



HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist

Foreign Missions

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2003

Showing God at work around the world



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Risky Business . . .

Rich Rewards

by James Forlines, general director

“How are things going in Foreign Missions?” I am asked that question repeatedly around our denomination. For most people, this is a polite question to begin a conversation. Others wonder how things are going in Ivory Coast since the civil war and evacuation of missionaries. Some may have questions about new missionaries heading to the field, The Hanna Project, or the Support Services deficit.

In reality, how things are going in Foreign Missions cannot be answered concisely.

A true picture would require understanding the complexities of church planting in drastically different cultures around the world. It is equally impossible to give a short answer to these complex questions.

Although *HEARTBEAT* articles usually deal with one specific field or type of ministry, in this article I want to give a comprehensive update for each place Free Will Baptist Foreign

Missions is ministering. Readers' cooperation will be necessary in order to grasp it all. Supplementary articles found at our Web site must be read to fully comprehend everything presented. For access go to <http://www.nafwb.org/fm> and click on the *HEARTBEAT* icon. All of the supplementary articles mentioned will be listed there. Those who do not have access to the Internet may request a hard-copy version of the articles. Call toll-free at 877-767-7736.

For this update I am grouping our fields into three categories: **Receptive, Resistant, and Restricted.**

In some of our fields it is harvest time. Sufficient sowing has occurred over the years and now the harvest is being reaped. These are **receptive** fields.

Receptive Fields

Pioneer missionary Laura Belle Barnard launched the work in **India** in 1935 in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India. Other missionaries fol-

lowed and began a ministry in North India. Currently, this work is in the two states of Bihar and West Bengal. The only remaining missionary working with our Mission is Carlisle Hanna who is in North India. He and his wife, Marie, went to the field in 1953. Marie died in Sonapurhat in 1998 and Carlisle continues the ministry.

At the end of 2002, the work in India had grown to 200 organized churches and 210 mission works with a total of 14,300 attending.

In 1985, 50 years after the ministry in India started, 10 organized churches and 34 mission works were reported in North and South India. The total attendance at that time was 1,163. At the end of 2002, 17 years later, the work had grown to 200 organized churches and 210 mission

works with a total of 14,300 attending weekly services.

Ten churches in this total are actually in **Nepal**, a neighboring country that was closed to any gospel witness until a few years ago. A total of 102 ordained, licensed, and lay preachers carry the load of the ministry with Hanna. Prayer and fasting have provided the impetus for this outreach. **[See the article entitled, "Prayer and Fasting" and join the upcoming World Prayer Summit in January 2004.]**

For over a year **Ivory Coast** has been gripped with tension following an attempted coup d'etat and civil war. In 2002 we evacuated missionaries from a field for the first time in over 40 years.

In 1985 Ivory Coast had only two national pastors. Most of the ministry was still handled by missionaries. Had the evacuation occurred then, the effects on the work would have been far more debilitating. In 2002, however, 11 ordained pastors and 27 licensed and lay preachers were working in 45 churches. Although accurate statistics are impossible to obtain, approximately 3,000 Ivoirians attend these churches. Jerry Pinkerton, Robert West, and Mike Cousineau recently visited some of our churches in the north (behind rebel lines). In spite of the country's instability, we are encouraged to hear the church is reaching souls, baptizing converts, and growing.

We learned some lessons about evacuation from being forced out of **Cuba**. The Thomas Willeys, who had been there since 1942, had to leave the island in 1960 after Castro came to power. For over 25 years the information from Cuba was sketchy, but in 1986 Eugene Waddell, general director at that time, determined to reestablish contact and find what was left of the Cuban church.

Brother Waddell discovered the church had remained faithful through

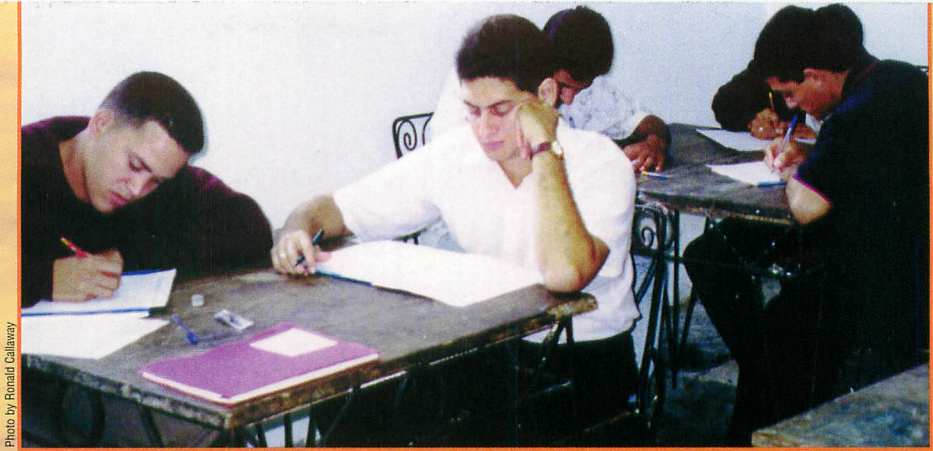


Photo by Ronald Callaway

Cubans study at Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute in Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

the fire. He reported 10 pastors, four licensed and lay preachers, 17 churches, and an average attendance of 641 people. With connections reestablished, support for the work increased and many people started visiting and encouraging the Christians. Today it is harvest time in Cuba. Sixteen years after Waddell visited Cuba they report 24 pastors, 138 licensed and lay preachers, 33 churches, 116 mission works, and 2,608 in average attendance.

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When Free Will Baptists first went to **Brazil** in 1958 it was much more primitive than the modern country of today. The strength of the Brazilian evangelical church has increased significantly. This is true of Free Will Baptist work as well. In 1985 we had no ordained pastors, 11 licensed and lay preachers, eight churches, six mission works, and an average atten-

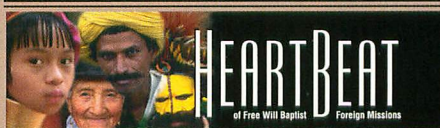
dance of 460. In 2002 that had grown to seven ordained pastors, 23 licensed and lay preachers, 12 churches, seven mission works, and an average attendance of 922.

In 1985 we had no ordained pastors in **Panama** and only three organized churches. The country was experiencing political instability which culminated with United States intervention and the overthrow of the Manuel Noriega regime in 1989. In 2002 work was carried on by 10 ordained pastors and 29 licensed and lay preachers. The organized churches have doubled in number to six with many mission works and preaching points. Since 1985 over 500 people have been baptized.

I'm including two new fields among the **receptive** fields for Free Will Baptists: **Russia** and **South Korea**. Each represents a new approach for the Mission.

We have partnered with Russian Baptists to plant churches and to educate pastors and church planters in two regions: Chelyabinsk in Siberia, and Krasnodar in southern Russia. Russian Baptists are traditionally Arminian in their theology and almost identical to Free Will Baptists in

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Don Robirds, *Editor*

Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editorial Assistant*

Jim Johnson, *Artist*

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doctrine. The work in **Russia** is only six years old with only one career couple on the field (Mike and Cathy Corley). Interference from the government and the Russian Orthodox Church greatly hinder the work, but despite this we helped organize four churches and support has been provided for 17 other church plants. These efforts resulted in 75 baptisms in 2002 and church attendance of 1,200 people. Two Bible institutes provide college-level training for 90 students preparing for full-time ministry as pastors and church planters.

Asia is home to some of the most unreached peoples in all the world. As you look at the percentages of believers country by country [see the article, “Percentage of Evangelicals Country By Country”] you will notice most countries in Asia are virtually unreached. **South Korea** is the one exception. A powerful work of God has emerged among evangelicals. Foreign Missions is partnering with Dr. John Chang to develop training for cross-cultural missionaries to go from South Korea to unreached areas throughout the Pacific Rim. Though this is our newest work (1999), it is exciting to think of the potential.

None of the countries mentioned could have been considered **receptive** when missionaries first went there. On the contrary, stories of opposition, obstacles, fruitlessness and heartaches fill the pages of missionary history [see the article, “Historical Challenges in Mission Efforts”]. But these efforts in originally **resistant** fields have created the possibility of harvest time today.

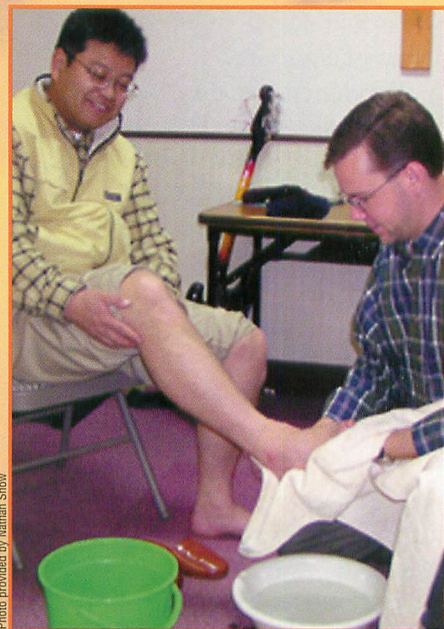
Resistant Fields

As a Mission we still minister in cultures referred to as **resistant**. A person living in a receptive culture, such as the United States, may think other cultures are pretty much the same except for the language. Such is not the case.

The worldview of other cultures is often completely opposite to a Christian perspective. Issues such as sin, the necessity of the atonement, and salvation make no sense to such people. In these cultures it is critical to use a chronological approach beginning with the existence of God Himself to provide a context in which to understand the saving message [see the article, “The Chronological Method”].

Even in our own culture it is taking more time and effort to bring people to saving faith than it used to.

James Engel, an authority on the nature of Christian communication in world evangelism, developed what has been dubbed the Engel Scale. It is similar to the James Emory White scale Randy Sawyer mentioned in his October 2003 article in *Contact* magazine about evangelizing a postmodern world. Both Engel and White suggest an imagery scale. Engel’s is from -8 to 0; White’s is from 1-10. The lower number represents one who is far from Christ. The higher number indicates one who is in Christ. This reality is very important in understanding the challenges faced in resistant cultures [see the article,



Nathan Snow washes and dries the feet of Mr. Sasaki, a Japanese Christian.

“The Engel Scale”].

Evangelizing people in the Bible belt of the United States, especially in the past, was a matter of taking a person from -3 or -2 to 0 on the Engel Scale. Their developed worldview was Christian-based, even before they got saved. It is not always that way today, as Randy’s article articulated. Even in our own culture it is taking more time and effort to bring people to saving faith than it used to.

Perhaps this will help readers understand why work progresses more slowly in **resistant** fields than in receptive fields. Through tireless and sacrificial efforts many missionaries developed the receptive areas. And we believe the tide is turning on our current resistant fields.

Right after World War II, **Japan** might have been considered a receptive field. The call was made for thousands of missionaries to come and preach to the war-torn country. Only a few went. The moment passed.

In 1996, after many years of ministry, we only had one Japanese pastor. Six churches had been started and

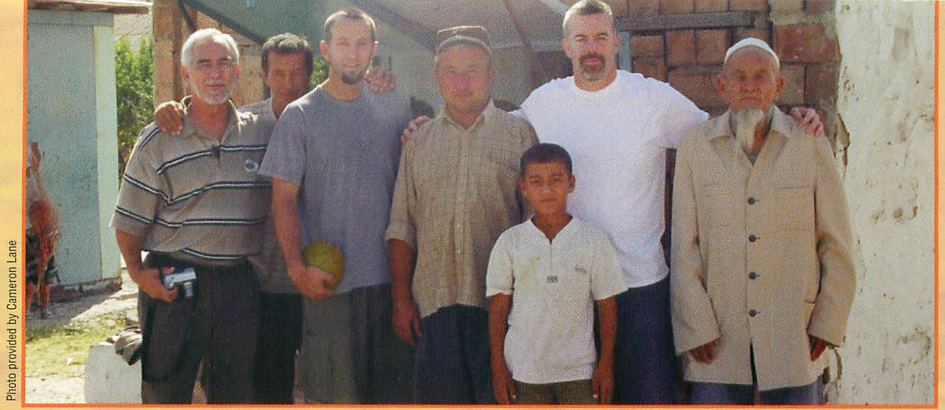
had a combined attendance of 139 each week. Six years later we have seven Japanese pastors, eight organized churches, and a weekly attendance of 196. It is also noteworthy that three other churches are still going strong though no longer affiliated with Free Will Baptists. In cooperation with the national church, efforts are being made to start three new churches in Tokyo. Short-term English teachers are playing a vital role toward fulfillment of the overall field strategy.

Dennis Teague in **France** compares the situation there to what the Israelites faced when they had walked around Jericho for six days. "The seventh day is coming!" Though no French pastors have completed training, eight licensed and lay preachers are active. A potential pastor is in training at a Bible college in Europe and a new Free Will Baptist training program is to be launched in 2004.

The congregation in Nantes, France, recently moved into their new building, and it is the largest evangelical church in the entire city with an attendance of around 120. Two other groups have a combined attendance of about 200. The average evangelical church in France has around 30 members. With several additional missionaries headed to the field we are expecting God to work in a powerful way.

The Villalba church has waited 10 years for a license to build on the property they own.

The challenges faced by the Villalba church in **Spain** are indicative of what many of our missionaries face. The church has waited 10 years for a license to build on the property



Clint Morgan, Craig Portell and Cameron Lane stand with Uzbeks at a roadside stand in Uzbekistan during a trip to discover ministry opportunities in restricted access countries.

they own. They need to build. On a recent Sunday 68 people crowded into a 12 foot by 18 foot room. Praise the Lord that permission to build has now been granted. Part of the challenge in this culture is that Free Will Baptists (as are all Bible-believing Christians) are viewed as cults, or some "foreign religion."

In 1996 we had one Spanish pastor, one church, one mission, and 63 people attending. Today, in addition to one pastor, two licensed lay preachers are preaching. Two churches and at least one mission work exist with an average attendance of 150. New areas are targeted for starting churches.

By percentage, **Uruguay** is the most atheistic country in the world. The challenge to establish a strong Christian presence there is overwhelming. But today five ordained Uruguayan pastors, six churches, 12 mission works, and a total attendance of 167 give evidence of God's grace and power. Also encouraging are the 47 students in the Bible institutes in Melo, Rivera, and Montevideo.

Some who read this article might urge us to invest all of our funds and personnel where the harvest is being reaped. I refuse for at least two reasons: (1) It is not biblical. Jesus told us to take the gospel to the entire world—to every creature. (2) No fields would be receptive today if some had not been willing to spend their lives sowing and watering the seed so others could bring in the har-

vest [see the article, "Why Should We Go to Resistant Fields?"].

Restricted Fields

Restricted fields are those which will not allow anyone to enter that country or area on a missionary visa. Most of these are located in what is called the 10/40 Window. This is an area 10 degrees north to 40 degrees north of the equator and stretches from North Africa to Indonesia. The tragedy is that two-thirds of the world's population live in that window. They are bound in Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Animism. Regardless of their sincerity, the Bible declares they must accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior to be saved. Otherwise, they will spend eternity in Hell [see the article, "I Mean Really . . . Are The Heathen Lost?"].

The strategy of the Mission directs us to countries or people groups that are less than 1 percent evangelical.

The strategy of the Mission directs us to countries or people groups that are less than one percent evangelical and to areas within those countries less than one-tenth of a percent evangelical [see "Percentage of Evangelicals Country By Country"]. We seek to reach people who have no opportunity to hear, and the greatest concentrations of these people are in countries re-

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→ferred to as restricted access.

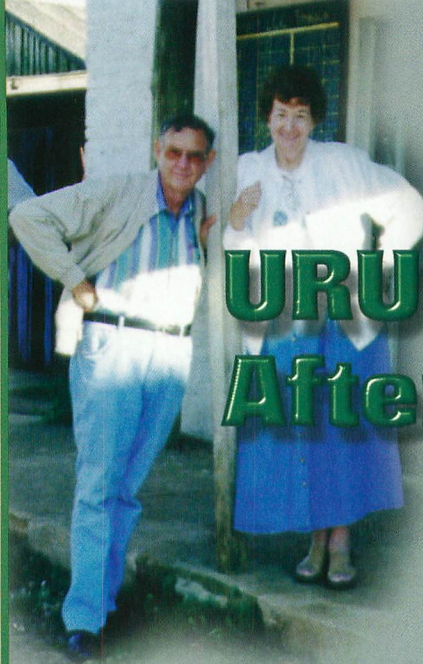
Until recently, Free Will Baptists going to these areas could only serve through other agencies. Many Free Will Baptists have served with ELI (English Language Institute) in China, Mongolia and Vietnam. Currently, nine are serving in that capacity. Others, like John Weaver, have served with other agencies [see **"The Hand of Providence" in September/October 2003 HEARTBEAT**].

The creation of an NGO (non-governmental organization) labeled "The Hanna Project" will allow Free Will Baptists to enter some restricted areas.

After two years of research, the Board of Foreign Missions has approved the creation of an auxiliary agency, an NGO (non-governmental organization) labeled "The Hanna Project," to allow Free Will Baptists to enter some restricted areas through a FWB agency. Central Asia and North Africa are the primary areas being targeted.

Remember, every field, culture and people group is different. Ministry will vary depending on the context of the culture [see the article, **"Chameleons, Lions and Soldiers"**]. But God gave us a mandate to reach them all with the gospel, regardless of the degree of difficulty.

Our role as a denomination should be to challenge one another to be supportive rather than to undermine a missionary's efforts [see the article, **"The Impact of Denominational Tensions"**]. So, I urge you to pray diligently for Foreign Missions and look for the harvest.



URUGUAY After 10 Years

By Paul and Amy Robinson

Home again! Yes, back "home" after 10 years. As our plane finally stopped at the gate and we began to deplane, my first impression was how modern the airport in Montevideo looked—much different from what it was the first time we saw it in 1962.

Waiting for us inside the terminal were our beloved co-workers, Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster and Molly Barker, along with several of our believers. They all gave us a warm welcome. The customary kisses, *abrazos* (hugs) and tears were very much in order. Yes, it was wonderful to be home again.

Our friends and co-laborers, Dennis and Trena Owen, were in the United States and were kind enough to loan us their home to recuperate from the "jet lag." We were treated royally. Oh, how good the national food tasted, especially the *asado* (short ribs of beef) grilled over an open fire!

We visited the two churches in Montevideo. The newest church in Malvin had a nice group of about 40 people. Pastor Gerardo Acevedo and his wife, Alba, are leading the church.

After a week in Montevideo we rode 300 miles by bus to Rivera on

the Uruguay-Brazil border, where we had spent most of our 30 years as missionaries. The border churches had prepared a special *bienvenida* (welcome) service that lasted about three hours. It included solos, a young people's choir, a joint choir of all the churches, and a song composed and sung by one of our national pastors who accompanied himself on guitar. Amy and I both spoke and our hearts rejoiced as we saw the many faces, some weeping with happiness. It was a service we'll never forget.

Our hearts rejoiced as we saw the many faces, some weeping with happiness.

During the first two weeks we had many visitors in our home to welcome us. As in the past, we have always tried to have an "open door" policy for Uruguayans.

Shortly, we began to notice some very definite changes had taken place over the years. Many late-model cars were evident instead of the old "jalopies" people drove when we lived there before. Everyone seemed to have a cell phone. We remembered waiting 23 years to get a phone!

Many of these changes occurred due to some prosperous years in the '90s. However, due to the present

economic situation (about 20 percent unemployment) much poverty is evident. Many businesses that had been thriving have closed their doors. Families are moving in together to survive.

In spite of the negatives, we were encouraged to see some saints who had “stood by the stuff” for over 38 years. Not only were they a blessing to us, but it was special to see many of the second and even a few of the third generation taking responsibilities in the work. We were pleased to see a good group of young men, real potential for the future of the work.

Adan (Adam) started out in our first work in the village of Santa Teresa as a young boy. At the age of 17 he left for the capital to join the army. He not only left home but the Lord also. He married and had a family, retired from the army and moved back home. Much like the prodigal, he realized his spiritual condition. He said, “One day I came to myself and realized I needed to go back to where I started.” He is now a faithful servant being considered for the office of deacon.

After 25 years of prayer by his wife and other Christians in the church, Valentin was saved. Now he is active in a leadership position. He was ordained as a deacon along with Julio Figueroa while we were there.

A notable achievement in the work is the development of the *Fondo Pro Templo* (Church Building Fund). This is a loan fund which provides money for building projects and is to be repaid by the national church so other churches may be established. It is functioning well.

Under Molly’s capable direction the camp in Aguas Buenas continues to be the highlight of the year. This year many couldn’t attend because of the economy. But over the years many believers have made definite

commitments during camp times. The fellowship and food there are just wonderful. Even though many people consider the camp quite rustic, it now has electricity. The last night of this year’s camp Paul preached and, though it was windy and cold, it was heartwarming when several accepted the Savior.

The last night of this year’s camp Paul preached and, though it was windy and cold, it was heartwarming when several accepted the Savior.

A highlight of our trip was the opportunity to travel with Molly to Araras, Brazil, where Jim and Shirley Combs work. We were invited to participate in a missionary conference with a very personal touch. We encountered Martin Chiliz, who was saved in our church in Rivera, Uruguay, as a young teen. He grew up and studied in our Bible institute in Montevideo. Later he married a girl from one of our churches in

Brazil and moved there. He became the associate pastor of the church in Jaboticabal, Brazil. Now he has felt the call of God to go as a foreign missionary to Africa. He is presently in preparation. Our Free Will Baptist churches in Brazil have taken the challenge to support Martin and his family.

In spite of some disappointments due to “sin in the camp” and the loss of those who fell by the wayside, we were happy to see those that are still carrying the banner of the cross: Casildo Trindade, pastor in Santa Teresa and Rivera; Ruben Figueroa in Barrio Recreo; Julio Figueroa in Rivera; Danubio Sousa in the church in Melo; and Gerardo Acevedo in Montevideo.

According to our missionaries, our visit was an encouragement to them and to our national churches. Some might ask us, “Was it worth over 30 years of service?” Praise God, we can answer with a resounding “YES!” No place is better than the will of the Lord. He is faithful!

Paul and Amy Robinson went to Uruguay in 1962 and retired to Smithville, Tenn., in 1992. They continue an active ministry to Hispanics in that area.

Paul participates in a baby dedication at the Central FWB Church in Rivera.



Photo provided by Amy Robinson

CONTROL!

by Curt Holland



but not even he knew for sure what I would throw next. Perhaps this was the beginning of my being a control freak. I admit it; I am a control freak! I like to be in charge.

At 13 years of age I pitched on two baseball teams and played games almost every night of the week. What control I felt when I held that baseball in my hand! In my high school years of pitching, I'll never forget the desire to dominate the batters. The control I sensed as I gripped the ball came from knowing where, when and how fast or slow I was going to throw the next pitch. I set the tempo of the game. I could walk around behind the mound, talk to the catcher or throw the ball to first base if there was a runner on base. I was in command and I liked that!

The control I sensed as I gripped the ball came from knowing where, when and how fast or slow I was going to throw the next pitch.

When the Lord called me to preach and later led my family to the mission field, I realized I needed to allow Him to control all things. As we returned to Brazil for our second term of service in 1997 I had already learned that I needed to depend on the Lord's leading as we sought to begin a new church in the city of Campinas.

People started coming to Christ and the congregation began to grow. I knew my desire for control could come into conflict with the Lord's

leadership of our new believers. To train our people to be leaders, I recognized I would not only need to be in control as I led, but I also would have to learn how to "give up control." Our new believers needed me to get out of their way as they experienced their new position in Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives. I also was aware that eventually I would need to turn the church over to a national pastor. This would be the biggest test of all for someone who likes to be in control.

As the Lord made His will clear to me and the church, I prepared myself for Osmír to be the new leader. He had been saved, disciplined and called to preach under our ministry. I never felt totally prepared for that final message when I turned my signed Bible over to Osmír. Yet, I was certain that if Osmír was going to be the next "pitcher" behind the pulpit, I needed to do some things.

First, I said "yes" when Osmír wanted to warm up in the bullpen. I said "Take control!" when he was ready to take over the discipleship program of our new converts. When he was ready to preach, I allowed him to come to the pulpit as a "relief" preacher when I needed to preach somewhere else. I even sent him to other "ball parks" in other towns to preach. Finally, the day came when we were both preaching in the "starting rotation." I preached one week and he would preach the next week. Even though Osmír didn't do things as I did them and his style was different than mine, I watched God bless and use his ministry.

Today, Osmír is "ace" of the preaching staff at the São José Free Will Baptist Church in Campinas. Men whom we both trained now preach for him when he can't go to the "mound." The São José team is doing well under his "pitching" and leadership. The church has a new

Looking straight ahead, I dug my toe in the dirt as I stood on the mound. The hand that held the next pitch was behind my hip as I crossed the baseball. I could feel the laces on my fingertips as I locked eyes with the catcher. He crouched behind the batter and gave me the sign for the next pitch. But I was holding the ball. I was the one in control! I could take my catcher's advice,



Clockwise, Curt Holland leads a service, Osmir leads the church in prayer, and Mary watches as Curt presents a framed HEARTBEAT article to Osmir and Maria.

team working in another part of their city of more than one million people. Two “relief pitchers” (lay preachers) are leading this team of about 15 members in the Nova America neighborhood. We hope this develops into a new church.

When I walked off the mound and left the São Jose church under the leadership of pastor Osmir, I smiled and cried.

As a pitcher, my coach always told me “control” was a good thing. This was especially true when I was throwing wild pitches. I believe it is. But the best part about “control” is knowing exactly when to hold the ball and when to let it go. Some pitchers want to grip the ball too hard, allowing the ball to release at the wrong time. Letting go and totally allowing God to call the plays in developing a church are very important. Many missionaries have diffi-



Photos on this page by Mary Holland

culty in releasing control to national leadership. But that is the process of missions.

When I walked off the mound and left the São Jose church under the leadership of Pastor Osmir, I smiled and cried. I cried, because I was humbled by the fact that the Lord had allowed me to be a part of His kingdom building. I smiled, because even though I was walking away, the game

would go on. Just like in baseball. One pitcher starts the game and after a few innings another pitcher, sometimes younger and stronger, comes in from the bullpen to secure the victory!

Osmir is now on the mound, and I am cheering him on.

Curt Holland and his wife, Mary, have served in Brazil since 1992. Curt is currently Missionary In Residence at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn.

Photo by June McVay



Jeff Turnbough, assisted by Jhon Fredy, prepares to baptize five converts of the Villalba church in Spain.

Five Converts Baptized in Villalba, Spain

Jeff Turnbough, assisted by Jhon Fredy, baptized five people from the Villalba church in Spain on Sunday, September 28. Many unsaved friends and family members heard each of the new believers share a testimony prior to immersion.

Baptized were Jhon Fredy's nine-year-old daughter, Brenda, and his mother, Adela; and Luz, Rosemberg and Alex, Columbian immigrants who found Christ through evangelistic Bible studies.

Earthquakes Shake Hokkaido, Japan

Nathan Snow reports being awakened on September 25, 2003, by a strong earthquake in Hokkaido, Japan. Having become somewhat accustomed to occasional tremors, Nathan and Linda were initially unalarmed. However, as the quake continued for several minutes and increased in intensity they moved to the children's bedrooms to await the quake's end.

Although 100 to 150 miles from the epicenter, the tremors in the Ebetsu area registered at five or

six on the Richter scale. After-shocks continued for several days.

"Just as these earthquakes have shaken the foundations of every structure in Hokkaido, please pray that the very foundations of this culture will be shaken by the truth of the gospel," writes Nathan. "Satan's walls are no match for the almighty God whom we serve!"

Prices Receive Gifts from Georgia Church

Liberty Bible Free Will Baptist Church in Gainesville, Ga., encouraged missionary appointees Matt and Cristina Price with a special send-off service on August 24 as the couple concluded their ministry with the church youth. The service included surprise guests (Matt and Cristina's parents and Cristina's co-workers), video greetings from France missionaries Steve and Becky Riggs, and a \$9,920 check for their account.

Matt says, "It was a bittersweet day. We had to say goodbye to our church family, but are grateful for their support. We also are excited about our next step in the journey to full-time service in France."

The Prices are to serve in

Photo provided by Steve Lytle



Dr. John Chang baptizes one of 14 converts immersed on September 21.

Nantes, France, and hope to depart in August 2004.

During their three years with the Liberty Bible young people, the Prices led the group on missions trips to Houston, Tex.; Tampa, Fla.; and Nantes, France.

Lytle Visits, Speaks in Korean Churches

Steve Lytle, director of field operations, visited Seoul, Korea, September 11-23. He spoke four times at the Church for Blessing All Nations, pastored by Brother Cho. This church is comprised primarily of young people who are very interested in missions and the 10/40 Window.

Steve preached a three-night evangelistic campaign with Dr. Paul Park and Dr. John Chang interpreting. At least four people made salvation decisions and several rededicated their lives to Christ.

Lytle spoke on September 18 to a group of 30 church leaders and preachers at Mission Point. He reiterated Foreign Missions' purpose for being in Korea: to have a FWB movement in Korea, and to reach unreached people groups in Central and Southeast Asia.

Steve also spoke September 21 to a crowd of around 100 people at Garden Church for All Nations.

Photos provided by Cameron Lane



Paul Hagelgans (left) of the Baptist Union in Almaty, Kazakhstan, thumbs through a passport during a meal with Clint and Lynette Morgan, Craig Portell and Cameron Lane as BU staff members serve. The Morgans, Portell and Cameron and Kristy Lane (inset) gather by a swift stream near Almaty just prior to their departure.

After the service, 14 people followed the Lord in baptism.

Lytle is planning to take a group of pastors to Korea in April of 2004. At that time, Dr. Chang plans to dedicate a new training program for Koreans wanting to serve the Lord in ministry.

Morgans Go to Central Asia, France and Russia

Missionaries Clint and Lynette Morgan left Nashville, Tenn., September 6 for extensive travel and ministry in Central Asia, France and Russia. Joining the Morgans for the trip to Central Asia were Cameron and Krista Lane of Russellville, Ark., and Craig Portell, who has served in Mongolia with English Language Institute.

The group visited four countries meeting with church and mission leaders, observing various ministries, speaking in services, and assessing needs. The Lanes returned to the States September 18. Craig joined Leroy Forlines and David Williford who were in Kazakhstan.

The Morgans were in St. Sebastien, France, on October 9 and 10 so Clint could fulfill part of his responsibilities as regional direc-

tor by meeting with the France field council.

The couple left France on October 12 for Chelyabinsk, Russia, where Clint began a two-week stint teaching missions curricula. They planned to return to France for further meetings with missionaries and were to return to the United States November 1.



Robert and Pam West have resigned.

West's Return from IC, Submit Resignation

After three months in Côte d'Ivoire Robert and Pam West returned to the United States and submitted their resignation from missionary service. Termination will be December 31, 2003. They have served as missionaries to Africa since December 1982.

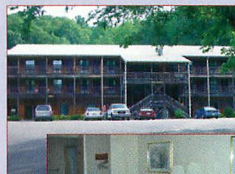
The Wests had gone to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on June 27 and hoped to eventually return to ministry in Kafolo in the north. In August Robert went with Jerry Pinkerton behind rebel lines to encourage Christians and check on the works in the north of the country. They found Christians standing firm in their faith and the church growing, but condi-

Prayer Summit 2004

January 16-18, 2004

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Accommodations:

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*Includes room and six meals

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Leaders:

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- Reverend Doug Little to lead worship and praise

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- "Developing an Aggressive Local Church Prayer Ministry," led by Reverend Glen Johnson of Chesterfield, Va.
- "The Basis of Prayer Journeying," led by Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment and Doug Little, director of stateside development
- "The Warfare Nature of Prayer," led by Mike and Deleen Cousineau, missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire

Contact Judy Lytle, coordinator of Prayer Summit 2004

Phone: 615-731-4950 ext. 253 ● E-mail: judy@nafwb.org

Registration form may also be downloaded from our Web site: www.nafwb.org/fm/prayersum.html

NEWS IN REVIEW

Photos provided by Soon Kyung Kim



Mrs. Soon Kyung Kim, a Free Will Baptist of South Korea (left and in inset), evangelizes a family in Uzbekistan during her recent short-term missions trip.

tions in the Kafolo area were unstable.

Robert and Pam realized they would not be able to physically handle the stress of those conditions and they feel unsuited for work in the mega-city of Abidjan. They have temporarily settled in Smithfield, N.C.

Cuban Family Endeavors to Start Church in Spain

A Cuban pastor, Juan Carlos Cabrerós, and his family have moved to Colmenar Viejo, Spain, and hope to start a Free Will Baptist church. Juan, his wife, teenage daughter, father- and mother-in-law, and brother-in-law and his family are located about 30 minutes from Villalba. The Cuban immigrant is a graduate of the Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute at Pinar del Río, Cuba.

The Villalba and Alcalá de Henares churches are considering assisting with a storefront setup as a home missions project.

Attendance Averages 144 in Uberlândia Church

Missionary Nancy Hughes says an average of 144 people attended services at the Second Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlândia,

Brazil, in August. She also indicated new visitors continue to attend each week.

A young teen, Suélen Mattos, accepted Christ as Savior during an August Saturday night youth meeting coordinated by Andy and Andrea Moore. Several other teens rededicated their lives that evening. Maria Aparecida and Adair, a couple who have attended the church for several months, also made commitments on August 24.

Andy Moore, Tom and Nancy Hughes and Wendel, a Brazilian Christian, are each conducting orientation classes with individuals who have made recent decisions.

Korean Christian Ministers in Uzbekistan

Mrs. Soon Kyung Kim departed in July for a 40-day missions trip in Uzbekistan with an interdenominational group from Seoul, South Korea. Mrs. Kim and her husband are members of the Free Will Baptist Garden Church for all Nations pastored by Dr. John Chang.

The group visited many churches. They also spoke, gave their testimonies and sang in schools and small group meetings. The short-termers participated in cultural training and language study, visiting temples, mosques,



Kristi Johnson (right) illustrates a story during the English Story Hour at the library in Alpedrete, Spain.

and cultural centers.

Mrs. Kim returned to Korea on August 11. She and her husband indicated they would like to serve as FWB missionaries in the future.

St. Nazaire Church Plans Fall Outreach

The missions committee of the St. Nazaire Free Will Baptist Church in France has initiated a fall campaign to reach the Guérandais Peninsula for Christ. Initially, members will target 1,500 Guérande residents to receive hand-addressed letters. They will offer a videocassette of the *Jesus* film and a copy of the New Testament upon request.

"One can drive 45 minutes in any direction from St. Nazaire and find no church that preaches the gospel," declares Jerry Gibbs. With 270,000 people within a 30-minute radius of the church, the French believers hope eventually to start a second church on the peninsula.

Edgmon, Johnson Will Continue Story Hour

Lea Edgmon and Kristi Johnson held another "Cuentacuentos en Inglés" (English Story Hour) at the public library in Alpedrete, Spain, on October 11. Present were 13 or 14 children, as well as some parents. One of the teacher's aides from Alejandro Johnson's class brought her daughter.

The library's theme for the month is "seeking peace." Kristi

News Capsules

Russia—Mike and Cathy Corley returned to Russia August 14. The couple has relocated to Krasnodar near the Black Sea in southwest Russia.

Japan—Mirial Gainer completed her stateside assignment and returned to ministry in Tokyo, Japan, on August 15.

Uruguay—Jaimie Lancaster reported in September that a volunteer musician has begun to work with the Malvin church in Montevideo, Uruguay, and has greatly improved the worship services. The man is also holding Bible studies in his home.

Japan—Missionaries to Japan, Ken and Judy Bailey, came to the United States on September 2 for their regularly scheduled stateside assignment. The Baileys plan to settle in Missouri.

Spain—Matthew and Brooke Turnbough, short-term missionaries to Spain, left for Madrid on August 29. Brooke is currently enrolled in language study in Madrid.

Muskogee, Okla.—Carl Payne, brother of Eddie Payne who is director of mobilization and recruitment for Foreign Missions, passed away October 8, 2003, in a hospital in Muskogee, Okla. He suffered from emphysema and had been in intensive care for some time.

Uruguay—Missionary Molly Barker returned to the States on October 9 for two months. She had a cataract checked and expects to return to Montevideo, Uruguay, on December 6.

Panama—Missionaries Ronald and Linda Callaway returned to the United States October 6.



Photos by Dean Jones and June McKay

Dean Jones (left) gives instructions to participants at the youth conference held in Nantes, France, and (right) students interact in a game.

requested prayer for "each thing we do in conjunction with the library to help people in Alpedrete seek the true peace of Jesus Christ."

The two ladies had another story hour scheduled for October 18 and were invited to share a story and craft during the Christmas season.

"M" Team Departure for France Delayed

Members of the France "M" Team had their August departure for language study in Albertville, France, delayed because visas were not received until September 11. In addition, some team members lacked adequate financial support.

The team, composed of Sean and Jill Warren, Micah and Becky Derby, Tim and Di Keener and Darren and Dana Portell, will have support needs reassessed in November. They hope to receive approval for a December departure date. This would enable them to begin language school in January.

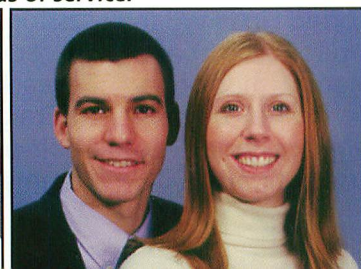
48 Students Attend Conference in France

Forty-eight high school and college students registered for the August 28-31 youth conference held in Nantes, France. Others attended sporadically. Sponsored by the France Free Will Baptist Association, the weekend conference was designed "to equip young people to accomplish God's mission in their world today."

Dean and Lisa Jones (director of Student and Children's Ministries, Nashville, Tenn.), Eric Thomsen (Randall House Publications, Nashville, Tenn.), Allen Pointer (youth minister, First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Ark.) and Donald Myers (music and youth minister, Kirby FWB Church, Kirby, Mich.) traveled from the United States to conduct the conference. "They came with such servants' hearts," writes Dennis Teague. "Our French believers even commented on that aspect of their ministry."

Even though the objective was to build up believers, one young man accepted the Lord.

Left to right, Mike and Cathy Corley, Matthew and Brooke Turnbough and Mirial Gainer have all left for their fields of service.



NEWS IN REVIEW

Ronald is to become head of the missions studies department at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. Although some modular studies may be taught in November and December, Ron will not begin full time until January 2004.

Spain—The Free Will Baptist Church in Villalba, Spain, held a spiritual retreat September 20 and 21 at Aguas Vivas in La Cabrera. Tim Johnson writes, "It was especially exciting to have over 60 people there, double the amount

that usually attend." Juan Carlos, a Cuban immigrant, and José Manuel, president of the Spain National Association of FWB, brought challenging messages.

Brazil—Jim Sturgill in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, reports the salvation of Sr. Eduardo, a professed atheist. Eduardo's wife, Leyla, participated in the ladies' Thursday morning prayer time. The couple has since moved to another state for employment.

India—According to missionary Carlisle Hanna, evangelist Joseph Marendi of the Calvary FWB Church in India died on September 7 from a stroke. Although under age 40, Joseph had suffered a debilitating stroke in April. A second stroke took his life. He leaves a wife and three children.

Brazil—Bobby Aycock, missionary to Barbacena, Brazil, reported the conversion of Paulo Josê, a young man in Antonio Carlos, on September 4. Paulo is now seeking to evangelize his eight brothers and sisters, his mother and girlfriend.

Nashville, Tenn.—The executive committee of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists met October 3 and 4 in Nashville, Tenn., to plan the triennial meeting in Panama in October 2004.

Panama Church Calls Cuban as Pastor

The First Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City, Panama, has taken a financial step of faith and recently invited Cuban pastor Rolando Delgado and his family to pastor the church.

Currently pastoring First FWB in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, Rolando and his wife, Keila, feel a missionary call to carry the gospel beyond Cuba. The Delgados hope to move to Panama in January 2004.



The abandoned church in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, and the stripped ceiling of the parsonage (inset) speak of chaos.

Cousineau Returns to Assess Côte d'Ivoire

Missionary Mike Cousineau and Mike Morgan of Oklahoma traveled to war-torn Ivory Coast on September 11 for a month at International Christian Academy in Bouaké.

The two men also assessed damage to the Bouaké church and parsonage. Accompanied by Pastor George, they discovered thieves had been looting the church and parsonage property. Cousineau spoke with rebel leaders and requested protection for the property. A roadblock has been set up.

Forlines, Williford Teach Pastors in Kazakhstan

Professor Leroy Forlines and Foreign Missions board member David Williford left Nashville, Tenn., October 2 for Almaty, Kazakhstan, to speak in a pastors' conference. They were joined by Craig Portell who was already in Central Asia.

Between 500 and 600 people attended the October 8-10 conference. Forlines spoke twice demonstrating how God has proved Himself to His people by keeping His promises and intervening in history. Williford's two sessions focused on the "Elements of Successful Preaching" and "Preaching in the Last Days."

Craig Portell and a combined choir provided music. Mr. Forlines commented that the choir's pre-

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in August and September 2003:

Donor	In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hart Ayden, N.C.	Elizabeth Bradshaw Carolyn Maines
Westside FWB Church Johnsonville, S.C.	Iris Eaddy
Laron and Kathy Dye Booneville, Miss.	Rev. Norlin Jones
Rachel and Marcia Rennick Tulsa, Okla.	Seldon Turner
Annette H. Phillips Atlanta, Ga.	Louise Crotzer
Christine L. Hamick Russellville, Ark.	Sam Hamick
Clarence and Billie Johnson Knightdale, N.C.	Louise Crotzer Leonard Gibbs
Charles R. Harris Nashville, Tenn.	Lela Harris
David and Carrel Farler Belfast, Tenn.	Lela Harris
Tim and Kristi Johnson Villalba, Spain	Aline Johnson

These gave special gifts in memory of James "Buddy" Lancaster:

Burma Jordan Vernon, Ala.	James and Edna Lancaster Northport, Ala.
Mrs. Eunice Graham Carrollton, Ala.	Henrietta F. Latham Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Mr. and Mrs. Austin Rickman McCalla, Ala.	Paul H. Johnson Tuscaloosa, Ala.
First FWB Church Tuscaloosa, Ala.	Clay and Florea Sansing Carrollton, Ala.
Mr. and Mrs. Searcy L. Mullenix Gordo, Ala.	L. Jewel Keasler Ethelsville, Ala.

Donor	In Honor of
Earl and Monique Nunley Chesapeake, Va.	Mme. Auzaneau

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Debbie Griffin teaches children during VBS conducted by the Hokkaido missionary team in Japan.



Pastors and their wives stand during a session at the pastors' conference at Anapa, Krasnodar, Russia.

sensation of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" was the best he had ever heard.

During the Wednesday evening service those who had preached for over 40 years were honored.

Mr. Williford returned to Nashville with Craig Portell on October 11. Mr. Forlines stopped in Frankfurt, Germany, for a few days and returned on October 14.

Hokkaido Team Begins Vacation Bible School

Missionaries in Ebetsu-shi, Hokkaido, Japan, held their first vacation Bible school July 28 through August 1. Forty children attended "Joy Club" throughout the week.

By using a different page from the Wordless Book for the Bible lesson each day Debbie Griffin presented the plan of salvation to each child who attended. Five-year-old Andrew Snow accepted Christ as Savior.

Nathan Snow, Alicia Hart and Joni Thomas conducted the music time. Alicia Hart's parents, Alfred and Carol Hart of New Bern, N.C., were visiting and helped Linda Snow assemble a Wordless Book for each attendee.

Various women in the Miha-rashidai church were in charge of craft time.

Parents were invited to a concluding program on Sunday, August 3, to hear their kids sing and quote Bible verses. They also were asked to stay for lunch with church members.

"Our church ladies were en-

couraged to see so many neighborhood kids at church," writes Linda Snow. "We believe this week enlarged their vision for reaching their neighbors."

N. Crowson Declines France Appointment

In a September 5 letter to Foreign Missions Natalie Crowson stated she will not pursue her short-term appointment. She was appointed to France in the December 2002 board session.

"My decision is a result of prayer, reflection and the belief that I am not prepared at this point in time for the important work in France," writes Natalie.

Miss Crowson emphasized, "My commitment to world missions is not lessened."

Pastors' Conference Held in Krasnodar, Russia

A conference was held in mid-September in Anapa, Krasnodar, Russia, for pastors and their wives. Fifty couples were encouraged by this first-ever gathering of pastors from the "state" of Krasnodar.

Alabama promotional director Rick Cash; Dr. Steve Ashby, dean of faculty at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Okla., his wife and their adopted Russian son; Reverend and Mrs. A. B. Brown of Cramerton, N.C.; and former overseas secretary Jimmy Aldridge and his wife, Janie, assisted in the conference. The men taught seminars on stewardship,

missions and leadership while the American ladies shared their experiences as pastors' wives with the women. Dr. Ashby also held a seminar on families.

About 10 or 12 men were called to the stage while spectators were reminded of the many who were already in heaven.

Alabama Free Will Baptists donated 170 neckties as gifts for the pastors.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through September 2003

Income for August	\$ 476,124.29
Income for September	402,736.94
Income through September	4,252,086.86
Total expenses through September	4,333,229.01
Total 2003 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$12,362,657.85

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey	\$ 8,521.80	Teague	\$ 3,477.19
Bishop	4,420.63	Vandivort	3,426.30
Corley	1,574.31	West	3,850.53
Griffin	7,618.56	India Bible Inst.	30,134.80
Holland, C.	4,186.44	Support Services	365,250.10
Sturgill	5,655.38		

These accounts are in need of support:

Bryan	\$ 812.04	Riggs	\$ 2,275.22
McVay	2,776.47	Portell	3,788.47
Owen	903.74	Turnbough, J.	3,063.04

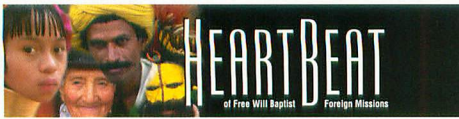
STATES IN ACTION

States/Source	Gifts in Sept. 2003	Gifts thru Sept. 2002	Gifts thru Sept. 2003
Alabama	\$ 25,178.40	\$ 237,100.09	\$ 284,720.11
Arizona	2,045.59	4,597.57	6,527.45
Arkansas	33,898.82	366,272.24	342,314.20
California	3,885.98	47,368.31	56,812.50
Canada	256.44	2,900.72	2,938.79
Colorado	250.03	1,944.32	2,661.23
Florida	7,309.26	122,297.65	123,222.47
Georgia	20,703.98	142,925.56	192,404.64
Hawaii	0.00	0.00	0.00
Idaho	0.00	1,885.09	2,208.23
Illinois	13,005.49	122,631.45	159,525.24
Indiana	5,662.40	44,913.77	51,429.67
Iowa	0.00	720.44	768.22
Kansas	28.62	1,320.43	858.10
Kentucky	7,965.66	67,248.87	64,684.33
Louisiana	0.00	2,040.00	2,312.50
Maryland	3,878.99	47,941.20	43,980.41
Michigan	11,798.21	120,519.28	151,707.22
Mississippi	12,038.15	67,152.41	67,348.33
Missouri	29,117.05	361,610.75	366,940.81
Montana	50.00	1,850.00	1,750.00
Nebraska	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
New Mexico	102.55	1,520.14	1,170.31
North Carolina	47,717.07	624,265.60	544,798.13
*Northeast Assn.	60.00	2,740.00	1,199.75
**Northwest Assn.	424.76	2,497.13	2,621.96
Ohio	17,824.83	111,959.27	131,158.53
Oklahoma	40,003.77	326,237.23	348,846.17
Pennsylvania	230.00	1,808.70	3,171.00
South Carolina	21,030.91	263,309.37	285,344.58
Tennessee	56,630.30	502,864.01	538,713.73
Texas	9,257.06	49,085.95	56,242.89
Virgin Islands	0.00	1,540.00	1,250.00
Virginia	4,771.09	56,355.41	49,938.63
West Virginia	15,229.24	100,659.91	115,995.01
WNAC	10,029.06	122,373.39	128,838.65
FWB Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	3,269.67	5,391.63	15,878.86
Totals	\$ 403,653.38	\$3,939,347.89	\$4,182,330.02

*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.



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Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director

Can You Hear Me Now?

According to the latest census figures available (2002), the estimated population of the United States is 288,368,698. Industry reports indicate 150,966,911 cell phones are in service in the United States (www.wow-com.com/industry/stats). Putting these two statistics together tells us that 52.4 percent of the men, women, and children in the United States own a cell phone. Forbes Magazine reports the average monthly cell phone bill is \$54 (www.forbes.com/fdc/forbes.com_wirelessurvey.pdf).

The 2003 Digest of Reports from the National Association of Free Will Baptists shows a membership of 294,237. If Free Will Baptists follow the U.S. average of 52.4 percent cell phone ownership, 154,180 Free Will Baptists own a cell phone. Multiplying that number by \$54 a month you come up with \$8,325,720 per month, or \$99,908,640 per year. Free Will Baptist people may be spending that much each year on cell phones.

Let us compare how much Free Will Baptists are contributing to reach

outside their local area to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth with the gospel. The 2003 Digest of Reports departmental audit records \$5,375,164 given in 2002 to the Department of Foreign Missions for international efforts. Add to that the \$4,341,494 which was given to the Home Missions Department for church-planting efforts in North America. This totals \$9,716,658.

Perhaps an additional \$2,000,000 or so is given to home missions efforts through state associations. This may bring the total to around \$12,000,000.

The Disparity

If these statistics are even close, **Free Will Baptist people who own cell phones (a little over half of the membership) are spending eight times as much for their cell phones as the entire denomination gives to Great Commission efforts.**

Actually, the "telecom budget" for most of us today includes cable or satellite television, Internet access, and other telecom expenses. A recent survey found the average family spends \$141.60 a month on such expenses (www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/02/28/earlyshow/contributors/raymartin/main542428).

I am not suggesting we should discard our cell phones or cancel subscriptions to cable or Internet. Certain safety and convenience issues do make owning cell phones attractive. I

have one myself. And an incredible amount of useful information is found on the Internet in addition to the convenience of e-mail.

Yet, I can remember when having these conveniences, if they were available, would have been considered luxuries only accessible to the wealthy. The standard of living for all of us in the United States has risen so greatly that what once were considered luxuries have now become necessities. This extends to the frequency of eating out and our hobbies such as hunting, fishing, and golf. Our disposable income has grown exponentially during my lifetime.

What would happen if our vision for a lost world were to grow in proportion to our disposable income? What would happen if Free Will Baptists were to invest in Great Commission efforts equal to what we spend on cell phones? Cable TV? Internet access? Hunting? Golf?

On the video series *Generation* by Mars Hill Productions one of the young men says, **"I believe God blessed America that America might be a blessing to the nations, but we spent the blessing on ourselves."** Let us make sure that is not true of Free Will Baptists. I need to make sure it is not true of me.

Can you hear me now?

James Forlines