

HEART BEAT

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
2004

of Free Will Baptist

International Missions

Showing God at work around the world

From

Cuba

to the Ends of the Earth

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From Cuba to the Ends of the Earth

By Steve Lytle, director of field operations

The gospel seed continues to grow in Cuba! For over a decade the gospel has yielded tremendous growth among evangelical churches and denominations on this island just 90 miles off the Florida coast.

Denton Lotz of Baptist World Alliance says, "In 1995 in all of Cuba there were 2,000 **Baptist** (*emphasis mine*) places of worship, including missions and house churches. Today there are more than 4,500 meeting places for worship each Sunday. This represents a worshipping community of probably 200,000 compared to 80,000 in 1995."*

Free Will Baptists are a part of that! We have seen a significant growth spurt over the past 18 years. In 1986 around 15 organized churches existed, with just a handful of mission works. We now have nearly 40 organized churches and 96 mission works.

In cities like Pinar del Rio, Vinales, Jaruco and Jibacoa, Cuban Free Will Baptists are reaching their Jerusalem.

According to Ramon Sanchez, president of the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists, every organized

church in the Association is expected to be a "missionary center." Cubans have responded to the Great Commission and are ministering in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

In cities like Pinar del Rio, Vinales, Jaruco and Jibacoa, Cuban Free Will Baptists are reaching their Jerusalem. The First FWB Church in Pinar averages nearly 200 for worship and has had a fruitful deaf ministry for many years. They have also planted a second church in the city. Large, vibrant churches such as La Lisa and San Francisco de Paula reach into their communities in the heavily populated suburbs of Havana.

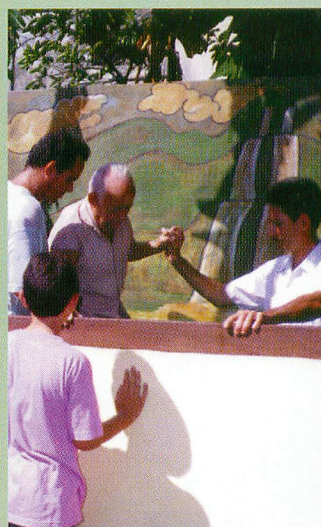
Cuban Free Will Baptists are also vitally involved in their Judea. Every church sponsors evangelistic and church expansion efforts within its province, mostly in the form of house churches. Some churches may be responsible for as many as five or six house churches.

These works are supervised by the senior pastor but are actually led by lay preachers, local church "missionaries" (men and women), and sometimes seminary students. Each local house church leader receives rigorous





Cubans fellowship in front of the church building in Pinar del Rio.



Santo Suarez (above, left) enters the baptismal waters in the city of Havana (right) seen across its beautiful bay with its impressive skyline.



training through a special course designed to equip laypeople for ministry in evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism is a lifestyle for Cuban Christians.

One example of the Cuban church's commitment to evangelizing its Jerusalem and Judea is the success of "Operation Andrew," an outreach program based on the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association program of some years ago. Christians identify 10 people – friends, relatives, neighbors – they want to see saved. They commit to praying for these 10 people for six months, building relationships with them and sharing their faith or beginning Bible studies as doors open.

After six months of prayer, sharing and relationship building, the local church celebrates a weeklong crusade. During the crusade week extensive door-to-door evangelism is conducted, with many people coming to Christ in their homes. At night the gospel is preached, and many more individuals come to the Lord. In one area of Cuba 12 organized churches and three mission works participated cooperatively in "Operation Andrew." As a result, the group saw over 1,900 decisions for Christ!

Cuban Free Will Baptists are ven-

turing into their Samaria, too! Two years ago the association decided to begin works on the eastern part of the island, beyond the areas where Free Will Baptists have worked historically. According to President Sanchez, although other denominations and churches are active in eastern Cuba, many have strong liberal and social gospel tendencies. Not only has the gospel not been widely preached, a general lack of moral training and lifestyle is evident. An enduring involvement in a form of Spiritism known as "Santeria" also exists.

Through "Operation Andrew" one group of churches saw over 1,900 decisions for Christ!

The Cuban FWB leadership determined to send workers into places like
Continued on page 4 →

Cuban Free Will Baptist Historical Facts

- 1941—** Thomas and Mabel Willey enter Cuba
- 1943—** Cuban Association of FWB formed
- 1959—** Castro leads revolution
- 1961—** 15 organized churches, 25 mission/house churches
- 1960s—** 2/3 of Cuban FWB flee the country
- 1977—** 300% growth of church during the "dark years" brings FWB community back to about same status as 1961
- 2004—** 40 churches; 96 missions; 10 house churches



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Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editor*

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Don Robirds, *Layout and Design*



Pastor Juan Carlos (left inset) from Cuba preaches during the first service of the new work started in Colmenar Viejo, Spain. People visit in front of the rented building (above) which houses the new church.

From Cuba to the Ends of the Earth

—Continued from page 3

Camaguey, Bayamo and Santiago de Cuba, the second largest city in the country. In two years' time they have established four works, two of which are organized churches!

Cuban believers are also committed to an "ends of the earth" strategy. One young pastor carries a burden for Russia, where he was sent to study for three years while in his early twenties. He hopes someday to go there as a missionary.

Cuban believers are also committed to an "ends of the earth" strategy.

Another pastor, Rolando Delgado, and his wife Keila have been officially commissioned and sent to Panama as Cuban missionaries by their association. Rolando now serves as pastor of the First FWB Church in Panama City, Panama.

Juan Carlos and Maria Del Carmen

left Cuba to immigrate to Spain about a year ago. God is opening doors for them to be involved with our missionary team in the greater Madrid area. Imagine—an experienced, ordained man who pastored in Cuba is now beginning a church-planting effort in Spain! Yet another Cuban pastor, Fernando, is beginning a Hispanic work in Gastonia, N. C.

Cuban Christians want to be a blessing to the nations. An economically challenged receiving country is becoming a sending country, not with finances, but with human resources and fervent intercessory prayer. As revival fires continue to burn in Cuba itself and as a great harvest is gathered there, our Cuban brothers and sisters inspire us with their vision and challenge us with their burden for those places that have yet to hear the gospel.

Steve Lytle became director of field operations in February of 2000 after serving almost 25 years as a missionary to Panama.

*Denton Lotz, "House Churches Grow in Cuba," Baptist World, April/June 2004, p. 5.

The Persecuted Church Defined

Countries around the world are given one of three designations to help define the level of persecution that exists within that country's borders. A country may be classified as mostly free, hostile or restricted.

Some countries are considered **restricted**. Freedom of religion does not exist. Political and/or religious groups impose legislated and organized restrictions on the expression and promotion of the gospel. Violators may experience fines, loss of human rights and property, imprisonment, torture or death. Example: Saudi Arabia requires all 23.5 million inhabitants to be Muslim.

Other countries are considered **hostile** to Christianity. In these countries, despite legislated freedom of religion, Christians experience significant discrimination, harassment, hostility or violence. Usually the violence or discrimination occurs randomly in localized areas. While these hostilities are not given overt approval by the government, they may be deliberately ignored.

In **mostly free** countries freedom of religion is legislated. While religious freedom is assumed, occasional random persecution may occur. France and the United States are considered mostly free.

See the box to the right.

Remaining Faithful

By Alice Smith

Ivorian Pastor Jérôme Kambou, serving at Bouna in northeastern Côte d'Ivoire, is an example of perseverance in the midst of difficulty and upheaval. When rebel forces invaded and seized control of Bouna in late September 2002, he was the only evangelical pastor who did not abandon his flock.

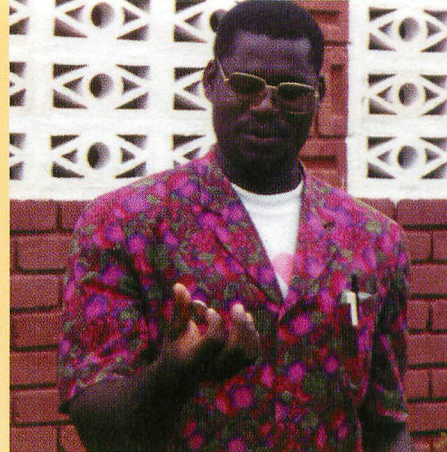
Pastor Jérôme believes God permitted his arrest to give opportunity for his captors to hear the gospel.

Pastor Jérôme was falsely accused of being a spy and was incarcerated for eleven days in June 2003. He

stated the hardest part of his imprisonment was the humiliation of being stripped naked.

The rebel soldiers appeared somewhat unnerved by the pastor's lack of fear and calm spirit. Yet they did not mistreat him or his associate pastor who also was held for eight days. However his wife, Pema, had to pay a fee when she and their three youngest children came for the daily visit.

Pastor Jérôme believes God permitted his arrest to give opportunity for his captors to hear the gospel. Occasionally, they still visit and inquire about Jesus Christ. When speaking of the difficulty of living behind rebel lines this faithful servant places much more emphasis on God's faith-



Pastor Jérôme Kambou

fulness than he does on the suffering of his family or church.

Some have asked the pastor why he has chosen to remain at Bouna. His answer is bold in its simplicity, "Bouna is where God called me to serve."

Alice Smith served with Pastor Jérôme and his family at Agnibilérou for six years. She is the "adopted" mother and grandmother to Pastor, his lovely wife, Pema, and their five children.

Pray for the Persecuted Church

The **2004 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church** (IDOP) is scheduled for **November 14**. IDOP is purported to be the most observed non-holiday event by churches around the world. Mark your calendar and join Christians worldwide in prayer for suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pray that those imprisoned will know God's presence and peace and have boldness to witness to other prisoners and guards.

Pray for government and prison officials to hear the gospel and be drawn to Christ.

Pray the needs of the families of martyrs will be met.

Pray for Christians to love their persecutors.

Pray for daily strength and provision of physical needs.

Countries Where Persecution Is Evident

This list is not an exhaustive rendering of countries experiencing persecution. Perhaps it will encourage you to pray and research the needs of the persecuted church.

Restricted:

Afghanistan
Chechnya
China
Georgia
Iran
Laos
Maldives
Myanmar (Burma)
North Korea
Pakistan
Saudi Arabia
Somalia
Sudan
Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

Vietnam
Yemen

Hostile:
Algeria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Cuba
Egypt
Eritrea
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Kazakhstan

Kuwait

Kyrgyzstan
Libya
Mongolia
Morocco
Nepal
Nigeria
Philippines
Russia
Sri Lanka
Syria
Tajikistan
Turkey
United Arab Emirates

Mostly Free:

Ethiopia
France
Germany
Senegal
Serbia
United Kingdom
United States

Throughout my life God has constantly reminded me that He can use me and my experiences to teach me more about Himself and His will for my life. My trip to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan was certainly one of those experiences.

As I began to prepare myself for the trip, I also began to put expectations on God. I wanted the trip to be a life-confirming experience for me. I expected God to open all the doors I needed open for my life to go the way

consisted of Cameron, Krista, Collin, and Kendall Lane, Michelle Haas and Jeanette Wilson. We arrived in Tajikistan around 2:00 p.m. and were greeted by our translators. Never have I met such warm, hospitable people. They took us to the Bible Mission

from four to 14 years of age. During the morning hours we did crafts, music and English with them. We played with them in the afternoon.

I really grew to love the wonderful Tajik people. The children totally stole my heart and I learned a little bit of love could go a long way.

Our team was in charge of about 12 little boys, starving for attention and love. They were some of the most aggressive kids I have ever seen. Everything was a fight to them. Most of them had one outfit to wear for the entire week of camp. In two weeks I learned to care for the kids as if they were my own. I really grew to love them.

"Let the Children Come..."

By Kristina Cousineau

I wanted it to go. God used this trip to remind me "... my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways..." (Isaiah 55:8).

I joined the group in Nashville, Tenn., for training on Sunday, June 20. The first day of training was physically challenging. The next two days were mentally, emotionally and spiritually demanding as we prepared for our ministry trip.

We left Nashville on Wednesday, June 23. After many hours in various airports and planes, we arrived in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Over the next few days the entire group helped at an English camp sponsored by the church in Kazakhstan. The following Sunday we separated into four teams and I left with my team for Tajikistan. My team

where we rested and had tea. The next day I visited the market and a women's rehab center. From there we loaded up and drove to the campground where we would spend the next two weeks.

Arriving in the middle of the first week of camp threw us off guard a bit. However, we decided to sit back, observe and learn their system of things. We pitched in as we could.

After the first week a new group of campers arrived. We really got to know this group of kids who ranged

God loved the camp kids through me.

I expected to go to Tajikistan and have God confirm my plans, but He taught me so many things and opened many new doors. God loved the camp kids through me. It was the most amazing thing I have ever experienced. Matthew 19:14 kept coming to my mind: "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (NKJV).

When we returned from our trip we were asked to describe our feelings with one word. I chose the word "changed." I truly believe God changed my heart. I knew God wanted to use me for His service, but I also realized the power of prayer has no boundaries.

I went to Central Asia to help others as best I could. In return I was blessed more than anyone can imagine.

Kristina Cousineau has spent most of her life in Côte d'Ivoire with her missionary parents Mike and Deleen Cousineau. She currently resides in Norman, Okla., where she attends First FWB Church and is a sophomore at Oklahoma City Community College.



A Heart-changing Experience

By Laura Williams



E-Team joins high schoolers at a church hot dog party.



Many people describe their E-TEAM experience with one word—awesome. For me it was more than just awesome. It was heart-changing.

While in Japan my heart was often full of joy one minute and broken the next. Hearing that less than one percent of the Japanese population is Christian is heartbreaking. But meeting people and knowing they're not saved is much harder.

We visited a Japanese elementary school, and I found it difficult to deal with the harsh reality of all these kids not even knowing who Jesus is and not going to heaven one day. However, what broke my heart the most was seeing a group of small children being led to a Shinto temple to pray. I couldn't help but feel blessed by having been raised in a Christian home.

Left, counterclockwise, Laura works with two students, Nathan Snow explains colored beads, E-TEAM members perform a mime, and they share God's love with non-Christians at a church party in Bihoro.

My team also touched my heart. I never imagined a group of 10 very different teens could come together and actually impact people's lives. We participated in a church party in Bihoro. As the party began to wind down I watched some of my team members fellowship with two women. One woman had gone to Sunday school when she was little and the other had never been to church before. Even with the language barrier our team was able to share God's love with these women using Evangucubes and music.

We may never know how we affected these women and the other people with whom we interacted, but we do know that seeds were planted. Our hearts were blessed by being able to witness to the children and adults in Hokkaido. As we left Japan, my prayer was and continues to be that the Japanese people will open their hearts to God's love and forgiveness.

Laura Williams was a member of E-TEAM Hokkaido 2004. The high school senior attends Sutton FWB Church in Pocahontas, Ark.



Ten years ago we would never have dreamed of the possibility of holding a graduation in the city of Moscow for a group of pastoral students. But on June 30, 2004, that is exactly what took place!

Eleven students comprised the first graduating class of the Chelyabinsk Affiliate of the Moscow Theological Institute (CAMTI) in Chelyabinsk, Russia. Three of the men—Igor Kindyakov, Alexander Cherkassov

Graduation was held at the Russian Baptist Union headquarters in Moscow. Victor Ryaguzov, the president of the Moscow Theological Institute (MTI), awarded the diplomas. Igor Maksakov, the dean of CAMTI, and James Forlines, the director of Free Will Baptist International Missions, assisted him. All three men challenged the students to use their education to proclaim Christ, plant new churches and promote the need

half bus trip (one way) twice a week from Zlatoust to Kusa to minister for several hours and then return home.

When Alexander's pastor was elected as the Senior Presbyter of the state of Chelyabinsk the expanded duties required him to be away from his church more and more frequently. Consequently, he resigned and Alexander was elected as the pastor. Alexander was already serving as a full-time pastor and church planter

A Five-year Journey

By Mike Corley

and Alexei Cherkassov—graduated with honors.

For each of the students the journey to the Moscow graduation ceremony was paved with five years of practical work, disciplined study and biannual treks for intensive instruction. Just days before the no-frills ceremony, 15 students appeared before a committee of Moscow Theological Institute representatives to defend their final papers. Eleven of the men effectively upheld their positions; four students will do more research and return to face the committee again.

for education in their home regions.

A typical student, Alexander Teplov began studies at CAMTI while an ordained deacon at a church in Zlatoust, a city of 200,000 people about 75 miles west of Chelyabinsk. In Russia an ordained deacon is usually considered a pastor-in-training. This was certainly the case with Alexander. He often fulfilled pastoral responsibilities during his pastor's frequent ministry trips to other cities.

In addition to his local church ministry, Alexander was also busy planting a church in the small city of Kusa. This husband and father of two girls took an hour and a

when he graduated from the Chelyabinsk Bible institute.

Alexander's story is not unusual. Many of these students held one or more ministry positions during their studies. Now that they have graduated, their responsibilities will increase.

The pastoral studies program requires a five-year commitment.

During the more than 70 years of communism it was practically impossible for a believer to go beyond high school and receive a higher education in any field, much less theology. Very few pastors in Russia today have a formal theological education. The Chelyabinsk Bible institute makes it possible for many men to receive the education they need and desire.

The pastoral studies program requires a five-year commitment.

During each of the two-

week sessions the men leave home for Chelyabinsk and engage in the equivalent of a semester of Bible college. During the session, the students listen to lectures, participate in workshops and receive written and oral assignments to complete between sessions.

For the first three years after the founding of the institute, classes were held in the basement of the Good News Church in Chelyabinsk. Students set up sawhorse desks in the



Clockwise, institute graduates listen to a charge by James Forlines, three honor students hold diplomas, and the Bible institute building is dedicated in 2002.

Presbyter of the state of Chelyabinsk and the Baptist Union vice president for the Southern Ural Region, asked Free Will Baptists to establish a Bible institute. The Board of Foreign Missions agreed to help in this endeavor but with the stipulation that it be a Russian Bible institute and not an American or FWB institute.

Brother Sobolev selected a local pastor and recent graduate of the Moscow Theological Seminary, Igor Maksakov, to be the dean of CAMTI. MTI provided the overall accreditation and curriculum development. The first class was held in November 1999 with Dr. Garnett Reid from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., teaching a course on Old Testament Survey and Introduction.

In subsequent years Dr. Robert Picirilli, Professor Leroy Forlines, Dr. Paul Harrison and Professor Ron Callaway taught additional courses. In a November 2003 interview Dr. Ryaguzov stated that of the five institute affiliates across Russia, the Chelyabinsk institute had the highest reputation due to the quality of professors provided by Free Will Baptists.

For those of us who participated in developing the training program, this first graduation proclaims a victory in the



partnership of Free Will Baptists and the Russian Baptist Union. Those who have faithfully prayed and contributed toward this program and its facilities should rejoice in helping prepare pastors and church planters to spread the gospel in Russia.

Less than one percent of Russia's 186 million inhabitants are born-again believers. The harvest is ready, but the workers are few. Supporting Russian Baptists in their endeavor to be the best pastors, church planters and laymen they can be will assuredly further the cause of Christ.

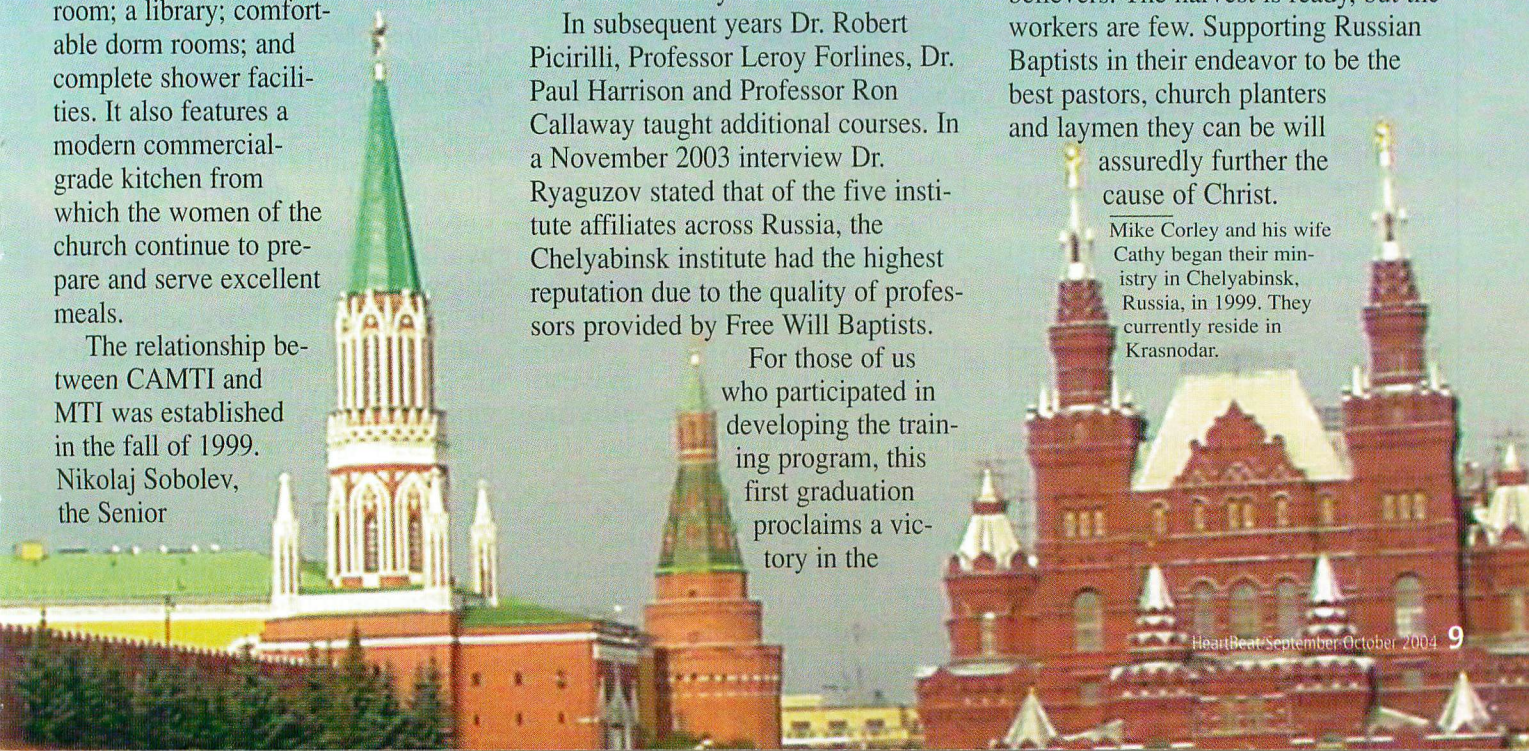
Mike Corley and his wife Cathy began their ministry in Chelyabinsk, Russia, in 1999. They currently reside in Krasnodar.

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mornings and replaced them with cots at night. Women from the church cheerfully volunteered their time and talents to serve and prepare their meals. The church has no shower facilities, so the men took care of their personal hygiene in the church's four sinks.

Living and study conditions greatly improved with the renovation of the Bible institute building Free Will Baptists provided in 2002. This refurbished building includes a large classroom; a library; comfortable dorm rooms; and complete shower facilities. It also features a modern commercial-grade kitchen from which the women of the church continue to prepare and serve excellent meals.

The relationship between CAMTI and MTI was established in the fall of 1999. Nikolaj Sobolev, the Senior





The congregation of the new church in Colmenar Viejo, Spain, sings during the first service.

New Spanish Church Holds First Service

On September 5 about 55 people attended the first service in a new church plant in Colmenar Viejo, Spain. Juan Carlos, a Cuban immigrant, and his family are working in conjunction with the Villalba church to plant a new work in this Madrid suburb.

Among those attending the service in the storefront building were missionaries, Villalba church members, Alcalá church members and unsaved visitors. According to Kristi Johnson, people passing the building stopped and observed the service.

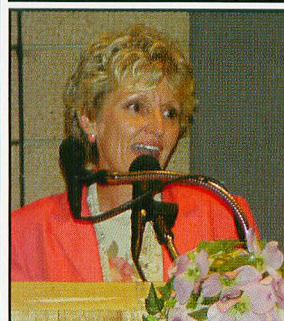
"J Crois" Festival Seeks to Equip French Youth

France missionaries joined together in Nantes August 27-29 for a weekend youth festival called "J Crois" (translated "I believe it"). Over 60 students and their unchurched friends met for three days of lectures, workshops and music.

Professor of microbiology at the University of Bordeaux and born-again Christian, Alain Deschamp delivered lectures on Creationism. Workshops addressed relationships, witnessing and evangelizing Muslims.



Donnie and Ruth McDonald (left) speak during the Tuesday morning worship service of the WNAC at the National Association in Kansas City, Mo. Craig Portell (top, center) and Trula Cronk (right) participate in the youth service. Lynette Morgan (bottom, center) speaks during the WNAC banquet.



According to Dennis Teague, French youth are bombarded daily with evolution and the humanistic belief system. The festival reminded teens they are not alone in their Christian beliefs.

Action at National Brings Mission Changes

Free Will Baptist delegates and visitors gathered in Kansas City, Mo., July 18-22 for three concurrent conventions: The National Association, the National Youth Conference and the Women Nationally Active for Christ. Attendees numbered 5,476, including 27 foreign missionaries.

General Director James Forlines honored David Shores of Illinois during his report on Tuesday for 12 years of dedicated service on the Board of Foreign Missions.

During the business session, delegates approved a name change for the Mission. The word "foreign" is replaced by "international." Director James Forlines indicates it may take time for constituents to see this change reflected on all communications from the office. In an attempt to be good stewards, stationery and other supplies will be utilized

until depleted.

Former missionary to France Tom McCullough, currently pastor of the Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Mich., was elected to the Board of International Missions.



Tom McCullough

Delegates voted to combine six current denominational publications into one bi-monthly, 48-page publication. *HeartBeat* (International Missions), *AIM* (Home Missions), *Master's Men Newsletter* (Master's Men), *Bible College Bulletin* (Free Will Baptist Bible College), *Contact* (Executive Department) and *OutReach* (Randall House) will be discontinued. The new publication will become available to subscribers at no charge. A start-up date for the new publication is to be set for 2005. *HeartBeat* will continue to be published until the new magazine becomes available.

Former and current missionaries were featured on the program.

Trula Cronk, former missionary to India, challenged the youth to greater commitment and self-sacrifice during their Sunday morn-



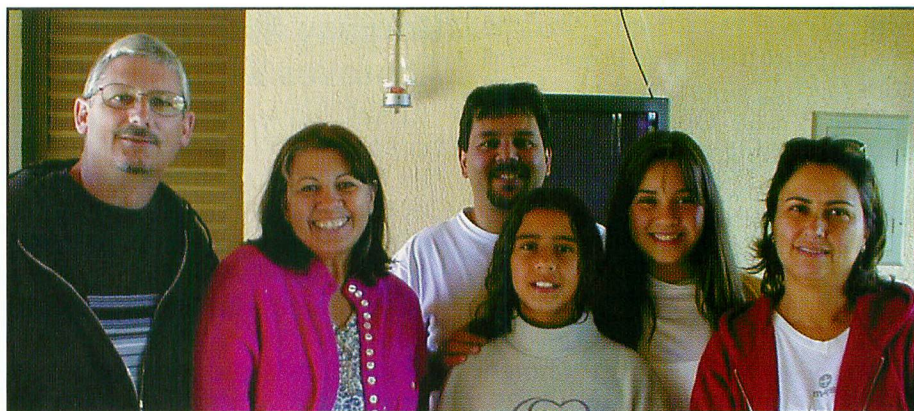
David and Pat Shores (top) are honored by General Director James Forlines for David's 12-year participation on the Board of Foreign Missions. Missionaries lay hands on the newly commissioned missionaries (bottom) in the Wednesday night service.

ing service. On Monday evening Craig Portell, former English teacher in Mongolia and current missionary candidate to Central Asia, encouraged students to take a step of faith into deep water with Christ. Director of Member Care Neil Gilliland rounded out the NYC program on Tuesday evening.

Missionaries to Japan Donnie and Ruth McDonald were the featured speakers for the WNAC Tuesday morning service. The couple shared the podium to present the work of God in Japan. Prior to their presentation Ruth and daughter Katie sang a duet.

That service was followed by the WNAC banquet at which Côte d'Ivoire missionary Lynette Morgan urged attendees to give priority to world evangelization.

On Tuesday afternoon, Clint Morgan, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire and interim director of The Hanna Project, led a seminar entitled "Islam 101: Fundamentals



Missionaries Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton (left) stand with a family of four who were saved recently in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

of the Islamic Faith." He and John Weaver fielded questions from the attendees for half an hour.

The Wednesday evening service featured the commissioning of 13 home and international missionaries. Director James Forlines delivered the charge. Jim Puckett, chairman of the Board of Home Missions, led the dedicatory prayer while 75 missionaries from home and international missions gathered to lay hands on the new missionaries.

Family Receives Christ in Belo Horizonte

According to Kenneth Eagleton, interim pastor of the Belo Horizonte church in Brazil, a family of four has been saved in the last few months.

Sergio and Claudia and their two daughters began attending church near the first of June. They had previously been involved in a congregation that did not preach salvation. Weekly Bible studies with Kenneth led to the couple accepting Christ as Savior. In July, the daughters attended youth camp and prayed for salvation there.

Kenneth writes, "Their lives have changed dramatically. They are growing in the Lord and have a new joy of living."

Father's Day Program Elicits Five Decisions

A Father's Day program on July 18 in Melo, Uruguay, and a subsequent performance on July 25 led to five people accepting Christ as Savior.

Members of the Free Will Baptist church in Melo, Uruguay, presented the play about the prodigal son. Four men and a 73-year-old woman were saved as a result of the presentations.

A father (age 58) and his 30-year-old invalid son were among those professing faith for salvation. Pastor Danubio de Souza had been having weekly meetings in their home for some time.

Three Converts Baptized in Las Tablas, Panama

Three new converts from the Free Will Baptist church in Las Tablas, Panama, were baptized on August 8. Stan Bunch assisted Pastor Raul Sanes in baptizing 40-year-old Patricia Marin, 28-year-old Jose Paulo Dominguez and 23-year-old Jose Luis Delgado.

Jose Paulo was drawn to Christ through the Free Will Baptist radio program, "Facing the Day With Christ." Jose Luis was studying to be a Catholic priest prior to conversion. He became frustrated with the contradictions between

what he was taught and what he saw lived out by the priests and nuns.

The Pacific Ocean served as baptismery for the group.

Seven Accept Christ in Abobo Outreach

According to Debbie Anderson in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Abobo Free Will Baptist Church held a special outreach on July 25. The congregation of about 30 members prepared, prayed and invited friends for several weeks prior to the service. Twelve guests responded to the invitation and seven of them accepted Christ at the end of the service.

The Abobo church is the third FWB church in Abidjan.

Uruguay Association Approves Support Fund

The Uruguay National Association of Free Will Baptists met Friday, August 13, at the Free Will Baptist church in Melo, Uruguay. Delegates approved a pastoral support fund and Julio Figueroa was accepted as a pastoral candidate.

The pastor support fund will supplement a pastor's salary allowing him to serve full-time and facilitate church growth. The local church will gradually accept additional responsibility for pastoral support. The fund will combine resources from the Uruguayan churches as well as from the United States.

Pastor Casildo Trindade will



Nathan Snow (left) and Dale Bishop (right) prepare to baptize Mrs. Yoshino during the retreat of the Miharashidai Chapel in Hokkaido, Japan.

guide Julio Figueroa through the pastoral candidate process toward ordination.

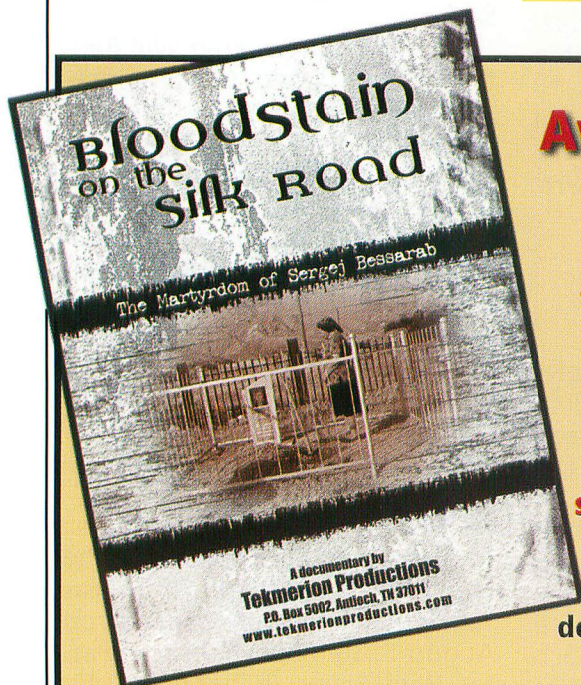
Approximately 40 people represented the six churches of the association. Lay pastor Danubio de Souza presented a devotion and Pastor Gerardo Acevedo moderated the meeting.

Two Baptized at Miharashidai Retreat

The Miharashidai Chapel in Hokkaido, Japan, held its annual retreat July 18 and 19 at Lake Toya. Following lunch on Monday the group rejoiced as two people were baptized.

Mrs. Yoshino, described by Linda Snow as "a vibrant, growing Christian," has desired to be baptized for two years. Her husband, a Buddhist priest, refused his consent and threatened divorce if she followed the Lord in baptism. Days before the retreat he decided "religion is personal" and agreed she could be baptized if she wanted.

Megan Snow, eight-year-old daughter of Nathan and Linda Snow, was also baptized.



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This compelling story of Sergej Bessarab, a modern-day martyr, was filmed on site in Isfara, Tajikistan, where he and his wife sought to plant a church.

The 40-minute film documents Sergej's murder, an effort to silence his message.

Order this valuable asset to use in conjunction with the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on November 14.

Order information:
www.fwbgo.com/store.htm
1-877-767-7736



Rui Xavier (left) receives the ordination charge from missionary David Aycock in Uberlândia, Brazil.

New Brazilian Pastor Ordained in Uberlândia

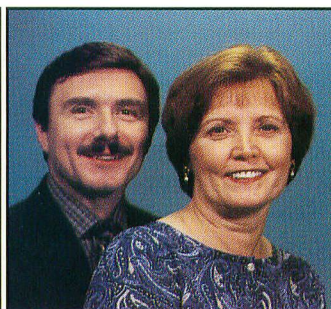
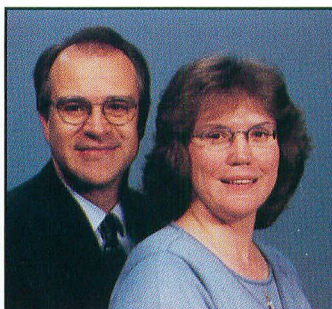
Rui Xavier was ordained at the Jardim das Palmeiras Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlândia, Brazil, on August 15. Bobby Aycock, missionary to Barbacena, Brazil, preached the ordination service. Tom Hughes, missionary to Uberlândia, presented Rui with a Bible and David Aycock gave the charge.

Nancy Hughes indicated it was the first ordination service any of the Jardim congregation had attended and many of the people were very moved by the service. Family members of the pastoral couple were a part of the 190 people present.

Tom and Nancy Hughes have turned the church over to the newly ordained pastor and will continue to assist in the transition to national leadership until the end of the year.

Ivory Coast National Association Meets

The Ivorian National Association of Free Will Baptists convened in Gouméré, Côte d'Ivoire, August 12-14, with 56 delegates present. Delegates from both northern and southern churches



Leaving in August for their overseas assignments were (left to right) Steve and Becky Riggs, Mike and Deleen Cousineau and Shane and Joy Davison.

reported growth and hardships since the attempted coup of 2002.

Churches in major towns behind rebel lines reported 95 conversions in the last two years. Both northern and southern churches have plans for evangelization.

The Bible institute in Bouna, located in a rebel stronghold, reopened in August for a five-week session with 11 students. Clint and Lynette Morgan were in Côte d'Ivoire to conduct this session. Delegates at the association meeting voted for an African, Paul Amazi, to become director of the institute on January 1, 2005.

Missionaries Depart for Fields of Service

Two tenured missionary families returned to their fields of service and one couple departed for language school in August.

Steve and Becky Riggs completed their three-month state-side assignment and returned to Nantes, France, on August 17.

Mike and Deleen Cousineau left August 22 to resume their ministry at International Christian Academy in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire. Mike serves as finance manager and Deleen is the school's counselor. The couple also plans to assist in the rebuilding of the Bouaké church. Many Christians fled the area and vandals looted the building during the unrest.

New missionaries Shane and

Joy Davison departed for language school in Albertville, France, on August 27. The couple plans to work with the Cousineaus in a church-planting ministry in Côte d'Ivoire upon completion of language studies.

News Capsules

Broken Arrow, Okla.—Missionaries Robert and Judy Bryan gained a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law just prior to their departure for France. Jennifer, the Bryans' daughter, wed Kelly Wright at Bethany FWB Church in Broken Arrow, Okla., on July 31. Two weeks later on August 14 their son Joseph married Dawn Phillips in Vermont.

Nashville, Tenn.—Dr. LaVerne Miley, pioneer missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, had surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain on September 4 in Nashville, Tenn. A second surgery on September 6 repaired a bleed from the original surgery. The veteran missionary had experienced sudden memory loss a few days earlier and a MRI revealed the clot.

Brazil—Bobby Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, indicates 12-year-old Mateus recently made a profession of faith. The boy is the only Christian in his family and has many hindrances to overcome.

Nashville, Tenn.—Trula Cronk,

NEWS IN REVIEW

former missionary to India, suffered a stroke at her home in Nashville, Tenn., on July 23. Mrs. Cronk spoke twice at the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Kansas City, Mo., just a few days prior to her stroke. She returned home from rehabilitation on August 18.

Brazil—According to Nancy Hughes in Uberlândia, Brazil, a young man named Ricardo was saved on August 1.

Burfordville, Ill.—Mrs. Marie Ida Bailey, mother of missionary to Japan Ken Bailey, passed away August 15 in Jackson, Ill. The funeral was held in Desloge, Ill., on Sunday, August 22. Ken and other family members participated in the service.

Charleston, S.C.—Missionary to India Carlisle Hanna underwent corrective surgery at Trident Hospital in Charleston, S.C., on July 30 to repair damage to his wrist stemming from a fall in March of

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

These special gifts were received in June and July 2004:

Donor	In Memory of
Black River FWB Church Andrews, S.C.	Elbert Ray Julian Harrington Flora Pilkington
Linda Pinion Union City, Tenn.	Judy Hingst
Clarence and Billie Johnson Knightsdale, N.C.	Rev. Bill Fulcher
James and Martha Harris Nashville, Tenn.	Mattie Welborn
Donor	In Honor of
Linda Pinion Union City, Tenn.	Charlie Hingst

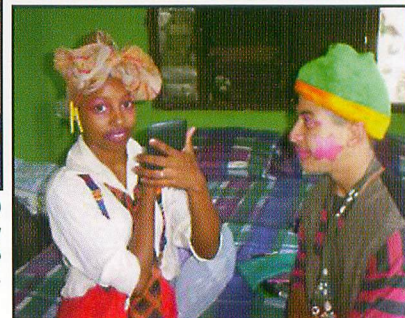
Clip and mail

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 _____



Bible classes are held (above and top, right) during the Children's Crusade in Cuba during the months of July and August. Young people (bottom, right) prepare for a presentation during the crusade.



this year. The five-hour surgery involved repair, a bone graft and insertion of a stabilizing plate. He reports having regained much of the use of his left hand.

Uruguay—Jaimie Lancaster, missionary to Uruguay, is teaching a class on sects and cults at the Bible institute extensions in Melo and Rivera. Thirty students are taking the class in these two locations.

Spain—Josh and Christi Smith, short-term missionaries to Villalba, Spain, welcomed Nicolas Aaron to their family on July 10. The newborn weighed 7.25 pounds and was 20 inches long.

France—Joël Gibbs, son of missionaries to France Jerry and Barbara Gibbs, wed Cécile Chaussé at the St. Nazaire FWB Church on August 6.

Brazil—Kenneth and Rejane Egleton recently indicated 10 people are involved in baptism preparation classes in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Six youth and four adults are taking the classes.

Japan—Jonathan and Teresa Snow indicate the July 26-30 Joy Club (vacation Bible school) at Mi-

harashidai Chapel in Hokkaido went well. Children participated in Bible studies on the life of Christ, singing, playing handbells, craft time and Bible verse memorization each day. Around 25 children attended.

Panama—Bible institute classes in Panama are underway. According to an August report from Stan Bunch, 15 students are enrolled in the classes in Las Tablas and Chitré. Eddie Bowerman has five students in Panama City.

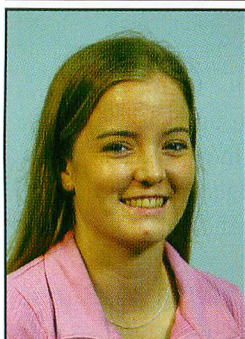
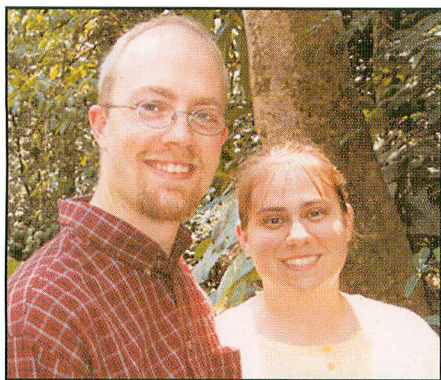
830 Converted in Cuban Children's Crusade

Children's crusades were held in two Cuban provinces in July and August, yielding 830 conversions. Seventeen churches participated in the six-day crusades.

Eight churches in the Pinar del Río province participated July 20-25 with 878 children attending the services. Salvation decisions were made by 540 of the children.

In the Havana province, 615 children attended services in nine churches August 24-29. Decisions were made by 290 of those in attendance.

Ciro Parlá, pastor of the Canasí



Steve and Lori Torrison (above) were appointed in July to career missionary service in Panama. Hollie Hubbard (left) will serve as an overseas assistant for two years in Japan.

Free Will Baptist Church in Havana, reported nearly 60 of the 100 children who attended the services at his church were visitors. Of the 60 attendees, 30 made professions of faith. Due to the large turnout, rooms and hallways in the pastor's home were used for classrooms. Pastor Ciro said they had 15-20 more children in church on Sunday, August 29.

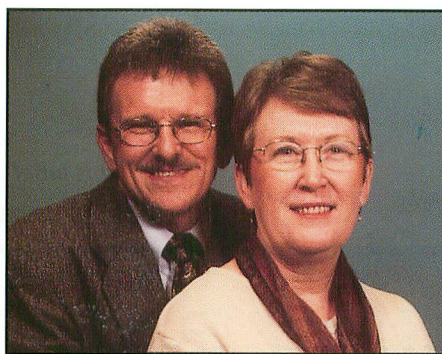
Carmen, a children's worker from Pinar del Río, organized the two outreaches.

Two Career Missionaries, One OA Approved

The Board of International Missions met July 22 in Kansas City, Mo., following the National Association. Tom McCullough was welcomed as a newly elected board member.

Steve and Lori Torrison from Moore, Okla., were interviewed and appointed to career missionary service in Panama. They plan to depart for language school in Costa Rica in April 2005.

Hollie Hubbard of Oak Park



Robert and Judy Bryan are beginning a new leadership training program in France.

FWB Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., was approved for a two-year term as an overseas assistant teaching English in Hokkaido, Japan. She hopes to depart in February 2005.

Eight missionaries were reappointed for another term of service: Carlisle Hanna (India), Andy and Andrea Moore (Brazil), Bobby and Geneva Poole (Brazil), Steve and Becky Riggs (France) and Patsy Vanhook (France).

Due to health concerns, Jimmy Aldridge submitted his resignation as project coordinator of the Krasnodar Institute Project. Rick Cash, Promotional Director for the state of Alabama, was approved to fill the position.

The board directed General Director James Forlines to bring a comprehensive plan to address the support services deficit to the December board meeting.

The board's next session is scheduled for December 8 and 9 in Antioch, Tenn.

Bryans Leave for New France Ministry

Robert and Judy Bryan, former missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire, were scheduled to depart on September 7 for their new ministry in France. A special commissioning service was held at Bethany Free Will Baptist Church in Broken Arrow, Okla., on August 22.

The Bryans spent several years

on leave of absence from the Mission. During this time Robert pursued studies for a doctorate. He has completed all classroom work and is working on his thesis.

When the Bryans requested reinstatement they also asked to be reassigned to France where they plan to initiate a leadership training program.

FINANCIAL BEAT

Through July 2004

Income for June.....	\$ 483,209.27
Income for July.....	542,396.95
Income through July.....	3,596,737.46
Total expenses through July.....	3,996,465.01
Total 2004 Budget (including VISION projects)	\$15,933,090.83

These accounts are in the deficit:

Barker.....	\$ 1,038.57	McVay.....	\$ 8,264.36
Callaway.....	6,431.21	Owen.....	911.27
Chang.....	569.63	Riggs.....	23,925.45
Combs.....	6,323.02	Sturgill.....	17,090.57
Corley.....	2,468.12	Teague.....	14,175.08
Gibbs.....	12,270.93	Turnbough,J.....	8,124.65
Griffin.....	9,027.21	Vandivort.....	2,979.80
Hanna.....	38,898.40	India Bible Inst.....	25,505.83
Kohn.....	5,237.49	Support Services.....	469,549.49

These accounts are in need of support:

Portell.....	\$ 3,638.39	Edgmon.....	\$ 4,680.74
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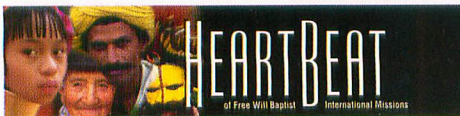
STATES IN ACTION

States/Source	Gifts in July 2004	Gifts thru July 2003	Gifts thru July 2004
Alabama.....	\$ 34,960.88	\$ 229,864.14	\$ 256,438.23
Arizona.....	445.22	4,285.86	4,170.71
Arkansas.....	62,286.82	267,356.51	290,674.46
California.....	1,613.61	47,990.57	48,456.68
Canada.....	381.22	2,140.65	2,206.32
Colorado.....	153.72	2,115.61	1,753.82
Florida.....	19,169.31	88,532.14	118,937.13
Georgia.....	23,677.80	138,366.22	179,579.43
Hawaii.....	0.00	0.00	350.00
Idaho.....	168.07	2,034.63	2,521.94
Illinois.....	16,339.22	129,882.08	155,682.68
Indiana.....	5,616.70	40,855.66	31,030.55
Iowa.....	10.00	668.22	1,295.00
Kansas.....	90.30	763.07	646.46
Kentucky.....	9,058.83	50,550.40	59,405.10
Louisiana.....	6.30	2,300.00	217.50
Maryland.....	3,607.74	38,266.11	27,180.83
Michigan.....	21,001.81	112,979.58	96,836.40
Mississippi.....	7,983.50	50,520.70	50,796.16
Missouri.....	47,519.28	288,526.88	330,378.22
Montana.....	375.00	1,475.00	1,300.00
Nebraska.....	200.00	1,500.00	650.00
New Mexico.....	227.93	862.58	1,267.65
North Carolina.....	63,702.16	451,422.95	453,650.23
*Northeast Assn.....	0.00	1,094.75	550.00
**Northwest Assn.....	110.00	2,097.20	2,595.52
Ohio.....	19,339.50	97,656.88	124,601.30
Oklahoma.....	46,888.29	276,492.30	315,474.70
Pennsylvania.....	335.00	1,838.50	3,021.00
South Carolina.....	42,252.50	219,591.34	251,822.50
Tennessee.....	64,973.47	426,798.47	446,665.26
Texas.....	4,479.41	36,489.04	29,294.99
Virgin Islands.....	0.00	1,250.00	3,800.00
Virginia.....	7,574.50	42,594.79	63,173.04
West Virginia.....	9,053.27	91,463.29	91,290.08
WNAC.....	0.00	112,217.32	79,715.90
FWB Foundation.....	0.00	30,547.37	16,809.55
Miscellaneous.....	4,074.50	9,707.02	14,281.68
Totals.....	\$ 517,675.86	\$ 3,303,097.83	\$ 3,558,521.02

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

**Northwest Association
Alaska, Oregon and Washington

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



P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Board of International Missions: Milton Worthington, chairman; Randy Wilson, vice chairman; Danny Williams, secretary; Bill Jones, David Williford, Bill Van Winkle, Sherwood Lee, Jerry Norris, Tom McCullough.

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.fwbgo.com



Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director

A Great Commission Vision

The goal of every church-planting missionary is to plant **self-supporting, self-propagating, and self-governing** churches in areas and among people groups where no gospel witness exists. The task is monumental.

At first the missionary works as a **pioneer**. Many times there are few, if any, believers. Evangelism is the primary charge. As men and women come to Christ, discipleship is added and the missionary role changes to that of a **parent**.

It is a wonderful day when national believers take on more responsibility for the work. The missionary role then shifts to that of a **partner** through leadership training. And when the transfer of leadership is finally complete, the missionary becomes more of a **participant** working under national leadership.

The ultimate goal is for the national church to have a Great Commission vision itself and to be able to provide its own leadership and theological

training. Sometimes this process is long and tedious and can be marked by setbacks, reversals and disappointments. Progress can seem incremental. Within this context, we want to thank the Lord for what is occurring in some of the areas where Free Will Baptist missionaries have worked for many years.

Cuba

The cover article in this issue of *HeartBeat* highlights the Great Commission vision residing in the Free Will Baptist leadership of Cuba. Their concern for their own Jerusalem has accelerated church-planting efforts in the western part of the island where Free Will Baptists have traditionally centered their work.

They have a Judea and Samaria vision which has recently developed into a strategy to plant churches on the eastern side of the island, too. Cuban leaders' "ends of the earth" vision has led to the commissioning of one pastor to work with our Free Will Baptists in Panama. Another pastor is now beginning a church-planting effort in cooperation with our Free Will Baptist work in Spain.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Bible institute begun in the 1980s proved invaluable when missionaries were evacuated after the

coup attempt in October 2002. Leaders who had trained at the Bouna institute revealed they were up to the task when challenged to continue the work of the national church during the crisis.

Two men, Amiezi Paul and Robert, have attended graduate school so they can assume the role of training which previously had been done solely by missionaries. Ivorian leadership is thinking strategically concerning how to reach unreached peoples and villages.

India

For many years the country of Nepal was closed to traditional missionary efforts. In fact, converting to Christianity was a crime punishable by a prison term. In the late 1990s our Indian pastors crossed over into Nepal and started seven churches (this number now stands at 10). This was before we in the States even knew of the change in the constitution that would permit sharing the gospel. Indian pastors pray for opportunities to preach in neighboring countries still closed to the gospel.

This certainly is not an exhaustive list. But is it enough for us to say, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

James Forlines