



# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
2004

**Showing God at work around the world**



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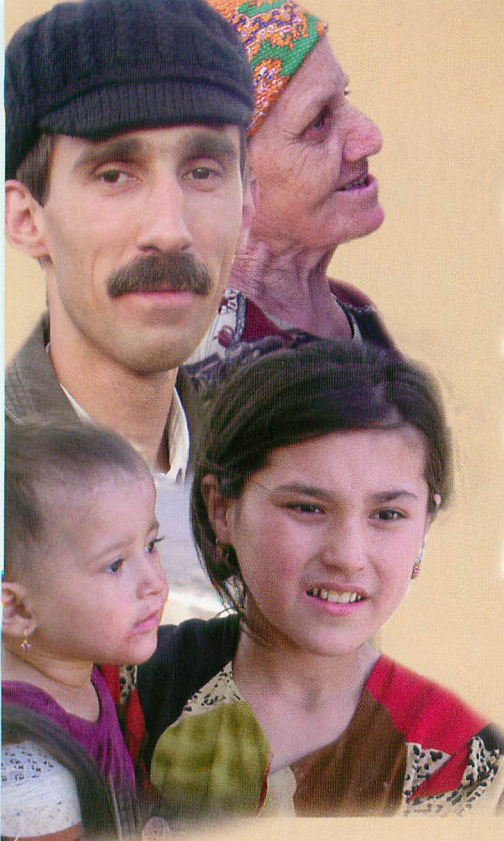
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# ***Creative Alternatives Can Overcome Restrictions***

*By Clint Morgan*

***The very designation of an environment as "restricted" would seem to indicate there are some inherent dangers to avoid.***

**“W**hatever you do, do not say you are ‘missionaries’.” This strong suggestion was given directly to several missionaries as they sat in the office of the president of a Baptist group in Central Asia.

“Well, what can we call ourselves?” one of the missionaries wondered silently. This question was followed by another of an ethical nature: “Is it not deceptive to call yourself something that you aren’t?”

Concerns have been expressed over various aspects of working in restricted access countries. For example, five expatriate “workers” (new word for missionaries) sat around a table discussing future ministry possibilities with a church leader in a creative access country. His secretary entered and hesitantly handed the national leader an official looking document blotted with several official stamps and seals. His face clearly revealed the news was not good. The document declared the government had officially closed one of the Baptist churches in

this region. No explanation was given.

In another instance the government of a restricted access country (RAC) made a law forbidding the preaching of the gospel in the language of its major ethnic group, a group for which the country is named. All services must now be held in a “foreign” language. The law is intended to show Christianity as a foreign religion which should not be embraced.

***Should the church defy the order and continue to meet? Should its members march on city hall and demand their religious rights?***

Should the churches comply with the law and preach only in a foreign language or should they form clandestine cell group churches where people can receive teaching in their mother tongue?

A registered religious entity in one Central Asian country went through the agonizing process of gaining legal

permission to distribute literature in an unevangelized town. After believers saturated the town with tracts and other literature the local mullah (Muslim religious leader) mandated all the literature be brought to his courtyard and burned.

Should believers reenter the town and continue literature distribution or should they just “shake the dust” from their feet and move to another area? Should they try to pursue legal avenues and assert their rights?

In yet another country a local mullah threatened a church planter, declaring he would be put to death if he preached the gospel even one more time in the village. The mullah furiously declared, “If no one else will kill you, I will do it myself.” The believer, convinced this was not an idle threat, secretly sent his wife and children to another city. He stayed, hoping to meet with local government officials. The meeting took place but resulted in public threats and apparent support for the mullah. The church planter knew his life would truly be in danger if he decided to defy this level



of opposition.

Should the church planter try to tough it out and show his commitment by staying? Is this a situation where he must choose to lay down his life?

Tough decisions like these must be made by workers going into restricted access areas. The scenarios presented are actual occurrences drawn from my journal of a recent trip into Central Asia. They illustrate reality for believers living in many restricted access countries.

***The mullah furiously declared, "If no one else will kill you, I will do it myself."***

Time and again I heard accounts of direct and indirect repressive and aggressive acts against believers. I was stunned, shocked, and perhaps even angered at the capricious nature of those fighting the expansion of the kingdom in that area of the world.

Yes, this is their reality; and ours too, since Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions has chosen to form a church-planting partnership with the Baptist Union of Central Asia. We must work with them to discover how to live and effectively minister within this context.

I believe we must be principle-driven in our approach to ministry, regardless of the geographical location or local attitudes toward Christianity. These principles must be Bible-based and cross-culturally applicable.

As a result of our concerns with the preceding incidents we have established six principles to guide our efforts.

**1. We should be clear in our focus.**

We are first and foremost a church-planting Mission. It is imperative that we not lose our bearings as we seek new means for entering re-



*Donkey carts (above) and oxcarts are still in use in Uzbekistan. Kids in Central Asia (right) find Americans "interesting." A typical Muslim man (bottom, right) observes the visitors.*

stricted access countries. All we do must be directed toward or related to church planting.

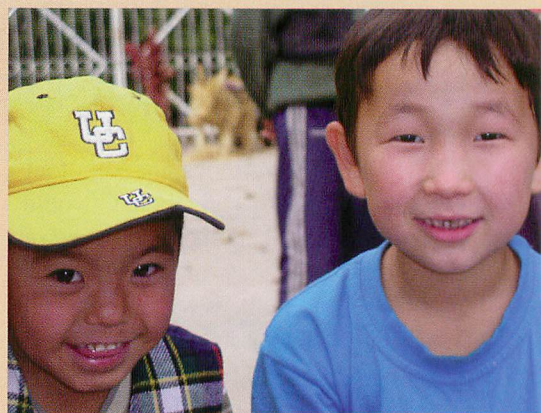
**2. We should be creative in our approach.**

We are exhorted to be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Mt. 10:16). This becomes a functional philosophy when working in restricted areas. Such ministries will call us to broaden our perspectives and go beyond traditional methods of evangelism and church planting.

**3. We should be compassionate in our performance.**

A sound missiology calls for more than abstract theologizing. We must not attempt to announce the Good News in a vacuum. To have validity the gospel must respond to real and felt needs. It must touch people in the context of day-to-day living and make a concrete difference in

*Continued on page 4 →*



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Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editor*

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Don Robirds, *Layout and Design*



# Creative Alternatives Can Overcome Restrictions

—Continued from page 3

their total existence. Most of all, our efforts must be motivated and controlled by our love for God and the people He has placed on this earth.

- 4. We should be cautious in our movement.** We should strive to keep a low profile, but that does not preclude all public or private sharing of one's faith. Being cautious does not mean being paranoid.

Yet, the very designation of an environment as "restricted" would seem to indicate there are some inherent dangers to avoid. Many RACs are hotbeds for terrorist groups. Terrorists often have a total disregard for human life. Therefore, we must be very cautious about what we say, to whom we say it, where we go, with whom we go and many other everyday activities.

Our caution should be guided

by our concern for the well-being of our fellow workers and national converts. Careless disregard for laws relating to religious matters could lead to some oppression or aggression which otherwise might not exist.

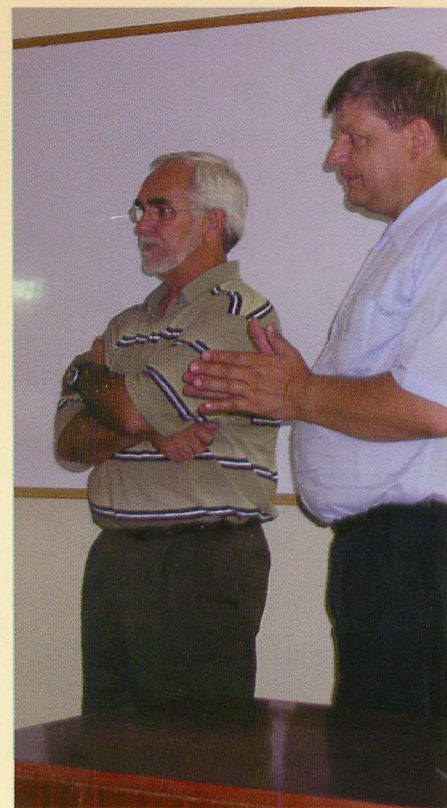
- 5. We should be credible to the populace.** We confidently believe that in Christ the total person can be radically transformed. Therefore we should strive to send, or assist in placing, believers into RACs where the need of physical and spiritual transformation is unquestionable. It is imperative that those ministering in restricted areas fill their designated roles with dignity and professionalism.
- 6. We should be committed to the task.** RACs are no place for the summer soldier and sunshine patriot. Before entering an area of high-level resistance, it is essential for a worker to have already dealt

with the ultimate question, "Am I willing to lay down my life for the cause of Christ?" If any internal hesitation is experienced, it is wise for the candidate never to attempt to go to such an area.

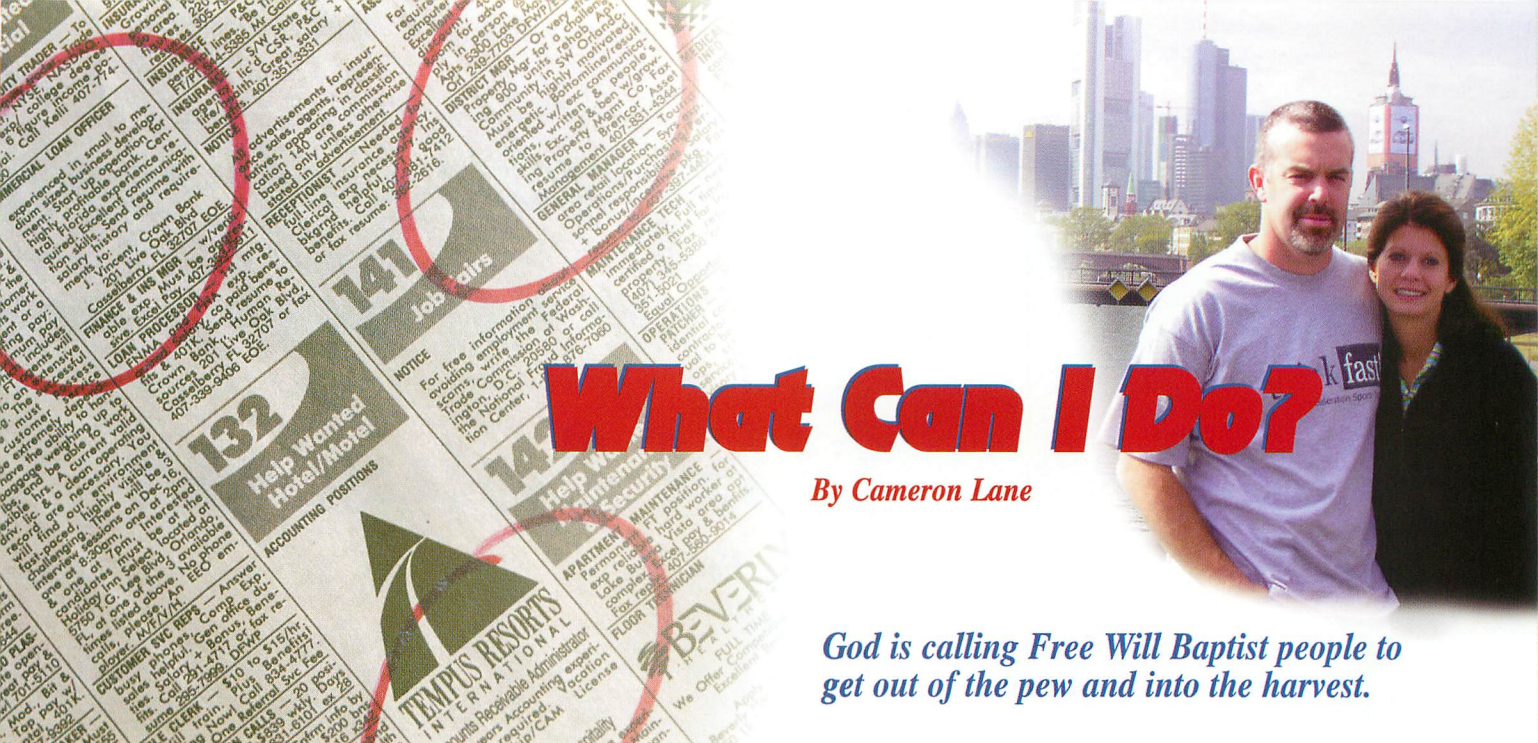
The demands and perils of working in RACs are much greater than could possibly be presented in this article. But, we cannot close our eyes to country after country whose total evangelical population does not register above one one-hundredth of one percent. How can we possibly refuse to give of our resources and of ourselves to reach people with limited or no access to the gospel? We should be more than willing to use each and every Bible-based, culturally relevant means available to fulfill our role in reaching those living in the last frontiers of missions, restricted access countries.

Clint Morgan is currently on special assignment to develop ministries to restricted access countries. He and his wife, Lynette, have served in Côte d'Ivoire since 1976.

*Clint Morgan (below, left) leads a discussion with leaders in Kyrgyzstan regarding a partnership agreement. Cameron Lane (second from left) of Russellville, Ark., and Craig Portell (right end) of Wood River, Ill., observe. Clint addresses the entire group (right photo) of Baptist Union leaders as a national leader translates.*







# What Can I Do?

By Cameron Lane

*God is calling Free Will Baptist people to get out of the pew and into the harvest.*

**M**ost people enjoy their jobs. Practically everyone loves to travel. The majority of people dream about seeing another culture. So, what happens when you put these things together? You get one action-packed adventure on a missions trip.

If you have ever dreamed of participating in a missions trip, the time is now. It is easier than ever to travel, communicate, and traverse cultural barriers.

Availability of work with various ministries and missions is ever growing. Today a person can participate in church planting, teaching, encouraging, equipping, evangelizing, discipling, medical and dental clinics, construction, sports camps and children's camps through the professional volunteer network.

What is a professional volunteer? A professional volunteer is someone who uses his or her God-given skills and talents to further HIS kingdom.

You may wonder, "What can I possibly do on a missions trip?" The answer is "A lot!" Many opportunities to get involved are available.

If you are a medical professional, construction worker, carpenter, lawyer, well driller, artist, musician,

teacher, mother, etc., a place exists for you. If you have a heart to reach the ends of the earth for Christ you can accomplish it through a missions trip.

Free Will Baptists are taking steps to provide diverse opportunities for professional volunteers. Our missionaries around the globe are working out strategies for individuals to use their professional skills to provide occasion for evangelism. Doors are opening in Central Asia to supply many unique opportunities to minister to unevangelized and unreached people groups.

***The key is to use our diverse talents to show people how much we care.***

Free Will Baptists can take missions trips to provide for the physical needs of people and thereby demonstrate the love of Christ. When I was at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., I heard Bob Shockey say, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care!"

The key is to use our diverse talents to show people how much we care. We hope they will see Christ

through our actions and come to a saving knowledge of Him.

I have been able to utilize my skill as a physical therapist on medical missions trips in Honduras. I have journeyed to Guatemala and Colombia to participate in evangelistic campaigns. Furthermore, I traveled on encouragement trips to Russia and Cuba. Add to that seed-planting trips to Canada and Spain and a fact-finding visit to Central Asia. Believe me, people can make these treks and the rewards are innumerable!

God is calling Free Will Baptist people to get out of the pew and into the harvest. My prayer is that the Lord of the harvest will send forth workers into His field. If you have the ability to respond, then you have a responsibility to respond!

I encourage you to contact Foreign Missions to discover how you can be a part of this exciting new movement among Free Will Baptists. E-mail [provol@nafwb.org](mailto:provol@nafwb.org) or telephone Mobilization and Recruitment at 1-877-767-7736.

Cameron Lane is a physical therapist and very active in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Russellville, Ark. He works with the Department of Mobilization and Recruitment in the ProVol Network.



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*Don agreed to accept the position on a temporary basis.*

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# A 32-Year Short Assignment

*By James Forlines,  
general director*

**D**on Robirds has been a fixture among Free Will Baptists for almost four decades. As editor of *HeartBeat* magazine he has produced 262 issues totaling 2,850 pages. Most everyone knows certain things about Don. He is an excellent writer and editor. He has photography, layout and design, and video editing skills. But you may not know some other things about him. Since Don retires from the Mission at the end of 2003, it's time the rest of the story is told.

Don was an all-star baseball player

*Don pauses while preparing a computer graphic file for a publication.*



at Modesto High School in Modesto, Calif., in the 1950s. In fact, he had hopes of playing professional baseball. Don played third base, known as the "hot corner" because a ball gets to third base very quickly off the bat. As director of public relations, Don seems to have always been on the "hot corner." Often his role called for quick decisions.

During his high school years Don walked four miles each way daily to take a graphic arts course at Modesto Junior College. Don has determination and is not easily discouraged. He has not allowed setbacks and obstacles to stand in the way of doing what he thought God wanted done. Very few men I know have faced more personal obstacles, but he has remained undeterred and faithful.

As a young married couple, Don and Carol attended church with Archie and Sarah Mayhew (missionaries to Ivory Coast). Though the church was not particularly missions-minded (one pastor was even anti-missions) both couples ended up on the mission field. Some may ask, "How could that happen? Most churches never have one missionary answer the call." According to Don's testimony, both

couples spent significant amounts of time each week in Bible study. While studying the call of God to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, they determined He meant it and they should be involved in some way, whether their pastor believed it or not.

*When the Mission was looking for a director of communications, Don's first response was "no!"*

When the Robirds went to Brazil in 1964 the original intent was to publish an evangelistic magazine. As would happen often on later projects, money was insufficient, so they had to back up and change their plans. Don helped form a cooperative among 10 mission agencies to publish Sunday school curriculum in Portuguese. He served as president of this cooperative before returning to the States. This flexibility served Don well in his years with the Mission.

When the Mission was looking for a director of communications, Don's first response to General Director Reford Wilson was "no!" He and Carol had moved to Ribeirão Preto





only a year and a half earlier to assist in the church-planting effort there. They were making inroads with professional people. "It was exciting," Don declares. Then he made a trip to the States to enroll his daughter in school. That's when Reford Wilson instructed Don, "Don't say 'no.' At least say you'll pray about it." That approach took Don by surprise, but he did agree to pray about it. He has always been a man who focused on prayer in determining God's will and direction.

Assured the Lord was leading, Don agreed to accept the position on a temporary basis if the Board would allow the family to return to Brazil after a five-year commitment. At the conclusion of the temporary assignment, Carol was facing significant health issues and the family decided to stay. Those five years have now stretched into 32.

***Don Robirds and Shirley Lauthern are the only two who have worked for four general directors.***

Of all the people in the office Don Robirds and Shirley Lauthern are the only two who have worked for four general directors (Reford Wilson, Rolla Smith, Eugene Waddell, and James Forlines). Things have changed



*Clockwise from the top, left, Don edits a manuscript, discusses his retirement with James Forlines and meets with editorial assistant Deborah St. Lawrence and video producer Brian Ellison.*

dramatically over the years. In the early days it took several months to get news from many of our fields. Now, e-mail communication occurs in moments. When Don began editing *HeartBeat* an article would be typed, edited, re-typed, proofread, re-typed, then proofread again and re-typed as many as 10 times. Including pictures in publications (even black and white) was complicated and expensive.

Now everything is done with computers where changes can occur instantaneously. Technology and desktop publishing have made full-color an affordable option.

Filmstrips, overheads, and slides have been replaced by *PowerPoint*. Filming, editing, and producing video in-house was unheard of in the 1970s, but now professional quality video

projects are produced in the public relations department.

Don is a multi-talented man. He has a very rich baritone voice. He also does a pretty good imitation of Donald Duck for kids who visit the office.

In retirement Don is looking forward to spending more time with Carol and perhaps traveling a bit. His commitment to world evangelism, however, will not wane. He hopes also to volunteer some of his time and expertise.

You need to know one more thing about Don's baseball days. His high school team won the championship one year, and Don scored the winning run. That is just like Don today. He always helps the team win. Thank you, Don. You are an inspiration to all of us who know you.



# An Unforgettable Event!

By Don Robirds, editor

**I**mpressive! Not one. Not two. Not three or even four! But eight individuals lined up across the stage at the Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, Tenn. It was December 7 and commis-

sioning time for four missionary couples comprising the "M" Team, a group formed to reach North African Muslims living in France.

The church was packed as family, friends and church members gathered to witness this first team commissioning among Free Will Baptists. It was also the first

time the Mission had ever commissioned that many missionaries at one time.

The story began when Pastor Robert Morgan of the Donelson FWB Church challenged Sean Warren to make a trip to France in April 1999 and do some research on the status of Muslim ministry, etc. On the return flight Sean reflected on what he had experienced and prayed, "Lord, if you want to glorify Yourself in France among Muslims, raise up a team of people to go." Sean didn't realize the Lord had already been working on several hearts.

*"Lord, if you want to glorify Yourself in France among Muslims, raise up a team of people to go."*

The team began to form with unmarried college graduates Micah Derby of Fenton, Mo., and Becky

*Signing their commitment forms are (top to bottom) Sean and Jill Warren, Tim and Di Keener, Micah and Becky Derby and Darren and Dana Portell. Pastor Rob*

*Morgan (behind the pulpit) leads the consecration prayer for the new career missionaries.*

Hale of Milan, Ill., expressing deep interest. In the early stages at least two other couples indicated a desire to be a part of the team. Soon Tim and Di Keener of Ohio became convinced of God's leading to work with the team. While getting acquainted and seeking to build a cohesive unit, Micah and Becky became engaged and married. This made three couples.

Finally, late in the formation period, Darren and Dana Portell of Illinois threw their names in the mix. The Warrens, Derbys and Portells were all members of Donelson at the time of appointment. The Keeners were involved in the Franklin Community Church in Franklin, Tenn.

Since his initial visit to France Sean has returned on four or five other occasions. During the past three years Warren, the team leader, has arranged regular team meetings to develop relationships and determine roles for ministry in France. These roles are expected to be more fully defined after they have some time on the field.

"We do anticipate other Americans coming on board, but I really would love to have a multicultural team including Christians from North Africa, the Middle East and Europe," Sean declared. "We also would like to come alongside our existing French churches to facilitate evangelism of Muslims wherever they are found in France."

Warren's interest in Muslim ministry stems from the years he and Jill spent at Free Will Baptist Bible College and his contact with two Turkish exchange students. Sean's



concern led him to seek a master's degree in Muslim Studies from Columbia International University. Since then he has taught as an adjunct professor at FWBBC and continued his contact with Muslims in the Nashville area.

All members of the team have been to their projected area of ministry, some several times. They are all convinced their target area is a suburb of Paris and agree their goal is to reach North African immigrants from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. The team is committed to planting churches that will equip North African converts to minister to their own people in France and back in their country of origin.

***The commissioning service was a glorious apex after years of preparation and anticipation.***

The commissioning service was a glorious apex after years of preparation and anticipation. The Foreign Missions staff has worked with the group to guide them toward a fruitful ministry in France. The Donelson church has made special efforts to expedite this process and the home churches of individual team members have shown their support for this special ministry. Parents also have prayed for and encouraged their young missionaries.

As Foreign Missions General Director James Forlines delivered the

*Listening to the missionary charge are (back left to right) Jill and Sean Warren, Dana and Darren Portell; and (front) Becky and Micah Derby and Di and Tim Keener.*

charge, each responded positively regarding his or her commitment to serve in accord with the doctrines of Free Will Baptists and the Handbook of Foreign Missions. The congregation expressed determination to stand with the new missionaries and to pray for their ministry.

Pastor Morgan preached the commissioning message relating the life and ministry of Christ to that of these special "sent ones." Using Isaiah 49:1-6, the pastor pointed out seven prophesied characteristics of Christ's missionary ministry. He would be a missionary to the Gentiles; be ordained from his mother's womb; be a messenger; be sent for God's glory; face great discouragement; find strength in God; and know the work was greater than it appeared.

At the conclusion of the service, most of the congregation gathered around the four families and their relatives to lay hands on those being commissioned. Tears flowed as those kneeling and standing rejoiced over this once-in-a-lifetime event they were experiencing. Missionaries, church members,

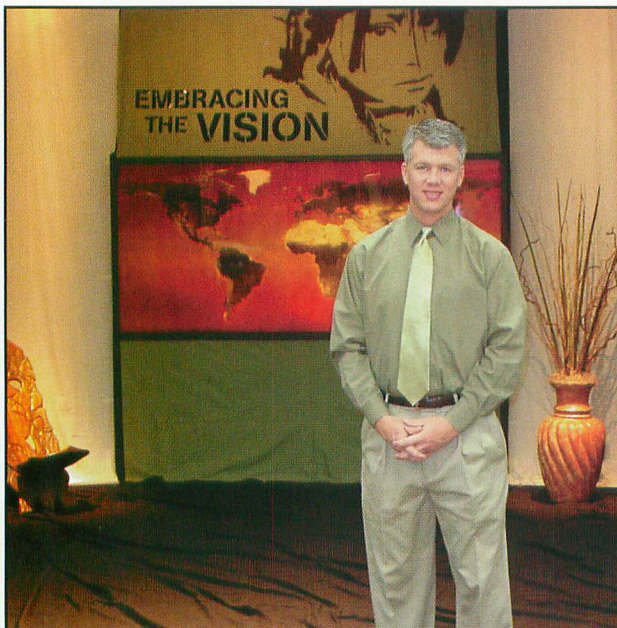
Mission representatives and family members expressed praise to God. He was being honored and glorified. His plan was being fulfilled.

During the reception following the service people huddled in small groups expressing gratitude for such an evening. An evening few of those present will forget. Certainly it was an event worth repeating—over and over again!

*Sean Warren and Rob Morgan (top) talk to children in "Kids' Korner." Below, hands are laid on the "M" Team members.*







The film crew prepares the set (left) for the narration of the *Embracing the Vision IV* video series. Jeff Nichols (right) prepares to narrate the script for the four sessions.

## Embracing the Vision IV Now in Production

The fourth installment of the *Embracing the Vision* video series is now in full production and is expected to be available by March 1, 2004.

According to Don Robirds, director of public relations, *ETV I* laid the foundation of the Biblical basis of missions, *ETV II* showed practical ways churches might participate in world outreach, and *ETV III* provided an opportunity to evaluate our progress and express gratitude for our accomplishments.

*Embracing the Vision IV* focuses on individual involvement, helping individuals find their place in God's plan to reach the world for Christ. Through various examples of God's leading and working in the lives of short-termers, professional volunteers and career missionaries, this presentation seeks to guide people through self-evaluation and commitment to God's will at home or abroad.

Churches may place their order for the new four-part series by

phone (1-877-767-7736), e-mail ([heartbeat@nafwb.org](mailto:heartbeat@nafwb.org)) or Web site ([www.nafwb.org/fm](http://www.nafwb.org/fm)). If a church has not viewed the previous videos, they should be seen first and are available through the same venues.

## 20 People Saved Via Bible Institute Drama

Bobby Poole indicated 20 people made salvation decisions in November following two presentations of a drama by the Bible institute class in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. "The Challenge of the Cross" was presented at the First Free Will Baptist Church on November 9 to over 200 people. At the invitation 13 people accepted Christ as Savior. Seven people were saved following the drama presentation on November 16 at the Marincek church in Ribeirão Preto.

The students traveled to the Second FWB Church of Araras on December 14 to present the drama a third time. Although no one responded to the invitation that evening, several decisions



This drama group from the Bible institute in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, performed three times and 20 people were saved.

were made the following evening in a regular service.

Geneva Poole, who teaches church drama at the Bible institute, directed nine students in these presentations.

## Koreans to Underwrite Chang Personal Support

Korean Free Will Baptists have agreed to take on the responsibility of underwriting Dr. John and Esther Chang's personal support beginning January 1. Dr. Chang pastors the FWB Garden Church for All Nations in Kyonggi do, South Korea, and oversees the Bible institute ministry.

The Mission Point at Kyonggi do serves as a training center for Korean Free Will Baptists. A new program is scheduled to begin in March 2004.

Although no funds for personal budget items will continue, Dr. Chang urges sustained support through his account for the Bible institute training center and outreach in restricted areas of Asia.

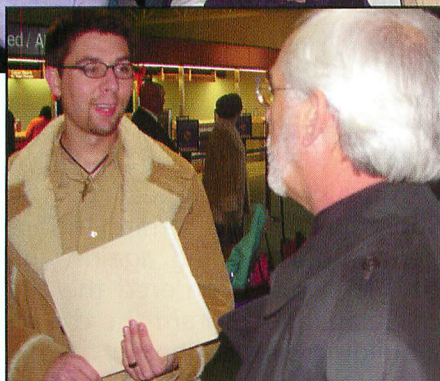
## "M" Team Departs for French Language Study

The eight-member "M" Team departed from Nashville, Tenn., on December 10, 2003, for Albertville, France, where they are to study the French language. Sean and Jill Warren, Micah and





The "M" Team (above) poses in the airport, and Micah Derby (left, facing the camera) talks with Clint Morgan, new regional director for Europe, Russia and Africa, prior to their departure for Albertville, France.



Becky Derby, Tim and Di Keener, and Darren and Dana Portell are the first Free Will Baptist missions team formed stateside for ministry overseas. They are also the first FWB missionaries commissioned with the specific intent of reaching Muslims.

Although some team members had commissioning services individually in their home churches, a joint commissioning service was held on December 7 at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn. (see article on page 8).

The group is to begin language study in January.

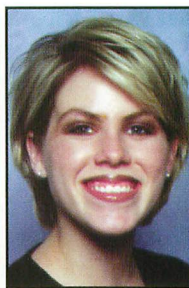
## New Staff Personnel Replace FM Retirees

When Don Robirds, Carole Ragan and Shirley Lauthern announced they intended to retire from service with Foreign Missions, a search for replacements began. Miss Tracy Jennette joined the staff December 17 to train for her duties as executive assistant to the general director and Miss April Bybee assumes the position of stateside development assistant to Doug Little on January 2.

Editorial assistant Deborah St. Lawrence will be editor of *HeartBeat* and print media coordinator with James Forlines acting as interim director of public relations (see article on page 6). Cheri Ham, who has served as computer services technician for several years, will transition to the position of

**RETIRING**—(left to right) Don Robirds, Shirley Lauthern and Carole Ragan have retired after a combined total of 85 years of service in Foreign Missions.

**JOINING THE STAFF**—New members of the Foreign Missions staff are (left to right) Tracy Jennette and April Bybee.



The Alpedrete Community Choir sings during a "Café y Algo Más" program in Alpedrete, Spain.

coordinator of computer media which will involve Web site design and maintenance. Brian Ellison will continue his responsibilities with video media.

Mrs. Ragan left at the end of October after 18 years with the department. Mr. Robirds ended a 32-year stint in the office on December 31 and Mrs. Lauthern is scheduled to close out 35 years as executive assistant at the end of January.

## 80 Attend Alpedrete "Café y Algo Más"

According to Anthony Edgmon in Alpedrete, Spain, 80 people attended "Café y Algo Más" on October 26. This was the first major evangelistic outreach event in Alpedrete. About 30 of those attending were unbelievers.

The Alpedrete Community Choir, which includes Anthony and Lea Edgmon, sang. Esperanza Suarez, a radio announcer, gave a clear presentation of the gospel. The Edgmoms' landlady attended and offered to include a write-up in the local paper she coedits.

As a result of the event one man has begun Bible studies with Anthony and Tim Johnson.





*Debbie Griffin (top left) talks with Judy Smith and her puppet during a Joy Club program in Japan. Judy plays her guitar (left) and sings with the children.*



## One Saved and Two Baptized in Uberlândia

Claudia Silva was saved on November 16. Claudia has been attending church services for some time with her unsaved husband, Valdir, and her five-year-old daughter.

According to Nancy Hughes in Uberlândia, Brazil, Conceição Veiga and Silvia Preciozo were baptized October 26. Conceição is the mother of 16-year-old Rosalene, who was saved in February 2002. Silvia is the mother of Leibane, the first convert of the Second FWB Church of Uberlândia in July 1989.

## Christmas Program at Villalba Well Attended

The Free Will Baptist church in Villalba, Spain, presented their Christmas program on December 21 to a packed house. People took turns sitting in the auditorium and standing in the hallway.

Many unsaved family members and friends attended.

Children acted out the Christmas story, the youth performed a mime and the choir and individuals presented special music.

During the morning service all four of those in the preaching rotation spoke. Jeff Turnbough, Anthony Edgmon, Jhon Fredy and Javier each presented the Christmas message from the perspective of various participants in the birth of Christ.

## Japan "Joy Club" Events Provide New Contacts

Nathan and Linda Snow in Ebetsu-shi, Hokkaido, Japan, reported recently the Miharashidai church has continued its "Joy Club" events begun during the summer as vacation Bible school. Two October programs had new people join the audience.

Almost 50 children and mothers were present to view a movie about Moses. Afterwards, the missionaries were able to tell the viewers the story was true. Just as God delivered the Israelites, He delivers people today.

Judy Smith, former missionary to Japan, provided the program for the next Joy Club. Judy is a skilled musician, ventriloquist and

puppeteer. Debbie Griffin interpreted for Miss Smith.

## Villalba Church Project Hits Another Snag

In December missionary Jeff Turnbough reported another snag relative to the construction of the Villalba church building in Spain. The city of Galapagar has presented an appeal to the Superior Court of Madrid concerning the earlier ruling on the petition of the church.

In April 2002 the city agreed to withdraw their appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the Superior Court's ruling against the city. That ruling ordered the city of Galapagar to grant the church a building permit. The city agreed to grant the church a building permit within two months following an approved architectural update of the ten-year-old building blueprints.

The current action is being brought by the new administration empowered during May 2003 municipal elections.

Jeff urged people to pray that God will "use this for His glory and the greater good of His work here."

## Board Appoints One, Okays Two Short-term

The Board of Foreign Missions met December 10, 2003, in Antioch, Tenn. They interviewed several candidates, approved preliminary applications and acted on proposals.

Shannon Little of Ashland City, Tenn., was appointed to career missionary service in Japan.

Kristen Wilson of Pryor, Okla., was approved for a two-year term as an overseas assistant working with Bobby and Geneva Poole in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.

Patrick McDaniel of Vernon,





Approved in December for overseas service were (left to right) Shannon Little as career missionary to Japan, Kristen Wilson as a two-year overseas assistant in Brazil, and Patrick McDaniel for a 10-month overseas practicum.

Ala., was approved for a practicum of up to 10 months, probably in Russia, to complete requirements for graduation from Free Will Baptist Bible College with a missions major.

Seventy-three teens were ap-

proved for participation in seven E-TEAMS in June and July 2004.

The board adopted the revised Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Handbook and the Home Office Employee Handbook.

A severance/retirement gift

was granted to Don Robirds with commendation for the eight years he and Carol served as missionaries in Brazil and for his 32 years as director of communications, publications and public relations. They noted, "The rising awareness of the needs of an unreached world among our denomination is due largely to his sacrificial work."

A severance/retirement gift was granted to Shirley Lauthern with commendation for 35 years as administrative assistant to the general director. Board members declared, "Though she has never visited a mission field, few have had such a positive impact on each missionary."

The board endorsed two proposals by the director of stateside development: a Global Outreach

# Blessed for the Nations

—Psalm 67:7

**Bless the Nations this year by partnering with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions to . . .**

- Develop a Global Outreach Church Network
- Prepare new missionaries
- Explore new projects and fields
- Develop the ministries to restricted access countries

*"Pastors, we are looking for 250 churches to field-test and evaluate a 'Resource Kit' for World Missions Sunday. Order your free sample resource kit today!"*

—Doug Little, director of stateside development

Order your World Missions Sunday Resource Kit from  
FOREIGN MISSIONS: Call 1-877-767-7736 or see [www.nafwb.org/fm](http://www.nafwb.org/fm)



## World Missions Sunday is April 25, 2004

World Missions Offering Goal: \$250,000





# NEWS IN REVIEW

Church Network and an Ambassador Corps. These will be developed during 2004.

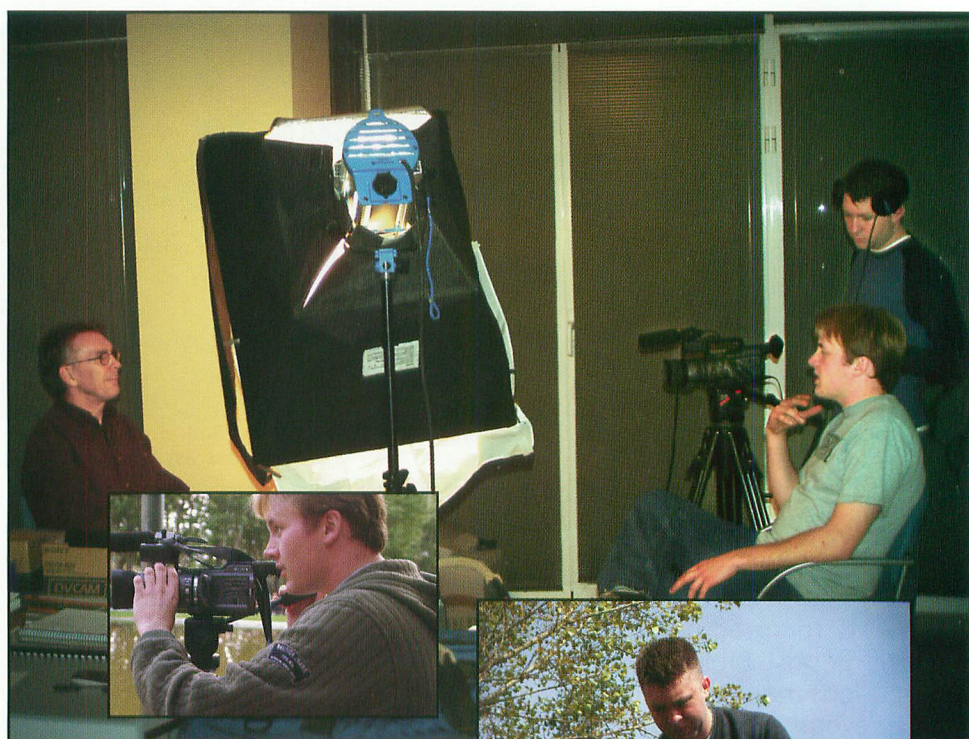
A special "promissory note" program through the Free Will Baptist Foundation was adopted for the purchase of the Miha-rashidai church property in Japan.

The annual foreign missions retreat was rescheduled for July 16 and 17 just prior to the National Association in Kansas City.

## Ellison, Cowart Gather Video Footage in Europe

Brian Ellison, video producer, and Mark Cowart, former video producer for Foreign Missions, traveled to Europe in October and November to videotape ministries and gather interviews for the new *Embracing the Vision IV* series scheduled for release March 1.

Brian went to France on October 15 and filmed missionary Jerry Gibbs and his family as well as



*Missionary Sam McVay (left) in Spain sits before the camera as Brian Ellison (seated) and Mark Cowart interview him for the production of Embracing the Vision IV. Brian (inset) films an outdoor scene, and Mark Cowart (right) prepares to shoot a scene in Spain from a lofty perspective.*



## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in October and November 2003:

### Donor

Arlis Jacobs  
Mullins, S.C.

Tim and Kristi Johnson  
Antioch, Tenn.

FWB Home Missions  
Antioch, Tenn.

Bobbie Gibbs  
Pittsboro, N.C.

### Donor

First FWB Church  
Dickson, Tenn.

Clarence and Billie Johnson, Sr.  
Knightdale, N.C.

### In Memory of

Bill Jacobs

Aline Johnson

W. C. Combs

Lleeda Abbott

### In Honor of

Madison Ainzlee Graybill  
Kaylee Elizabeth Hayes  
Brandon Matthew Miles  
Drew Caleb Rymmer  
Kolby Evan Wright

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 \_\_\_\_\_

part of the ministry in France. He left France on November 1 to meet Cowart in Spain where they spent time with the missionaries, interviewed the Doug Chamberlins and gathered footage of their work. The two videographers returned to the United States on November 15.

## News Capsules

**Sophia, W. Va.**—William Cecil Combs, father of missionary Jim Combs in Brazil, died Friday, November 14, 2003, at his home in Sophia, W.Va. The 91-year-old preacher had suffered much over the preceding months due to cancer throughout his body. Services were held at the Sophia Free Will Baptist Church on November 18.

**Uruguay**—Jaimie Lancaster re-

ported good attendance for the Christmas programs in both the Emanuel and Nueva Vida Free Will Baptist churches in Montevideo, Uruguay. The churches presented the same program, so they did not have crossover attendance, but the Nueva Vida church still had standing room only.

**France**—In a recent phone call missionary Becky Riggs in Nantes, France, said the *Jesus* film was shown in the Nantes church on





Pictured is part of the congregation which gathered to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. This is the first Free Will Baptist church established in Brazil.

December 9. Fifteen people who never had been in an evangelical church attended the showing. Each had been invited by a church member and received a follow-up booklet.

**Brazil**—Bobby Poole indicated over 450 people attended the Christmas program at the First FWB Church of Ribeirão Preto on December 14.

**Brazil**—The First FWB Church in Araras, São Paulo, Brazil, presented their Christmas cantata on December 21 with over 280 people attending. The church, pastored by Elizeu Cantelmo, has a regular attendance of about 110.

**Spain**—Josh and Christi Smith are to depart from Nashville, Tenn., on January 6 for a two-year assignment in Spain.

**Uruguay**—Molly Barker returned to her ministry in Uruguay on December 6 after a two-month stateside assignment.

**India**—Carlisle Hanna returned to India on October 25 after a short stateside assignment. He arrived

*Josh and Christi Smith are to leave Nashville, Tenn., on January 6 for Spain.*



in time for a meeting of church leaders on the Sonapurhat compound October 30-November 3.

**Brazil**—Bobby and Sue Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, said nine people were saved in October. Three made decisions for Christ in Lafayette and six were saved in the Carandai work. Brazilians studying at the Bible institute in Barbacena are leading these congregations.

**Uruguay**—Tammy Lancaster has initiated an after-school Bible club in Montevideo, Uruguay. Three boys are presently attending. One boy accepted Christ in November.

## Eagletons Visit Brazil Missionaries, Churches

Missionaries Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton visited Brazil during the Christmas break from their studies at Columbia International University in Columbia, S.C. The couple officially transferred from Ivory Coast to Brazil in April of 2003. They left for Brazil on December 15 to tour Free Will Baptist works and meet with missionaries to better define their future ministry.

The Eagletons attended the 45th anniversary of the first work of Free Will Baptists in that country—the First FWB Church in Campinas, São Paulo—on December 28. Maria Lira Feitosa, a Bible

institute missions student, presented the history of the Campinas church to a full house. Lucas Lima is the pastor.

The church also honored two missionary couples for their many years of labor in Brazil—Bobby and Geneva Poole (43 years) and Jim and Shirley Combs (39 years).

The Eagletons are to return to the States on January 13.

## FINANCIAL BEAT

### Through November 2003

Income for October .....	\$ 554,247.97
Income for November .....	605,220.61
Income through November .....	5,411,555.44
Total expenses through November .....	5,217,103.86
Total 2003 Budget (including VISION projects) .....	\$12,362,657.85

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey, K. ....	\$ 6,506.24	Teague .....	\$ 4,113.03
Callaway .....	6,938.47	Vandivort .....	3,318.60
Griffin .....	8,424.21	West .....	10,942.54
Hanna .....	5,160.35	India Bible Institute .....	29,599.80
McVay .....	243.03	Support Services .....	384,264.35
Sturgill .....	7,476.04		

These accounts are in need of support:

Bryan .....	\$ 83.59	Turnbough .....	\$ 882.34
Riggs .....	1,391.77	Wendlandt .....	118.53

## STATES IN ACTION

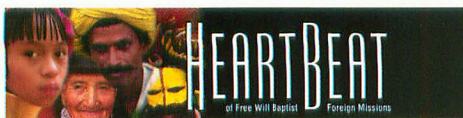
States/Source	Gifts in Nov. 2003	Gifts thru Nov. 2002	Gifts thru Nov. 2003
Alabama .....	\$ 21,549.03	\$ 298,334.10	\$ 331,296.17
Arizona .....	347.14	5,416.10	7,213.80
Arkansas .....	51,789.26	456,997.03	440,307.83
California .....	3,900.16	58,899.05	64,867.33
Canada .....	270.02	3,484.01	4,250.48
Colorado .....	240.54	2,345.28	3,220.02
Florida .....	17,652.33	150,572.78	153,293.53
Georgia .....	29,546.52	177,391.87	240,057.39
Hawaii .....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Idaho .....	312.82	2,189.32	2,925.29
Illinois .....	18,212.64	162,916.28	197,101.69
Indiana .....	3,466.44	54,217.73	59,118.26
Iowa .....	400.00	720.44	1,218.22
Kansas .....	50.00	1,368.60	1,009.77
Kentucky .....	9,584.03	79,703.68	81,735.06
Louisiana .....	0.00	2,040.00	2,312.50
Maryland .....	1,599.22	57,690.36	51,348.40
Michigan .....	16,518.71	146,261.61	189,048.23
Mississippi .....	7,516.44	79,218.06	76,984.02
Missouri .....	58,657.31	434,761.16	469,353.49
Montana .....	275.00	2,250.00	2,375.00
Nebraska .....	0.00	2,500.00	1,500.00
New Mexico .....	203.08	1,857.44	1,474.90
North Carolina .....	38,513.10	716,603.35	657,130.00
*Northeast Assn .....	0.00	2,740.00	1,449.75
**Northwest Assn .....	28.00	2,869.13	87,425.72
Ohio .....	17,653.70	140,508.96	164,886.05
Oklahoma .....	43,221.33	395,070.13	428,208.42
Pennsylvania .....	60.00	2,258.70	3,366.00
South Carolina .....	43,280.83	321,317.01	362,936.48
Tennessee .....	183,465.00	752,613.10	790,140.35
Texas .....	5,291.95	56,520.55	62,171.34
Virgin Islands .....	0.00	1,780.00	1,250.00
Virginia .....	3,344.17	68,088.77	57,824.45
West Virginia .....	10,299.74	119,830.62	145,348.18
WNAC .....	11,895.95	153,305.59	148,185.98
FWB Foundation .....	0.00	0.00	30,547.37
Miscellaneous .....	1,524.17	7,487.10	19,914.70
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>\$ 600,668.63</b>	<b>\$ 4,922,127.91</b>	<b>\$ 5,342,796.17</b>

\*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; Steve Lytle, director of field operations; Robert Conley, director of financial operations; Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment; Dr. Neil Gilliland, director of member care.

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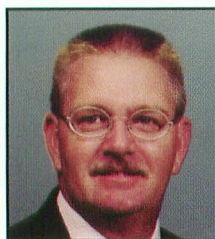


## Lytle's Lines

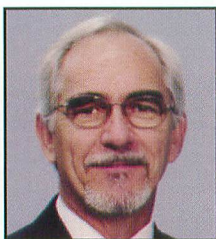
By Steve Lytle, Director of Field Operations

### Changes and Challenges

Our world and our very lives are characterized by change. While many do not welcome change, it is inevitable. Change often brings challenges that stretch us and force us to react and, hopefully, be proactive and creative. One such change in the structure of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions has been the appointment by the Board of Foreign Missions of three regional directors.



Stan Bunch



Clint Morgan



Dale Bishop

Stan Bunch will be the regional director for Central and South America (Uruguay, Brazil, Panama and Cuba). Clint Morgan will serve as RD for Europe, Russia and Africa (France, Spain, Russia and Cote d'Ivoire). Dale Bishop will be the regional director for Asia (Japan and Korea as well as liaison with FWB personnel working under English Language Institute).

**These men will begin their duties on January 1, 2004.** This is a big step for us—a huge change—but we are excited and welcome the challenge! God has been grooming Stan, Clint and Dale for this role for years. All three men have been successfully involved in church planting and leadership development on their fields of service. All three have the respect and confidence of missionary colleagues and of the Mission.

The regional directors will work very closely with me as director of field operations, giving oversight to the region for which they are responsible. At the same time they will remain involved in actual hands-on field ministry in their country of service. They are assuming more responsibility, not less.

Each regional director will visit every field in his region yearly and have a face-to-face meeting with every missionary. He will provide direction, counsel and encouragement to our missionaries in much closer proximity

than those of us here in the home office.

### A Three-Fold Purpose

The recommendation for this change came after much prayer, planning and preparation by the administrative staff. We offered three reasons for this change: **① Leadership closer to the field** can cast a vision and incite a passion for greater outreach. **② Cohesion** can be developed to increase pursuit of goals and task accomplishment. **③ Accountability** can be established to assure better functioning individuals and teams.

The staff and board firmly believe the change to regional directors will improve what we're doing as a Mission to plant churches, disciple believers, develop leadership and facilitate a greater movement of the gospel in the countries where our Mission works.

I ask each of you to pray for the regional directors and for all our missionaries during this time of transition. I believe it will result in our collectively working as hard, if not harder than ever before. Additionally, we should also work "smarter" and with better coordination, measurement and effectiveness. Sometimes change can be a good thing, in spite of the challenges. I believe this is one of those times.

*Steve Lytle*