

# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

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2003

**Showing God at work around the world**



## Driftwood Pews and Cement Block Altars

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# Driftwood Pews and Cement Block Altars

by Eddie L. Bowerman

*God's direction might just take you where He can work through you.*

I was to teach a joint Sunday school class of some local churches in Panama during a pastors' retreat. The opportunity to speak to several youth excited me. I seldom see them due to the long

distance between us. We were to have a special service in the beachside houses at the retreat site.

On Sunday morning I went to survey the area where I would be teaching. My heart fell!

The local church had selected a cleared-out area below a tree. It had no seats nor even a place to put my Bible. I imagined my class of 20 young people standing around staring off into the horizon as I desperately tried to maintain their attention. As the surf crashed behind me,

I wondered what in the world I was doing in this miserable, inadequate place with little potential for any real teaching.

*"How in the world am I supposed to teach here?"*

The person in charge apologized for the lack of seating but suggested we use large pieces of driftwood on the beach as makeshift benches and pews. As we rapidly converted the area into an improvised classroom I silently asked the Lord, "How in the world am I supposed to teach here?" His answer was surprising: "Because you are in My classroom."

We actually had a wonderful and interesting Sunday school class, probably one of the best I ever taught. God taught me one of the most important lessons of my life: My success in ministering to others has little to do with my gifts and abilities, the program or tools I use or even the environment in which I work. Rather, my success is primarily dependent upon being where



God can work through me in spite of all other factors.

Moses also had to learn about God's classroom from an environment unfamiliar to him. In his time Egypt was one of the greatest centers of learning in the world. Yet, God didn't use the grand palaces and halls of learning in Egypt to teach Moses. He chose the desolate reaches of the desert as His auditorium and a burning bush as His pulpit.

## The Burning Bush

In Exodus 3 God initiated His teaching session with Moses as he was going about his normal daily life. Moses noticed a bush was burning without being consumed. He said to himself, "I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." Exodus 3:4 tells us "...when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush...."

Moses had to turn from the way he was going to get where God wanted him. The bush was a sign for Moses, but God didn't force His servant to respond. Moses had to choose to act. He decided to get a closer look.

God often puts signs along our path. We may not see a burning bush, but we might see a friend in despair, a neighbor in need, a colleague struggling, or a church position that needs to be filled. Like Moses, we must decide if we will go our own way or if we will pursue what God has put before us.

God waited until Moses turned toward Him before He called out to him. Many people have told me they would love to do something in the church or in their neighborhood, but they are waiting for the Lord to



Eddie Bowerman (above, right) teaches a Sunday school class of teens in "God's classroom" near Las Tablas, Panama. Pictured on page 2 are (left to right) Carlos, president of Las Tablas FWB Church youth group; a young man who rededicated his life; Pastor Raul Sanes; and a young accountability partner for the rededicated young man.

direct them. Sometimes I wonder if they need a burning bush the size of a house fire to get their attention.

***Many a "would-be-Moses" has missed his or her opportunity by dismissing a burning bush as just another fire in the desert.***

The Corinthian church in the New Testament is one of the best examples of missed "burning bushes." They looked for great signs and wonders and missed the most important lessons God sought to teach them: "...the body is not one member, but many" (1 Corinthians 12:14). In our desire to do something great for the Lord we often overlook the opportunities around us.

Many a "would-be-Moses" has

missed his or her opportunity by dismissing a burning bush as just another fire in the desert. God wants each of us to turn to Him.

## Sent by God

After that fateful Sunday school class, I stayed behind and helped move the "pews" back to their rightful places. As I was hurrying to join the retreat service already in progress, a young man approached me and asked if he could speak with me. I knew I had already missed part of the service and I felt obligated to be present during the next part. However, I could sense the genuineness of the young man's pressing need and his desire to confide in me at that moment.

I had learned my previous lesson well, so I responded "Yes," knowing from his tone that this would

*Continued on page 7—>*



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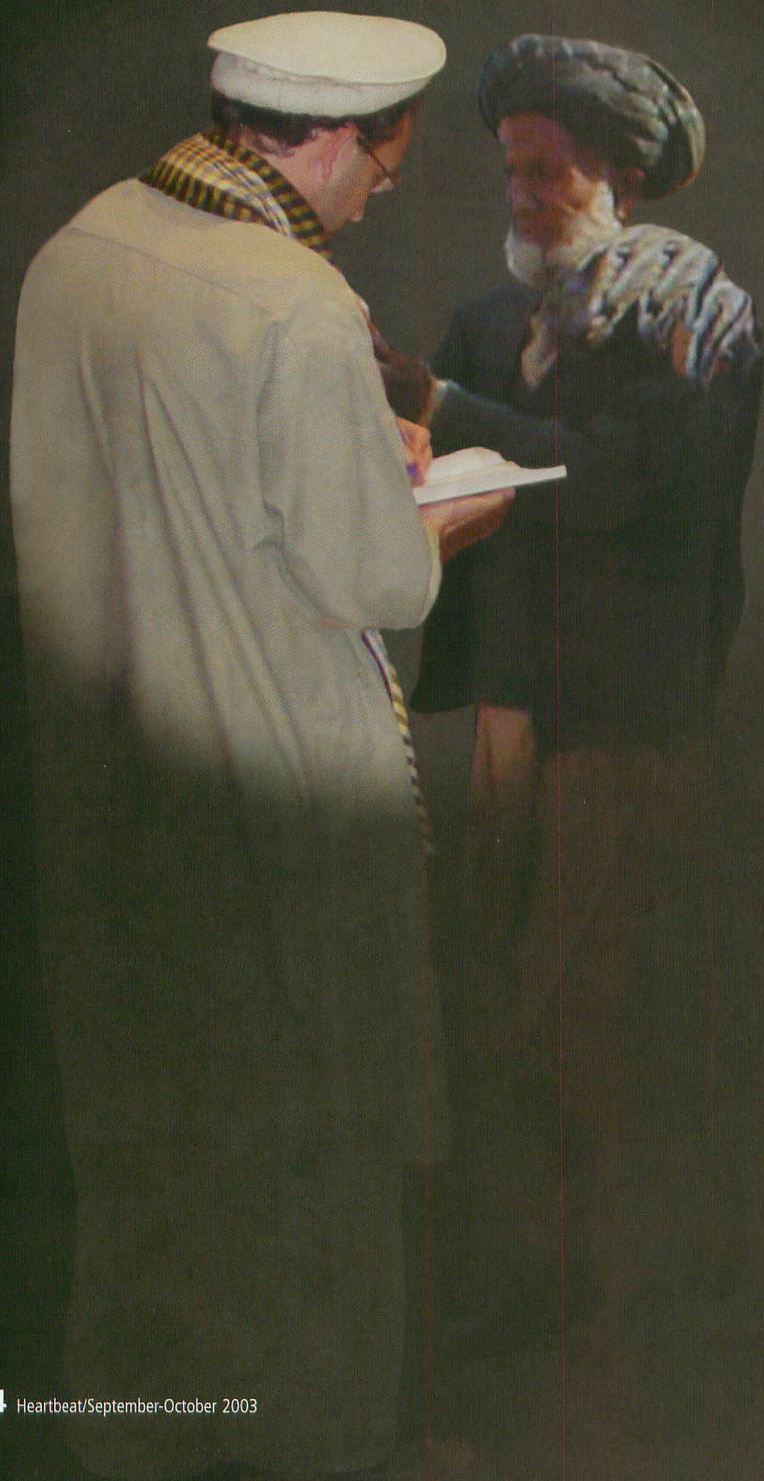
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# The Hand of Providence

by John Weaver



I have a good friend who lives in Central Asia. I will call him Gene. He is an Afghan. He is in his mid-forties, the father of four. My Afghan friend loves his family and loves life. He enjoys reading, especially poetry and history. Though he is down-to-earth, kind and gentle, he has lived in darkness. You see, my friend Gene didn't know our Lord Jesus. Why? He had never really heard the Good News!

My co-workers and I believe God brought him into our lives. Since our NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) is in his neighborhood, we work together. As our forefathers would say, this is "the Hand of Providence." Gene had been longing for something. He really wanted to know the truth, for God had set eternity in his heart. God, who created him in His own image, loves him and longed to be known by him. It became quite obvious God was up to something. One day Gene asked about our faith. We talked quite a bit about it. At last he was hearing the Word of God, through my feeble attempt to share in his own language.

***Gene had been longing for something. He really wanted to know the truth, for God had set eternity in his heart.***

One Friday afternoon Gene and I sat down to watch a movie. No, I am not really into movies, but this film about Jesus is worth seeing. We were watching it on our TV and VCR powered by a solar and generator system. Remember, this is Central Asia.

The *Jesus* film is powerful as it portrays the life of our Lord from the Gospel of Luke. My friend was curiously captivated. He was being divinely drawn as he watched and heard the Word in action. The Spirit of God



*John Weaver (center with clipboard) walks and talks with Central Asians in a desert area.*

was speaking to him. Our Sovereign Savior came to seek and save the lost!

After this event, Gene asked for an Ingil. Ingil is the word used in Central Asia to mean the gospel or Good News. Where I live, sharing the Word is quite dangerous. After wrestling with his request, one night after 10:00 p.m. I wrapped a copy of the Ingil and took it to my friend Gene. He was up reading. Remember, he loves to read. He unwrapped the New Testament and then kissed it. This is a typical response for a Central Asian out of respect for a Holy Book. He sat down and asked if we could read it together. "No problem," I thought. Our office was closed. This was not NGO project time. In fact, I was supposed to be under the covers snoozing.

Can you imagine living in Central Asia and waiting 40 years for someone to give you the Word of God? For the first time you hold the Words of Life. For the first time you turn to the Gospel of John. You read, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God."

Gene read all the way through chapter four. He learned the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. All who receive Him become the children of God. You

must be born again, born of the Spirit. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Jesus came to give living water and all who believe in Him will never die.

*As Gene stopped, he looked at me and said, "I believe!"*

As Gene stopped, he looked at me and said, "I believe!" Gene, a lost sheep, was found as he heard the Good Shepherd's voice.

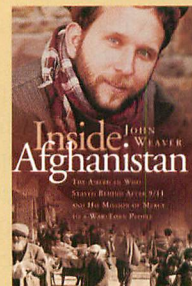
*John (center) enjoys a time of eating and conversing with men, Asian style on the floor.*



Jesus is redeeming His bride from every nation, tribe and tongue! He loves His bride. He is on a relentless pursuit for her. He will stop at nothing. He shed His own blood, died and rose again to provide salvation for all who believe. Who is like our wonderful Savior?

Millions are waiting to hear His voice! I urge Christians to pray more earnestly for the salvation of the lost in Central Asia. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers to those who have never heard. Give sacrificially to support the work of FWB Foreign Missions in Central Asia, and answer His call to share, pray, send, give and go till all the world knows!

John Weaver is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College serving as a relief worker in Afghanistan. He was the featured speaker at the 2003 National Youth Conference in Tampa, Fla. He also challenged those attending a Home and Foreign Missions joint rally on Tuesday of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. His book, *Inside Afghanistan*, is available at most local Christian bookstores or from Foreign Missions (P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002) for \$14.00. Orders also may be placed on-line: [www.nafwb.org/fm/books](http://www.nafwb.org/fm/books).





## Blessings of a Second Chance

by Ashley Carter

**F**or the past two years my thoughts have often returned to an island in the Gulf of Mexico that I refer to as “My Home Away from Home.” In Cuba the Lord met with me and showed me Himself in ways that still overwhelm me. The memories I have pondered in my heart and the friendships I now have are priceless bits of heaven on earth.

In 2001 I stepped out of my box and blindly agreed to be a member of TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions). My destination was Cuba. I use the word “blindly” because I was completely ignorant about the country of Cuba and TEAM. In some ways, ignorance is bliss.

### *The first few days in Cuba, I lived in shock!*

The week of training before we left for Cuba was not what I expected. Honestly, I thought TEAM Cuba’s week of training would be survival tips, such as, how to live off the land, what bugs one could eat, what bugs one should not eat, and how to make rafts. The training was completely the opposite. It was still exhausting but proved to be more valuable than a week of survival tips.

Looking back, while the week of

training was necessary, it could never have prepared me completely. The first few days in Cuba, I lived in shock! The entries that were repeatedly found in my journal were, “I am miserable! I guess the reason missionaries go in spite of these difficulties is because they love the people.”

As the days passed, I found myself falling in love with the Cuban people. They are joyful in spite of having nothing. They live to laugh. They are

more than generous, and they want everyone to know of the hope they have in Jesus Christ. Then it dawned on me—I should be this way too!

I eventually overcame my culture shock and became attentive to the Lord. My relationship with Him deepened because He chastened me by speaking in His gentle whisper. He allowed me to see myself as selfish and sinful as I am. To this day, I can still remember places, people, and situa-

*E-TEAM Cuba 2003 (top, left) displays the Cuban flag. Ashley Carter (below) strolls down the road at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary and receives a child’s hug (inset).*



tions where the Lord corrected me. I am still growing because of that first trip to Cuba.

Second chances for big things are very rare. So, when I was chosen to serve as the E-TEAM intern this year I was elated! My journal entry for January 4, 2003, reads, "I am returning to Cuba! The Lord has opened a door that I thought had been bolted shut!"

***My journal entry for January 4, 2003, reads, "I am returning to Cuba! The Lord has opened a door that I thought had been bolted shut!"***

My service to the team was different this time. As a college student I would serve under the team leaders, Stan and Brenda Bunch, but also be a leader to the team members. I was extremely intimidated! On June 13, 2003, my journal says "Lord, I feel so incredibly overwhelmed, unprepared, inadequate, and unworthy!" I was indeed those things, but the Lord blessed me by allowing us to have a tremendous team.

This second trip has certainly made a big impact on my life. The Lord showed me Himself by protecting medicine we took in, by giving traveling mercies, by blessing us in our services, and by keeping us healthy. More precious to me than those gifts is the promise He reminded me of—His faithfulness.

The Lord has used my E-TEAM experiences to draw me to Himself. He has given me new friends, overseas and here, and I have also been blessed by a deep love for Cubans as well as other lost souls in the world.

Ashley Carter is a member of Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, Tenn., and a sophomore at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

## Driftwood Pews and Cement Block Altars

*Continued from page 3*

take a while. As I looked around, I spied a pile of cement blocks. We made impromptu seats and sat down. As I counseled with the young man, I understood that God was sending me to him. Although the rest of the service and time were important, the leading of the Holy Spirit preempted those things.

Through the discourse in Exodus 3 Moses learned that God was sending him to the children of Israel. Moses was simply to be God's spokesman. When he began to protest and doubt that the children of Israel would receive him, God pointed out that HE HIMSELF would be with Moses.

God did not focus on trying to tell Moses how easy it would be. He did not point out Moses' strengths and good points. Rather, Moses' doubts and questioning were addressed: God is with us!

Many people do as I did earlier on that beach. They dismiss their opportunities because they forget or discount God's promise of His presence. As sons of God, we are led by His Spirit and are no longer in bondage to fear (Romans 8:14, 15). When we truly understand this principle, obstacles suddenly become insignificant.

### God's Spokesman

Moses wasn't God's second or third choice. He was God's specific choice! God was preparing Moses to liberate His people from bondage in Egypt. As a child God saved him from certain death. He placed him in Pharaoh's house and set into motion the events that allowed his Hebrew mother to raise him. God used all these events as on-the-job training to shape Moses' life.



*Pastor Raul of Las Tablas coordinated the pastors' retreat.*

God also works out the details in our lives long before we discern He wants to use us. God's Word tells us He chose us in Him before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). We have been chosen by God and prepared by Him. He orchestrates our lives as His voice and His mouth.

### Leading On

I stayed behind and counseled with the young man. It became obvious that he needed to give his heart to Christ. As we knelt there in front of the cement blocks and prayed together, I thought how strange the day had been. Driftwood pews and cement block altars. Yet, God took something so ordinary and mundane and made it sacred and holy.

Paul encourages us to be "instant in season" and "out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2) when it comes to sharing the Word of the Lord. We are to be prepared for the opportunities put before us, regardless of the circumstances. That includes driftwood pews and cement block altars.

Eddie Bowerman and his wife, LaRhonda, have served in Panama since 1997.

**A**n MK friend from Free Will Baptist Bible College made an astute comment that has summed up our experience working with the Northwest Free Will Baptist Church in Chicago.

My wife, Liz, was reminiscing about a few of our experiences with European cheese when she joked that the most difficult task she envisioned, as a missionary to France, would be trying to eat the cheese. To that our MK friend remarked, "You just have to learn to love the cheese." We often repeat this statement as we step toward missionary appointment.

Learning to love the cheese is something that Liz and I have been trying to do for nearly three years in Chicago. This denotes setting aside previous cultural, physiological, emotional, and spiritual norms and being willing to stretch yourself.

I recently began a weight-training program and took up running as a hobby in hopes of regaining the health of my youth. While playing sports as a teen, I paid little attention to stretching. Now that I am a little older, I have begun to realize the necessity of stretching before vigorous exercise.

Exercise minus the time taken to stretch will ultimately lead to pain, discomfort, and time away from exercise.

I believe it is much the same with preparing for overseas missionary work. In order to be effectively trained for the cultural, emotional, physical, and spiritual assault of working overseas, those cultural, emotional, physical, and spiritual fibers in a person must be slowly stretched. When learning to stretch, my trainer continuously told me to only stretch until tension was felt. Any more and I would risk injuring that which I was trying to extend. Any less and the stretching would do no good in the long run. A healthy medium must be reached.

If Liz and I had been thrown directly into foreign missionary life we might have failed. We lacked maturity, both emotionally and spiritually. Early in our time in Chicago we realized our cultural norms were being extended. Worship, customs, food, and pace of life were different. Even the language was different.

Culture shock was a term familiar to both of us due to our missions training at Free Will Baptist Bible

College. We could write a definition and describe key signs of culture shock, but all that knowledge did little good when confronting culture shock face to face.

Looking back, Liz and I both realize we lived through the textbook definition of culture shock. We suffered for nearly a year questioning whether this was where God really wanted us or even where we wanted to be. The best thing about a trial is coming out on the other side. When it is over it usually leaves a person much wiser.

***In order to be effectively trained for the cultural, emotional, physical, and spiritual assault of working overseas, those cultural, emotional, physical, and spiritual fibers in a person must be slowly stretched.***

When Liz and I moved to Chicago we had to set aside our physical comfort. Pastor David Potete and his family welcomed us into their home. They helped us to assimilate into the large city life. The summer we arrived, the Potete family had three other college students staying with them and doing summer internships. As I look back, the greater adjustment had to have come from the Potete family.

Emotional stretching is probably one of the most difficult things Liz and I went through in Chicago. It was second only to the spiritual extension. But fear, anxiety, questioning, and other low points have been far outweighed by the joy of seeing lives, hearts, minds, and spirits changed by the power of Christ. We recall the tears shed together due to severe loneliness, but we also remember the tears of rejoicing over a number of people (including my brother) being saved

## ***Learning to Love the Cheese***

***by K.C. Kohn***



*K.C. and Liz Kohn (top, right) display the French flag during a missions service as Pastor David Potete and others observe. Liz Kohn (bottom, left) helps in a VBS class for children.*

through the ministry at Northwest FWB Church.

A wise man once declared, "The most difficult thing to achieve in the Christian life is balance." Liz and I have learned that true emotional "balance" can never be eternally secure on earth, but now we know how to steady the emotional pendulum.

Our spiritual norms had never been stretched like they were in Chicago. They were obviously stretched during our various mission trips to Panama, Ivory Coast and France while in college, yet not to the degree they were in Chicago. Upon arrival we immediately stepped into roles as church leaders. Coming from Bible college with degrees in hand we were perceived as leaders whether that distinction was welcomed by us or not. Our time at FWBBC had placed us in various low-profile leadership positions but none could have prepared us for our newly acquired roles. The most difficult part was finding opportunities to be ministered to while ministering to others.

***The only way to learn to love the cheese is to become totally dependent on the grace of God.***

Reliance upon God and the Holy Spirit takes precedent. The only way to learn to love the cheese is to become totally dependent on the grace of God.

One of the greatest lessons we learned in Chicago is to be supremely confident of our place in God's will. In order to make it anywhere a person must be convinced that God is the one



who placed him or her in that place. Desire, friendships, influences, or simple emotional appeal are inadequate. These are all viable means by which God presents a need and draws one to a decision; however, none of these will stand the test of learning to love the cheese. At times the only reason we pressed on was the clear understanding that we were doing exactly what God wanted us to do, in the place God chose.

The stretching that God has done with us has made us ready to begin

the race. We know that many of the same trials will take place when we reach our place of ministry. We know God will not give us more than we can bear, but He may place us at the breaking point so we will be able to bear more in the future. The progression of our ability to bear burdens is in direct correlation to our understanding of God's provision. God helped me to learn to love the cheese, even when the cheese stunk.

K.C. and Liz Kohn were appointed to missionary service in France in December of 2002.



Board members, missionaries and guests fellowship at a banquet honoring donors in Tampa, Fla.

## Donors of Over \$1,000 Honored at Banquet

Twenty-one churches and/or individual donors were honored at a special appreciation banquet on Wednesday afternoon, July 23, at the National Association in Tampa, Fla. A beautiful framed historical collage of deceased pioneer missionaries was presented to the invited guests and an identical picture will be sent to those other \$1,000-plus church or individual donors unable to attend.

Although gifts to the 2003 World Missions Offering continue to arrive, receipts through July 31 totaled \$134,522.76. Thirty-seven churches gave \$1,000 or more and Women Nationally Active for Christ channeled \$14,577.64 into the undesignated WMO. Six individuals contributed over \$1,000 each to the April offering.

## PRAC Provides New Central Asia Partners

After meeting in Germany with leaders of the Baptist Union churches of Central Asia in March, Clint Morgan and General Director James Forlines recommended a partnership agreement between Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions and the Baptist Union churches. The Board of Foreign Missions approved the agreement making it possible for Free Will Baptists to send missionaries into that area of the world.



A crowd of between 200 and 300 people attended and participated in a carnival sponsored by Hokkaido churches with the assistance of E-TEAM Hokkaido 2003. One team member (inset) enjoys cotton candy and another (right) operates a stand.



## Turnbough Completes 24 Bible Studies in Home

Missionary Jeff Turnbough in Villalba, Spain, indicated he completed a 24-lesson evangelistic in-home Bible study on July 19.

Jeff noted that three people were faithful throughout the entire study and made decisions to follow Christ. He urged people to pray for Alex, Luz, and Rubiela.

## Hope Brightens as IC Agreement Signed

According to Ivory Coast missionary Verlin Anderson, a new agreement was signed between the rebels and the government in Côte d'Ivoire on July 4. The Andersons, who hope to be able to return to Ivory Coast in January, expressed anticipation that this might end the stalemate.

"Bouna, our home town, is still behind rebel lines," states Anderson. "But it does look very promising that the country will be united by December."

## E-TEAM Hokkaido Helps in Church Carnivals

When E-TEAM Hokkaido went to Japan in June they participated in a number of activities including teaching English conversation classes. They also had the opportunity to help put on two large-

scale summer carnivals in two different areas of the city. These were used to introduce the church to those within that community.

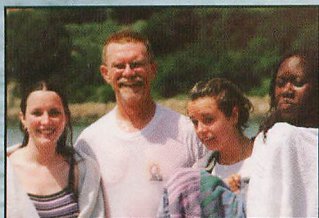
According to missionary Nathan Snow, the first carnival had between 200 and 300 people in attendance. The following day they had two new children for Sunday school.

Maki-chan, who became a Christian last year after being introduced to the church two years earlier through the E-TEAM program, gave her testimony during the Sunday morning service. Nathan says, "It was wonderful to hear her give thanks to God for sending another E-TEAM to Japan to share God's love. She shared what an encouragement they had been to her as she is trying to witness at school."

## Uberlândia Church Holds Fourteenth Anniversary

The Second Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlândia, Brazil, celebrated their fourteenth anniversary on June 15.

According to missionary Nancy Hughes, Jim and Vicki Sturgill of Belo Horizonte took part in the celebration. They gave their testimonies in Sunday school and Jim preached the message on Sunday night. Attendance for the service was 205.



*Missionary Jerry Gibbs baptizes Lydie, one of three converts baptized in the ocean near St. Nazaire on June 22. Jerry is pictured with the three: (inset, left to right) Lydie, Pauline and Audrey.*

The Hughes expressed praise over the salvation of Conceição Veiga on June 1. She is the mother of one of the teenagers in the church.

## Snow Reports Witness in Motorcycle Shop

Missionary Nathan Snow in Hokkaido, Japan, reported meeting a man recently in a motorcycle shop. Mr. Otsuka "speaks English very well because he studied in California for awhile," says Nathan. "He asked many questions about God."

Mr. Otsuka has been to church three times since Nathan talked with him and "he always brings a friend or two or three."

## Moore Gets Workout in Hughes' Absence

When Tom and Nancy Hughes traveled to the United States in the month of July to visit Nancy's ailing mother, the work in the Second Free Will Baptist Church of Uberlândia, Brazil, was left on the shoulders of first-term missionary Andy Moore.

"I performed my first wedding the Saturday after they left, preached the Sunday evening service twice, attended camp July 21-25 and directed vacation Bible school the last week of July," says Andy.

"I was privileged to baptize my first Brazilian on July 20. His name is Sergio. He is the only Christian in his family," Andy noted. "The night of his baptism he brought 10 people to church to witness his public stand for Christ."

## Holland Family Aids E-TEAM Brazil 2003

Curt and Mary Holland and their three daughters were largely responsible for the guidance of E-TEAM Brazil 2003. Curt led in preparation and dynamics of team-building plus developing ministry tools of the group. Mary prepared the way in Brazil as she and daughter Amber went there 12 days ahead of the group.

Amber, Kelsey and Brooklin all served as translators when the team was broken up into small groups for housing purposes. The teens ministered through Brazilians in the city of Campinas where the Hollands had been working.

## Three Baptized at Saint Nazaire in June

According to missionary Jerry Gibbs, three teenage girls from the Saint Nazaire church in France were baptized on June 22.

During the Sunday morning service Yannick Kermovan from the Nantes church preached and the three teenagers gave their



*A group from Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, Tenn., sings during a concert in Tokyo, Japan.*

testimonies.

"What a blessing and challenge to us all," declares Jerry. "Then we went down to the Atlantic and had our baptism. The water was nice and refreshing since it was 95 degrees here on Sunday."

## Cross Timbers Church Takes Team to Japan

A six-member team from Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., went to Tokyo, Japan, during the first week of June.

The group spent two weeks in Tokyo participating in special concerts, distributing tracts and hosting a high school outreach night. Cross Timbers is the home church of Tokyo team missionaries Don and Ruth McDonald.

## Hanna Urges Prayer in Spiritual Warfare

Veteran missionary to India Carlisle Hanna wrote in June of this year: "The warfare in India has been intense. *'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places'* Ephesians 6:12.

"Through this warfare I was shown again how very much I needed Marie to fight this battle with me. Many things I have not feared during our service in India. Now, however, I have feared that the revival God has given would



*Go and Be members paint playground equipment in Alpedrete, Spain, as a community service and a means of making contacts for evangelism.*



be snuffed out. In spite of the battle, however, we have continued to see many come to Christ, new churches born and people grow in their walk with Christ. Thank you for praying."

## Missionaries Retreat After the National

Foreign missionaries attending the National Association in Tampa remained there an extra day to fellowship and relax together. A special time of prayer, music, and worship was held Thursday night, July 24. Jon and Susan Forlines blessed those present with special music, and Milton Worthington, chairman of the board, challenged the group to continue faithfully. A boat excursion in the bay with a meal on board rounded out the retreat.

## Go and Be Group Makes Impact on Alpedrete

The Go and Be Spain group of college students spent five weeks in the Madrid area during June through the first of August and made an impact on the city of Alpedrete. The crew spent two days painting playground equipment, coating picnic tables with protectant, and pruning trees all over town.

According to missionary Anthony Edgmon, "The local government officials have been gen-

erous hosts to these students. They provided a tour of the city hall, a photo with the mayor and lunch for both workdays."

Missionaries are rejoicing at the positive impact these work projects have made. Edgmon says, "The contacts made with the mayor and key city officials would not exist today without the positive attitudes and hard work of the Go and Be team."

## Missionaries Honored, Commissioned in Tampa

Once again a highlight of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in July in Tampa, Fla., was the honoring of 47 home missionaries and 38 foreign missionaries during the Wednesday night service.

More than 5,000 people observed Home Missions Director Larry Powell give the charge to new missionaries in a short commissioning service. The other home and foreign missionaries present laid hands on them. Milton Worthington, chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, led the commissioning prayer.

An offering of \$22,000 was received for Home and Foreign Missions that evening and Foreign Missions General Director James Forlines brought the evening message. He challenged every individual to "get involved" in reaching the world for Christ and cited nu-



*Flags of the nations are displayed during the missions service on Wednesday night at the National Association.*

merous opportunities for people of various occupations to make a difference.

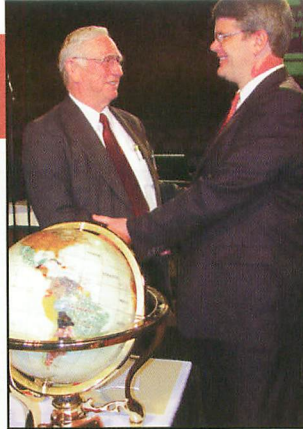
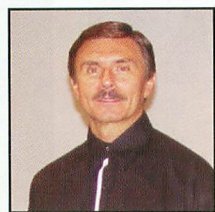
## Regional Directors

On Wednesday morning during the report of the general director to the body, Brother Forlines announced the appointment of three regional directors: (1) Dale Bishop, Asia; (2) Stan Bunch, Central and South America; and (3) Clint Morgan, Europe and Africa. He further reported the establishment of a Non-Government Organization (NGO) with "relief" and "development" programs to enable outreach to restricted access countries. It was named "The Hanna Project" in honor and memory of Carlisle and Marie Hanna of India.

Mr. Forlines called Don Robirds to the platform where he presented the 68-year-old minister-journalist a large globe in appreciation for his 40 years of service with the agency. Robirds is to retire at the end of the year. Delegates honored him with a standing ovation.

## Joint Rally

On Tuesday morning during the Home and Foreign Missions joint rally, Mike Cousineau of Côte d'Ivoire and John Weaver of Afghanistan kept a crowd of over 450 people in awe as they told their stories of danger, opportunity, Satanic opposition, and gunfire. Listeners were told repeatedly that persecution and even death are inevitable for many in these days of terrorism and out-



General Director James Forlines (left) preaches at the missions service, John Weaver and Mike Cousineau (center, top to bottom) spoke at the Home and Foreign Missions joint rally and Don Robirds (right) receives a globe for his 40 years of service.

right animosity toward Christ and the gospel. But they reminded the audience that obedience to Christ is imperative, and God gives grace for whatever His witnesses face.

### WNAC Service

At the 11:00 a.m. service of Women Nationally Active for Christ, Deleen Cousineau shared her story of God's protection while they were caught in the crossfire between government forces and rebels in Côte d'Ivoire. That afternoon French "M" Team members Jill Warren, Di Keener,

and Dana Portell presented a skit with Becky Derby narrating. It depicted the plight of the woman in various settings of the Muslim world.

A request by Foreign Missions to change its name from Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions to Free Will Baptist International Missions was placed on the table to be addressed in the 2004 convention.

Other activities of the National Association are reported more fully in the September 2003 issue of *Contact* magazine.

## "Project Andrew" Gains Converts, Rededications

The Marincek church in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, had a special campaign during the month of June. "Project Andrew" challenged church people to invite friends, neighbors and relatives to "come and meet" Jesus just as Andrew invited his brother, Peter, in the Bible.

At the end of the month visitors' cards totaled 213, an average of 18 visitors per service.

"We had a total of 12 services and nine different speakers," says Bobby. Missionaries Jim Combs and Andy Moore, national pastors Jeancarlo Achê and John Poole, and five students from the Bible institute in Ribeirão Preto spoke during the month.

Six people were saved, a number of rededications were recorded and a renewed spirit was experienced among the people.

## Prayer Summit 2004

January 16-  
January 18, 2004

Camp Garner Creek,  
Dickson, Tenn.

### Registration Fee:

\$25 fee per person to be sent with application (non-refundable)

Register before September 15 and receive a complimentary personal prayer journal.

### Accommodations:

Double occupancy \$140.00 per person to be paid at check-in\*

Single occupancy \$185.00 per person to be paid at check-in\*

\*Includes room and six meals

For registration form and further information contact:

Judy Lytle, coordinator of Prayer Summit 2004

Phone: 615-731-4950 ext. 253 • E-mail: [judy@nafwb.org](mailto:judy@nafwb.org)

Registration form may also be downloaded from our Web site:

[www.nafwb.org/fm/prayersum.html](http://www.nafwb.org/fm/prayersum.html)

## Send a representative from your church!



### Activities:

- Plenary sessions to speak to your hearts
- Workshops to inspire and challenge your prayer life
- In-depth times of personal and corporate prayer

### Leaders:

- Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley to lead plenary sessions
- Reverend Doug Little to lead worship and praise



### Workshops:

- "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

# NEWS IN REVIEW

## Arsonists Burn Baptist Church Near Moscow

According to a message forwarded by missionary Mike Corley, the Baptist church in the city of Balashiha near Moscow was set ablaze on May 23 by a group of arsonists. The church building was under construction and very near completion, but the roof was totally destroyed.

## E-TEAM Tokyo Makes Impact on Japanese

E-TEAM Tokyo, consisting of 10 students and four adult leaders, spent 14 days in June in the Tokyo area handing out gospel tracts and flyers, conducting a children's day at Good News Chapel and performing gospel magic, mime

### GIFTS FROM THE HEART

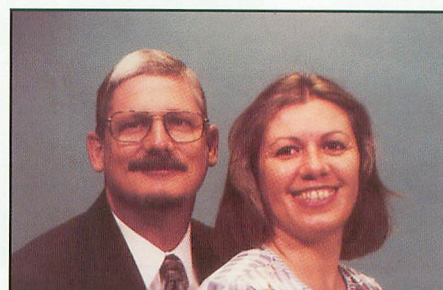
These special gifts were received in June and July 2003:

Donor	In Memory of
Jim and Olena McLain Greentop, Mo.	Archie Cooper
Mary K. Propst Okeechobee, Fla.	Archie Cooper
C. L. and C. E. Baldwin Kirksville, Mo.	Archie Cooper
Mrs. Christine Floyd Andrews, S.C.	B. B. Watford
Mrs. Lucille B. Mitchum Georgetown, S.C.	B. B. Watford
Dr. and Mrs. Thurman Pate, Jr. Nashville, Tenn.	Miss Fleeda Abbott
Horton Heights FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.	Marvis Eagleton
Black River FWB Church Andrews, S.C.	Vivian McKenzie
Tanya Hart Ayden, N.C.	Elizabeth Bradshaw
Donor	In Honor of
Clarence and Billie Johnson, Sr. Knightdale, N.C.	Ivory Coast Missionaries

Clip and mail

### Special Gifts

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



Shane and Joy Davison and Bethany Crowson (left, top to bottom) were appointed to missionary service. Dr. Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton and Robert and Pam West (right, top to bottom) were given full status as career general missionaries.

and special music. They also held four game nights.

According to Ken Bailey, "Through their efforts 14 Japanese young people ages 12-24 visited our church!"

## Two Career, One OA Appointed in Tampa

The Board of Foreign Missions convened on July 24 in Tampa, Fla., following the National Association.

The board interviewed and appointed Shane and Joy Davison from Blue Point FWB Church in Cisne, Ill., as career missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire. They plan to do church planting in the area of Bouaké.

Bethany Crowson of Northwest FWB Church in Chicago, Ill., was also appointed to serve two years as an overseas assistant teaching English in Japan.

Bylaws and legal documents for "The Hanna Project," an NGO established to enable ministry in restricted access countries, were examined and approved.

Robert and Pam West and Dr.

Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton were given full status as general missionaries.

Curt and Mary Holland were granted a one-year leave of absence starting September 1, 2003. Curt will continue as Missionary In Residence teaching at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Stan and Brenda Bunch were granted a three-month extension to their current leave of absence.

New board member Jerry Norris of Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton, Mo., was welcomed.

*Jerry Norris was elected to the Board of Foreign Missions.*



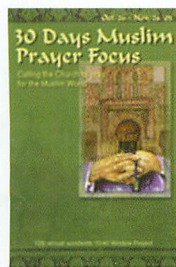
## Prayer Emphases Aids Available Upon Request

The *International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church* is scheduled for November 9, 2003, and the *30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus* begins October 26 and ends November 24.

To request a free copy of the 2003 International Day of Prayer kit, register on-line at [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org) or call toll-free at 888-5-BIBLE-5. More information is available from [www.persecutedchurch.org](http://www.persecutedchurch.org).



The kit contains a CD ROM with a PowerPoint presentation, a pastor's guide with a sermon outline, bulletin inserts, an IDOP poster and youth materials. To assure timely receipt order by September 1 or shortly thereafter.



The *30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus* booklets may be ordered from Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 or from the Web at [www.nafwb.org/fm](http://www.nafwb.org/fm). The cost of these is \$1.75 each including shipping and handling. These should be ordered immediately, but time must be allowed for shipping and handling.

## News Capsules

**Cuba**—Ronald Callaway traveled to Cuba August 20 to speak at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Pinar del Río during the graduation service of six pastors. He returned to Panama on August 25.

**Ethelsville, Ala.**—Mr. James

(Buddy) Lancaster, father of Uruguay missionary Jaimie Lancaster, died at his home in Ethelsville, Ala., on August 2. Jaimie, Tammy and their sons, Jonathan and John William, as well as other family members were at his bedside. Services were held at Mt. Moriah FWB Church in Ethelsville on August 5.

**Columbia, S.C.**—Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton, missionaries to Brazil, moved to Columbia, S.C., August 7 so Dr. Kenneth could attend Columbia International University. They will be there for a year while he takes courses to increase his effectiveness in leadership training in Brazil.

**Brazil**—Jim Sturgill, missionary to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, returned to the United States for two weeks in July to be with his mother, Lottie Sturgill, during her recovery from cancer surgery. He rejoiced in God's provision of vacation time for Juliano, a policeman attending the church, so he could fill in for Jim.

**Ashland City, Tenn.**—Mrs. Louise Crotzer, mother of missionary Nancy Hughes (Brazil), died on August 18 in a nursing facility in Ashland City, Tenn., from a massive stroke. Tom and Nancy visited with Mrs. Crotzer in July and helped Nancy's siblings settle affairs. The Hughes had returned to Brazil August 5.

**Wheelersburg, Ohio**—Funeral services were held July 29 in Wheelersburg, Ohio, for Ora Gilliland, father of Neil Gilliland, director of member care. Mr. Gilliland fell and broke his hip on July 18 and suffered complications following surgery. He died on July 26 at the age of 93.

**Korea**—Dr. John Chang's mother, Nam Ea Chang, passed away on July 28 in South Korea at age 88. The funeral service was held in

Seoul on July 30. Mrs. Chang had been a faithful prayer warrior for Dr. Chang's ministry for almost 20 years.

**Lexington Park, Md.**—Leonard Gibbs, father of Jerry Gibbs, died on July 30 in Lexington Park, Md. He had been in declining health for some time.

## FINANCIAL BEAT

### Through July 2003

Income for June.....	\$ 467,940.52
Income for July.....	561,879.34
Income through July.....	3,373,225.63
Total expenses through July.....	3,355,952.19
Total 2003 Budget (including VISION projects)....	\$12,362,657.85

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey.....	\$ 6,700.58	Poole.....	\$ 8,155.76
Bishop.....	7,417.34	Riggs.....	5,066.78
Chang.....	2,391.88	Sturgill.....	1,012.62
Gibbs.....	5,730.80	Turnbough, J.....	431.12
Griffin.....	12,008.92	Vandivort.....	3,530.50
Hanna.....	16,020.03	India Bible Inst.....	32,072.80
Holland, C.....	6,141.21	Support Services....	336,463.54
McDonald.....	6,472.96		

These accounts are in need of support:

McVay.....	\$ 2,036.28	Teague.....	\$ 1,274.16
Owen.....	2,213.15		

## STATES IN ACTION

States/Source	Gifts in July 2003	Gifts thru July 2002	Gifts thru July 2003
Alabama.....	\$ 29,586.82	\$ 167,219.35	\$ 229,864.14
Arizona.....	184.70	3,591.53	4,285.86
Arkansas.....	42,218.35	288,054.45	267,356.51
California.....	7,827.11	31,081.63	47,990.57
Canada.....	267.58	1,834.83	2,140.65
Colorado.....	298.31	1,523.52	2,115.61
Florida.....	5,768.54	94,085.93	88,532.14
Georgia.....	16,512.43	107,331.42	138,366.22
Hawaii.....	0.00	0.00	
Idaho.....	230.53	1,649.84	2,034.63
Illinois.....	15,016.70	103,290.82	129,882.08
Indiana.....	5,149.16	31,899.42	40,855.66
Iowa.....		620.44	668.22
Kansas.....	124.79	1,029.82	763.07
Kentucky.....	9,878.96	53,549.39	50,550.40
Louisiana.....		2,040.00	2,300.00
Maryland.....	5,233.51	38,497.86	38,266.11
Michigan.....	13,122.67	95,698.24	112,979.58
Mississippi.....	7,086.72	57,487.63	50,520.70
Missouri.....	33,350.99	292,111.57	288,526.88
Montana.....	225.00	1,450.00	1,475.00
Nebraska.....	1,500.00	1,500.00	
New Mexico.....	1,193.45	862.58	
North Carolina.....	76,077.41	494,592.31	451,422.95
*Northeast Assoc.....	275.25	1,828.00	1,094.75
**Northwest Assoc.....	21.00	2,343.79	2,097.20
Ohio.....	13,986.87	99,658.61	97,656.88
Oklahoma.....	35,980.00	256,403.37	276,492.30
Pennsylvania.....	110.00	1,069.50	1,838.50
South Carolina.....	32,421.46	199,336.57	219,591.34
Tennessee.....	86,811.87	392,697.80	426,798.47
Texas.....	1,346.50	39,417.58	36,489.04
Virgin Islands.....		1,520.00	1,250.00
Virginia.....	5,589.09	49,359.14	42,594.79
West Virginia.....	12,602.52	84,878.42	91,463.29
WNAC.....	24,591.34	107,658.04	112,217.32
FWB Foundation.....	15,547.37	0.00	30,547.37
Miscellaneous.....	3,662.02	3,220.63	9,707.02
Totals.....	\$ 501,105.57	\$3,110,724.90	\$3,303,097.83

\*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:** Milton Worthington, chairman; Randy Wilson, vice chairman; Danny Williams, secretary; David Shores, Bill Jones, David Williford, Bill Van Winkle, Sherwood Lee, Jerry Norris.

**Administrative Staff:** James Forlines, general director; Doug Little, director of stateside development; Don Robirds, director of public relations; Steve Lytle, director of field operations; Robert Conley, director of financial operations; Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment; Neil Gilliland, Ph.D., director of member care.

Please clip and mail this label with all correspondence.

Web address: [www.nafwb.org/fm](http://www.nafwb.org/fm)



## Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director

### Mid-Course Correction

A few years ago Gordon McDonald wrote a book entitled *Mid-Course Correction*. In the opening pages of the book he discusses what he calls "vital optimism." In simplistic terms, this is the inner belief that the best is yet to be. No matter what has happened in the past, the future will be better.

McDonald says this "vital optimism" seems to be a given during childhood and youth except in cases where circumstances have robbed a child of that privilege. However, when we enter adulthood cruel realities whittle away at this belief. By the time many people reach their thirties a fierce battle rages to retain any of it. Some, even Christians, have lost the battle and live in the shallow end of existence with cynicism as their constant companion.

Yes, much in this world can pull our spirit from optimism to despair. Our own culture seems to be in moral decay right before our eyes. Postmodernism, as a worldview, has dulled our sensitivity to ultimate Truth. Evangelism seems to be more difficult as people do

not even know what we mean by sin, repentance, and conviction. Many believe we are living in the last of the last days and things are destined to become worse and worse.

In spite of all of this, the call of Jesus Christ must lead us to recover this "vital optimism." When we live and minister in negativism and despair, it surely symptomizes a lack of faith. Is it not a poor witness to a generation that has lost hope when they cannot see hope, confidence, and optimism in men and women of faith? I believe God still wants to do great things for and through His people. Yes, even Free Will Baptists!

### An Inner Desire

Undoubtedly, a valiant desire to accomplish the heroic resides somewhere inside the believer. When we are born again, through accepting Christ into our life, does He not put a desire in our hearts to do great things for Him? Are missionaries such as Hudson Taylor naïve when they say, "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God"? I do not believe so.

In the midst of the doom and gloom around us, it is time for Christians to say we really do believe what we profess to believe. It is high time to quit holding back and playing it safe. These are not empty words or vain hopes. They embody the call and challenge of God for our lives. Following are spe-

cific promises from God that should result in "vital optimism."

1. All power in heaven and earth is given to Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18).
2. He who has begun a good work in us is faithful to complete it (Philippians 1:6).
3. He will build His Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).
4. Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4b).
5. We will receive ample spiritual power through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
6. We will do even greater works than He has done (John 14:12).
7. Jesus Himself is in heaven praying for us (Hebrews 7:25).
8. In the end of time a congregation will stand before the throne with a number no man can number of every tribe, language, people, and nation (Revelation 7:9).

At a Baptist church in Augusta, Ga., a tribute is given to "men who see the invisible, hear the inaudible, believe the incredible, and think the unthinkable." Now that's vital optimism. The job of world evangelism will never be done without it!

*James Forlines*