

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist

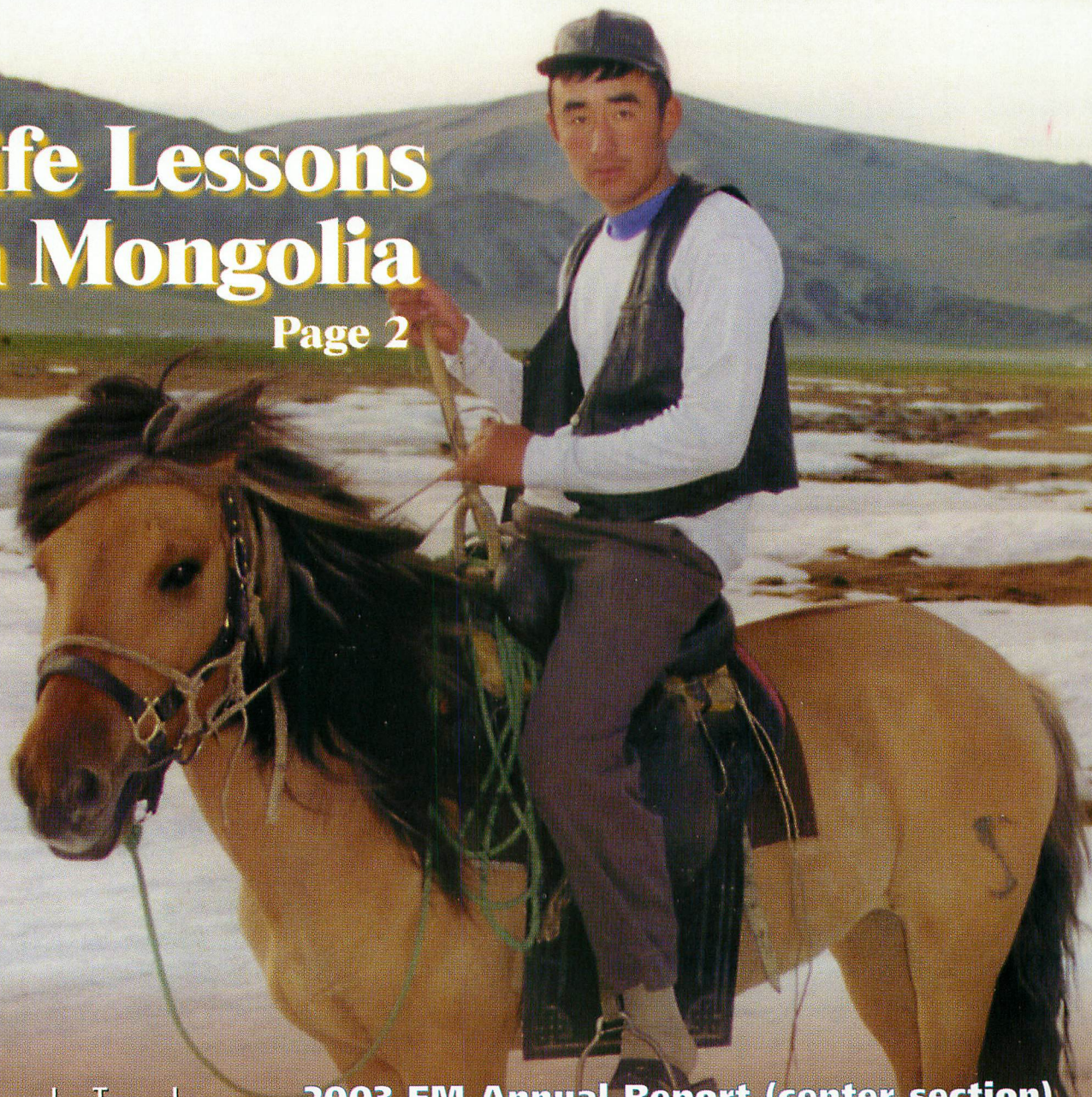
Foreign Missions

MAY
JUNE
2004

Showing God at work around the world

Life Lessons in Mongolia

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Craig Portell

God often uses strange twists to prepare His servants to fulfill His plans.

Life Lessons in Mongolia

By Craig Portell

God uses various people and experiences to teach us more about Himself and His will for our lives. Throughout the last five years He has often reminded me “. . . *my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways . . .*” (Isaiah 55:8).

When I decided to go to Mongolia to teach English, I expected to live and serve among Mongolians, visit Mongolian homes, teach Mongolians English and, eventually, learn the Mongolian language. After a brief time of training and language study in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, I arrived in Ulgii in western Mongolia.

Ulgii's province is very different from the rest of Mongolia. Even Mongolians from other parts of the nation say visiting Ulgii is like visiting a foreign country. The people's language sounds nothing like the Mongolian I studied. I was surprised to discover 95% of the people in the Ulgii province are ethnic Kazakh, not Mongolian.

Mongolians are Buddhist; Kazakhs are Muslim. In fact, there is a Kazakh saying, “If you are Kazakh, then you are Muslim.”

Kazakhs live in round, felt tents called yurts during the summer months. Mongolians occupy yurts year round. The Mongolian church is growing fairly rapidly; yet, things in the Kazakh church are moving very slowly. Mongolians look very Asian; most Kazakhs have a more western appearance.

Although differences between the two cultures are many, some similarities do exist. People of both cultures love to eat and drink milk products: yogurt, dried milk curds, cream, cow's milk, sheep's milk, goat's milk, camel's milk and, of course, mare's milk. Got milk?

COVER PHOTO: A Kazakh horseman in Mongolia served as part of God's preparation for future service.

Each year while working in Mongolia I attended a conference in Thailand. During this conference teachers shared what God had been doing on their campuses and within the lives of their students. The first couple of conferences I attended were difficult for me. I heard many awesome stories from teachers who had led students to Christ or who were discipling new believers. I, on the other hand, had no “great” stories to share about God bringing people to Himself in the city where I lived.

God reminded me that I can plant the gospel seed or water it, but only He can make it grow.

One night as I read my Bible, God reminded me of a very important truth: “*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase*” (1 Corinthians 3:6,7). He reminded me that I can plant the gospel seed or water it, but only He can make it grow.

In my fourth year in Ulgii I was introduced to the leader of a small group of believers. My teammate and I met with the group for several months. When it was time for Christmas these believers wanted to celebrate Christ’s birth together as a “family.” We agreed to help them organize the cele-



A Kazakh child holds a lamb (left) which represents a significant part of the Mongolian culture. A hunter (right) sits with his bird of prey as he anticipates his next hunt.



bration and provide some of the food. However, when they asked how Americans celebrate Christmas, I hesitated to respond. Finally, I encouraged them to let it be a truly “Kazakh Christmas” and celebrate it the way they wanted.

When Kazakhs have a party or celebration, guests sit on the floor and participate in eating, singing and telling stories. Our Christmas celebration was very Kazakh! We ate—boiled sheep I helped slaughter earlier in the day. We sang many Kazakh praise songs and then one of the believers read the story of Christ’s birth. As he read, a few others became confused about some of the events and an animated discussion ensued. I was filled with wonder at the ways of God. A few months earlier I had been unaware of any Kazakh Christians. Now,

I sat for the first time with all the believers in Ulgii and witnessed them discussing God’s Word so they might better understand His Message to them.

I was filled with wonder at the ways of God.

After spending five years in Mongolia learning the Kazakh language, compiling an English-Kazakh dictionary, and acquiring a tremendous amount of knowledge about the Kazakh culture, I felt the Lord leading me back to the States. Although I’d only planned to spend one year in Mongolia, I found it difficult to leave these people I had learned to love.

A short time after I settled in

Continued on page 4 →



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Don Robirds, Layout and Design

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—>Continued from page 3

Illinois Clint Morgan asked if I would be interested in accompanying him, his wife and Cameron and Krista Lane to Central Asia. He wanted me to see what God was doing in that part of the world. Clint knew I was uncertain about where God was leading me and thought I might find a place of service in Central Asia.

We visited four countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It was exciting to see how **the Lord had been preparing me to work in Central Asia** through my five years in Mongolia.

In placing me among Kazakhs God had provided me with opportunities for language and cultural training that would be useful in this part of the world. As we traveled, people were surprised when I spoke to them in their native tongue. In several church services I even sang a Kazakh praise song I had learned in Mongolia. Russian believers were amazed to hear me speak Kazakh because few of them could speak anything other than Russian.

Clint, Lynette and I visited a Bible school in Kazakhstan to discover their methods of training believers. I asked our "tour guide" if they had any students from Mongolia. She replied, "Well, actually we have one young lady," and showed me a picture of her.

I was astonished when I recognized the first believer I had met in Ulgii! We were able to meet for a short time and share memories of a place we both love.

God used my years among the Kazakhs in Mongolia to teach me many things. Not only did I learn the Kazakh language and culture, but I also discovered even when we are unable to recognize Him at work, He is active. In addition, God utilized my experiences to teach me to be patient and await His timing.

Just as parents prepare their children to become adults, God assists be-

lievers toward maturity as we discover and do His will. We might not always understand why He has placed us in a certain place or position at a given time. At those times we need to remind ourselves that God may be preparing us for something new. After all, He tells us in Isaiah 55:9, "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways....*"

Craig Portell spent five years in Mongolia teaching English. He has received preliminary approval for service in Central Asia.

Clockwise from the right, Kazakh children dress colorfully, a yurt under construction, a Kazakh milks a mare, two Kazakh men stand by a yurt, and Craig sits with some of his English students.



EMBRACING THE

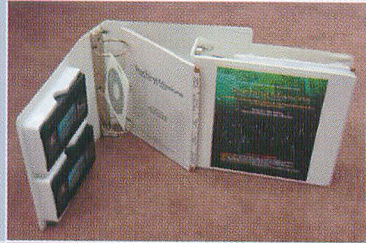
Vision

FREE WILL BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2003

EMBRACING THE *Vision* FREE WILL BAPTISTS

10 MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES

- Help a generation of children find their role in global evangelism.
- Give teen and college students opportunities to explore needy areas of the world and to share their faith.
- Provide short-term situations for laymen and laywomen to use their careers to reach the unreached.
- Furnish retirees with avenues for investing their time and energies in Great Commission efforts.
- Assist pastors in developing Acts 1:8 strategies and mobilization materials to revolutionize their churches.
- Aid Free Will Baptist colleges by supplying Missionaries In Residence (MIR) to help train students for world evangelization.
- Develop mission prayer networks to connect our people directly to missions efforts around the world.
- Build a financial underpinning through the Free Will Baptist Foundation's endowment programs for a bold 21st century advance.
- Encourage our Home Missions Department as they endeavor to plant strong Great Commission churches.
- Urge Free Will Baptists toward a missions-oriented entrepreneurial spirit.



EMBRACING THE *Vision* FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER AND SHORT-TERM MISSIONARY SERVICE 2004-2005

BRAZIL

Church-planting

- 6 couples

Bible institute

- 3 teachers/pastoral trainers, career or short-term

Leadership trainers

- 1 specialist to train leaders/trainers for youth, camp and Sunday school programs (career or short-term)

Teachers with Master's degree

- 1 to teach in American school and assist in church-planting in a city of three million
- 1 to help in a city of 1 million

Short-assignment ministry teams

- Short-term ministry aides for children's home, music, drama, prayer walks, literature distribution, English and cooking classes
- Short-term English and sports camps
- Building teams

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Church-planting

- 5 new church-planters for sous-prefectures
- 4 new church-planters for urban centers
- 2 new church-planters among Muslims
- 2 new church-planters for unreached people groups

Literature development

- 2 missionaries assigned to curriculum development for Sunday school, youth groups, women's groups, etc., and for seminar theme development

CUBA

Leadership trainers

- 1 or 2 pastors for lay leadership training (2-day intensive courses)
- Skilled children's ministry workers to teach seminars
- Skilled youth camp workers to assist in camps for two weeks in August

FRANCE

Church-planting

- 5 church-planting couples

Leadership trainers

- 1 or 2 couples for leadership training program
- University ministry team

Ministry teams

- Evangelistic team using the arts as their means of communication
- Short-term building teams
- Short-term intercessory teams
- Short-term music and drama teams
- Short-term camp ministries in English, music and sports

RESTRICTED ACCESS COUNTRIES

Ministry teams

- 5 ProVol teams (construction, medical, etc.)
- Well drilling teams
- Professional volunteers for layout and design of promo materials

English teachers

- 5 English teachers for Central Asia (one year minimum)

Church-planting

- Missionaries who envision being involved in church-planting in new and creative ways

JAPAN

Church-planting

- 8 church-planting missionaries

English teachers

- 10 short-term English teachers

Specialized ministries

- 2 youth workers (short-term)
- 2 sports specialists (short-term)

Teacher

- 1 teacher for Christian Academy of Japan

PANAMA

Church-planting

- 2 church-planting couples short-term or career to teach music/train youth workers

Leadership trainers

- Pastors to make short-term trips to teach what they have learned and put into practice in their ministry with Panamanian pastors and leaders .

Ministry teams

- Short-term teams to have English, construction, evangelism or sports ministry

RUSSIA

Bible institute

- 2 career missionary couples to help develop curriculum and teach at the Bible institutes throughout Russia

Ministry teams

- Short-term teachers, pastoral trainers and businessmen
- Short-term building teams
- Short-term ministry aides for leadership training, music, youth, women's ministry, marriage and youth counseling

SPAIN

Church-planting

- 5 missionary teams or 15 missionary units

Camp/retreat ministry

- 1 missionary team or 2-4 missionary units

University ministry

- 1 missionary team or 2-4 missionary units

Immigrant ministry

- 1 missionary team or 2-4 missionary units

Muslim ministry

- 1 missionary team or 2-4 missionary units

Leadership trainers

- 1 missionary unit

Specialized ministry

- 1 missionary unit to work in the development of the Spanish mission agency

URUGUAY

Church-planting

- 2 church-planting couples or singles

Teachers

- Teachers with U.S. certification to teach in Uruguayan-American school

Ministry teams

- Short-term building teams
- Short-term ministry aides for music, youth, and marriage seminars

EMBRACING THE *Vision* FREE WILL BAPTISTS

*T*ESTIMONIES

*I*NDIA

Sunday dawned with the anticipation of a great celebration in West Bengal, India. The 53rd annual conference of North India Free Will Baptists was to culminate with the baptism of 72 new followers of Jesus Christ. Over 1,000 Christians began their exuberant two-kilometer (1.2 miles) walk to the pond where two Indian pastors would baptize the new believers. Once everyone was gathered, a hymn of praise and a short devotional message were presented. Then the new Christians entered the waters of baptism.

One of the 72 baptized was 23-year-old Pradesh (not his real name). He joyfully followed his Savior's example and command. As he returned to the Sonapurhat mission compound, family members met Pradesh and gave him a severe beating for embracing Christianity. Yet Pradesh remains true. His response to his family was, "No matter what you do to me, I still love you. But I will never deny Jesus."

*C*UBA

Alamar, a suburb of Havana, Cuba, is home to thousands of people living near the coast in high-rise apartments. About four years ago, Pastor Ramón Sánchez told a Christian family, "I believe God wants you to move into one of these apartments and use your home to start a house church." The family prayed about it and agreed to open their home to neighbors. They saw God work as they shared the gospel with all who showed interest. Soon the Cuban Association provided a licensed preacher to lead the work.

In March of 2004 this group of believers, now numbering around 40, celebrated the fourth anniversary of the house church and the Cuban Association recognized it as an organized church. This story is being multiplied many times over in Cuba.

*U*RUGUAY

In 2001 Pastor Gerardo Acevedo relocated his family from Rivera to Malvin. The church began with 10-15 people attending, but now fills the main meeting room with an average attendance of 30-35.

Sunday school in the Melo church has grown to an average of 70 people and needs more room! Molly Barker uses a tool shed for the children's classroom. For vacation Bible school lay pastor Danubio divided the main meeting room into smaller rooms with plastic sheeting, but there still was not enough room for the visiting children.

In Rivera the Central Church led by Pastor Casildo Trindade averages 50 for Sunday attendance. There were 60 for vacation Bible school with five adults and many children 12 and under visiting.

The efforts of Uruguayan pastors and laymen along with dedicated missionaries are yielding fruit.

*F*RANCE

During a tract distribution effort in St. Sébastien, a lady invited someone to come to her apartment and share. As a result Marcel, a lay leader in the church, gave her the Jesus film. She and her 11-year-old daughter watched the film and at the end they both prayed to receive Christ. This mother's life has been dramatically changed. She declared, "Everything has become new for me, completely changed!"

EMBRACING THE *Vision* FREE WILL BAPTISTS

JAPAN

Was it a coincidence a Buddhist family enrolled their five-year-old daughter in a Christian kindergarten? Was it by chance the young Japanese girl studied English in high school and college and then moved to New Zealand for two more years of study? How did it happen that when she returned to Japan she found a church close to her house offering the conversational English classes she needed? These are not just coincidences. They truly are the working of the Sovereign God drawing this Japanese girl to Himself.

Soon she became friends with some of the missionaries and began attending church and youth gatherings. What seemed like simple childhood stories from kindergarten came back to her memory, and she wanted to know more about what it meant to be a Christian. She began to attend church and an English Bible study with her missionary friends every week. While stating she believes in God, she is still not completely sure of what it is to be a Christian. God is drawing this young lady to Himself. She asks for prayer that in time she will understand and believe. It will be no coincidence when those prayers are answered!

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Jerry Pinkerton, writing carefully because of heightened risk in Côte d'Ivoire, tells of one of his first trips upcountry after he and Carol returned in June 2003: "Baptized 15 on Wednesday, after visiting Issac at the "little" town with the same name as where I started out in the country in 1974. He is doing great. Forty attend. He has started 3 other works (with attendances of 14, 36, and 54)."

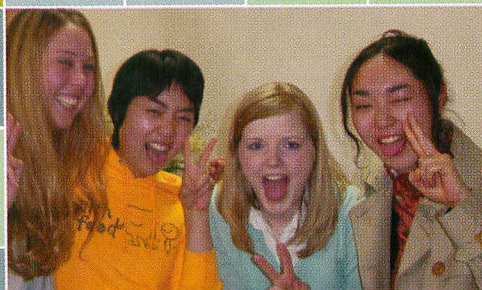
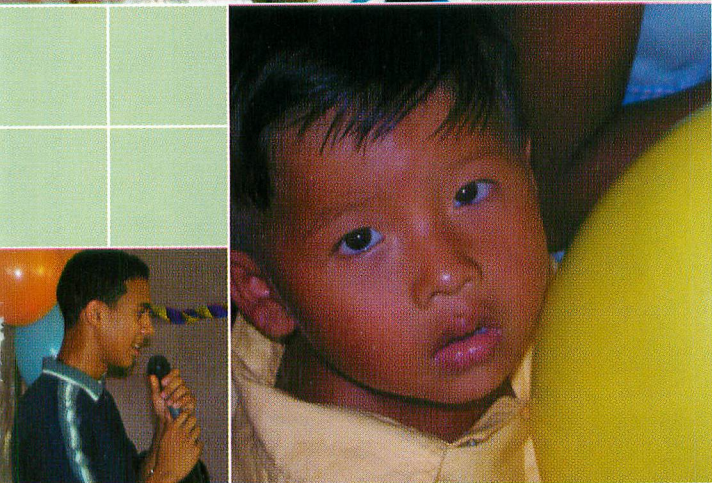


PANAMA

The young people of First FWB Church in Panama City decided to organize a youth rally in a town a couple of hours away. With missionary encouragement they did it all themselves. As the youth made plans, the single event grew into three: a children's outreach, a youth rally, and a Sunday service. They shared personal testimonies, sang songs, presented dramas, read scripture, taught classes, led children's outreach, performed a puppet program and preached.

As a result at least five young people came to know Christ as Savior. Many children are now attending church. And quite a few adults were encouraged and challenged.

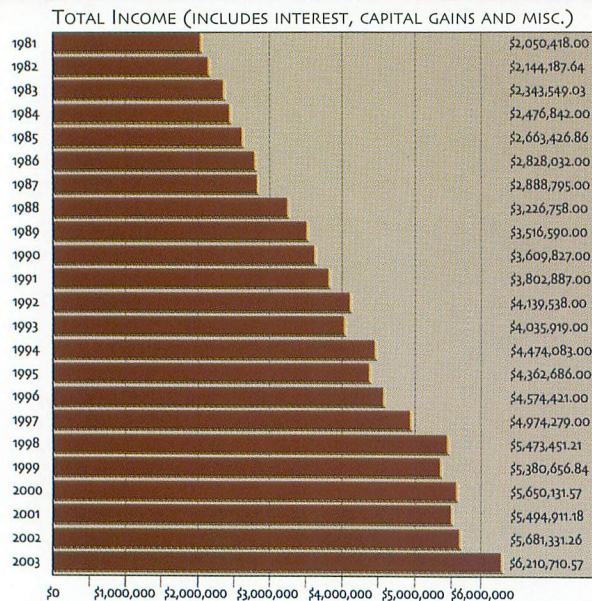
Jonathan, a young man who preached for the first time during that weekend, expressed his feelings afterwards, "Wow! Look what God did through us."



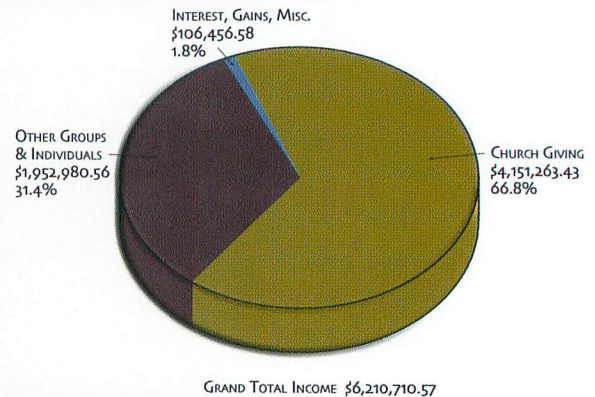
EMBRACING THE *Vision* FREE WILL BAPTISTS

FINANCIAL GROWTH AND STABILITY

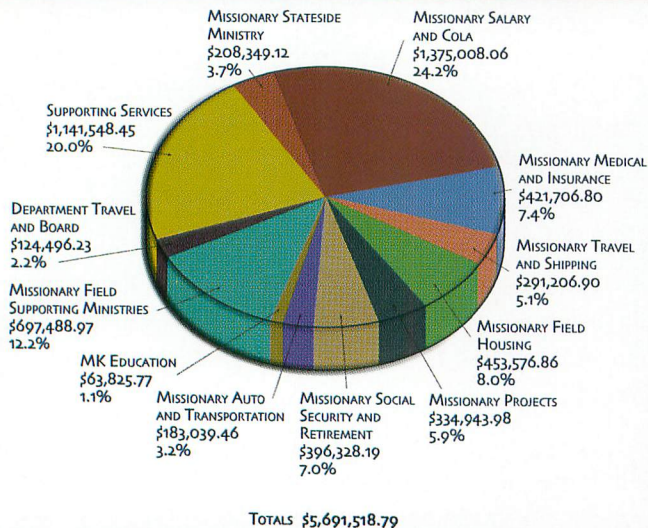
Income History through 2003



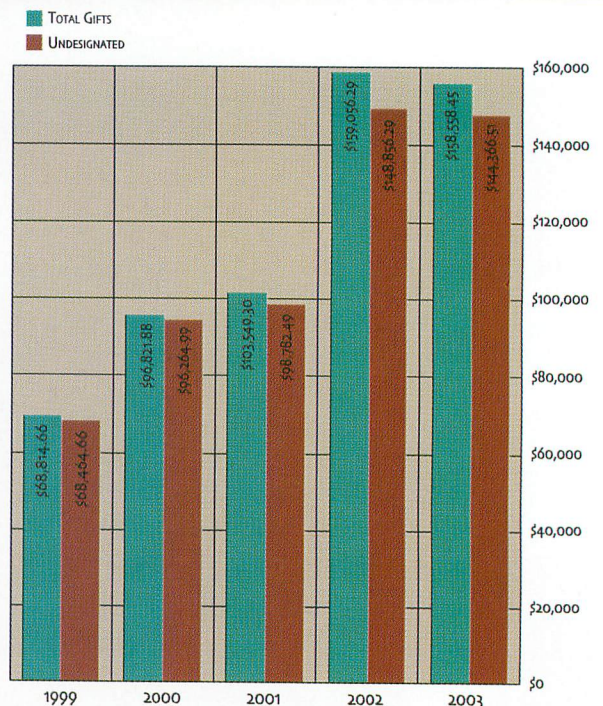
Sources of Income for 2003



Total Expenditures for 2003



5-Year World Missions Offerings



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - CASH BASIS (UNAUDITED)

	2001	2002	2003
Income Totals	\$5,494,911.18	\$5,681,331.26	\$6,210,710.57
Expense Totals	5,718,535.17	5,434,659.29	5,691,518.79
Cash & Investment Assets	2,199,608.58	2,556,699.07	3,103,214.76
Other Assets	243,485.19	186,633.38	226,576.89
Total Assets	2,443,093.77	2,743,332.45	3,329,791.65

EMBRACING THE *Vision* FREE WILL BAPTISTS

*H*IGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

*B*RAZIL

- 78 studied at Bible institutes
- 5 mission works begun in Barbacena area; lay leaders play major roles

*C*ÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Church remained strong and experienced growth during civil war; at least 125 salvation decisions in Abidjan alone
- Pinkertons and Wests returned to Abidjan nine months after evacuation

*F*RANCE

- “M” Team departed for France and language study
- Nantes church building dedicated

*J*APAN

- Ordained seventh national pastor
- Began home missions program and hired a home missionary to work with missionaries in starting Good News Chapel in Tokyo

*R*USSIA

- 73 studied at Bible institutes in Chelyabinsk and Krasnodar

*S*PAIN

- New ministry launched in Alpedrete
- Immigrant took leadership role in Villalba

*U*RUGUAY

- Melo church grew to an average of 70 people; Molly Barker uses tool shed for children's class
- 60 attended vacation Bible school at Central Church in Rivera

REPORTED FOR ALL FIELDS IN 2003:

- 268 students in Bible institutes in Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, India, Panama, Russia and Uruguay
- 2,153 salvation decisions
- 321 organized churches
- 369 mission works
- 26,902 average Sunday attendance

EMBRACING THE *Vision* FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OUR STATEMENT

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions exists to labor as members of the body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

OUR TASK

The primary task of the Mission is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the unevangelized of the world and to disciple those who evidence personal faith in Christ. Our ultimate goal is to develop believers into self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating Free Will Baptist churches.

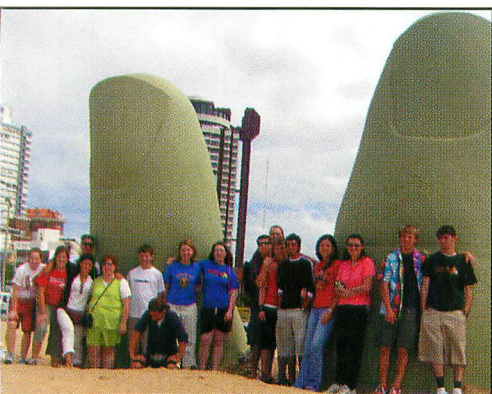
OUR COMMITMENT

Foreign Missions is committed to serving local churches. It is our firm belief that a spiritual dynamic occurs when local churches become personally involved in the Great Commission. Our desire is to facilitate such an involvement.



Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions
P.O. Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011-5002
877-767-7736 • www.nafwb.org/fm

NEWS IN REVIEW



Teens from Arkansas (top) stand before sculptured fingers on a Uruguay beach and the work crew from Illinois (bottom) gather in front of their Montevideo construction site.

Two Teams Minister in Uruguay During March

Two very different teams from Arkansas and Illinois ministered in Uruguay during March.

A 14-member youth team from First Free Will Baptist Church in Russellville, Ark., arrived in Montevideo, Uruguay, on March 13 for nine days of ministry during their spring break.

"They hit the ground running," according to Jaimie Lancaster. "A couple of hours after landing they were fellowshiping with our youth, playing the guitar and getting to know each other." The teens ministered in Montevideo and Rivera worship services through song and mime, dug a 50'x4'x4' footing for a building, and participated in an open-air evangelistic concert.

David Shores led 11 men and

two women from Illinois to Uruguay for construction of a metal building for the Malvin congregation in Montevideo. The building crew left March 22 and returned April 1. Although the group was unable to accomplish all that was planned, they were undaunted and completed everything for which they had equipment and supplies.

Board Meets, Approves Five Short-termers

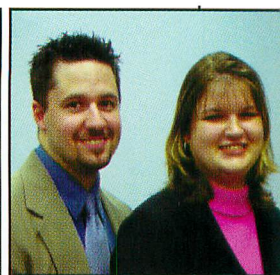
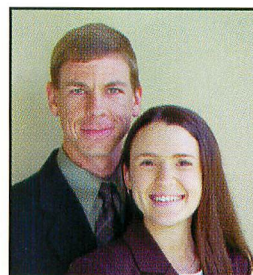
The Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions met April 19-20 at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, Tenn.

Two couples and one single lady were approved for short-term service. Shirley Williams (Ranson, W.Va.), a student at Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Okla., received a two-year assignment to teach English in Japan. Mitchell (Matthews, N.C.) and Rachel (Charlotte, Tenn.) Donahue, students at FWB Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., are to begin a 10-month assignment in Spain in August 2005. Kyle (Duncan, Okla.) and Beth (Thomaston, Tex.) Howell were assigned to Uruguay for one year beginning in August 2005.

The board reviewed and approved a slate of recommendations for an advisory council of business men and women who would provide professional advice to the Mission. A document setting forth guidelines for a Missionary Education Internship Agreement also was accepted.

Clint Morgan was commended for his research on FWB participation and opportunity in restricted access countries and was released from further research responsibilities.

The film division formed by the board in April 2002 was named Tekmerion Productions. Tekme-



Mitchell and Rachel Donahue (above, left), Kyle and Beth Howell (above, right) and Shirley Williams (right) were approved for short-term service overseas.



rion is a Greek word meaning "convincing proofs." This division will seek to raise funds and to produce special project films.

December 8, 2004, and April 11-13, 2005, were set as future board meeting dates.

Since the Mission celebrates 75 years of ministry in 2010, the board approved a Mission-wide consultation of all missionaries in or around Oklahoma in conjunction with the National Association July 14-17, 2010.

Officers elected were Milton Worthington, chairman; Randy Wilson, vice-chairman; and Danny Williams, secretary.

News Capsules

Spain—Anthony and Lea Edgmon welcomed the birth of Marc Andrew on April 7, 2004, in Villalba, Spain. Marc weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces at birth and was 20.5 inches long.

Brazil—Missionaries Bobby and Sue Aycock (Barbacena) returned to the U.S. April 22 to begin a two-month stateside assignment. Andy and Andrea Moore (Uberlândia) are scheduled to begin a 10- to 11-month stateside ministry at the end of June.

Spain—Spanish pastor José Manuel Parron recently began a

NEWS IN REVIEW



Bethany Crowson Left for Japan on April 23 for a two-year assignment.

new work in Alacalá de Henares, Spain. The group averaged 30 in attendance over the first few weeks.

Nashville, Tenn.—Short-term

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in February and March 2004:

Donor	In Memory of
Lucille S. Truitt Oriental, N.C.	Sarah Cahoon
Johnnie and Jimmy Daniels New Bern, N.C.	Sarah Cahoon
Tom and Carol Madsen Alliance, N.C.	Sarah Cahoon
Dick and Clara Barkley Inverness, Fla.	Sarah Cahoon
G. Robert and Breece Looney New Bern, N.C.	Sarah Cahoon
K. Sharon Farmer Shallowater, Tex.	Barbara Culver
Thomas McCullough Royal Oak, Mich.	John Eaves
Black River FWB Church Andrews, S.C.	Dorothy Murray Marion Tedder
Velma Able Cordova, Ala.	Donald W. Melton
Rev. and Mrs. Jimmy Aldridge Jasper, Ala.	Donald W. Melton
Donor	In Memory of
Ms. Fran C. Williams Havelock, N.C.	Mrs. Donna Hair
Mrs. Linda Pinion Union City, Tenn.	Don Robirds
Mary Dixon Ruschky Columbia, S.C.	Ellen Dixon

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 _____

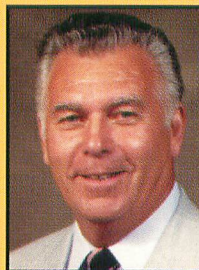
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

missionary Bethany Crowson departed April 22 to teach English for two years in Hokkaido, Japan.

Spain—Terrorists rocked three train stations in Madrid, Spain, with 10 separate explosions during the morning commute on March 11. Although 191 people were killed and over 1,000 were injured, no Free Will Baptist personnel or believers were among them. Missionaries urged people to pray that this action will give Spanish believers opportunities to share the gospel.

Brazil—According to missionaries Tom and Nancy Hughes in Uberlândia, Brazil, Filipe Nunes accepted Christ on March 14. Filipe is the 10-year-old son of faithful church members.

New Bern, N.C.—Former missionary Bill Fulcher went to be with the Lord March 23 in New Bern, N.C. He suffered a massive heart attack on March 20 and never regained consciousness.

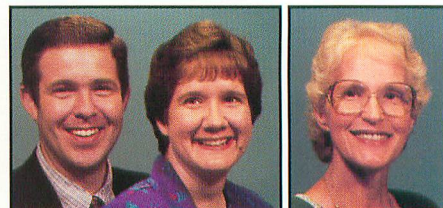


Bill Fulcher

Services were held at Ruth's Chapel FWB Church in New Bern. Bill and his wife, Glenda, served in Uruguay and Panama from 1961-1979.

Uruguay—Forty-eight people attended the Family Camp in Montevideo, Uruguay, April 7-10. Veronica, a friend of a church youth, accepted Christ as Savior.

Brazil—According to missionary Andy Moore, the youth group in Uberlândia, Brazil, continues to grow, both numerically and spiritually. Each Saturday night 20 to 25 young people meet. One teen, who accepted Christ as Savior some time ago, has begun a study course in preparation for baptism.



Verlin and Debbie Anderson (left) and Alice Smith were to depart for Côte d'Ivoire on May 11.

Andersons and A. Smith Delayed, Rescheduled

Missionaries Verlin and Debbie Anderson and Alice Smith planned to depart for Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on March 24, but rebels scheduled demonstrations in Abidjan on that date so the group was asked to wait. Violent and deadly demonstrations occurred and the airport was closed.

The Community Health and Evangelism partners tentatively rescheduled their return for April 27. The return was again postponed due to health concerns for Debbie. These have been resolved and the Andersons have received the doctors' approval to leave the States. Tickets were reserved for May 11.

Unusual Baptismal Service Held in Belo

Although only two young people were scheduled for baptism in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on Sunday, March 7, five people were baptized. Twelve-year-old Jessica and 13-year-old Paulo had been saved and evidenced spiritual growth. Each had requested to follow the Lord in baptism, so the service was planned and missionary Jim Sturgill baptized them.

As he was concluding that part of the service Jim felt the Lord leading him to ask if anyone else desired to take this serious step of faith. Claudio Buzelin, an insurance agent, responded by literally jumping into the aisle and saying, "I, Pastor!" As Claudio exited the



Nine FWBBC students gather with Curt and Mary Holland before a castle in Spain.

baptistery, Regina presented herself. She was followed by 15-year-old Michele. Each of these had been a part of the Belo congregation for many years and demonstrated the Holy Spirit's work in their lives.

"I've been in popcorn testimony and prayer services before," says Jim. "But a 'popcorn baptism?' That was a first for me!"

Nine FWBBC Students Minister in Spain

Nine non-missions students from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., spent their spring break (March 12-19) ministering in Spain.

The students assisted the Spain Mission office, the Evangelical Christian Academy in Madrid and Sunday school and church in Vilalba. They also experienced the sights, sounds and tastes of Spain. Brazil missionaries Curt and Mary Holland acted as team leaders.

Turnbough Defends Doctoral Dissertation

Jeff Turnbough, missionary to Spain, defended his doctoral dissertation April 5, 2004, at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif. His dissertation discussed the conversion experience of adult Spaniards in Madrid.

For his dissertation Jeff interviewed 21 first-generation Span-

ish converts to evangelical Christianity. From their common experiences he developed and sent out a survey instrument to over 400 other first-generation Spanish believers. Dr. Turnbough hopes his findings will help Christian missionaries in Spain share the gospel more effectively.

Patrick's Minister in Family Retreat

According to missionary Bobby Aycok, Dann Patrick, pastor of Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro, N.C., and his wife, Brenda, traveled to Barbacena, Brazil, to speak in their family retreat, held February 21-25.

"God moved in our midst with a spirit of revival," writes Bobby. "Many decisions were made by our Christians and I'm seeing a difference in their lives." Two men felt the Lord confirm His call into full-time ministry. Another is examining the Lord's will for His life.

Lee Spearheads S. India Institute Purchase

Foreign Missions board member Sherwood Lee agreed in April 2003 to assume responsibility for raising necessary funds to purchase a permanent Bible institute facility in South India.

According to Lee, the four buildings and water supply currently used for the Bible institute are for sale and he hopes to take a down payment of half the required funds to India in June. The balance will be required by the end of the year.

Four men have graduated from the three-year training program since its inception. Five students are currently enrolled at the institute. Evangelist Stanley RajKumar is director of the Bible institute and three other Indian pastors conduct three classes each per semester. Mrs. Hema RajKumar,

Stanley's wife, teaches English.

The institute is named for Volena Wilson, former missionary to South India who ministered there for more than 20 years.

Contributions toward the purchase of the training facility in South India may be sent to Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, earmarked VISION—S. India BI Land Fund.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through March 2004

Income for February	\$ 569,685.90
Income for March	458,510.87
Income through March	1,328,264.85
Total expenses through March	1,730,579.88
Total 2004 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$15,933,090.83

These accounts are in the deficit:

Callaway	\$ 9,380.44	Sturgill	\$ 16,186.77
Chang	569.63	Teague	10,935.37
Combs	1,276.51	Turnbough	2,218.12
Corley	1,523.33	Vandivort	3,160.40
Griffin	9,139.79	India Bible Inst	27,004.83
Hanna	55,735.06	Korean Ministries	4,251.66
McVay	187.78	Support Services	497,983.78
Riggs	8,866.79		

These accounts are in need of support:

Barker	\$ 882.84	Gibbs	\$ 1,603.16
Edgmon	4,725.52		

STATES IN ACTION

States/Source	Gifts in March 2004	Gifts thru March 2003	Gifts thru March 2004
Alabama	\$ 45,057.49	\$ 114,320.54	\$ 116,711.11
Arizona	580.85	1,458.09	1,907.87
Arkansas	52,434.12	89,760.97	100,887.89
California	6,141.93	19,571.32	14,777.91
Canada	321.62	679.09	666.92
Colorado	322.32	830.34	892.83
Florida	7,610.55	35,443.60	40,367.62
Georgia	21,370.39	51,422.59	57,014.95
Hawaii	0.00	0.00	350.00
Idaho	237.44	1,044.94	846.65
Illinois	19,180.44	59,540.69	63,761.09
Indiana	4,407.30	17,972.40	12,549.45
Iowa	0.00	668.22	800.00
Kansas	116.32	393.82	336.32
Kentucky	10,277.09	16,399.58	22,225.87
Louisiana	0.00	800.00	100.00
Maryland	3,019.79	20,130.13	14,014.13
Michigan	10,027.14	42,766.52	30,231.95
Mississippi	2,236.45	18,632.07	13,608.48
Missouri	45,214.40	125,174.63	127,910.48
Montana	175.00	675.00	575.00
Nebraska	0.00	1,500.00	200.00
New Mexico	25.00	112.94	327.88
North Carolina	46,423.98	193,500.54	162,770.43
*Northwest Assn.	250.00	462.50	250.00
**Northwest Assn	1,307.02	1,653.20	1,564.02
Ohio	16,330.58	38,791.38	40,940.21
Oklahoma	48,471.92	116,607.11	123,825.64
Pennsylvania	75.00	440.50	535.00
South Carolina	25,633.59	90,602.37	58,383.89
Tennessee	50,083.69	168,623.65	178,299.29
Texas	648.50	22,073.39	8,910.22
Virgin Islands	0.00	0.00	200.00
Virginia	6,392.05	18,736.62	25,068.21
West Virginia	11,516.28	27,067.35	38,179.68
WNAC	21,322.34	16,072.47	33,764.92
FWB Foundation	0.00	15,000.00	16,809.55
Miscellaneous	1,816.50	2,080.00	6,080.63
Totals	\$ 459,027.09	\$1,331,008.56	\$1,316,646.09

*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.

Please clip and mail this label with all correspondence.

Web address: www.nafwb.org/fm



Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director

Unclaimed Diamonds

The story is told of wanderers traveling by camel through a desert in the night. Out of the darkness a voice commanded, "Stop and dismount from your camels." Uncertain what advantage the mysterious voice had on them, they complied. The voice spoke again, "Bend down, pick up some rocks and place them in your saddlebags." The travelers knew anything they put into their bags added weight and could hinder their progress. So they collected only a few rocks, hoping the darkness would cover their action. As they ceased, the unidentified voice enigmatically proclaimed, "Tomorrow you will be both happy and sad."

The nomads journeyed on with anxiety, questioning what to make of the strange encounter. They continued to wend their way across the sand for hours until a dust storm arose. They stopped, erected their tents and slept the rest of the night. The following morning the wayfarers began to empty their saddlebags and discovered their "rocks" were diamonds.

Now they understood the final pronouncement. As predicted, they were both happy and sad—happy over their diamonds but sad they had loaded only a few "rocks." The sandstorm had covered their tracks and it was impossible to find the diamond cache.

Untapped Resources

We believe we have a cache among Free Will Baptists that has not been fully utilized. God has providentially placed Free Will Baptist men and women in strategic places where they can be used to advance the cause of world evangelism. While international missions efforts have always been a challenge, these strategically placed individuals can help us respond to that challenge.

Counsel and Guidance

Our Mission constantly deals with questions in the areas of investments, banking, marketing, international law, public relations, counseling, non-profit fundraising, donor development, construction, payroll, crisis management, international communications, human resources and a host of other fields.

For Free Will Baptists to maximize our effectiveness, we in the Mission office have concluded we must bring more people "to the table." We have laymen and lay-

women in our churches with incredible gifts, training and experience. It is time for our international missions efforts to acquire the counsel and guidance of these special individuals.

At the 2004 National Association in Kansas City, Mo., we will announce our inaugural Advisory Council. It will be comprised of a group of professional men and women who have been approved by the Board of Foreign Missions for a two-year term of service.

Four Qualifications

An individual must have four qualifications to serve in this capacity: He or she must (1) possess a personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ; (2) receive a strong pastoral recommendation; (3) demonstrate an interest in world evangelism through FWB Foreign Missions; and (4) exhibit a skill which contributes to the purpose of the Mission.

We believe this group will add an incredible amount of knowledge, experience and wisdom to our worldwide efforts. We will constantly be searching for additional people who might benefit the "team." If you know someone you think would be an asset, please contact us. We are always looking for unnoticed and unclaimed diamonds.

James Forlines