



HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

MARCH
APRIL
2004

Showing God at work around the world



**Short-term
Assignment . . .**



Long-term Benefit
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Short-term Assignment . . . Long-term Benefit

A missionary's view of short-term missions

By Ruth McDonald

“We’re sending the Cross Timbers team back to Nashville, Tenn., tomorrow. We’ve had a great two weeks with them and will really miss them. . . . We’re a bit tired from the busy pace we kept while they were with us, but all in all we feel better than before they arrived” (Journal entry, June 2003).

Each time a career missionary host says goodbye to a short-term group at the airport, he goes home tired. Still, most always he will invite another group and welcome them with open arms. Why? Because they are a tremendous blessing to the work of world evangelism if they come prepared to give, serve and learn.

Short-termers come in all sizes, shapes, ages and abilities. They arrive for varying lengths of service and a variety of tasks. However, they have one thing in common. God uses them to reach the lost, encourage missionaries and national Christians, revitalize their home churches, and change lives—even their own.

Japan Free Will Baptists have hosted hundreds of short-term workers during the past decades. Their service has ranged from one week to two years. Workers have provided child care and nursing; ministered

through music, mime, “magic” and puppets; taught school; held English classes and sports camps; used building skills; and counseled, preached and encouraged. As career missionaries, we have been privileged to host them and see the impact their contributions make on our adopted home.

Impact on the Unsaved

Almost every short-term worker arrives expecting to make a difference in the lives of the unsaved. Sometimes the difference is immediate and obvious, but more often it is not. Yet, we who continue to serve on the field observe the cumulative benefits.

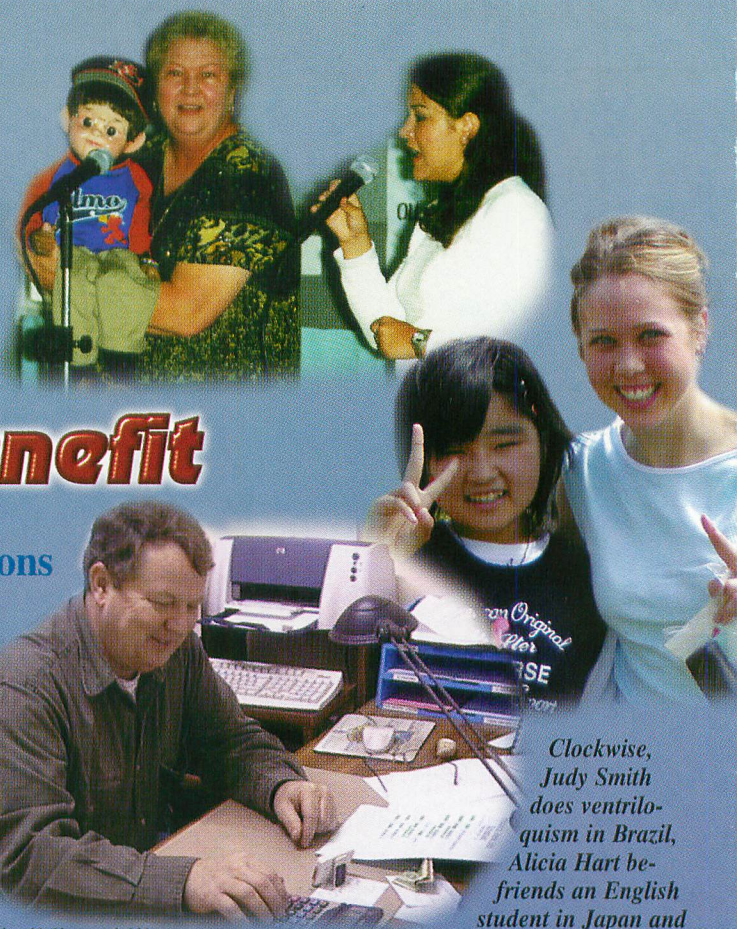
“Short-term groups typically draw a large crowd of Japanese teenagers and young adults desiring to ‘hang out’ with Americans.”

Short-term missionary Alicia Hart shared her thoughts: “The greatest

benefit of the ‘very short-term’ groups is their ability to quickly provide contacts. These groups typically draw a large crowd of Japanese teenagers and young adults desiring to ‘hang out’ with Americans and attend high-energy, exciting events. They help missionaries make contacts for future activities.”

The World Cup 2002 team visited Hokkaido and widely scattered the seed of the gospel through mime and Christian literature distribution. Likewise, E-TEAMS have drawn crowds to youth nights at the local church. Through neighborhood carnivals they have placed literature and Bibles into the hands of hundreds of children.

After the “very short-term” groups have gone, those who remain on the field continue to follow up contacts, befriend those who respond, and share the gospel in an ongoing, more



Clockwise, Judy Smith does ventriloquism in Brazil, Alicia Hart befriends an English student in Japan and Doug Chamberlin does accounting at a Christian academy in Spain.



An E-TEAM member helps a miniature golfer during a church carnival in Japan.

thorough way.

An unsaved family is studying the Bible on Sunday afternoons at the Good News Chapel. Their first contact with the church was during the visit of E-TEAM Tokyo 2003. A faithful member of the Free Will Baptist church in Bihoro, Hokkaido, was saved through the tract distribution of a summer apprentice. A young girl who recently made a decision for Christ in Ebetsu, Hokkaido, was first challenged by an E-TEAM visit to her high school. Many others are "in process" through the efforts of short-termers.

Praying on site with friends from the States can be a healing balm to the heart of the missionary.

Obviously, the longer workers stay, the more effective their witness. As opposed to the "very short" ministry, one- to two-year servants are able to befriend their neighbors and students more meaningfully. They receive a realistic view of life on the mission field and form relationships



Students in training for short-term ministry abroad seek to build a bridge as a lesson on co-operation and teamwork.

that make a lasting difference in individual lives. As a vital part of the church-planting effort, they are assigned specific tasks which are given top priority.

Impact on National Christians and Career Missionaries

If a short-termer comes well prepared and trained, he knows one of his main opportunities may be the ministry of encouragement to those already on the field. Missionaries get discouraged. Missionary kids struggle with temptation, doubt and identity crises. National Christians face unbelievable trials and testing. Eternity will reveal the "shot in the arm" these ministry groups have given.

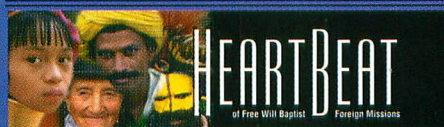
Praying on site with friends from the States can be a healing balm to the heart of the missionary. The opportunity to see through the eyes of visitors can renew the career mission-

aries' vision. Godly young people with hearts truly on fire for the Lord can be wonderful role models for MKs to follow. The testimonies of American Christians, even heard through translation, can encourage national believers.

Testimonies before departure for home almost always include major shifts in thinking.

One Japanese Christian spoke concerning the Cross Timbers team: "I feel our church has been revived and re-energized through the team's ministry." A Christian lady who invited them to her tea ceremony class said, "I was so excited to have them come. I was able to use their visit as a chance to witness to my students!"

Continued on page 4 →



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Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editor*

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Don Robirds, *Layout and Design*



Professor Leroy Forlines (top) teaches a theology class in Chelyabinsk, Russia, as a translator interprets. An E-TEAM member (bottom) paints the hand of a little girl during a church-sponsored event in Sapporo, Japan.

Short-term Assignment . . . Long-term Benefit

—Continued from page 3

Yet another believer described their Sunday morning ministry of testimonies and singing as “very healing for me . . . as they gave their testimonies, I felt my heart begin to melt and forgiveness begin to take place.”

Impact on Short-termers

Of the 10 career missionaries ministering in Japan, seven first served as short-termers. Currently, we are looking forward to the arrival of Shannon Little. During her two-year term as a

school nurse at an international school in Hokkaido, she felt led to change professions entirely and join the career missionary staff!

Whether or not the short-term worker feels a call into career service, few go home unchanged by the experience. Testimonies before departure for home almost always include major shifts in thinking and fresh spiritual insights gained. As participants see a baby dedicated at a Shinto shrine, stay in the home of an unsaved Japanese family, worship with

a small but fervent group of Japanese Christians, and pray on site, their lives are impacted. When they sing words such as “Shine, Jesus, Shine! Fill THIS land [Japan!] with the Father’s glory. Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light,” they are burdened for those in sin’s darkness.

Those who come with seeking hearts go home with changed world-views.

Impact on Home Churches

Each volunteer comes from a home church, a family, and a group of supporters. He or she will touch the lives of many people inaccessible to a career missionary. Churches pray more urgently when their high schooler, college student or retiree is on a mission field. Congregations diligently pray for a pastor ministering to missionaries overseas.

Of the 10 career missionaries ministering in Japan, seven first served as short-termers.

Sending one of their own brings the mission field several steps closer to home.

A short-term missions trip is not about seeing the world on someone else’s expense account. It is not about sightseeing, shopping, fun and adventure. It is about changing the world for Christ—one person at a time, one tract at a time, one short-termer at a time.

The short-term program has been greatly used by the Lord to enhance and accelerate missionaries’ ministries. Yes, it requires a lot of work, money, time and personnel. But have no doubt—short-termers are definitely worth the effort!

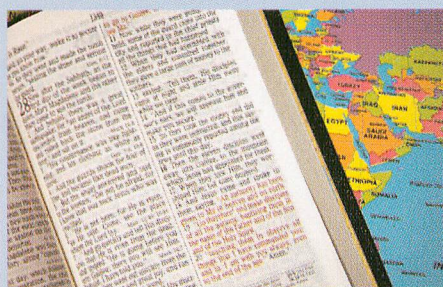
Ruth McDonald and her husband, Donnie, have served in Japan since 1984. They are currently working in a suburb of Tokyo.

Simple Steps to Successful Short-term Missions Trips

By Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment

STEP 1

Start with the Bible



Spiritual success depends on a firm biblical foundation. Preparation for effective ministry needs to be based on the scriptural mandate for reaching the lost around the world. Focused preaching, teaching the biblical basis of missions and studying God's historical use of His people to evangelize the lost can help achieve spiritual preparation.

STEP 2

Confirm Motivation

Missions trips are quite the fad in our affluent Western culture. Reasonably priced tickets for international travel may be purchased on numerous Web sites. Avoid making a missions trip an overseas vacation at the expense of brothers and sisters in Christ. Proper motivation reflects a desire to glorify God in obedient service and help career missionaries advance the gospel. It also should pro-

vide a learning and enrichment experience for the visitor.

STEP 3

Train Leadership

Successful missions trips include much more than asking who wants to go, setting a time and place, and boarding a plane. We at Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions have dis-



A group studies during a training session.

covered the necessity of trained leadership to select, train and direct a well-prepared team. Many excellent books deal with short-term missions preparation. But we recommend that groups which desire to do missions trips contact us for information on a training program done by Culture Link. This organization presents four seminars annually, training up to 54 individuals in each session. We have hosted the seminar three consecutive years in Nashville, Tenn., with another planned for January 2005.

Contact us (angela@nafwb.org) for information about upcoming seminars.

STEP 4

Start Close/Work Outward

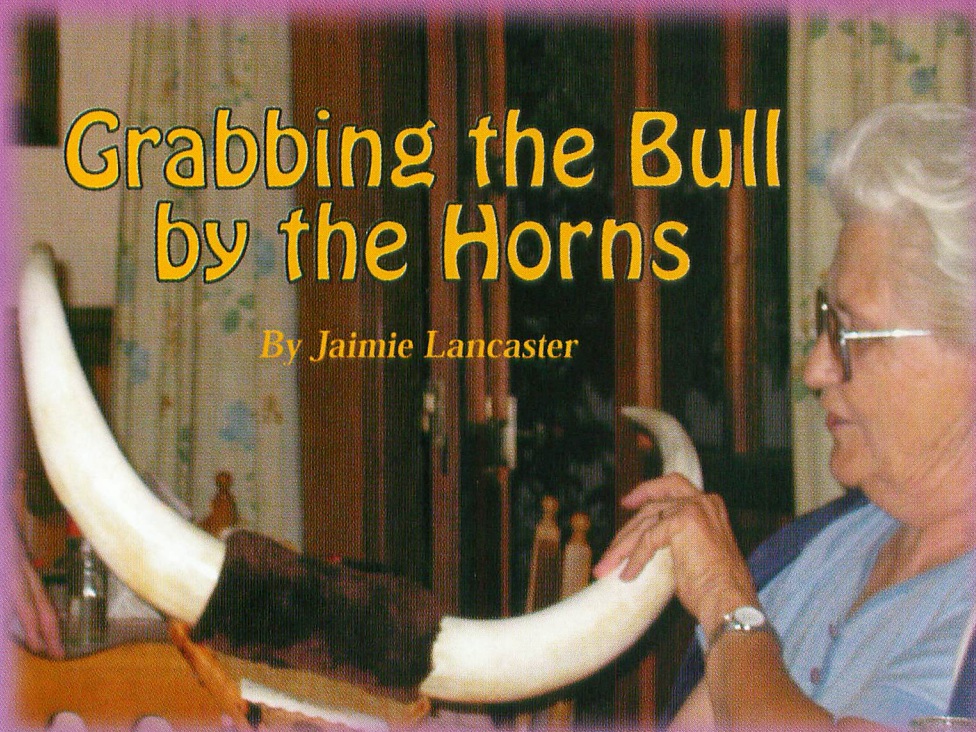
A successful trip need not be distant. Following the guidelines of Culture Link, initial efforts should be near home. A one- or two-day project with a nearby sister church or compassionate ministry can be an enriching and fulfilling experience. It can provide a practical proving ground for evaluating the aptitude and attitude of those wishing to travel to more distant destinations while accomplishing valuable work nearby. We encourage you to network with home missionaries and plan a trip across the country or across a near border. Consult with foreign missionaries and our Foreign Missions office to determine where and how to make a successful overseas missions trip. Opportunities abound and great good will come from short-term trips properly planned and executed.

Volunteers work on cleaning a drain pipe.



Grabbing the Bull by the Horns

By Jaimie Lancaster



And Jesus said unto him, 'No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God'" (Luke 9:62).

How do you say "thank you" to a missionary for 40 years of service? The beautiful amethyst necklace wrapped and ready for presentation seemed like a good start, but something was still lacking. These were my thoughts as I walked along the street in Montevideo, Uruguay. Then I spied the perfect gift in a store window—a large set of cow horns! I bought them and the "Grabbing the Bull by the Horns" award was born.

The award recipient was missionary Molly Barker, or as she is known in Uruguay, Señorita Molly. Forty years ago Miss Molly accepted the challenge put to her by Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. She arrived in Uruguay a year later, grabbed ministry by the horns and has not let go.

Molly is blessed with an inexhaustible supply of energy. On a typical visit to Montevideo she endures a six-hour bus ride, arriving early in the

morning; visits missionary homes, a Christian bookstore, and the bank; then rides another six hours home.

Summer is Miss Molly's busiest time. She plans, prepares materials and conducts several daily vacation Bible schools. She also plans for the annual family camp.

Forty years ago Miss Molly grabbed ministry by the horns and has not let go.

Weekdays are spent working with the people in Rivera and weekends are spent in Melo, assisting the lay pastor. She has an immense love for children and she teaches them wherever she can find space. This is most evident in Melo's small church which has very few Sunday school rooms. Molly teaches the children in a converted tool shed fitted with benches for the children. (The tools are still present with drying fish hanging overhead!)

Uruguayans are not the only ones who are blessed by the presence of

Molly. She is part of our family. When we are sick, she helps nurse us. As we age, she attends birthday parties. When we gather for holidays, she is there. The kids adore her because she loves to play Skip-Bo.

In a time when missionary attrition is a recurring missions theme, Molly Barker remains an example of one who has committed herself to the Lord and is determined to be faithful to the end. She credits her long tenure on the field to the grace of God and the faithfulness of her supporters who pray and give. Many of them have supported her since she served with Home Missions on the Arizona-Mexico border.

Forty years later her ministry is still effective and she is an essential part of our Uruguay missions team. We know she will probably be the ultimate Hall of Fame recipient for the "Grabbing the Bull by the Horns" award. She remains an example of tenacity, grit and self-reliance blanketed with a healthy dependence on God—a combination necessary for missionary work.

The gifts and recognition we bestowed upon Señorita Molly pale in comparison to her future heavenly reward for her faithful service to the Lord and to the country of Uruguay.

Jaimie Lancaster currently serves as field chairman for Uruguay. He and his wife Tammy and sons John William and Jonathan have worked in Montevideo, Uruguay, since 1999.

Molly loves children and teaches them wherever she can find space.



A Servant Heart

By Don Robirds

Missionaries and missionary kids have been her bulletin board “pinups” over the past 35 years. She’s been a “mom” to many missionaries and “Aunt” Shirley to their children. She certainly has been the single most appreciated and contacted person on the Foreign Missions staff.

Shirley Lauthern is a wife, mother of three children and grandmother of eight. Yet, somehow she found time and energy to serve as executive secretary and special assistant to four of the five general directors who have led Foreign Missions for Free Will Baptists. J. Reford Wilson hired her and directors Rolla D. Smith, R. Eugene Waddell and James F. Forlines all benefited from her skills, confidentiality, memory, efficiency and personal care. When out of the office each one felt confident she could handle things adequately until his return.

She was extremely professional, dependable and submissive to those in authority. I have never met anyone who was more efficient yet entirely humble. Sarah Mayhew, former missionary to Ivory Coast, wrote to Shirley: “You are one of the nicest, most gracious ladies it has been my privilege to know.”

Mrs. Lauthern has been a cordial hostess for visitors, a virtual encyclo-

Shirley stands with bosses James Forlines, R. Eugene Waddell and Rolla Smith at a retirement gathering in her honor.



Shirley Lauthern receives a crystal bowl with a globe of the world from James Forlines.

pedia for anyone connected with the Mission and a welcome voice to missionaries calling from overseas.

Though she carried a full workload, Shirley had time to listen to those who expressed a need. Curt and Mary Holland described her as a “blend of Mary and Martha—always willing to listen and yet busy serving others.” She has constantly exemplified a servant’s heart. When missionaries had a need, they knew Shirley would see it was met. Co-workers knew she would make the time and find a way to help them. Invariably, she knew where or how to find needed information.

Curt and Mary Holland described her as a “blend of Mary and Martha.”

No one commands more respect from the missionary family than Shirley. Jeff and Susan Turnbough in Spain expressed it this way: “In addition to being professional, you have always been a model of Christ-like character. Not only have you done your work so well, you did it with such a sweet servant spirit that it had to be Christ shining through.”

Darren and Dana Portell of the France “M” Team wrote, “One of

our most precious memories of the office will always be your smiles and greetings as we came through the door. We will never forget how you love our children and us. From our very first visit you treated our children like they were so valuable.” Jaimie Lancaster in Uruguay shared, “I truly believe that each missionary is special to Shirley and that is the reason everyone loves her.”

As we worked together over the past 32 years I have been amazed. She is always aware of birthdays, special events and individual personal interests. She is committed to the Lord, to her family, to the Mission and to her church.

January 30 marked Shirley Lauthern’s final day on staff with Foreign Missions. I count it an honor to have worked with her and will cherish memories of seeing her face light up when a missionary or an MK walked into the office. I will smile when I recall the times she has done something special for someone, only to say “thank you” as though the recipient had done her a favor.

Perhaps that’s just what happened. Shirley received another opportunity to serve!

Don Robirds retired December 31, 2003, from his post as Director of Public Relations. He served in the home office for 32 years and as a missionary in Brazil for eight years.





When Missionaries Are Displaced

By Steve Lytle,
director of field operations

For many missionaries, leaving the Ivorians behind to an uncertain future was tough.

October 1, 2002, will live forever in the minds of the 22 Free Will Baptist missionaries then assigned to Côte d'Ivoire. After the September 19 siege at the Ivory Coast Academy (ICA) in Bouaké resulted in evacuation, events in the country deteriorated and the field council decided all FWB missionary personnel should leave.

Alice Smith remembers, "There was an almost overwhelming sadness because I knew what civil war could do to my beloved Côte d'Ivoire. I was angry that Satan had finally succeeded in bringing war by sowing hatred, jealousy and a lust for power in the hearts of men."

For many missionaries, leaving the Ivorians behind to an uncertain future and being unable to say goodbye—so important in that culture—was tough. "Seeing the question marks in believers' eyes troubled me," Jerry Pinkerton said. Some missionaries felt they were abandoning their spiritual children. While they could evacuate, the Africans could not.

For Verlin and Debbie Anderson the greater emotional struggles have been experienced stateside. Verlin stated: "The greater adult struggles have been felt here. The thought of not returning has also been challenging to the children."

Our missionaries were totally displaced from the country they had given their lives to serve!

"I was angry that Satan had finally succeeded in bringing war."

Missionaries and directors met on October 21-22 to discuss options. It became clear things were too unsettled for anyone to resume previous ministries. After two days of tears, expressing concern and frustration, prayer and strategizing, it was decided everyone would be on an unplanned six-month stateside assignment as we continued to evaluate conditions in the country.

"I have probably shed more tears this past year than during my entire lifetime," Alice Smith confessed. "I have learned, and continue to learn,

what it means to trust my Heavenly Father." Yes, God teaches amazing, life-changing lessons while waiting on Him.

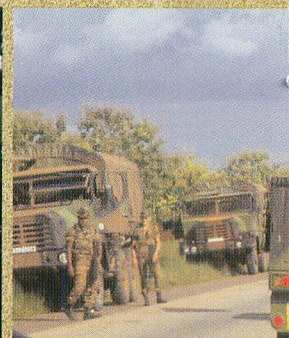
How do you cope if you're a missionary in such a situation? What do you do when your world is turned upside down?

One way to manage is to stay busy. The unanticipated stateside assignment became an opportunity to minister in churches. Missionaries strengthened support and focused attention on a real-life, desperate situation.

It can also be therapeutic for some missionaries to closely monitor events in the country. Others find the close monitoring extremely stressful and prefer to just check occasionally.

Most displaced missionaries try to keep contact with national believers, providing encouragement. Information is also received to better pray for

Students load up to evacuate the campus (left) at International Christian Academy in Côte d'Ivoire as French troops (right) prepare to lead them out of Bouaké.



the country, its people, and the churches.

By April 2003 some improvement and a degree of stabilization had occurred. The Board of Foreign Missions agreed some missionaries could return under controlled conditions. In June of 2003 Jerry and Carol Pinkerton and Robert and Pam West traveled to Abidjan.

The Pinkertons have remained in the country since and have been able to minister under cautionary conditions. The Wests stayed a little less than three months. After making a trip to the rebel-controlled north, they determined they would be unable to remain in Ivory Coast. Conditions were too unstable and erratic for them to live and minister in Kafolo, where they had served previously, and they did not feel their gifts and callings suitable for Abidjan. Health concerns also played a role in their decision.

Mike Cousineau, on stateside assignment but with responsibilities with ICA, returned for several brief visits to the school. He has been able to maintain contact with FWB pastors and churches and more closely monitor events.

Clint and Lynette Morgan wanted to finish Bible institute training for the current group of students. That has not been possible, but they have continued developing a program for Free Will Baptists to enter creative access countries. Shane and Joy

Missionaries (left to right) Robert and Pam West, Darrel Nichols and Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton made decisions that took them out of Ivory Coast to minister in other areas of the world.



Ivory Coast missionaries meet with the Foreign Missions staff to consider their options and seek God's direction for the future.

Davison received final board approval for career service in July of 2003, even though it remains unclear when they will depart.

"Times have been difficult, but Ivorian believers have chosen to dwell upon God's love, protection and care."

Alice Smith remained in West Virginia quietly praying for the country, keeping in contact with Ivorian believers and friends, and trusting the Lord to open doors. Verlin and Debbie Anderson, Alice's teammates in the Community Health Evangelism program, were given permission to aggressively raise needed support, with the understanding events might not permit a quick return.

Prior to the evacuation, Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton had requested a transfer to Brazil. Darrel and Lila

Nichols began to pray about their future ministry with the Mission and requested a transfer to Panama. These couples are in preparation for service on their new fields.

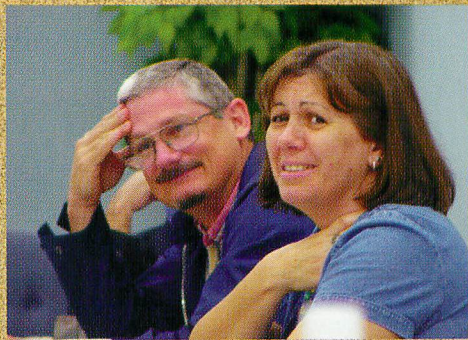
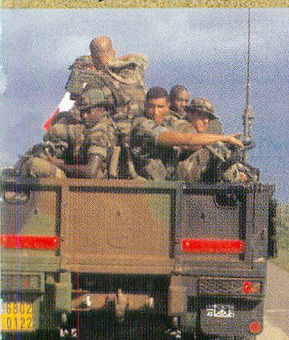
It has been a stressful year for all of these. Everyone has been displaced to some degree.

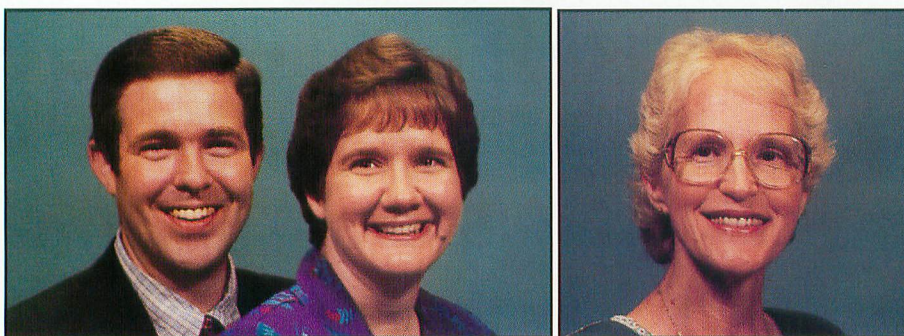
Emotions. Uncertainty. Open or closed field? A new field? Timing.

In spite of the turmoil, God has blessed and the church has gone forward! Carol Pinkerton shared, "I have yet to hear of despair or defeat. Times have been difficult, but Ivorian believers have chosen to dwell upon God's love, protection and care. They are wonderful examples and I praise God for their influence."

Perhaps, as one missionary observed, "This time apart may have been just the thing we needed to see much more fruit."

NOTE: This article was written in November 2002. See page 10 for important ministry updates.





Verlin and Debbie Anderson and Alice Smith will return to Côte d'Ivoire in March.

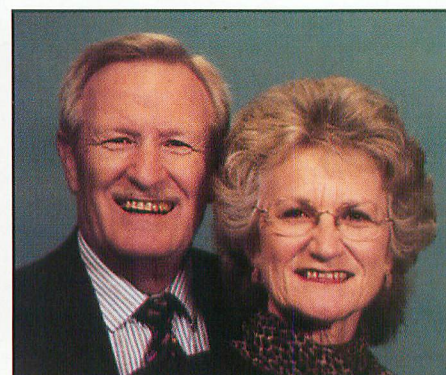
Andersons and A. Smith Return to Côte d'Ivoire

Missionaries Verlin and Debbie Anderson and Alice Smith are scheduled to depart March 24 for Côte d'Ivoire. They will be based in the economic capital of Abidjan for the rest of 2004. Verlin will enroll in a French language refresher course.

Prior to permission being

granted to return to Ivory Coast, Verlin made an exploratory trip in January to the neighboring country of Ghana to determine the potential of temporary ministry there. He also was able to check on personal and Mission belongings and contact some Ivorian believers.

Debbie Anderson had laparoscopic gall bladder surgery on February 27.



Jim and Shirley Combs are retiring and have submitted their resignation.

Combs Home; to Retire/ Resign from Mission

Jim and Shirley Combs, missionaries to Brazil, arrived in Oklahoma January 27 for a three-month stateside assignment. During their time in the States the Combs plan to visit as many churches and individuals who partner in their ministry as possible.

On February 18, Jim and Shirley visited with director of field operations Steve Lytle and other staff members. After 40 years of ministry, they indicated they felt it time to retire/resign from the Mission. "We hope to return to Brazil for continued ministry," wrote Jim, "even though our official status will have changed." The resignation is effective May 31, 2004.

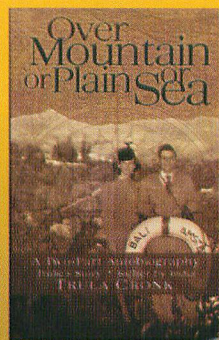
Eagletons Visit Ivorians, Transition to Brazil

Former missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire Dr. Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton traveled from Brazil to Côte d'Ivoire February 17.

The couple visited with Jerry and Carol Pinkerton in Abidjan and then traveled to Bouna and Doropo to say goodbye to Ivorian Christians and friends. They also gathered personal belongings left behind during the 2002 evacuation. They were scheduled to return to Brazil on February 27.

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Prayer Summit 2004 participants discuss world needs, share prayer requests, and pray in small groups.

The Eagletons plan to minister in the church in Belo Horizonte for the next year while Jim and Vicki Sturgill are on stateside assignment.

Response to Prayer Summit 2004 Good

Ninety-five people from 15 states gathered for Prayer Summit 2004 January 16-18 at Garner Creek Retreat Center in Dickson, Tenn. Pastors, laymen, women, college students and seniors gave high marks to the weekend designed to intercede for world evangelization and to equip local churches for a more meaningful prayer ministry.

Dr. LaVerne and Mrs. Lorene Miley challenged attendees with biblical teaching in plenary sessions. Seminars were given by missionaries Mike and Deleen Cousineau (*The Warfare Nature of Prayer*), Pastor Glen Johnson (*How to Have a Prayer Revival*), and staff members Eddie Payne and Doug Little (*The Basis of Prayer Journeying*).

However, according to General Director James Forlines, "The main emphasis was active prayer for our world, our missionaries,

our nation, our churches and ourselves." This was accomplished through a concert of prayer, small group prayer gatherings, virtual prayer journeys to several mission fields, private prayer opportunities and prayer with fasting.

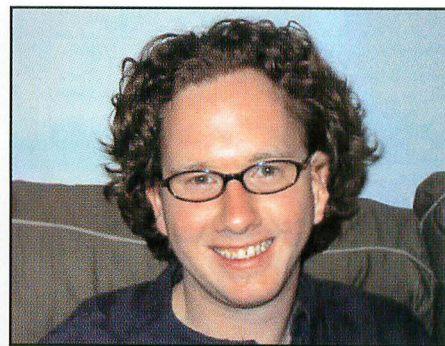
"I've been well reminded that I've *taught* my people to pray, but I haven't *led* my people to pray," one pastor commented. "Quite frankly, I came very discouraged, but I've been refreshed, refocused and redirected."

Due to the favorable response of attendees, Foreign Missions expects to plan regional prayer summits for 2005.

The Hanna Project Board Selects Interim Director

The board of the non-governmental organization (NGO), The Hanna Project, has requested Clint Morgan to serve as interim director through December 2004 or until an administrative director can be found.

The Hanna Project Board is chaired by Steve Lytle, former missionary to Panama and director of field operations for Foreign Missions. Former Côte d'Ivoire missionary Eddie Payne is vice-chair-



Jonathan Bunch, son of Panama missionaries Stan and Brenda Bunch, was chosen as editor of the Journal of Dispute Resolution.

man. Foreign Missions director of financial operations, Rob Conley, serves as secretary-treasurer.

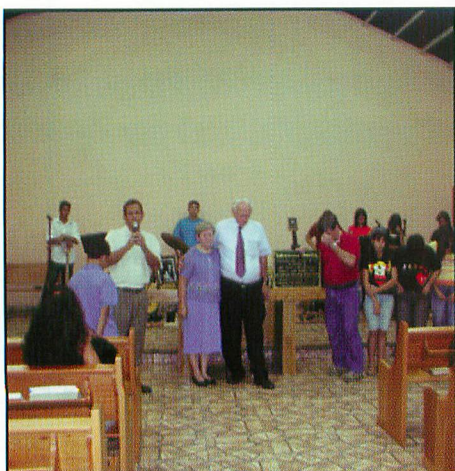
The NGO's board anticipates approval of its tax-exempt application by the Internal Revenue Service in June. Donations are being accepted while awaiting this approval. The Hanna Project will allow workers to minister to the physical needs of people to whom traditional missionaries are denied access. Once felt needs are met, spiritual needs can also be addressed.

The first efforts of the Hanna Project will focus on Central Asia. A construction crew is being assembled to make repairs to a camp in Tajikistan.

MK Chosen as Editor of Legal Journal

Jonathan Bunch, son of Panama missionaries Stan and Brenda Bunch, was notified February 18 of his selection as editor in chief for the 2004-2005 University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law's *Journal of Dispute Resolution*. The student-edited academic journal is recognized as the leading legal publication in the area of alternative dispute resolution.

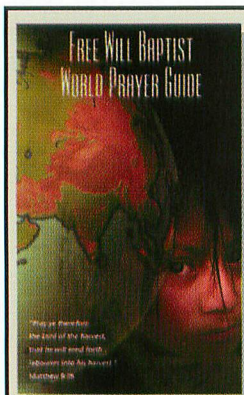
"During the interview process I was asked why I worked so much harder than my fellow students," wrote Jonathan. "I was able to share how Dad used to make me



Missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole and their son, John, (center) bow in the new tabernacle as Pastor Jean Carlo (with microphone) prays during a dedication service for the new building (right) constructed on the camp property in Jaboticabal, Brazil.

dig ditches and paint fences in Panama and Mom always encouraged us kids to do everything for the glory of God. It was nice to have a brief opportunity to explain the driving force in my life."

Jonathan and his wife Amanda live in Columbia, Mo., where he is a second-year law student at UMC and works as a legal intern with the Missouri Attorney General's office.



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Five Saved in Brazil During Annual Retreat

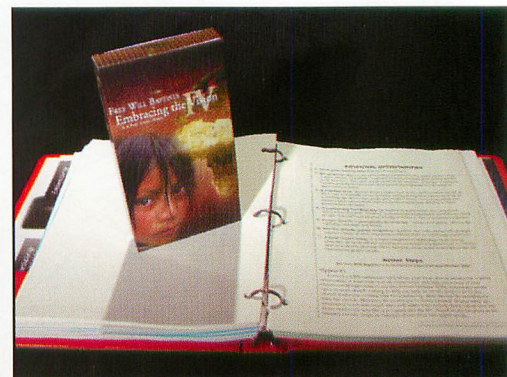
According to Bobby Poole, five people made salvation decisions and several rededicated their lives at the February 21-25 family retreat at Acampamento Jeová Shamá (The Lord is Present) in Jaboticabal, Brazil. The retreat is held annually during Brazil's Carnival.

Four churches in Campinas and Ribeirão Preto brought 140 full-time campers. Another 30 people attended the evening services.

Attendees worshiped in a new tabernacle, built in memory of Bobby and Geneva Poole's parents and their faithful service to the Lord. Construction money was donated by family members of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hicks of Effingham, S.C., and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Poole of Clarksville, Tenn.

Embracing the Vision IV Video Now Available

Embracing the Vision IV, a four-session video production, focuses on individual involvement in sharing the gospel "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."



The *Embracing the Vision IV* video series with accompanying materials is ready to be shipped upon request.

Through various examples of God's leading and working in the lives of short-term overseas servants, professional volunteers and career missionaries, this presentation seeks to guide each individual through self-evaluation and commitment to God's will at home or abroad.

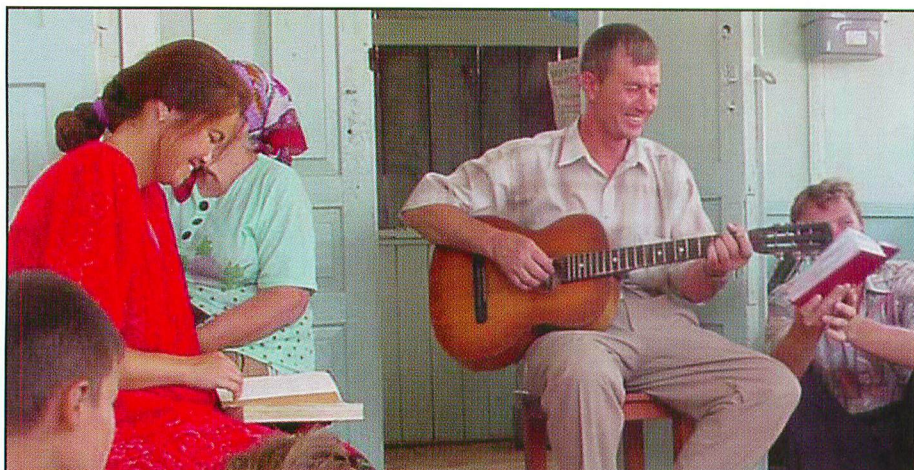
ETV IV is available upon request at no cost. As with the previous *Embracing the Vision* series, Foreign Missions anticipates the response of recipients to include a generous **World Missions Offering** toward mobilization efforts. If a church has not viewed the previous videos, they should be seen first.

Churches may place an order for the new four-part series, or any of the *ETV* videos, by phone (1-877-767-7736), e-mail (heartbeat@nafwb.org) or Web site (www.nafwb.org/fm).

Japan Missionaries Seek English Teachers

According to missionary Linda Snow, English teachers are desperately needed to assist missionaries in Japan.

"Do you know anyone who feels the need to do something different for God?" asks Linda. "Teaching English in Japan will give you a chance to move out of your comfort zone and allow God



Pastor Sergej Besarab, missionary pastor of a small Baptist church in Isfara, Tajikistan, plays the guitar in a service. He was murdered on January 12 in the church building during his private worship time.

to use you in a different culture as a witness for Him."

Those interested may contact Judy Lytle, candidate coordinator (judy@nafwb.org or 1-800-767-7736).

Tajik Pastor Murdered in Church Building

Sergej Besarab, missionary pastor of a small Baptist church in Isfara, Tajikistan, was murdered during his private worship time in the church sanctuary on January 12. Sergej and his wife, Tamara, lived on the church premises with another missionary couple, Rustam and Lena.

A youth meeting concluded at 6 p.m. at the church. Sergej accompanied the young people to their homes and returned to the church. The missionaries had a group devotional time and then Sergej went into the meeting hall for a time of private reflection, as he did daily. Electricity in Isfara is turned off at 9 p.m. each day. Shots were fired into the meeting hall shortly before 9 o'clock. Four bullets entered Sergej's body. Then the shooter emptied the magazine of his automatic weapon into the living quarters of the building and a car outside.

In contrast to the traditional Central Asian funeral, hundreds of people heard the gospel and witnessed a celebration of hope. Government officials were among those attending the memorial services.

News Capsules

Brazil—A total of 25 students have enrolled in the first quarter of the Bible institute program in Barbacena, Brazil.

India—Five states in India have enacted anti-conversion laws intimidating low-caste Hindus from converting to another religion. The laws require potential converts to seek government permission and some laws require a secondary education. A national anti-conversion law is currently on the table.

Brazil—According to Bobby Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, José Carlos Mayrink indicated he feels the Lord has called him to preach. José Carlos has been assisting with the work in Antonio Carlos for some time and Bobby hopes to

Blessed for the Nations

—Psalm 67:7

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- Upgrade our Web site resources

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World Missions Sunday is April 25, 2004

World Missions Offering Goal: \$250,000

NEWS IN REVIEW

gradually give him more responsibility.

India—Pastor David Rajkumar in South India was diagnosed with a "low grade cell sarcoma" and had surgery on February 3. When he returned for radiation and chemotherapy on February 26 he was told it was unnecessary. He and his family praise the Lord for His wonderful work. A special thanksgiving service was planned for February 29 in Bethel FWB Church where David pastors.

Edinburg, Tex.—Missionary to Panama Lila Nichols had a benign fibroid tumor removed on January 28. The Nichols, former missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire, hope to finish language school July 1 and begin ministry in Panama in early August.

Brazil—Four people accepted

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

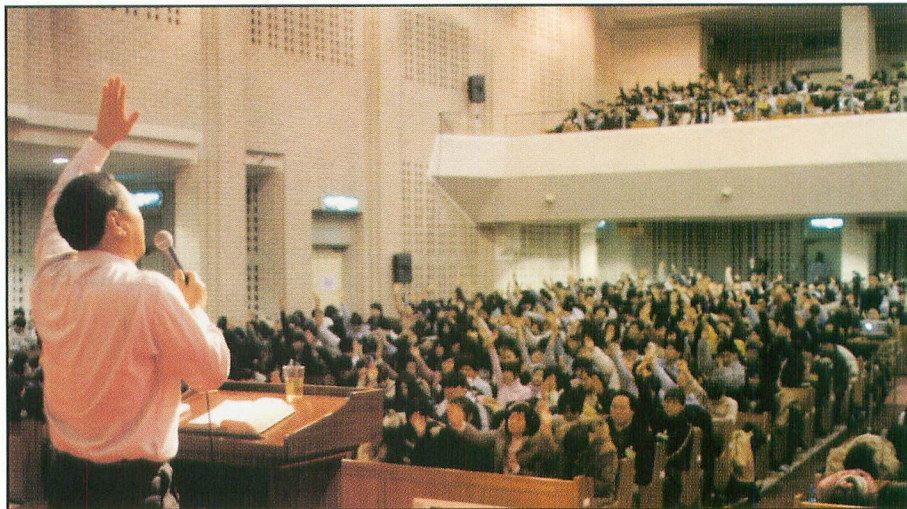
These special gifts were received in December 2003 and January 2004:

Donor	In Memory of
John Moore Wilson, Va.	Terrence Moore
Mrs. Ella Bee Davis Goldsboro, N.C.	LaRue Davis
Jimmy and Janie Aldridge Jasper, Ala.	Marie Guyton Daisy Poston
Jane Dixon Player Lake City, S.C.	Julian Dixon
Mary D. Ruschky Columbia, S.C.	Julian Dixon
Donor	In Honor of
First FWB Church Amory, Miss.	Mr. Jerry Atwell
Mrs. Linda Pinion Union City, Tenn.	Charles Hingst Shirley Lauthern Carole Ragan
Mary Dixon Ruschky Columbia, S.C.	Ellen Dixon

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Dr. John Chang preaches during an interdenominational youth crusade in Korea near the end of January.

Christ as Savior in Uberlândia, Brazil, during January according to Tom Hughes. Making decisions were Valdiney and Arianne, a young couple planning to marry in April; Larissa, an eight-year-old daughter of a faithful church member; and Ariana, a 19-year-old girl who works for Larissa's mother.

Korea—Dr. John Chang, coordinator of Free Will Baptist ministries in South Korea, preached four times in an interdenominational youth crusade at the end of January. Many of the 5,000 young people attending made decisions for salvation or full-time ministries.

Spain—Tim and Kristi Johnson, missionaries to Spain, have moved from the pueblo of Villalba to Alpedrete. Anthony and Lea Edgmon and the Johnsons are working to establish a new church in this pueblo.

Brazil—Jim and Vicki Sturgill, missionaries to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, will arrive for stateside assignment March 16. The Sturgills have worked with the Belo Horizonte church since October 1994.

Japan—Brenda Wendlandt completed her two-year assignment

to Tokyo, Japan, in January and has returned to the States. Brenda used English classes to establish contacts with Japanese students and adults.

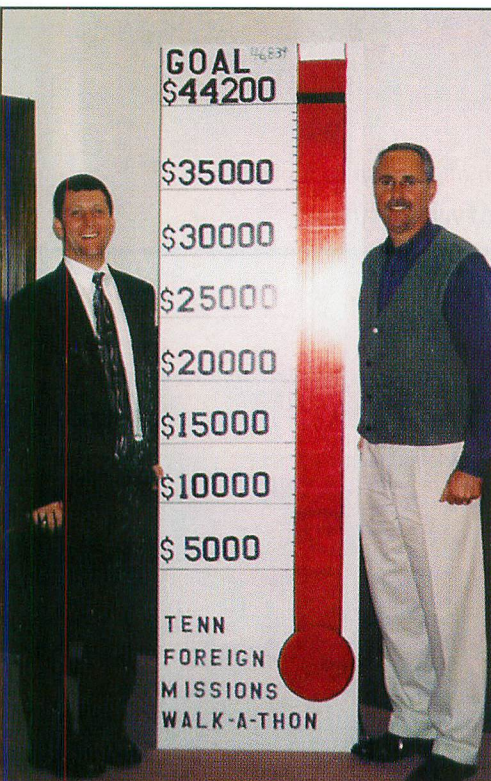
Miharashidai Church Has Concerted Prayer Time

The Miharashidai FWB Church in Ebetsu, Hokkaido, Japan, held a concerted time of prayer simultaneous with the Prayer Summit held in Dickson, Tenn., in January. Nathan Snow said, "One church member testified how as he prayed God began to open his eyes not only to his responsibility to reach his fellow man, but also to his responsibility to keep a pure relationship with God."

Church Raises \$46,839 in Tennessee Walk-a-thon

Limestone Free Will Baptist Church in Limestone, Tenn., recently tallied the receipts for their annual walk-a-thon and came up with an amazing \$46,839, exceeding their \$44,200 goal by \$2,639.

The church has participated in the Tennessee Walk-A-Thon for many years. But in 2002 coordinator Dwight Mitchell conceived the idea of working through the Sun-



Pastor Ronnie Mitchell (left) and Dwight Mitchell, walk-a-thon coordinator, stand by a thermometer demonstrating the walk-a-thon goal of Limestone FWB Church in East Tennessee.

day school. Class goals were set based on individual goals, and these were totaled for a church goal. The 2002 goal of \$36,000 was exceeded by \$831.

"We, as a church, feel supporting missions is not just a duty, but a privilege," stated Pastor Ronnie Mitchell. "The key is getting more walkers involved in setting personal goals and obtaining sponsors. God works through the faithfulness of His people!"

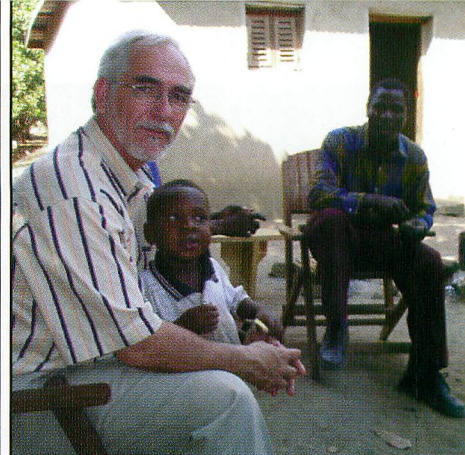
The Tennessee Walk-A-Thon monies are disbursed among all foreign missionaries from Tennessee.

Board Member Lunches with Ivorian Diplomats

Foreign Missions board member and former missionary to Ivory Coast Sherwood Lee was invited to participate in a tour and



Mike Cousineau (left) shares information with villagers in Côte d'Ivoire while there in January. Clint Morgan (right) visits with an Ivorian Christian family.



reception for Madame Simone Ehivet Gbagbo at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, S.C., on February 9. Ivorian Ambassador Pascal Kokora and several personal assistants and bodyguards accompanied Mme. Gbagbo, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire. Following a tour of the hospital a luncheon was served. Mme. Gbagbo asked Pastor Lee to bless the meal in French.

Mme Gbagbo, a member of an evangelical church in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, was visiting friends in the area and added the hospital to her good will tour.

ICA to Resume Class Schedule in Fall of 2004

The school board of International Christian Academy (ICA) in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, met in a special session in Bouaké in January. After considering current conditions, the board voted to resume operation of the school in the fall of 2004.

Missionaries Clint Morgan and Mike Cousineau attended the meeting and were able to visit some of villages and speak with Christians while there.

French troops have occupied the school facilities since the attempted coup, preventing looting and destruction of the property. Though unrest continues in the country, Ivorians appear "tired of war," trade and travel routes are reopening, and things are settling down.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through January 2004

Income for December 2003	\$ 799,155.13
Income through December 2003	6,210,710.57
Total 2003 Budget (including VISION projects) ...	\$ 12,362,657.85
Income for January 2004	\$ 300,068.08
Total expenses through January 2004	581,635.55
Total 2004 Budget (including VISION projects) ...	\$ 15,933,090.83

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey	\$ 7,206.50	Teague	6,033.27
Callaway	11,528.11	Vandivort	3,240.20
Chang	1,083.03	Wendlandt	1,390.51
Griffin	10,656.74	India Bible Inst.	27,899.80
Hanna	10,169.21	+Support Services	424,323.47
Sturgill	11,568.76		

+The April World Missions Offering should help significantly lower this deficit.

These accounts are in need of support:

McVay	\$ 2,019.61	Turnbough, J.	\$ 1,298.08
Riggs	42.03		

STATES IN ACTION

States/Source	2003 Total Giving	Gifts thru Jan. 2003	Gifts thru Jan. 2004
Alabama	\$ 357,446.09	\$ 27,811.59	\$ 31,095.41
Arizona	7,993.30	665.00	325.00
Arkansas	532,099.43	8,821.39	3,801.30
California	69,273.61	4,276.33	5,486.11
Canada	5,058.47	102.80	0.00
Colorado	3,495.16	271.40	320.90
Florida	163,741.36	8,199.46	11,538.70
Georgia	274,698.22	3,852.00	2,765.00
Hawaii	0.00	0.00	0.00
Idaho	3,169.87	200.02	455.76
Illinois	227,186.00	20,352.28	10,343.18
Indiana	66,929.82	4,928.17	1,914.84
Iowa	1,218.22	0.00	800.00
Kansas	1,345.14	49.08	0.00
Kentucky	91,624.17	7,398.71	6,535.87
Louisiana	2,396.45	0.00	100.00
Maryland	57,162.90	9,373.20	7,077.16
Michigan	217,251.19	8,301.36	3,842.36
Mississippi	92,623.19	4,456.45	4,950.52
Missouri	533,147.78	7,336.57	3,874.21
Montana	2,375.00	400.00	350.00
Nebraska	2,000.00	0.00	200.00
New Mexico	1,907.16	0.00	25.00
North Carolina	721,144.83	82,016.83	65,247.54
*Northwest Assn	1,629.75	437.50	0.00
**Northwest Assn	88,565.72	154.00	149.00
Ohio	198,239.53	5,996.60	5,687.00
Oklahoma	506,981.40	9,742.80	18,865.63
Pennsylvania	3,746.00	155.00	180.00
South Carolina	441,983.17	2,821.67	2,225.00
Tennessee	917,690.99	55,671.66	52,868.19
Texas	70,592.33	2,679.50	266.50
Virgin Islands	1,250.00	0.00	200.00
Virginia	65,181.87	8,626.39	11,568.84
West Virginia	158,631.24	6,667.70	10,631.93
WNAC	158,566.87	8,862.73	12,442.58
FWB Foundation	30,547.37	0.00	16,809.55
Miscellaneous	131,816.97	800.00	30.00
Totals	\$6,210,710.57	\$ 299,628.19	\$ 292,973.08

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

**Northwest Association
Alaska, Oregon and Washington

Note: Miscellaneous includes miscellaneous sources, states and interest income.



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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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Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director



Online Dictionary gives the following definition for international:

- 1: of, relating to, or affecting two or more nations (e.g. international trade)
- 2: of, relating to, or constituting a group or association having members in two or more nations (e.g. international movement)

"Foreign" or "International?"

This year at the National Association in Kansas City the delegates will vote on a name change for our Mission. The Board of Foreign Missions has recommended we change our name from **Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions** to **Free Will Baptist International Missions**. In advance of this meeting I would like to share some of the rationale that has gone into this proposal.

"Foreign" Gives Negative Connotation

A primary motivating factor has to do with the negative connotation of the word foreign. Foreign can imply "strangeness" or even "sinfulness" (as used in the King James Version of the Bible). People often use foreign to indicate something is unfavorable or unacceptable (e.g. foreign substance, foreign thought, etc.).

On the other hand, the word international conveys the sense of partnership we are seeking with national Christians. The Merriam-Webster

"International"

Promotes an Understanding

While foreign may imply "my culture is the standard and the rest are different," international admits differences exist between nations without attaching any negatives to any of them. The term international helps promote an understanding that we are interconnected and equal with believers in countries in which we work.

Changing World Missions Landscape

The landscape of world missions is rapidly changing as the Lord, through His Church, is building His Kingdom. Previously, some countries were seen as "sending" countries while others were seen as "mission fields." Many "mission field" churches are recognizing their role in global evangelism and are determining how they can reach the unreached in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth. To them, North Americans



Soon Kyung Kim went to Uzbekistan for a short term under Korean Free Will Baptists.

are the "foreign ones."

The word international more clearly expresses this expanded relationship—a development for which we should thank the Lord.

Joining in Multi-National Teams

Over the next five to 10 years we hope to see Free Will Baptists from many countries joining together in multi-national teams. Who would be considered foreign if a team were composed of individuals from Cuba, Panama, France, Korea, and the United States?

Yes, these are exciting days in world evangelism! We see the Lord working to fulfill His promise that He will build His Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Truly, the work is now international and I suggest the name reflect this reality.

James Forlines