and a young man was sent posthaste on his bicycle to ask Dan to come and read from the Bible.

I explained that Dan was not at home, so he insisted that I come and read instead. I had just washed my hair, so I combed it back, secured it

with a pair of combs, took my Hindi and English Bible translations and mounted my bicycle to follow him. I would decide what to read, and in which language, as I rode along. I was glad to have any opportunity to share the Christian Scripture.

The midan was crowded. I had never seen so many people at one time in this town. They seated me in the front row with the other readers be-

tween a young Sikh and a Hindu priest. After we had sung JANA MANA GANA, the national anthem, it was time to read. The Muslim read first from the Koran, but I was not sure if it was in Arabic or Urdu. The Sikh read in Punjabi from the Gruntsahib, but I could not understand that language either. Then it was my turn.

The speaker was so loud that I didn't recognize my own voice. I had decided to read from the English Bible, knowing that at least the educated people present would understand. I read from the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John. Then the Hindu priest read from the Gita in Bengali.

When Dan returned home I related my experience, and he was happy that I had represented the Christians as best I could. He thought that I could do anything he could, and I felt the same in return. We always filled in for each other if needed.

A few days later we heard a knock at our front door. When Dan answered it, he saw a handsome young Sikh with his long hair tied up under a neat turban and his beard carefully groomed. The Sikh spoke first.

"I'm Artura Singh Gill." (All Sikhs include the word Singh in their names. It means "lion." Ladies of the Sikh religion have Kaur in their names, which means "lioness." The name Singapore is an English corruption of Singhapore, which means "the place of the lion.")

He appeared to be a devout Sikh because he was wearing the five Kakari, or Sikh, symbols: kesh—uncut hair and beard; kackh—short boxer underpants; kanga—an iron bangle; kanghi—a comb; and a kirpan—a dagger. All of these were not visible immediately, of course, but we could see the turban, beard, and dagger, so we could easily assume that the others were present.



Trula Cronk sits astride her bicycle in the early days of the ministry in North India.

"I heard Mrs. Cronk read from the Bible the other day on the midan, and I have been searching for you since," Gill began. "Those were absolutely the sweetest words I have ever heard. I have come to hear more."

"Those were absolutely the sweetest words I have ever heard. I have come to hear more."

"Then come in," Dan replied. "Have a chair, and let's talk. I'll give you a New Testament so you can read for yourself. I don't have a copy in Punjabi, but I have copies in both Urdu and Hindi, as well as in English. Which would you prefer until I can get a copy in your own language?"

"I think that I would like to read in English and compare with Urdu."

"Take both of these then, and come back anytime to talk about it," Dan offered.

"Oh no, I won't take them with me. I prefer to come and read here."

That sounded a little strange, but Dan said, "That's all right. Come whenever you like."

He was obviously an educated man because his English was good. He and Dan discussed the Gospel of John for a couple of hours.

As he left, he said, "I will come again tomorrow."

The very next morning before we had eaten breakfast, he was back to begin his reading. He read until he had to go to work. He said he was with a group of construction workers on one of the railroad projects in the area. He and another Punjabi shared a rented room by the market. As Gill left, Dan insisted he take the books with him, but he said he couldn't do that because his roommate might object.

"If you don't mind, I'll just come here to read," he said.

Continued on page 4 ➔



Vol. 43, No. 1

January-February 2003

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. 37011-9998.

Don Robirds, *Editor*

Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editorial Assistant*

Jim Johnson, *Artist*

—Continued from page 3

"I understand," Dan replied. "Come and read whenever you have the time. I'll send for a copy in Punjabi today."

Gill continued to come every morning and read until time to go to work. He and Dan had discussions but for the most part, he just sat and read. In a few weeks, he had read the entire New Testament in Urdu and English and had started on the Punjabi version. He was also reading in the Old Testament with Dan's guidance. After six weeks or so, Dan thought it was time to send him down to Katihar to talk with Hans Swartzdall, our Norwegian friend, who was much further along in the language than we were.

Our new friend took a day off and went to see Hans. A note from Dan was in his hand. We could hardly wait for him to get back because we knew Hans, an aggressive soulwinner, would press Gill for a decision to follow Christ. His language was adequate to make sure Gill understood.

When the young Sikh returned, Dan began to probe, "Did you go? What did you talk about? What part of the Bible did you discuss? Just tell me what happened."

Finally, Gill interrupted Dan's circumlocution and asked, "Are you wanting to know if I have become a Christian?"

"That's exactly what I want to know," Dan replied.

"Yes, I have become a Christian, but I was a believer before I went to see Mr. Swartzdall."

"You were? When did you begin to believe?"

"One night after I had read the whole New Testament in English and Urdu and had started on the Punjabi version, I went home very agitated. All my life I have been told that the Bible is an evil book and that I should not read it. I was spending hours reading it and liking it. I couldn't find anything evil in it, but I still had no way

of knowing whether it was true. I realized that if it were true, all other religions are false.

"My problem was determining how to know if the Bible is true or false. I decided to ask God directly if the Bible is the one and only message to the world.

"Our room near the market has iron bars on the windows and a solid wooden door with a chain so we can lock it when we go out. When we are there, we close the door and put a strong wooden bar across from the inside. One night after reading late at your house, I went home. My roommate was already asleep, and I had to rouse him to let me in. He went right back to sleep and I, too, was soon asleep.

"Thank you, God. I now know without a doubt that this Bible is your message and that the story of Jesus is true."

"Suddenly, I was awakened by the sound of chains rattling. My roommate sat up in bed and asked, 'Who's in here?' We got up, examined the doors and windows and looked under the beds. All was secure, so I said, 'I'm going back to bed.'

"We both went back to sleep. Suddenly I was awakened by a wind blowing through the room as if the door were open. I got up. My roommate also woke up and wanted to know what was going on. 'Nothing,' I said. 'Go back to sleep.' He was soon snoring, but I began to pray. 'Lord, are you telling me something? If you are, would you please send the sign again so I can be sure I am not imagining it. I have no other way of knowing whether this Christian Bible is the truth.'

"I tried to go back to sleep. I don't

think I was really asleep, but somewhere in that area of awareness when you aren't sure whether you are awake or asleep. Then it happened again. It seemed like the door opened and a wind blew through the room. It woke my roommate who sat up and said, 'Somebody is in here.'

"He got up and searched the room again. 'Something is going on, and I want to know what it is,' he said.

"'You are just dreaming. Go back to sleep,' I replied. Then, under my breath, I said, 'Thank you, God. I now know without a doubt that this Bible is your message and that the story of Jesus is true. I accept you, Lord Jesus, as Lord of my life, and I will follow You.'

"A great joy filled me, and I went right to sleep and woke up the next morning still filled with joy."

He paused a bit and when Dan didn't say anything, Gill said, "That's it."

Dan responded, "Praise the Lord. Let's pray together. I haven't asked you to pray with me before because we Christians pray to God our Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I didn't know if you were ready to do that."

Dan called me to pray with them. After we had prayed and Gill had gone home, Dan and I discussed the testimony. It seemed strange to us, but Dan said he believed that the Lord gave signs sometimes. He thought Gill's experience had really happened.

We wanted to stay and disciple him, but we were already signed up for language study for the next four months, and we had to go. Gill would soon be leaving anyway because his job was ending. He had a wife and children to go home to in Punjab.

Trula Cronk and her husband, Dan, spent 27 years as missionaries to North India. They returned to the United States during the summer of 1972 due to health problems and were unable to return. Trula lives in Nashville, Tenn. Gill was disciplined and later baptized by Paul Woolsey in Sonapur.

**Help your pastor and his wife visit
the growing Free Will Baptist work in Cuba!**

**Just give to the
World Missions Offering**

Churches giving (undesignated) . . .

\$10,000 or more—The pastor and his wife receive an all-expense-paid trip to Cuba where "Mom and Pop" Willey labored and where the work is flourishing. The church receives a beautiful framed collage of Laura Belle Barnard and other pioneer missionaries.

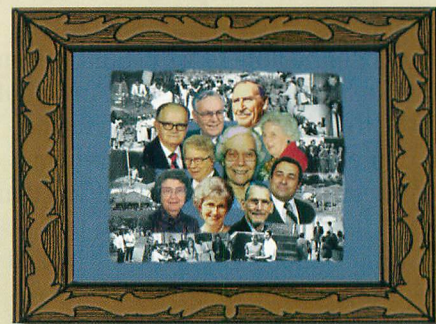
\$5,000 or more—The church receives a beautiful framed gemstone wall map (left) and the pastor receives a nice framed collage of Laura Belle Barnard and other pioneer missionaries similar to that below.

\$1,000 or more—The church receives a nice framed collage of Laura Belle Barnard and other pioneer missionaries similar to that below.



Pastors of churches giving \$1,000 or more and individuals giving \$1,000 or more will be recognized during a special dinner at the 2003 National Association in Tampa, Fla.

*Offerings must be received by Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-9998
before June 30 to ensure a reservation for the recognition dinner
on Wednesday evening.*



**Laura Belle Barnard
World Missions Offering
April 27, 2003**

NOTE: Individuals may receive recognition gifts and the dinner on the same basis as churches but the offering must be counted apart from the church offering.



Confronting the Gates of Hell

By Steve Lytle

War! It occupies our thoughts and newspaper headlines much of the time today. But what about spiritual warfare? Satan and his forces actually orchestrate many wars and are the resisting powers confronting Christianity. Vivid pictures of fierce spiritual warfare and God's promises of victory roll from the pages of Scripture. Jesus said, "... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). This is commonly interpreted to mean that Hell's forces will not overcome a defensive, persevering church.

The actual interpretation of this promise is even more thrilling: **Hell will not be able to withstand the onslaught of the advancing Church of the living God!** In other words the Church is on the offensive, bringing people to Christ and into the kingdom; and this is happening around the world. Ultimately God will win, and "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

How do we enter this spiritual battle? The preparation required to be spiritually effective in battle and the weapons we are to employ urge us to learn about the nature and tactics of Satan. While an unhealthy and unbiblical focus on spiritual warfare have

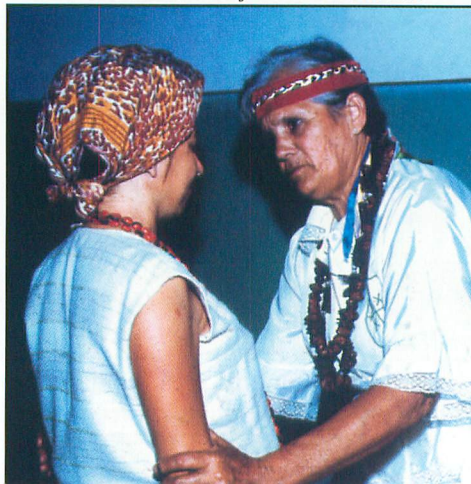
Seeking cleansing and holiness, an Indian Hindu throws himself on the ground.

often led to fanaticism and extremes, it is essential that we be committed to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12). With Paul we hope to victoriously say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

The Church is on the offensive, bringing people to Christ and into the kingdom.

The nature of spiritual warfare and the task of world evangelization implore us to demonstrate love and con-

A woman speaks to a Spiritist medium as she seeks deliverance from her troubles.



cern for the lost. The enemies of the Christian and the cause of Christ are the world, the flesh, and the devil. The enemy is not "flesh and blood," that is, not human beings, regardless of race, culture, ethnic background or religious beliefs (see Ephesians 6:12).

The implications of this are twofold: **First**, we must not treat lost, enslaved, blinded sinners as the enemy. Rather, we are to reach out to them with love, gentleness, and compassion (Jude 22-23, 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Second, we should carefully rethink our public use of certain evangelical terminology: crusade, war, target, win, etc. This may be especially important in trying to share Christ with Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. Such terminology is appropriate "in-house" and in context, because the Bible uses it, but we should be aware of its potential impact on non-Christians.

John Orme, executive director of Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association of North America, states, "Each mission agency needs to seriously examine its name, logo, web site, literature graphics, goals and mobilization language. Certain words and images long employed to call the church to mission have increasingly caused offense to the very people with whom we are seeking to share the

Good News.”

The Bible reminds us that *“the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (fleshly, worldly), but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds”* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Our weapons include these:

(1) Prevailing prayer (Paul’s prayers in the epistles are powerful models: Ephesians 1:17-20; 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-13). Remember, our missionaries are invading Satan’s territory, but James reminds us that *“the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”* (James 5:16).

Ivory Coast missionaries tell how pagan animists placed a curse on new believers and told them they would die because they had become followers of Christ. Having seen demonic power exercised, the converts were fearful. But God’s people in Africa and America prayed earnestly and nothing happened to the new converts!

(2) Fasting. Demon activity often calls for fasting. *“This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting”* (Matthew 17:21).

(3) Proclamation of the Truth (God’s Word—John 8:31-36). The Truth sets men free from spiritual bondage.

(4) Appropriate power encounter (Daniel 10; Mark 5:1-20). This may range from helping new believers do away with occult paraphernalia or idols to actual confrontation with demonic forces. Great caution and wisdom need to be exercised because unfortunate excesses and extremes exist in this area.

(5) Holiness (1 Peter 5:5-10). Personal and corporate holiness enable God to work in power through clean, pure channels for His glory.

(6) The name of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 16:18). In her book, *Touching the Untouchables*, Laura Belle Barnard tells of an incident in India. She and some colleagues were



A person delivered from the powers of the fetish prepares to burn his fetishes (above) as Christians observe. The fetish items burn as a symbol of breaking with the spirit powers.

threatened by demon-possessed priests of Kali and her eyes were opened to see the nature of the warfare. She invoked the name of Jesus, pled the merits of His precious blood, and they were delivered from danger.

Spiritual warfare calls for individuals to surrender to the Spirit’s control.

As we seek to take the name of Christ to the nations, we must remember that the peoples of the world are being held captive in sin’s chains. They are being blinded by Satan through false religion, materialism, decadent and perverted lifestyles, and vain and empty philosophy. When the Truth is proclaimed by a Spirit-filled messenger (Romans 10:14-17), the Holy Spirit can convince men, women, and children of *“sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”* (John 16:8). He can point them to the living

God and *“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29).

Often the struggle will be severe in the pre-evangelization period as well as during the conversion event itself. Satan resists the Church’s efforts to evangelize and does everything possible to prevent people from coming to the Savior. Prayer is vital (sometimes accompanied by fasting) so that God may work with and through His witnesses.

I recall an experience in my own ministry when visiting Cuba. As I stood and preached the Word I strongly sensed the Lord’s presence and His working through me. God

Continued on page 8 →

Confronting the Gates of Hell

—> *Continued from page 7*

confirmed His Word that day by bringing souls to Christ.

Increasingly, churches and groups of believers are doing prayer walking on site or prayer journeying (made possible because of increased facility in travel), as well as concentrated intercessory prayer from a distance. While prayer is the biblical way to earnestly seek God's face, His heart and His will, it is not a magic formula or mantra designed to "make" God respond according to our wishes. He is glorified in revealing himself in the lives of unregenerate men and women by dispelling satanic control and moving the Holy Spirit into the new believer to take up residence.

Spiritual warfare calls for individuals to surrender to the Spirit's control and to reject and remove anything that gives the devil a foothold. This may involve fetish burning, removal of the god shelf from a home, refusal to participate in pagan funeral rites, praying to God only through Jesus Christ, or the putting away of lustful and immoral practices.

In 1978, one of our first converts in Panama had trusted Christ in her heart and made a public profession of faith. Still, she struggled with prayer and an ingrained practice learned as a child growing up in Catholicism. She thought she needed a visual image of Christ before her. But as we instructed her in the Word and prayed for her understanding, the Spirit of God did His work. She was able to remove that "image" from her home and pray in spirit and in truth. God gave the victory!

Steve Lytle is director of field operations for Foreign Missions. He and Judy, his wife, served 25 years as missionaries in Panama before he assumed his current position.



MY SHOES NEED SHINING

By Erin Williams

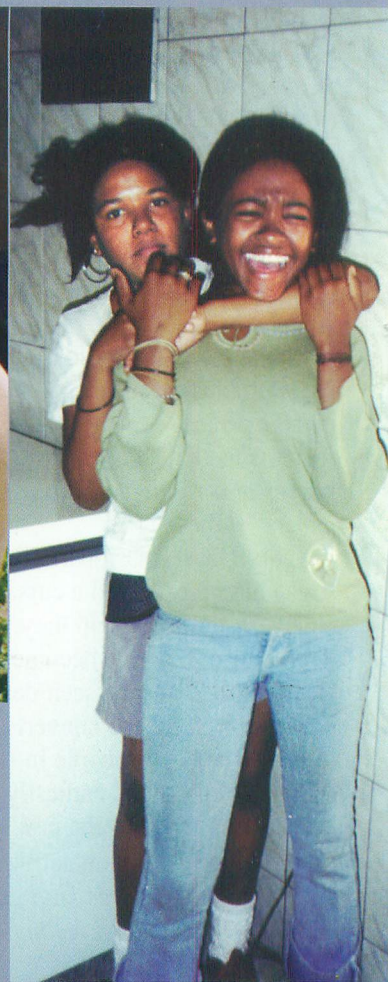
On May 20, 2002, I embarked on several firsts in my life: first airplane ride, first trip from home for more than two months, first time overseas, and first missions trip. My destination was Araras, São Paulo, Brazil, through the overseas apprentice program. My ministry focused on Lar Nova Vida (LNV), a children's home for street children, with missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs. Amy Lankford, a college classmate, was going with me.

I thought I would go to Brazil, have a wonderful time, do a lot of work, and learn a great deal. I was excited, but I had no idea I would grow to love the children's home

so much. I had met missionary Shirley Combs two years before at the National Association and was anxious to see her again. The tearful goodbye stuff was not for me; I was ready to go. Most of all I looked forward to meeting the children.

In almost every church service during my stay a child sat on my lap.

We didn't meet the children until after we had a day to rest in Araras. The second night after our arrival, a special service was held at one of the churches and the children were present. That night I





Erin Williams (left) hugs two of the children, Anna Paula demonstrates her choke hold on Ivani (center) and Messias and Elias (above) show their affection.

met several of the kids and a tradition was quickly established. In almost every church service during my stay, a child sat on my lap. Each time, the child was asleep before the end of the service.

Messias and Elias regularly fell asleep on my lap. These brothers were seven and nine years of age. They had come to the children's home shortly before we arrived. The boys had lived behind a gas station and had made money by shining shoes. When they came to Lar Nova Vida, they left their shoe shining kit at the service station. These little guys hated school so they would cut classes, run away, and reappear at the Home at night. After several times, we discovered they were going to the gas station to shine shoes.

Shirley went to the gas station, retrieved their kit and brought it to the Home. Then she rounded up all the shoes she had and let them shine them. The boys asked me if they could shine my shoes. I agreed and asked how much it would cost. They said, "For you, it's free."

Not long after that, we learned the boys had a Christian grand-

mother. She wanted to take care of them, so the boys went to live with her. The day they left, they asked us to visit them at their grandmother's house and indicated they would miss us. One boy said his heart was half happy and half sad.

Each child at the Home has personality, but two of the girls kept us laughing. Anna Paula and Ivani, the oldest girls at LNV, have been there since they were five and six years old. At 17 and 18 these sisters are the only two residing in the house for older girls.

The day we arrived at the Combs' house the phone rang. It was Anna Paula and she wanted to talk to one of the two American missionary girls. When Amy took the phone Anna said, "Hi, my name is Chicken: I likey chicken." We really laughed and from that day on I called Anna Paula "Chicken." For some reason she called me "Giraffe." She would often say, "You is beautiful for me, Giraffe."

Leaving Brazil was very difficult.

Ivani was often my shadow. She sat with me in church almost every Sunday. One Sunday after church she pulled me aside. Half

teasingly and half seriously, she asked me to be her mother. I was honored and will never forget that.

Not long after going to Araras we met a 15-year-old boy named Lucas. He came to the children's home at the age of five and now lives in the house with the older boys. Lucas loved to tease us. Whenever we saw him he would either be really friendly or really cruel.

On our first encounter, Lucas said in English, "It is beautiful, no?" as he pointed to himself. Sometimes he would flirt with us and kiss our hands. Other times he would walk away saying, "You Americans! You always come here and say you love it, and you never come back."

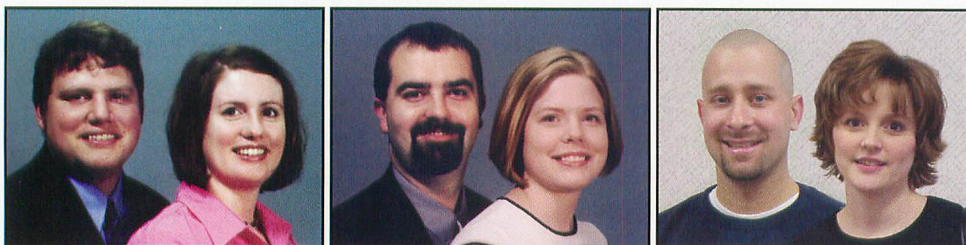
Leaving Brazil was very difficult. I hugged each child and told everyone goodbye as bravely as I could. That night at the airport I let the tears flow. Though the last goodbyes were tearful, I didn't care. I knew I was going to miss the children terribly.

It has taken me a long time to get reaccustomed to sitting through church without a child asleep in my lap. I know one day I will have to return to Brazil. My shoes need shining. I need to tell "Chicken" hello. I have to prove Lucas wrong.

Erin Williams is a student at FWB Bible College and a member of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, Tenn.

Erin and Amy Lankford (center) sit with the dorm parents and boys from the residence for the older boys. Lucas is seated on the left.





Appointed as career missionaries were (left to right) K. C. and Liz Kohn, Matthew and Cristina Price, and Darren and Dana Portell.

Board Appoints Three Missionary Couples

The Board of Foreign Missions met in Antioch, Tenn., December 2-4 for their semi-annual session. All members were present for at least part of the meeting which was the first for Danny Williams, the newest member.

Action of the board included the appointment of three career missionary couples, three couples and one single for short-term service, and one overseas apprentice.

Matthew and Cristina Price of Gainesville, Ga., and K.C. and Liz Kohn of Decatur, Ill., were appointed as general career missionaries to France. Darren and Dana Portell of Nashville, Tenn., will serve as career missionaries with the French M Team.

Receiving assignments as overseas assistants were Jonathan and Teresa Snow, two years in Japan; Natalie Crowson, one year in France; Joshua and Christi Smith and Matthew and Brooke Turnbough, two years in Spain. All of these are currently from Nashville, Tenn.

Chuck Stewart of Ashland, Ky., was approved for a 10-month assignment in Spain.

The two-year special assignment of Clint and Lynette Morgan to develop a program to reach restricted access countries (PRAC) was extended until the task is completed.



Appointed for short-term assignments were (top, left to right) Jonathan and Teresa Snow, Joshua and Christi Smith, (bottom) Matthew and Brooke Turnbough, Natalie Crowson, and Chuck Stewart.

Approval was given for the Mission to enter a partnership agreement with the Center for Intercultural Training (C.I.T.) in Union Mills, N.C., for continuing missionary training.

A VISION fund project of \$50,000 was approved for the development of the Bible institute in Conoor, Tamil Nadu, South India.

The board will reconvene April 28-30, 2003, for its annual session.

War in Côte d'Ivoire Escalates, Talks Fail

Mid-December news showed that negotiations between warring factions in Côte d'Ivoire had broken down and fighting had escalated. Reports indicate the discovery of mass graves and literally hundreds of abandoned bodies in the streets during the past three months.

Ivory Coast missionaries and the Foreign Missions staff are greatly concerned for the Christians left in the territories of the rebels. Food is scarce, medicines and medical care are practically non-existent and even the two hospital containers for Doropo, shipped recently, have been held up in Gouméré.

Church Starts Monthly Women's Meeting

A monthly women's meeting has been started in the Miha-rashidai Chapel in Ebetsu, Japan. Attending the first meeting on October 30 were 22 first timers.

According to missionary Dale Bishop, special children's meetings were held in November featuring Judy Smith, former missionary to Japan, who is a ventriloquist.

Callaways to Teach in Cuba During January

Missionaries Ronald and Linda Callaway have their visas approved and are scheduled to go to Cuba on January 2 to teach in the Free Will Baptist Cedars of Lebanon seminary. They expect to return to Panama on February 26.

The Panamanian Bible Institute is scheduled to begin upon their return to Panama.

Ronald has temporarily assumed the pastorate of the First FWB Church in Panama City. They have been without a pastor for the past two years.

Two Romanians Now Attend Villalba Church

Crina and Lucian, two Romanian immigrants in Spain, have begun attending the church in Villalba. According to

missionary Jeff Turnbough, Crina is a 20-year-old girl who found Christ through reading the Bible. Lucian was raised in a Romanian evangelical church but didn't really begin to follow Jesus Christ until this past year.

Jeff has agreed to perform their wedding ceremony and has begun studying the Bible with them on a weekly basis prior to the wedding. They are also studying to prepare for believer's baptism.

Thanksgiving Meal Served at St. Nazaire

The church in St. Nazaire, France, observed a special Thanksgiving meal for the freedoms they have to worship and live their Christian lives free from outside threats. Of the 100 people attending church more than 80 stayed for the meal which consisted of turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes and cranberries prepared by Jerry and Barbara Gibbs. The church people brought vegetables and desserts.

The unique meal was held in conjunction with a special "Portes Ouvertes" (Open Doors Ministries) observed in France.

A moving video on Uzbekistan was shown during the special gathering.

Candida Church Marks Sixth Anniversary

The Candida FWB Church in Araras, Brazil, celebrated its sixth anniversary on Saturday, November 30, with a full house. The church was started by Jim and Shirley Combs and is now under the direction of Pastor Paulo.

The night of the celebration a man fired a gun into the



Teenagers from the Buritis FWB Church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, enjoy a picnic lunch at a park after visiting the zoo.

house of a church couple with six children. The gunman evidently was trying to kill Julio, the man of the house. Instead, the bullets hit their teenage son, Jefferson, in the knee and a young daughter, Jaqueline, in the thigh. Both children were sent home from the hospital with bandages and were out of danger.

On Sunday, December 1, the father was one of many people who went forward during the invitation at church. "He was sobbing and the pastor prayed for him," says Shirley Combs. "The whole church was broken up."

Another Colombian Converted at Villalba

On October 22 Rosemberg (Roso), a Colombian, received Christ as his Savior in Villalba, Spain, according to Jeff Turnbough. This adds another immigrant to the church roll.

Jhon Fredy, a young Colom-

bian training for the ministry, accompanied Turnbough in the weekly evangelistic home Bible study and witnessed the conversion of his friend and co-worker.

Belo Horizonte Youth Have Special Outing

A special outing was held on November 2 by the young people of the Buritis church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, as youth leader Sandro Ferreira suggested a trip to the local zoo.

Although it is the rainy season in Brazil the group prayed that the weather would be clear. It was a dreary day early but the weather cleared at one p.m. so the nine teens and adolescents, accompanied by four adults, made their way to the park.

After two hours of seeing the animals and enjoying the butterfly habitat, they gathered for lunch and worship time under a shady tree. The rains



Lea (above, top row, left) and Anthony Edgmon (top row, right) sing with the community choir in Alpedrete, Spain. Jim Sturgill stands in the middle of some of the graduates of the Newton Paiva University and friends after a special thanksgiving baccalaureate service arranged by Mônica (in white), a member of the church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

began again shortly after entering their vehicles for the return home.

Two MKs Tie Knot in December Weddings

Two MKs who spent much of their lives on foreign fields were married in December—one in Nashville, Tenn., and the other in Toccoa Falls, Ga.

Timothy Crowson, son of Alan and LaRue Crowson, former missionaries to Africa and France, married Katrina Taylor of Batesville, Ark., on December 14 at Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville. General Director James Forlines performed the ceremony.

Brook Cousineau, daughter of Ivory Coast missionaries Mike and Deleen Cousineau, married Chris Arnold (a former International Christian Academy student) on December 21 in Toccoa Falls.

Community Choir Provides Outreach

According to missionaries Anthony and Lea Edgmon in Spain, "When we returned to Spain, we joined the community choir in the town of Alpe-

drete with the intention of meeting people there and seeing where those relationships would lead," declared the Edgmans. "We have already made quite a few friends in the choir and we're falling in love with Alpedrete itself."

The owner of the Edgmans' apartment is the editor of a local newspaper. She asked Anthony to write an article for the Christmas edition from an evangelical perspective.

"Praise the Lord with us for this opportunity," writes Lea. She urged people to pray for Anthony's article to be effective.

Three Montagnard Christians Executed

Recent reports indicate three Christians in Vietnam have been executed by lethal injection amidst a massive crackdown by the Vietnamese authorities against the Montagnard Christians of the central highlands. The Montagnard are the indigenous hill tribes people of the country which have a different language and culture to that of the majority ethnic Vietnamese.

The three Christians were ex-

ecuted by lethal injection in their prison cells on October 29. According to the Montagnard Foundation, a human rights group, the Christians were executed simply for taking part in peaceful demonstrations in February of 2001.

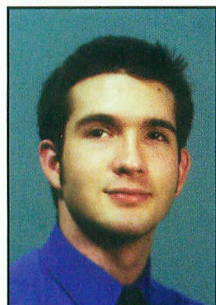
Two Graduates Ask for Evangelical Service

Two of the 35 graduates of the Department of Pedagogy of the Newton Paiva University in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, scored a point for their Christian testimony by asking that the baccalaureate include an evangelical thanksgiving service for God's blessings.

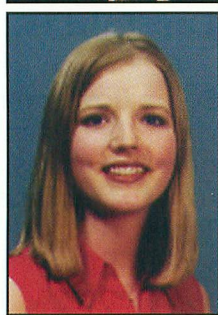
One of the two graduates was Mônica Ribeiro of the Burtis Free Will Baptist Church in Belo. She was influential in getting missionary Jim Sturgill as the speaker for the event.

The service was held September 17 in the FWB Church with approximately 60 people participating and honoring the students.

Mônica testified how she felt very little hope for the future and had low self esteem when she came to the church. She shared how she took a teacher



Departing for their fields of service at the end of 2002 were Dennis and Trena Owen (top), Doug and Patty Chamberlin, Benjamin Bailey, and Carlisle Hanna. Joni Thomas is scheduled to leave for Japan in mid-February.



training class at the church and was successful at teaching children to love the Lord. She gained more confidence in her abilities and returned to school, even though she has three children, and completed high school and college.

Missionaries Leave for Fields of Service

Seven missionaries or short-term servants have departed or are leaving for their fields of service.

Dennis and Trena Owen, who have been on a short stateside assignment raising support, departed for Uruguay on Decem-

ber 1 to resume their ministry in the city of Montevideo.

Veteran missionary Carlisle Hanna departed for India on November 30 following a short stateside assignment. He had planned to leave earlier but was delayed due to some problems in getting his visa.

Doug and Patty Chamberlin of Tennessee departed from the United States on November 27 for a two-year assignment at the Christian academy for missionary kids in Madrid, Spain.

Benjamin Bailey, overseas assistant, left the United States on December 10 for a two-year assignment in Tokyo, Japan. Ben is the son of missionaries Ken and Judy Bailey.

Joni Thomas of Georgia is to leave for Japan in mid-February to serve as an overseas assistant in Hokkaido, Japan.

Brian Ellison Assumes Video Production Role

Brian Ellison of Cleveland, Ohio, has assumed the role of video producer for Foreign Missions beginning January 1, 2003. He has been working for over two months on the production of *Embracing the Vision III*, "Acts 1:8 in Action," on a contract basis.

Brian stepped into the post vacated by MK Mark Cowart who held the position over the past two years. Mark resigned to assume a supervisory position with DigiScript, Inc., a Franklin-based video production house.

Ellison has worked on various Foreign Missions productions over the past two years. He came to Nashville to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College but had received training and video production experience in Ohio.



Brian Ellison is the new video producer for Foreign Missions.

News Capsules

Panama—A children's church was started on October 20 in the Betania church in Panama City, Panama, according to missionary Eddie Bowerman. He noted this is a first for the churches in Panama. The goal is to train workers from the church to direct and lead these ministries later on.

Brazil—Over 400 people crowded into the auditorium of the First FWB Church in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, on December 15 for the annual Christmas program of the church. John Poole, son of missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole, pastors the church planted by his parents.

Côte d'Ivoire—According to missionary Jerry Pinkerton, Pastor Silas and the Abidjan First FWB Church in Côte d'Ivoire have started the Second FWB Church in another part of the mega-city even in the midst of civil war. The Third FWB Church in Abidjan under Pastor Samuel is averaging 20 people each Sunday.

Brazil—Andy and Andrea Moore in Brazil are praising the Lord that their infant son, An-

NEWS IN REVIEW

→ drew Levi, has been released from the hospital. He was born two months early and had breathing problems. Levi was released from the hospital on November 25, two months after birth.

France—Miss Patsy Vanhook, missionary to France, is leading a project to open a Christian bookstore in Nantes, France. The goal is to have the store open in March or April of 2003. Patsy went to Strasbourg, France, on November 30 for a two-week training session at a bookstore to prepare for the venture.

Russia—Missionaries Mike and

Cathy Corley were scheduled to travel from Russia to the United States on December 16 to begin their stateside assignment.

Antioch, Tenn.—Missionary appointees Micah Derby of Fresno, Calif., and Miss Becky Hale of Milan, Ill., have announced their engagement to be married on January 18 in Nashville, Tenn. The couple is part of the French M Team.

Brazil—Kelly, a 13-year-old girl in Uberlândia, Brazil, was saved on November 10. Her mother was saved the following Wednesday evening, November 13, according to Nancy Hughes.

Japan—Missionary Judy Bailey took five unsaved Japanese friends to a ladies' outreach program at the Japan Christian Academy in Tokyo on November 28. The program was called "The Coffee Hour" and it is held four times a year. Three of the women accompanying Judy had been in Evelyn Hersey's English class and had heard the gospel for 20 years without accepting Christ.

Panama—According to missionary Ronald Callaway, 13 people (youth and adults) from the Panama City church in Panama were baptized on December 21. This followed the church's annual Koinonia end-of-the-year meal together.

Brazil—Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras, Brazil, are rejoicing that 10 people were baptized on Sunday, October 20. Jim assisted Pastor Paulo because nine of those people had made professions of faith while Jim was still pastoring the Candida Church. Those baptized included four adults: Paulo, Iara, Fernanda, and Marina. Six youth were baptized: Helke,



Pastors Uri Gonzalez (left) and Daniel Dorati baptize seven converts in the ocean near Las Tablas, Panama.

Deivid, Lucas, Jenifer, Carla, and Fernando.

Spain—Miss Lynn Midgett, missionary to Spain, is teaching Olivia and Teresa the Bible. Olivia has been faithful and has expressed a desire to have the same faith and peace she has seen in her friend, Maria.

Seven Baptized in Las Tablas, Panama

According to missionary Eddie Bowerman, seven people were baptized in the ocean near Las Tablas, Panama, on October 27. Christians from Las Tablas, Parita, and Chitrê observed the event.

A national pastor's retreat was also held during the last weekend in October with pastors and leaders of churches all over the country attending. It was a time of encouragement and teaching for those who attended.

Four Children Taken from Children's Home

Four children disappeared from Lar Nova Vida (New Life Children's Home) in Araras, Brazil, on October 26 during visitation day. According to missionary Shirley Combs, a mother who was released from the prison just a few months earlier was visiting her children and they just walked off from

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in October and November 2002:

Donor	In Memory of
Central FWB Church Royal Oak, Mich.	Katherine Miller
Charles and Faye Tucker Huntsville, Ala.	Jean Tucker
Jack and Evelyn Carter Huntsville, Ala.	Jean Tucker
First FWB Church WAC Dickson, Tenn.	Louellar Burgess Agnes Albright
First FWB Church Dickson, Tenn.	Agnes Albright George S. Weaver
Brett and Tuesday Bigelow Scottsboro, Ala.	Jean Tucker
Greenwood FWB Church Springfield, Tenn.	Vadie Spain Sue Brock
S. C. State Assn. of FWB Florence, S.C.	Gwen Hendrix
Tanya Hart Ayden, N.C.	Adam Purser
First FWB Church of Greenville Greenville, Tenn.	Hal Carter
Donor	In Honor of
First FWB Church Dickson, Tenn.	Laurel Ann Hayes Shelbi Marie Humphreys Nina Edwards McKenzie Nicole Graybill William Patrick Layton

Clip and mail

Special Gifts

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

the front veranda.

The children were later discovered in the city of Ribeirão Preto about one and one half hours away. They reported having walked the back roads until they got far enough away to catch rides on the main highway.

Reports indicated the children had been subjected to demonic spiritist meetings while they were in Ribeirão. Shirley Combs declared, "This is spiritual warfare."

Three Couples Mark Arrival in Brazil

Three missionary couples acknowledged anniversaries of their ministries in Brazil during December.

Bobby and Sue Aycock and Bobby and Geneva Poole arrived in Brazil December 14, 1960.

Jim and Vicki Sturgill arrived in Brazil on December 7, 1972.

Terrorists Arrested in Villalba, Spain

Three members of a terrorist group (Basque Homeland and Freedom) shot and killed a local policeman and wounded another in Villalba, Spain, on December 17.

According to Anthony Edgmon, police had stopped a car they suspected of carrying terrorists. One of the men was wounded and captured while the other two escaped.

The incident occurred very close to the home of missionaries Tim and Kristi Johnson.

The car, which was headed to Madrid, was found to be full of explosives. Police and special agents took the car to an isolated area and detonated the charge.



Jim Sturgill sits with men in his Bible institute classes held on Saturday morning in the church.

Sturgill Begins Bible Institute Classes

According to missionary Jim Sturgill in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, a group of men have been meeting at 7:00 a.m. each Saturday for breakfast and prayer. At their request, Sturgill began Bible institute classes with them starting with "Personal Evangelism."

Jim noted that some of the ladies of the church have asked if they might also attend the Saturday morning sessions.

New Church Building Dedicated in Brazil

According to Bobby Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, the dedication service for the newly constructed building of the Second Church in Barbacena was held on Sunday, December 1. Over 230 people gathered to

see the new building and participate in the service.

David Aycock was master of ceremonies and led the singing. Bobby brought the message and Flavio Grossi, pastor of the First Church, prayed the dedicatory prayer. People from four congregations presented special music.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through November 2002

Income for October.....	\$ 505,804.90
Income for November.....	476,756.68
Total income through November.....	4,949,809.47
Projected income through November.....	9,323,186.37
Total expenses through November.....	5,015,367.08
Total 2002 Budget (including VISION projects) ...	\$10,170,748.77

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey, K.....	\$ 9,918.74	Sturgill.....	\$ 1,418.65
Bryan.....	19,619.62	Vandivort.....	5,752.30
Chang.....	33,487.26	Wendlandt.....	1,178.57
Gainer.....	3,949.23	India Bible Inst.....	19,592.80
Holland, C.....	15,173.28	Russian Ministries.....	17,774.38
Martens.....	23,712.40	Support Services.....	369,742.00
Snow.....	12,274.88		
Totals.....	\$ 533,054.75		

This account is low and needy:

Bishop.....	\$ 1,948.85
-------------	-------------

STATES IN ACTION

State/Source	Gifts in Nov. 2002	Gifts thru Nov 2001	Gifts thru Nov. 2002
Alabama.....	\$ 26,564.68	\$ 308,358.82	\$ 298,334.10
Arizona.....	571.03	6,099.62	5,416.10
Arkansas.....	42,936.70	526,942.72	456,997.03
California.....	7,664.96	44,147.47	58,899.05
Canada.....	359.61	3,054.38	3,484.01
Colorado.....	183.24	2,245.55	2,345.28
Florida.....	20,413.50	155,424.59	150,572.78
Georgia.....	18,315.61	204,940.70	177,391.87
Hawaii.....		251.00	
Idaho.....	149.93	3,109.82	2,189.32
Illinois.....	18,246.00	113,948.80	162,916.28
Indiana.....	5,594.82	55,043.43	54,217.73
Iowa.....		856.86	720.44
Kansas.....	22.00	2,053.44	1,368.60
Kentucky.....	4,241.21	69,160.25	79,703.68
Louisiana.....		3,610.58	2,040.00
Maryland.....	3,061.08	58,339.58	57,690.36
Michigan.....	13,731.41	139,311.33	146,261.61
Mississippi.....	3,937.13	71,655.61	79,218.06
Missouri.....	32,775.06	400,148.95	434,761.16
Montana.....		2,225.00	2,250.00
Nebraska.....		2,000.00	2,500.00
New Mexico.....	225.19	1,064.79	1,857.44
North Carolina.....	35,650.54	612,557.62	716,603.35
* Northeast Assn.....		9,534.19	2,740.00
** Northwest Assn.....	182.00	2,556.88	2,869.13
Ohio.....	19,018.84	100,963.66	140,508.96
Oklahoma.....	30,968.19	371,176.17	395,070.13
Pennsylvania.....	145.00	2,090.00	2,258.70
South Carolina.....	31,001.56	375,780.66	321,317.01
Tennessee.....	125,332.75	734,374.03	752,613.10
Texas.....	2,986.50	71,844.23	56,520.55
Virgin Islands.....	50.00	1,150.00	1,780.00
Virginia.....	6,372.50	67,870.84	68,088.77
West Virginia.....	12,388.78	116,169.45	119,830.62
FWB Foundation.....		28,100.53	
WNAC.....	12,653.94	136,840.16	153,305.59
Miscellaneous.....	795.47	4,117.74	7,487.10
Totals.....	\$ 476,539.23	\$4,809,119.45	\$4,922,127.91

*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.

**Remember the
Crisis Intervention Fund
to help cover the costs
of evacuating
missionaries from
Ivory Coast and other
crises which may arise.**

Send gifts to:
Crisis Intervention Fund
Foreign Missions
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-9998



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

Implementation

When Pat McLaughlin from the Timothy Group spoke at this year's Leadership Conference in Nashville he alleged, "A vision without a plan of implementation is a hallucination."

Over the last three years we in Foreign Missions have said a lot about vision. We produced a video series titled *Embracing the Vision (ETV)* in 2001. This past year we followed up with another series, *ETV II*. In 2003 we will be releasing *ETV III—"Acts 1:8 In Action."*

Each of these productions has sounded a note of denominational mobilization and the profound impact this can have on world evangelism. But in light of McLaughlin's quote, what specific plan do we have for implementation? And, is it working?

Mobilization Targets

Early on we adopted 10 mobilization targets as a specific plan for implementation:

1. Expose a generation of children to missions and help them find their role in global evangelism.

2. Give teenagers and college students opportunities to explore needy areas of the world and share their faith.
3. Provide short-term opportunities for laymen and laywomen to use their careers to reach the unreached.
4. Furnish retirees with avenues for investing some of their retirement years in efforts to reach unreached peoples.
5. Assist pastors in developing Acts 1:8 strategies and mobilization materials which can revolutionize their church.
6. Aid all of our Free Will Baptist colleges by providing Missionaries In Residence to help train all students for their role in the Great Commission.
7. Develop prayer networks to connect our people directly to missions efforts around the world.
8. Accumulate a financial underpinning through foundation and endowment giving for a bold 21st century world-wide advance.
9. Encourage our Home Missions Department in its efforts to broaden the FWB base in North America by planting many strong Great Commission churches.
10. Urge our people to have a missionary entrepreneurial spirit. Some of our best ideas will come from our people as they dream.

The goal is to provide avenues through which Free Will Baptists can use their gifts, talents, training, abilities, and resources to make an impact around the world. The question is,

"How are we doing?"

It is quite evident that God is working in special ways. The summer program for high school (E-TEAM) and college students (overseas apprentice) has grown 400 percent since 1999. Lives are being forever changed as young people see firsthand the needs of the world.

Missionary In Residence

Our partnership with Free Will Baptist colleges is helping to mold a generation of leaders who will have a vision for the world. In cooperation with Free Will Baptist Bible College, Master's Men, and WNAC we renovated a house on the Nashville, Tenn., campus. It is the home of the Missionary In Residence. Plans are being made to further our partnership with other FWB colleges.

Seminars for senior citizens are being shared with hundreds around the denomination. Specific avenues are being developed for retirees to spend some time extending Christ's kingdom around the world. The potential is incredible.

God is working among us in fresh and new ways. As you read this, God may speak to you about becoming involved. Call us! We will help you make an eternal impact.

James Forlines