

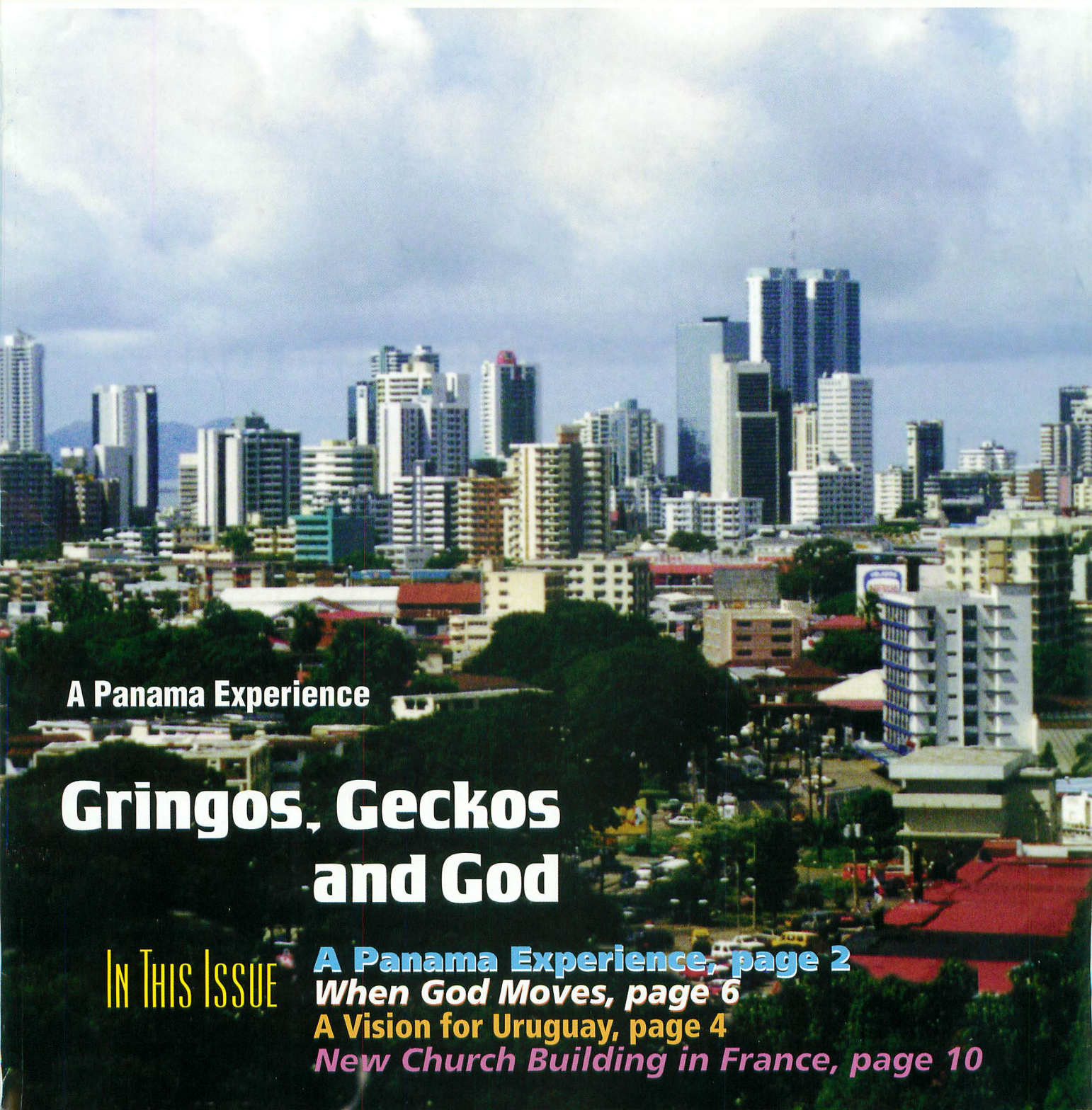
HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist

Foreign Missions

MARCH
APRIL
2003

Showing God at work around the world



A Panama Experience

Gringos, Geckos and God

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Julienne, Jorge and Jeramel Lopez (left) are pictured in their apartment. Jorge has Parkinson's disease. Pastor Phil Davis and Brian Doyle (above) stand in front of an arch in Panama.

A Panama Experience Gringos, Geckos and God

By Phil Davis

Undoubtedly, many things validate service on a foreign mission field as different from ministry in the United States. Reflecting on stateside ministry would reveal many differences from church to church. By the same token, I found the country of Panama to be *distinct* indeed from these United States.

Distinctions

Certainly culture and climate are distinct. Most Panamanians' food staple is rice instead of potatoes. Tropical fruit drinks replace soft drinks, and a perpetual heat and humidity steal away the variety of weather to which most Americans are accustomed. Most Panamanians do not have (or even want) air conditioning. The windows and doors of the majority of homes are open. Most of these have no

screening to keep out the insects and geckos or lizards.

Panamanians treat guests like royalty; of course, Panamanian royalty might choose foods not seemingly fit for an "American king."

Panamanians treat guests like royalty; of course, Panamanian royalty might choose foods not seemingly fit for an "American king." For the typical "spoiled American gringo" the cooler, breezy Panama nights, a TGI Fridays marquee and the "golden arches" which claim to have served billions are welcome sights!

Naturally, preaching with an interpreter is an experience. But sensing the hunger of God's people

for the Word of God seems to erase the "unnatural" starting and stopping during the preaching process. Brother Steve Lytle and José Ramon both proved to be excellent interpreters and I am most grateful. Of course, I threw each of them a few "curve balls" just to keep them on their toes!

Difficulties

One doesn't have to reside long in Panama to discover the difficulties of life in general are more similar than different to those stateside. My brief visit of nine days provided me with several "faces" that represent a plethora of needs, difficulties, heartaches, and prayer requests.

Adelaida, the pastor's wife at the San Vicente church, needs an MRI for her back problems, which cause immobilization from time to time.

She's waiting on her insurance to approve the needed tests as she experiences a real *physical* need. Her doctors say it could be as much as a year before the MRI is approved.

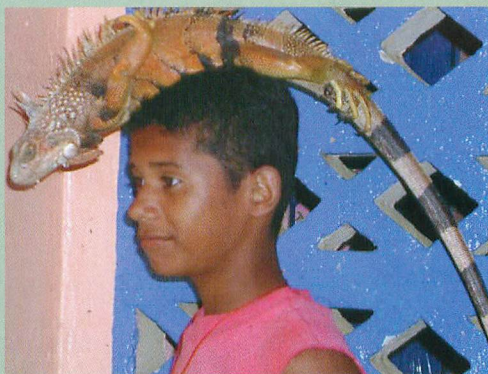
Zurisadai, the 20-year-old daughter of the pastor at the Nueva Esperanza church, has a life-threatening condition requiring surgery. Zuri's tests alone have incurred \$3,000 of indebtedness, indeed an enormous *financial* need to a family that lives, like most Panamanians, very modestly and humbly.

My brief visit of nine days provided me with several "faces" that represent a plethora of needs.

Jorge and his wife, after longing and hoping for years, have just had a "miracle" baby. Three months after the baby's birth, Jorge was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Knowledge that his disease will soon rob him of his ability to drive or even hold his child has brought tremendous heartache. He has a real *emotional* need.

Roderick attends church faithfully but hasn't made a profession of faith. Although he says he's close to making such a decision, Roderick, like so many other Panamanians, has a deep *spiritual* need.

I sensed that the difficulties Panamanians face make them more



A boy (left) carries a gecko on his head.

similar to those in stateside ministry than their distinctives make them different.

Devotion

As I've told my congregation, I don't quite know how to relay the experience of sensing the moving of the Holy Spirit even when one doesn't know the language of the recipients. But no doubt about it, God is in Panama!

One young boy attending a neighborhood Bible study in Chitré was "overly" observing this American pastor. Upon my winking and smiling at him he glanced behind him to see the recipient. When the young fellow discovered no one was behind him, he pointed to himself and raised his eyebrows as if to say, "Me?" I winked at him again and a smile flooded his little face. Panamanians need the love of God, too.

There's no mistake about it, people in Panama are serious about God.

I heard congregations *sing* of that love. I heard them *pray* earnestly for that love. And I witnessed them

striving to *live* within that love. There's no mistake about it. People in Panama are *serious* about God—worshipping Him, and living for Him. How moving to know that people in Panama are honoring TRUE royalty—the King of all ages, King Jesus!

One of their songs I liked best reveals one of God's truths that Panamanians are learning through efforts of our missionaries and the faithfulness of Panamanian pastors:

*I have a telephone so I can talk to God.
I have a telephone so I can talk to God.
It doesn't have a dial; it doesn't have a line.*

But it's the telephone of prayer.

My trip to Panama was *priceless*. I would encourage others (especially pastors) to make such a trip, given the opportunity. I feel that I know better how to relate to missionaries, the distinctions and difficulties of a foreign mission field. I also know how to more effectively use the "telephone of prayer" on behalf of field pastors and the people they serve.

My heart will forever appreciate my gracious hosts, Brother Steve and "Mama Judy" Lytle. I'm grateful for the generosity of Ron and Linda Callaway in providing the use of their home and vehicle while they were away in Cuba. And I treasure the hospitality of Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman—not to mention the wonderful chicken and dumplings and blackberry cobbler that made life in Panama all the more pleasant!

Phil Davis is pastor of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, N.C., where he has served for 13 years. Future son-in-law Brian Doyle accompanied Davis.

WMO Awareness Tour

Rev. Phil Davis went to Panama in January 2003 on his first mission trip. He is the first recipient of an all-expense-paid awareness tour after his church contributed an undesignated \$10,000 to the World Missions Offering in 2002.



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Alvaro (above, left) and Pastor Gerardo (above, right) observe as Enrique barbecues beef. Enrique and Alvaro (right) talk.



Pastor Gerardo Acevedo preaches to the group at the church in Malvin.

Our building fund has been used to double the size of one church, pay legal fees to save another, and to purchase a church building.



A Vision for Uruguay

by Jaimie Lancaster

Alvaro (below, left) holds his container for matte (a special tea), a common drink among Uruguayans. The Emanuel Free Will Baptist Church (below, right) in Malvin inaugurate their new church building purchased through the "Fondo Pro Templo."



“You can build your church and have your services, but I wouldn’t count on any men coming.” These words of encouragement greeted us as we began talking about getting men involved in our Malvin Free Will Baptist Church in Montevideo, Uruguay. They were given in typical Uruguayan fashion—blunt and to the point. We didn’t need an interpreter to get the message.

One of our key strategies for outreach in Uruguay is to involve people in small groups.

One of our key strategies for outreach in Uruguay is to involve people in small groups. It is a method that works well in the Uruguayan culture. These small groups of 10-15 people meet to study, fellowship and share.

The Lord has blessed in our efforts with the youth and with the ladies but getting men involved has always been a struggle. Our desire is to gather a nucleus of men in each church who will be able to take on leadership roles such as pastor, deacon, or teacher.

Alvaro is one of those men—a man’s man. Soccer, fried foods and a rough and tough exterior would best describe him. In fact, we once visited Alvaro when he was in the hospital and the consensus was that he looked better in the hospital because he was clean shaven and in a fresh pair of pajamas.

After the Malvin congregation lost their meeting place, Alvaro and his wife opened their home as an alternative for the members. Consequently, he has had a lot of experience with small groups. People met in the tiny dining area of their house. A battle always raged between the cats, the kids and the television. Bible study was no reason to turn off the soccer game. In

fact, I think he turned up the volume on purpose at times!

Complementing our small group strategy for Uruguay is the Fondo Pro Templo. In English we would just call it the “Church Building Fund.” The plan is so simple that one might be tempted to slap himself and say, “Why haven’t we been doing that all along?” It consists of three parts.

The first part is comprised of funds that have been donated from the United States. We have permission to raise \$170,000 for this VISION project.

The second comes from rent payments by the missionaries. Money that would normally be used for renting a building goes into the fund.

The third and key portion comes from the Uruguayan churches themselves. Each church sets aside a percentage of their tithes and offerings for this fund. This teaches valuable lessons in stewardship and cooperation and allows them to participate in church planting in Uruguay.

To date, our building fund has been used to double the size of one church, pay legal fees to save another, and to purchase a church building for the people in Malvin. The Malvin building is large enough to house the pastor and his family, provide room for the Bible institute and a daycare and give adequate room for the church services.

Although Alvaro and his wife had allowed the church people to meet in their home, Alvaro was, at best, nominal in his Christianity and interest in the church. He really wanted no leadership role, but God worked a miraculous change in his heart after the purchase of the church building in Malvin. Both he and his wife realized their support would be needed to help this church which had been without a pastor for over two years. They both committed themselves to the work at hand.

The first service in the new building had 22 people and Alvaro was there. He began forming a relationship with Pastor Gerardo Acevedo and offered to help paint and work to get the building ready for dedication. When the Nueva Vida church (the other FWB church in Montevideo) was invited for a joint service, Alvaro was there cooking the sausages on the grill. His rowdy boys were also being introduced to something new, discipline. No more distractions, Dad was in control.

During the last camp, Alvaro was baptized and testified of the changes that God had brought about in his life.

When Dennis and Trena Owen offered their home as a meeting place for the first men’s meeting, several men showed up. One of those was Alvaro. We are very encouraged by the progress being made with the men’s groups.

Each church sets aside a percentage of their tithes and offerings for the “Church Building Fund.”

Oh, do you remember the words of encouragement we received from that Uruguayan gentleman at the beginning of the article? Would you believe Alvaro was responsible for that comment? Isn’t it amazing what God can do to a man’s heart?

In a nutshell, that is our vision for Uruguay: to take cold, cynical hearts and expose them to God’s love in small groups and in places where they can worship corporately. Then we can enjoy watching God bring them to full bloom as they grow and mature in Him.

Jaimie Lancaster and his wife, Tammy, went to Uruguay in 1999. They work in the Malvin church in the capital city of Montevideo.

When God moves, people's lives are changed, they make commitments and they accept challenges! Consider the disciples of Jesus. Matthew, a dishonest tax collector, **changed**; Peter who boldly **committed** to Jesus, "I will not deny you"; and the eleven **challenged** by their Lord, "Go . . . therefore, and teach (make disciples of) all nations" (Matthew 28:19a).

God is working in the lives of His disciples. Not the 12, but five seminary students taking my English class for their foreign language requirement. Just like the original 12, they are not perfect, yet they are eager learners.

We began the English class with the alphabet and "Hello, my name is . . ." Eventually, this progressed to verb conjugation and translations. David, my husband, says a language learner has to laugh and make a lot of

mistakes. One day in class Fabiana, one of my students, proudly proclaimed, "I am a ham sandwich."

"Before, my boss was rock music, but now my boss is THE ROCK—the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Slow and steady progress has led to praying in English, reading articles from *Contact* and *HEARTBEAT* magazines, using Hotline for our prayer time and singing hymns. During a recent assignment which involved preparing and sharing their testimony in English, I observed five young people whose lives God had touched and changed. Let me share a portion of their testimonies.

RICARDO: "For 19 years I had been affected by a virus—heavy metal rock

music. I formed a rock band and began to perform shows in several cities. I also formed other bands with different styles of music. I played drums in one band, guitar in another, bass in another and sang in another. My dream was to be a rock star and make a lot of money. But these dreams began to fade when my brother, who also played in our rock band, received Jesus Christ as his Savior.

"My brother began talking with me about Jesus. In 1998 I also received Jesus as my personal Savior. My dreams changed, my friends changed and my music changed because my boss had changed. Before, my boss was rock music, but now my boss is THE ROCK—the Lord Jesus Christ!"

MARIO: "After my father became sick we moved to Barbacena. My family and I were Catholics. We

When God Moves

By Annette Aycock



moved into a house next to Walter, a believer from the Free Will Baptist church in town. I began to observe Walter and his relationship with others. My mother wanted us to have that same relationship. I was reluctant to change because I didn't like evangelical believers.

"One day Walter invited us to visit the church. We decided to go the following Sunday. When we arrived, I thought everything was strange and we were embarrassed. The preaching was very good and when the invitation was given I went to the front. After the service the pastor explained the plan of salvation to me and I accepted Christ as my Savior."

FABIANA: "At the beginning of the 90s a missionary couple moved to my apartment building. They began a friendship with my parents and began witnessing to them. The first convert was my mother and, after a lot of hard work, my father also became a Christian. At that time I was 10 years old. With the influence of this missionary couple and my parents, I trusted my life to Jesus when I was 11. However, it wasn't until I was 15 years of age that I fully committed every area of my life to the Lord.

"During camp of 1998, God

touched my heart and I realized that people were dying and going to hell. So, I answered the call to full-time Christian ministry. God changed my plans and He changed my life! Today, I can say that I am the happiest girl in the world because Christ lives in my heart. I am 19 years old and I am attending the Free Will Baptist Seminary to prepare for the wonderful path He has for me in the future. I need your prayers to accomplish this!"

"God changed my plans and He changed my life!"

DANIEL: "I grew up in a single-parent home and was raised a traditional Catholic. I didn't know the reason for life, so I did many sinful things. In 1998 the Free Will Baptist pastor invited my family to church. I was nervous, but I went. Jesus touched my heart and I understood that I needed the Lord Jesus in order to go to Heaven. I knew that I would go to Hell. So I believed in Christ as my Savior and today I live a peaceful life. Today I know the true reason for this life. That reason is Jesus Christ."

RENATO: "My father started attending the Free Will Baptist church and

became a Christian. He invited me many times to attend a service, but I would always say, 'I'm not going.' I did not want to make a promise or a commitment to anyone. Finally, I accepted the invitation and started attending the services. But it was only to satisfy my curiosity. One day I listened to the pastor preach about the necessity to be saved and that only Jesus could save me. I rarely cry, but when I heard the message, I started crying and accepted Jesus as my Savior."

We have been privileged to see these young people accept Christ and grow in Him. Yes, they have changed and made commitments. They have determined to live a Christian lifestyle, to date/marry only Christians, and to work in full-time Christian service. Daniel, Mario, Renato and Ricardo are all future pastors. They are working alongside the missionaries, preparing to take over the reins of the churches in the near future. Daniel is working in Lafaiete, Mario in Carandai, Renato in Antonio Carlos, and Ricardo in Barbacena. Fabiana is the bride-to-be of Daniel and will one day be a pastor's wife.

Like the original disciples, these have accepted the challenge from their Lord, "Go...and make disciples of all nations." They are witnessing to their family, friends, and communities. They are having Bible studies with unsaved acquaintances and winning many souls to Christ. Four of these five young people came from the same church and the same youth group. These dedicated Christian workers are touching hundreds of lives in five cities and six churches! Yes, God is moving in Barbacena, Brazil. And when God moves, lives are changed, people make commitments and they accept challenges.

Annette Aycock serves with her husband, David, in Barbacena in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Dating couples in Barbacena (opposite page) stand with Annette and David Aycock (back, right) at a cookout. The group includes four future pastors and one doctor. Below are (left to right) Renato, Mario, Fabiana and Daniel. Ricardo is the first person in the back row on the opposite page.



Acts 1:8 In Action

By Don Robirds

Three sacrificial lives. Two significant, growing groups of churches! And Free Will Baptist people have stood behind them to make it possible.

When Laura Belle Barnard set out for India she did not know what the future held. She could have been killed or she could have been a failure due to demonic opposition. But she went with staunch determination to be a light in the darkness and experience the joy of the Lord as she followed His leading.

"Mom" and "Pop" Willey surrendered their lives to be God's witnesses in Cuba in spite of opposition and even mistrust by some leaders in the denomination. They stuck it out and effectively reached a significant number of Cubans, trained them and left a functioning church when Castro forced them out.

Today India and Cuba are our two most fruitful and growing fields of ministry.

Today India and Cuba are our two most fruitful and growing fields of ministry. Though times were tough, these servants remained faithful and committed to the task. And God has rewarded their efforts as well as the denomination's faithfulness in supporting them.

Foreign Missions spread to Japan, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Uruguay, Panama, and France. Then came ministries in Germany, Russia, China, Mongolia, Korea and other areas. Still, Foreign Missions faced

the reality that our missionary force was diminishing. Consequently, the Foreign Missions staff decided to do something about it. Led by R. Eugene Waddell, general director at that time, we set out on a 10-year strategic plan to mobilize our denomination for world outreach, to expand our areas of ministry and to more effectively serve our missionaries and constituency.

As we structured for growth, many changes had to occur. Personnel had to be added, video production had to be accelerated, electronic media had to be accessed, and people had to be redirected.

After General Director James Forlines took the reins in January

1999, a new department emerged with the task of implementing mobilization opportunities and aggressively recruiting missionary prospects.

A director of member care was added to shore up a weak link in long-term commitments. Missionaries needed help and encouragement to cope with Satanic attacks, world changes and increasing support needs. Stress was taking a serious toll on the missionary force and professional help seemed essential.

As we structured for growth, many changes had to occur.

In spite of facing a financial shortfall during an economic downturn, Foreign Missions has seen tremendous growth. Through the faithful support of those who gave in last year's Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering (approximately \$150,000, the largest ever) and those who gave undesignated or to Support Services during the year, some exciting things took place.

Six E-TEAM groups ministered at home and overseas. Overseas apprentices numbered 34 and three overseas assistants went abroad.

Numerous church groups made trips overseas to help mission works and challenge their people with God's mandate. Several churches sponsored Global Focus events.

A total of six new career missionaries were appointed. At any given time there are approximately 150 people either in the process or



preparing for the process for overseas ministries. Eight new career missionaries are expected to depart this year.

An Ivory Coast missionary staff was aided in evacuation efforts and in coping with their sudden loss of ministry as Dr. Neil Gilliland worked personally and by phone to meet their needs.

Now, a new video production, *Embracing the Vision III, "Acts 1:8 In Action,"* is being offered to churches. This is a one-session production in contrast to 4-part productions each of the last two years. Building on the biblical basis of missions set forth in ETV I and the personal involvement challenge of ETV II, this presentation focuses on the true value of support and involvement. It expresses gratitude to those who have been faithful and

highlights the fruit evident as a result of that faithfulness.

This presentation focuses on the true value of support and involvement.

A challenge is given to assess and reevaluate the church's involvement.



What can we do to make a significant difference in world outreach?

Like the first two ETV productions, this video is provided to churches free of charge. We want congregations to view this presentation and rejoice in God's blessings. Then we want every individual to ask, "What can I do? What **can** I give? What does **God want me** to give?" And we want pastors to ask, "What does God want our church to do for the Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering?"

A World Missions Offering of \$200,000 or more on April 27 would go a long way toward helping Foreign Missions fulfill the 10-year plan and would bring honor and glory to the Lord.

(See the ad below and order according to the instructions.)

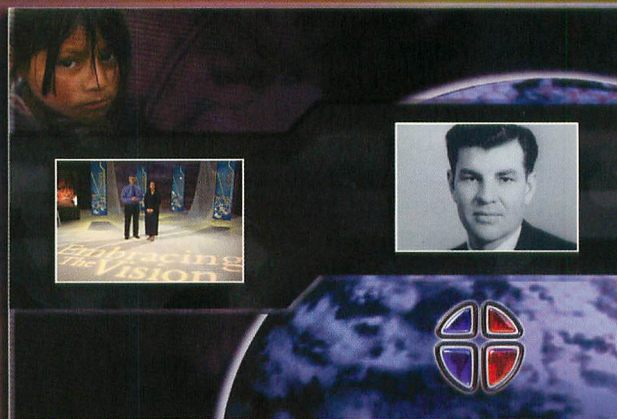
Acts 1:8 In Action

**It's working!
And you are part of it.**

FREE WILL BAPTISTS **Embracing the Vision**

**A 25-minute VHS
Video Presentation**

**Provided free of charge to
churches upon request.
A generous undesignated
World Missions
Offering is
requested.**



- Rejoice in God's blessings on long-term Free Will Baptist commitment to ministries in India and Cuba.
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- Sense the value of your contribution!
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Toll free: 1-877-767-7736 E-mail: heartbeat@nafwb.org
Web site: www.nafwb.org/fin



The new church building in Nantes, France, was dedicated on February 15 and 16. This building was renovated with the help of volunteers from the United States, Spain and France. Steve Riggs leads this congregation.

New Church Building Dedicated in Nantes

The official dedication services for the new building of the Nantes Free Will Baptist Church in France were held February 15 and 16. The building has been in renovation for two years with several volunteers from the States and other areas assisting in the project.

The Saturday program was labeled a "civil inauguration" with civic leaders of the local community giving greetings and hearing some of the church's history. A PowerPoint presentation showed the congregation's progress. The choir also sang a few numbers.

On Sunday, February 16, Raymond Riggs, father of missionary Steve Riggs, preached the dedicatory message as Steve translated. In the afternoon sister churches in the area joined the group for another special presentation. About 250 peo-

ple were on hand with "standing room only."

Steve's brother, Randy, accompanied his father to participate in the dedication service.

I.C. Christians Face Hardships from Rebels

Civil war continues in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, and reports indicate numerous national Christians have faced hardships.

According to missionary Alice Smith, Pastor Jérôme Kambou, president of the Ivorian Association of Free Will Baptists, recently made contact with pastors and other Christians in the south and with missionaries stateside. He told Alice that it has been difficult but God has and is answering prayer for protection and provision for His children.

Christians in some areas of the north report that rebels have been demanding money



Paul and Amy Robinson, former missionaries to Uruguay, are in Uruguay on a special assignment.

from villagers and have been confiscating food in the areas where they are based.

Reports also indicate government nurses have left the area and several hospitals have closed due to lack of money and medicines.

Robinsons Minister in Uruguay Once Again

Paul and Amy Robinson traveled to Uruguay on November 7 to minister on a short-term basis and help transfer the ownership of the church property in Melo. Years ago Paul evidently purchased the church property and it was still in his name.

According to Jaimie Lancaster, "For the last 10 or more years the pastor (lay pastor) in Melo has had the deed. In this region it is very difficult to get people out of buildings, especially without proper papers." Although no problems had surfaced, the church wanted to get this settled to prevent any difficulties in the future.

The property is being transferred to the association.

Molly Barker indicated, "God is using Paul and Amy Robinson



Timothy L. Davis,
New President of ELIC

once again in Uruguay. What a joy for them, as well as all of us, to have them here for a few months. Please pray that God will bless them with good health."

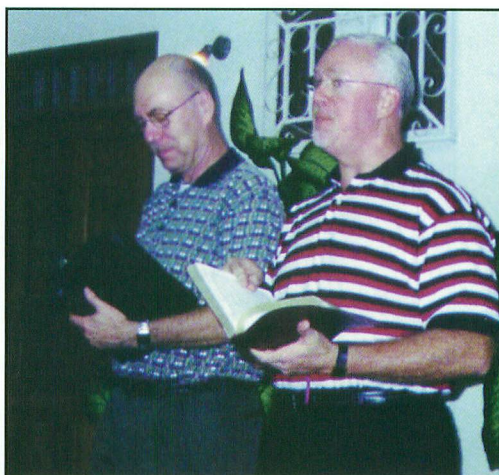
The Robinsons are scheduled to return to the United States near the end of March.

ELIC Selects Davis as New President

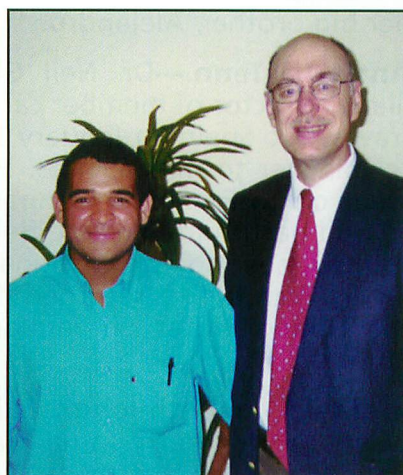
The English Language Institute/China (ELIC) Board of Directors unanimously affirmed the selection of Timothy L. Davis to serve as president, effective February 1, 2003.

Davis replaces Kenneth P. Wendling, ELIC founder and president for more than 20 years. Throughout that time, ELIC mobilized more than 5,000 Christian individuals to serve on short-term and long-term English language teaching assignments across East Asia.

Since 1992, Davis has served as a leader in a growing non-profit organization in St. Paul, Minn. His accomplishments include the development of "Project Mongolia," which is a significant teaching project in the countryside towns of Mongolia that has attracted many North Americans as teachers. He spent many of his early years living abroad in the West Indies and South Africa. Davis has six years of experience working with



Director of Field Operations Steve Lytle (left) translates for Pastor Phil Davis of Dunn, N.C., as he preaches in Panama during an awareness tour. Lytle (right) stands with a Brazilian convert.



ELIC, serving as an active member of the ELIC Board of Directors for two years.

Free Will Baptists currently serving under ELIC include Sarah Malone, Mark King, Paul and Tanya Dean, Craig Portell, Jeff and Melissa Lunsford, Darla Kirby, and Amanda Thompson.

Lytle Visits Panama and Brazil in January

Director of Field Operations Steve Lytle traveled to Panama on January 3 to accompany his wife, Judy, and Pastor Phil Davis and Brian Doyle of Dunn, N.C. Davis and Doyle traveled to Panama on a special awareness tour (see page 2). While in Panama they attended the Panama Association of Free Will Baptists and visited various ministries.

Steve left Panama on January 12 for Brazil where he attended the field council meeting in Ribeirão Preto January 14-16. Steve also visited some of the works in Brazil and returned to the United States on January 29.

Judy, Phil and Brian returned to the U.S. on January 14.

News Capsules

Brazil—"December was quite a rushed month with Christmas activities both at church and the children's home near here," writes Jim Sturgill from Belo Horizonte, Brazil. "We had nearly 100 in attendance for the play and took a car load of presents and food to the children's home."

Fort Myers, Fla.—Ethan Reece Craddock was born February 8 to Jason and Miranda Craddock in Fort Myers, Fla. Ethan, the first grandchild of Dennis and Trena Owen of Montevideo, Uruguay, weighed six pounds.

Brazil—Sergio, a 20-year-old man, was saved on January 19 in Uberlândia, Brazil, while Director of Field Operations Steve Lytle was preaching. Andy Moore is teaching Sergio new convert lessons.

Spain—Tim and Kristi Johnson in Spain shared some "exciting news" on January 29 as they announced the birth of Hanna Grace, an eight-pound daughter. The baby girl was also welcomed and given attention by

her big brother, Alejandro.

Antioch, Tenn.—Dr. Neil Gilliland, director of member care, traveled to Spain on January 17 to minister to missionaries. He went on to France on January 22 and participated in the field council meeting for missionaries in France. He returned to the United States on January 28.

India—A month-long cold wave in Northern India has claimed the lives of many. Reports indicate that a few of our Christians in North India have died from exposure to some of the coldest weather they have seen in that area. Nearly 600 have died in India's state of Uttar Pradesh. Biting winds, which are sometimes called "Siberian winds," are also damaging crops.

Uruguay—On January 15 Molly Barker requested prayer for the salvation of Macarena, the girlfriend of the lay pastor's son in Melo, Uruguay. During the first week of February Macarena made a decision to follow the Lord. Molly urged people to pray that God would help her to grow spiritually.

Portland, Ore.—Tracey Delamarter, daughter of missionaries Ken and Judy Bailey in Japan, was recently promoted by Pier 1 Imports to the position of Divisional Visual Merchandiser for Southern California. She has served as the Regional Visual Merchandiser in the Portland area for the past two years. Tracey, her husband and son are scheduled to relocate to Orange County in Southern California at the end of March.

Spain—Joshua and Christi Smith, recently appointed to a



Director of Member Care Dr. Neil Gilliland (blue shirt) fellowships with missionaries in Spain during his recent trip to that country and France. Neil speaks to Spain missionaries (right).



two-year term in Spain, took a one-week trip to the field in mid-February to check out the territory and know what to expect when they arrive for ministry.



Marvis Eagleton, pioneer missionary to Brazil, died on February 21.

Nashville, Tenn.—Marvis Anderson Eagleton, pioneer missionary to Brazil, died on February 21 in Dickson, Tenn. She had been confined to a nursing home since May of 2001. The funeral was held on February 24 at Horton Heights FWB Church in Nashville where her son, Terry, pastors. Look for a tribute in the next *HEARTBEAT*.

Brazil—Andrew Moore, missionary to Uberlândia, Brazil,

reported that he completed teaching the course on evangelism in the Bible institute in December with seven students completing the study. He began a class on church history in February.

Springfield, Mo.—Leah Postlewaite, mother of missionary Ruth McDonald in Japan, suffered a heart attack during the week of February 17. Tests indicated she had four blockages of 80-90 percent along with a leaky mitral valve. She was transferred from Springfield, Mo., to St. Louis and surgery was performed on February 24. Surgeons did two bypasses and successfully repaired the valve.

Spain—Jeff and Susan Turnbough in Spain request prayer for the "Nehemiah Project" which is the construction of the church building in Villalba, Spain. While the church rejected the first two architects' bids, some others are studying the project.

Brazil—Carlos and Nadia made decisions for Christ in Barbacena, Brazil, around September of 2002. Missionaries Bobby and Sue Aycock recently urged



The women's ensemble of the Good News Chapel in Tokyo, Japan, sings during a Christmas program with English students on December 15.

people to pray for Nadia who is finding it difficult to attend services. She is the main caregiver for her 98-year-old grandmother.

Court Case Won in Coimbatore, India

Pastor Devanesan in Coimbatore, India, recently reported that the court case which has been pending for many years was finally settled with the Mission winning the case.

Another case is still pending in Islampur. Christians were urged to pray for that litigation to be settled also.

Special Events Bring Visitors in Tokyo

The Good News Chapel in the Tokyo area of Japan held a children's Christmas meeting on December 14 with 63 children and adults attending. Many of these were non-believers.

The women's ensemble of the church performed at the Christmas program on December 15. English class members performed as well. Attending were 59 people, many for the first time in their lives.

A special "Couples Valentine Tea" was held on Sunday, Feb-

ruary 16, as another outreach of the new work in Japan. One of the former teachers at the Christian academy in Japan, Mr.

Tim Johnson, performed a Valentine concert. The special program was designed to include couples who attended the Christmas programs. Thirty-six people were present. Nine were unsaved and five were first-time visitors.

Children's Programs Yield New Converts

According to missionary Ed-die Bowerman in Panama, approximately 76 children were on hand to participate in a special Christmas program on December 22 in Panama City.

"The whole program focused on Jesus as God's gift to mankind," says Eddie. "The gospel

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 the flourishing work in Cuba started by "Pop" and "Mom" Willey. The church receives a beautiful framed collage of the Willeys, 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 pioneer missionaries.

\$1,000 or more—The church receives a nice framed collage of pioneer missionaries.

Goal: \$200,000

Photo of Free Will Baptist Cedars of Lebanon Seminary near Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering April 27, 2003

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 37011-5002 before June 30 to ensure a reservation for the recognition dinner on Wednesday evening.

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.

NEWS IN REVIEW

was presented through a variety of means during the program. At the close of the service many children prayed to receive God's gift of Jesus Christ."

Eddie noted that he received a call on December 23 asking if they could do a program in Arraigan, Panama, on December 26. "We knew it would be very hard to get everything together for the day after Christmas. However, God was providing an opportunity for service and we knew we couldn't turn that down."

Although the couple hosting the event had assured the program team that 30 or so unsaved children and adults would be present, they were overwhelmed by 86 people (including the team). At the close of the program many children and some adults prayed to receive Christ as Savior.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

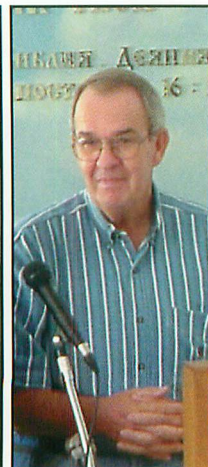
These special gifts were received in December 2002 and January 2003:

Donor	In Memory of
Rev. and Mrs. Rolla D. Smith Nashville, Tenn.	Rev. Herbert Vandivort
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Pinion Union City, Tenn.	Judy Hingst
Susan Poston Shirley Columbia, S.C.	Julian Dixon
Marion First FWB Church Marion, N.C.	Volena Wilson
Donor	In Honor of
Glenn and Bonnie Norman Pollockville, N.C.	Molly Barker
Mr. and Mrs. Jim E. Ragan Hermitage, Tenn.	James and Anita Forlines
Arthur and Ara Nora Chavis Pine Bluff, Ark.	Bobby and Sue Aycock
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Pinion Union City, Tenn.	Charlie Hingst

Clip and mail

Special Gifts

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



Bible students in the Krasnodar region of Russia need a building to house the Bible institute. Jimmy Aldridge (right) is authorized to raise funds for this project.

St. Nazaire Church Damaged by Water

On January 10 Jerry Gibbs entered the St. Nazaire church and heard water running. After one step he was in water about one inch deep. He discovered a water pipe had frozen and burst behind the wall in the upstairs Sunday school room.

"It had run down into the kitchen, into the hallway, a little into my office, a little in the church and some in the fellowship hall," says Jerry. "Thank the Lord that I did not wait until the next day or even Sunday to come by the church."

Jerry indicated damage was minimal, and the insurance should pay for repairs.

Aldridge Set to Seek \$171,000 for Krasnodar

Jimmy Aldridge, former missionary and overseas secretary, has been authorized by the Board of Foreign Missions to raise \$171,000 for the Krasnodar Project in Russia.

The VISION funds are designated toward the purchase and renovation of property for a Bible institute program and camp ministry in the Krasnodar

region near the Black Sea. Some funds will also be used to purchase a van for the institute and camp and for an annual allowance for the Bible institute program for five years. Promotional funds for raising the money are also included.

Mike and Cathy Corley plan to work in the Krasnodar area when they return to Russia later this year.

193 Attend Christmas Cantata in Uberlândia

A Christmas cantata and play were held in the Second Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlândia, Brazil, on December 22 with 193 people attending.

According to missionary Nancy Hughes, 65 children sang about the birth of Christ. "We had our best attendance yet for a Christmas program," says Nancy. Participating in the program were people from age three months to 63 years.

Johnsons and Edgmans Witness to Professors

Missionaries Anthony and Lea Edgmon and Tim and Kristi Johnson have made efforts to reach out to their language

professors with the gospel. In January Marlene and Elena visited in the Edgmons' home. Tim and Kristi Johnson were present also to allow "Alejandro's 'Spanish grandmother' (Marlene) to spoil him a little."

During the same period, Kristi was able to speak with Inma, another professor, about spiritual matters. "When Kristi took her a tract about the differences between Catholics and evangelicals, Inma commented that maybe one day she would be the student and we would be teaching her about the Bible," reports Tim.

Hendrix Visits Moores in Uberlândia, Brazil

Pastor Earl Hendrix and deacon Charles Tapp from the First FWB Church of Inman, S.C., visited with Andrea and Andy Moore in Uberlândia, Brazil, February 3-7 of this year.

Hendrix and Tapp both spoke in the Bible institute class on Monday night and Brother Earl preached to the church on Wednesday night.

The two men went to Brazil for fellowship and encouragement. Brother Hendrix has been Andrea's pastor for over 20 years.

Pooles Cite Renovation of Marincek Church

Missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole reported in December that the church buildings (two renovated houses) were being made more attractive.

"The children have been saving their penny march monies for a new floor covering," write the Pooles. "We had a vinyl covering but discovered that it would be cheaper to put in a ceramic tile floor."

Lunsfords Get Medical Help in Thailand

Jeff and Melissa Lunsford, who are teaching English in Mongolia with English Language Institute, reported attending the Institute's mid-year conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand, near the end of January.

While in Chiang Mai, the Lunsfords had some of their medical needs attended to: Melissa had her TMJ checked and Jeff had a mole removed from his shoulder. Benjamin, their 13-year-old son, had unexpected hernia surgery which kept him hospitalized for 24 hours.

Bible League Starts 3,544 Churches in 2002

The Bible League reported having started 3,544 new churches around the globe in 2002. They also expressed praise for the 358,722 new witnesses that were trained to go out and share the message of salvation with friends and neighbors.

Among other achievements during the year were the placing of 21,181,152 Scriptures, the increase of church membership by 381,507 people, and the completion of a study of God's Word by a total of 2,640,693 people.

Snows Report Growth, Progress in Japan

According to Nathan and Linda Snow, missionaries to Sapporo, Japan, recent reports showed seven churches, one new mission work, one mission work set to begin within a few months, six national pastors, several lay speakers and growing churches.

"Six years ago the Free Will Baptist work in Japan consisted of six churches and only one national pastor," says Nathan.

The Snows were hoping to return to Japan in March pending their account needs (see deficits below) being met and staff approval.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through January 2003

Income for December 2002	\$ 731,521.78
Total income for 2002	\$ 5,681,331.26
Total 2002 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$ 10,170,748.77
Income for January 2003	\$ 300,078.19
Projected income through January	1,030,221.49
Total expenses through January	457,790.54
Total 2003 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$ 12,362,657.85

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey, K.	\$ 8,052.63	Sturgill	\$ 773.72
Bryan	20,052.63	Vandivort	401.42
Chang	20,500.79	India Bible Inst.	18,532.80
Holland, C.	10,052.63	Russian Ministries	9,951.70
Martens	23,203.40	Support Services	386,941.36
Snow, N.	4,841.61		

Totals **\$ 503,304.69**

These accounts are low and needy:

Poole	\$ 3,142.05	Griffin	\$ 59.45
Gainer	1,093.87		

STATES IN ACTION

States/Source	2002 Total Giving	2002 Gifts thru January	2003 Gifts thru January
Alabama	\$ 316,564.61	\$ 19,624.62	\$ 27,811.59
Arizona	6,032.10	361.00	665.00
Arkansas	555,447.05	3,551.90	8,821.39
California	62,611.15	1,736.65	4,276.33
Canada	4,045.20	58.09	102.80
Colorado	4,358.91	244.08	271.40
Florida	163,514.50	12,683.78	8,199.46
Georgia	217,790.63	3,815.50	3,852.00
Hawaii			
Idaho	2,333.25	451.14	200.02
Illinois	194,441.16	8,185.53	20,352.28
Indiana	62,650.28	6,152.38	4,928.17
Iowa	1,120.44		
Kansas	1,538.64	130.00	49.08
Kentucky	88,452.93	7,848.21	7,398.71
Louisiana	2,245.00	25.00	
Maryland	61,367.07	8,973.80	9,373.20
Michigan	169,618.68	6,442.81	8,301.36
Mississippi	99,660.25	10,462.94	4,456.45
Missouri	497,468.64	7,550.73	7,336.57
Montana	2,425.00	205.00	400.00
Nebraska	3,000.00	500.00	
New Mexico	2,340.50		
North Carolina	763,212.57	91,791.23	82,016.83
* Northeast Assn.	2,815.00	490.00	437.50
* Northwest Assn.	3,999.13	135.00	154.00
Ohio	175,965.45	2,387.70	5,996.60
Oklahoma	470,283.13	14,353.22	9,742.80
Pennsylvania	2,428.70	30.00	155.00
South Carolina	389,775.50	21,957.48	2,821.67
Tennessee	841,129.56	45,314.17	55,671.66
Texas	67,491.89	806.50	2,679.50
Virgin Islands	1,780.00	100.00	
Virginia	73,808.57	9,183.98	8,626.39
West Virginia	128,814.38	8,306.14	6,667.70
WNAC	164,747.87	15,038.54	8,862.73
FWB Foundation			
Miscellaneous	76,053.52	475.47	800.00
Totals	\$5,681,331.26	\$ 309,372.59	\$ 299,628.19

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

**Northwest Association
Alaska, Oregon and Washington

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.

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Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director

Who Has Confederate Money?

Randy Alcorn's book, *The Treasure Principle*, was published in 2001 by Multnomah Publishers. It is a small book but it packs a powerful punch. It was given to me by a pastor's wife in North Carolina during a recent missions conference. The whole premise of the book is that American Christians, living in a land of plenty, need to reconsider what it means to lay up treasure in heaven. It is one of the most thought-provoking books I have read in a long time.

Alcorn asks us to think back to the Civil War. Imagine being a Northerner living in the South during the closing days of the war. While you have been in the South you have accumulated a lot of Confederate money. You have received inside information that the war is almost over. When the war has ended you plan to move back to the North.

Then he poses the question, "What will you do with your Confederate money?" Of course, if you are smart, you will try to exchange as much of that money as possible for U.S. currency before the

war ends and it becomes worthless. You will want just enough Confederate money to get by.

Inside Information

He maintains that Christians also have inside information. We know the current world system will not last. Alcorn's ultimate insider trading tip is this: "Earth's currency will become worthless when Christ returns—or when you die, whichever comes first." In order to be wise we must use the time and resources God has given us to invest in that which is eternal.

I would like to suggest such an investment. One that will grow exponentially, and one that is already bringing returns and seeing significant results. Give a sacrificial gift to the World Missions Offering during the month of April and watch it expand Free Will Baptist ministries around the globe.

Resources Available

Resources, such as *Embracing the Vision I, II, and III*, are challenging churches and individuals to become personally involved in the Great Commission. Channels are being developed for men and women to use their careers in short-term missions trips to become personally involved in the regions beyond. A record number of career missionary candidates are moving through the process to begin their ministry on the foreign

mission field.

We are coordinating our pioneer missions efforts through a comprehensive strategy to synergize a Free Will Baptist movement on each field. A Great Commission mentality is growing in our works around the world. As converts mature, they are adopting a missionary vision. They are becoming concerned for their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Brazilians, Panamanians, Cubans and others are looking to the regions beyond. One church group in Brazil even made a short-term trip to Ireland.

"Acts 1:8 In Action"

Our ability to maximize these resources will be directly related to the success of the **World Missions Offering in April**. As your church views the video *Embracing The Vision III, "Acts 1:8 In Action,"* you will see some of the exciting things God is doing through Free Will Baptists around the world.

The World Missions Offering is a once-a-year challenge and is a primary tool to help us fully implement denominational mobilization. We want to make the maximum impact for His Glory. Remember, your investment will multiply and will be eternal.

James Forlines