

# HEARTBEAT

OF FREE WILL BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONS  
FEBRUARY 1966



THROUGH THE DOORS OF  
FREEDOM TOWER, CUBAN  
REFUGEE CENTER, MIAMI,  
THOUSANDS HAVE WALKED  
TO A NEW LIFE OF FREEDOM

## UNITED IN FREEDOM

JERRY BALLARD

THOUSANDS OF THOUGHTS flooded Roberto's mind as he and his wife fastened seat belts to await takeoff from Varadero Airport near Havana. Would he really make it to freedom? Or would he be snatched off the plane at the last minute as others had been and dragged off to prison on a trumped-up charge? And if he made it to the United States, how would he be received? Is it really a free country? Would he

➤ TO PAGE 2





**AFTER FOUR YEARS SEPARATION, ENRIQUE CARNEADO  
EMBRACES HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER  
AS THEY ARRIVE FROM CUBA.**

be able to find work? Or was Castro right when he warned that refugees are despised and are hungry and out of work?

In 1962 Roberto's two sons, now aged 10 and 12, came to live with friends in Miami. He and his wife had since been living for the day they would be reunited with their children. When Castro announced he would allow those who desire to do so to leave Cuba, Roberto immediately made application. Preference was given because he had children in the States.

Immediately upon making application, Roberto and his wife were subjected to continual scrutiny. "They watched us every minute waiting for us to make a mistake. We couldn't sell anything or give anything away. They noted everyone we talked to, searched all packages brought out of the house. We were treated like foreign agents."

The militia have numerous harassing techniques. One woman was told she was to die before the firing squad, but mental anguish, not death, was the objective of her tormentors. Filled with fear almost to the breaking point, she was finally told it was a hoax.

After two months, Roberto was told in early January that his application to leave Cuba was approved. The militia came immediately and took inventory of everything in Roberto's house and locked the house

so no possessions could be removed, except for a few clothes, cheap jewelry, items made in Russia and a few books and photos to be taken out in the 44 pounds of luggage allowed each refugee.

An 80-mile auto trip brought Roberto and his wife to the government processing house in Havana where they spent the night before departure. No place to sleep was provided, adding insult on top of previous reprisals. Finally, a sandwich, glass of chocolate drink and a glass of water were provided early in the morning.

During the night, departees were searched at intervals. Some had suitcases and pockets, even lining of clothes, torn apart as militia sought to uncover illegal smuggling. Others survived untouched. But one never knew when he would be jerked up for questioning.

About four in the morning, the group was taken to Varadero Airport from where planes depart en route to freedom. Prospective refugees were offered anything they wanted to eat, compliments of the revolutionary government, an obvious gesture on the part of the Communist regime to cover past ill treatment.

Finally time came to board the plane. Roberto's and his wife's papers were checked by American and Swiss authorities. At last, they settled in their seats, fastened seat belts for takeoff and prayed that nothing would happen. "The Communist government is diabolical," Roberto declares, "and they can devise ways to stop you even after the plane is in the air. I know people who are in prison now who were dragged off planes that were forced to return to the island after having taken off. One never knows when he is violating some law of the revolution."

Soon the plane taxied down the ramp into takeoff position. A gust of power, and Roberto and his wife were airborne winging their way to freedom.

Thoughts again crowded into Roberto's mind . . . concern for those who were left behind without food and other necessities of life . . . visions of his sons who were waiting in Miami . . . plans for a new life of freedom in a land of plenty.

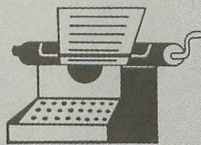
He thought of his neighbors who also wanted to come out but faced up to two years' waiting. And once intentions are clear that one wants to leave, he loses his job and has no means of support except friends and relatives. "Entire towns would leave," speculates Roberto, "if they could."

Then the anticipated moment arrived. Roberto and his wife set foot on free territory. "You're never sure you'll make it until you can feel the solid ground of the United States under foot," he says.

After being processed through immigration, Roberto's family was united again. "When we saw our children for the first time in four years, it was as though they had been born again." The boys didn't recognize their parents at first, but getting reacquainted didn't take long. A family is designed that way.



# Across the Editor's Desk



**ROMAN VIEW OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**/Perhaps the most debated document formulated by the Second Vatican Council, which finally closed December 8, concerned the Roman Catholic position on religious liberty. Known as the Declaration on Religious Liberty, the document contains statements that may be used to better Catholic public relations on the issue, but it also carefully makes provision for retention of the idea that Roman Catholicism is the only valid faith.

The declaration formally avers that freedom of conscience should be recognized for all men and that no person or group can be coerced in matters of religious practice. It also holds that full religious liberty must be guaranteed to all religious groups in both private and public exercise of their religion and that it is the function of civil powers to guarantee these freedoms.

However, a clause inserted late in the debate, probably to placate traditionalist bishops who were reluctant to approve the declaration, is disappointing to both Protestants and the more progressive Catholics on the Council. It declares that all men have the "sacred duty to profess and embrace the Catholic faith insofar as they are able to know it."

One observer, Stanley I. Stuber, American Baptist guest at all four Council sessions, criticized the addition because it "takes away freedom of conscience by insisting that people have a moral duty to embrace and profess the Roman Catholic faith as the one and only true faith."

It appears that the Roman Church passed up a grand opportunity to take a positive position favoring freedom of religion as expressed in Scripture in the words "whosoever will, let him come" and upheld by the American Constitution. The waters are still muddy with respect to the Roman Catholic view on religious liberty.

We must wait and see what practical effect the Council's declaration will have in such countries as Spain, Italy and Colombia. Only when the Roman Church assumes an active role in eliminating intolerance and injustice with regard to freedom of Protestants to exercise their faith will we know that statements on religious freedom issue from sincere hearts with honorable motives and are not mere smoke screens to cover the embarrassment of an indefensible position.

We will be watching to see what effect the declaration will have on parliamentary action in Spain on a long-postponed measure to legalize the status of the Protestant minority. When the Vatican Council deferred voting on the religious liberty statement at the close of its third session in 1964, the Spanish legislation was shelved, apparently to wait Council action. How will Spain interpret the Council's position?

## Dear Heartbeat



■ I saw the film on Brazil last evening, and in the film Christ was shown on the cross. The statement was made that Catholics worship a dead Christ. Catholics believe as strongly in the resurrection of Christ as they do the death of Christ. Can you explain?

S. F., Iantha, Mo.

*It is true theologically that Roman Catholics believe in the resurrection. The point being made, however, is not in relation to creedal orthodoxy but to the practical outworking of one's religion in daily living. In predominantly Roman Catholic Latin America, the exultation of Mary as co-redemptrix, mournful processions with Christ in a coffin and prevalence of immortality give rise to the charge that Catholics worship a dead Christ. New Testament emphasis is on "newness of life," the demonstration of resurrection power in the life of the believer.*

■ I'm sending a check from my Junior Boys S.S. Class. They were challenged by "Bottles, Berries and Babysitting" (Feb. 1965), so they milked cows, washed dishes, hung clothes, emptied trash, dug potatoes and mowed lawns.

Delma Wright, Childrens' Home  
Greeneville, Tennessee



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**HEARTBEAT**  
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST  
FOREIGN MISSIONS

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MEMBER  
EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION





**WHERE TO NOW? THESE CUBAN CHILDREN  
AWAIT PROCESSING TO FREEDOM.**



**ALL REFUGEES ARE INTERVIEWED REGARDING  
JOB PLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT.**

**PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY  
U.S. CUBAN REFUGEE CENTER**

**TEXT FROM STAFF REPORTS**



## And once again

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me:  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

ON OCTOBER 3, 1965, the President of the United States stood under these words engraved on the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor and declared to the people of Cuba that "those who seek refuge here will find it. The dedication of America to our tradition as an asylum for the oppressed will be upheld."

These words came in response to an offer only hours earlier by Fidel Castro to allow Cubans desiring to do so to leave the island. The United States accepted the offer and negotiations began immediately through the Swiss embassy in Havana to arrange for an orderly departure of Cubans seeking sanctuary in America.

The first of December, flights were resumed between Cuba and Miami bringing some 900 refugees weekly to a new life of freedom. Nearly 200,000 Cubans have registered at the United States Refugee Center in Miami since January 1961. Estimates vary from 50,000-500,000 expected during present exodus. Of this number, approximately half have been resettled by four authorized agencies—Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service (NCC), United HIAS Service of Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the International Rescue Committee.

The Board of Foreign Missions acted October 11, 1965, to re-institute its refugee center in Miami, known as the Cuban Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), under the direction of the Rev. Benito Rodriguez, pastor of the Spanish Free Will Baptist church in the city. Appeal for funds and supplies was made, and a good response has been seen.

But the refugee operation this time around is drastically different than in the past. Several factors make it so.

The exodus from Cuba is more organized. Those with families in the States already are given priority. Thus, they come with families here ready to assist. This cuts down resettlement time.

Refugees are allowed to bring 44 pounds of clothing and other personal items per person from Cuba. Thus, they aren't arriving in as destitute circumstances as before, although needs in many instances are still great.

And more detailed supervision by government agencies designed for fast-paced relocation is keeping the backlog of unsettled Cubans from rushing refugee assistance centers.

Another factor creating a different picture than in the past is the merger of most larger refugee centers into



# n they come ...

Christian Community Service Agency of Dade County. Participating are NCC affiliated agencies primarily—three Lutheran groups, two Presbyterian denominations, Disciples of Christ, the Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church. The Southern Baptist Convention and Christian Reform Church are maintaining their own centers.

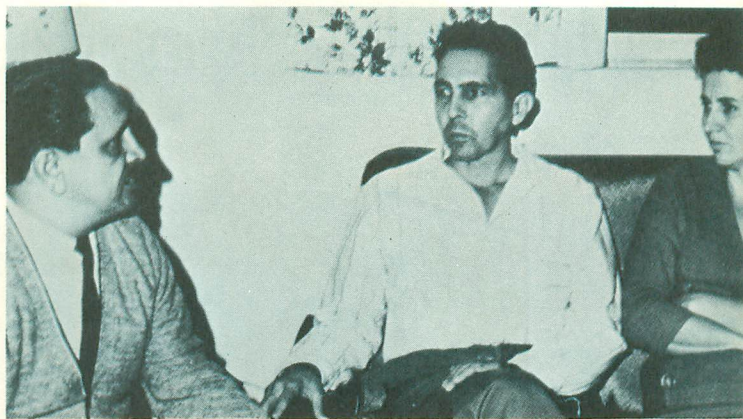
CCSA provides family counseling, financial assistance, resettlement counseling and referral to appropriate agencies for refugee assistance. Six certified social workers are planned for the agency which works exclusively in the social welfare area.

When asked what positive Christian witness is provided by CCSA, a spokesman for the agency said that literature listing Spanish churches in Miami is made available and cases needing spiritual counseling would be referred to local pastors. However, no one is employed by the agency to provide spiritual counseling on a regular basis as part of normal processing of referrals, although psychological and physical assistance is adequately provided. Thus, Christian groups desiring to see a vital presentation of the Gospel to refugees while caring for social needs must look elsewhere.

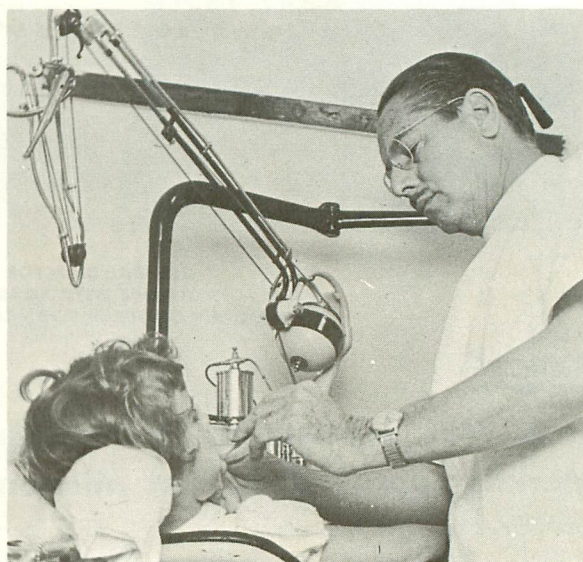
All of these factors make for a greatly lessened opportunity for Gospel witness than in the past when refugee workers were avalanched with Cubans in need. But the opportunity is still there. Circumstances now require greater effort from Christian workers than in past to assist and witness.



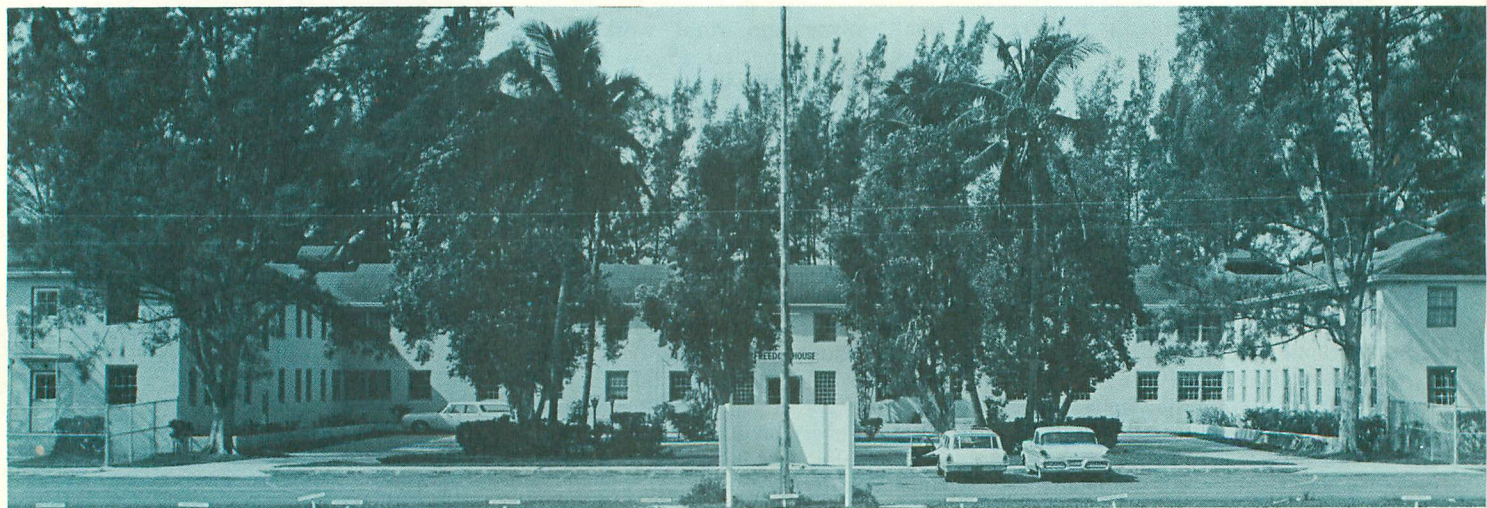
**THE 50 PER CENT OF REFUGEES BEING RELOCATED OUTSIDE MIAMI ARE GIVEN EATING, RELAXING AND SLEEPING FACILITIES AT FREEDOM HOUSE, MIAMI AIRPORT.**



**PASTOR BENITO RODRIGUEZ COUNSELS THE ROBERT GONZALEZ FAMILY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN MIAMI FROM CUBA.**



**COMPLETE PHYSICAL CHECKS AND CORRECTIVE TREATMENT ARE GIVEN ALL REFUGEES.**





# WITH YOUR MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD



GENERAL DIRECTOR REFORD WILSON DISCUSSES EUROPE WITH BOARD CHAIRMAN JOSEPH ANGE AND APPOINTED MISSIONARY TO FRANCE, DAN MERKH.

## Seventeen States Exceed Quotas as Receipts Total \$50,000 Over 1964 Record

*Nashville*—An all-time high of nearly \$400,000 was received by the foreign missions department in 1965 as 17 states exceeded quotas.

Total for the year was boosted to \$395,527.21 by \$46,296.01 received in December, more than \$10,000 over amount received in any single previous month. The 1965 total was \$49,011.95 more than in 1964, a seven per cent increase in giving.

Largest contributor was North Carolina with \$55,323.05, largest single amount for any state in a single year. Next were Michigan with \$47,064.50 and Tennessee with \$35,230.29. Michigan was nearly \$10,000 over 1964 giving and North Carolina nearly \$7,500 over.

Maine exceeded her quota for 1965

## STATESIDE

### Free Will Baptists to Enter France; the Daniel Merkhs approved as First Missionaries to Europe

*Nashville*—Free Will Baptists will extend denominational witness to Europe, according to action by the Board of Foreign Missions in special called session January 4-5.

At the same time, the Rev. and Mrs. Daniel J. Merkh were approved for service in France, the first European country to be entered by Free Will Baptist missionaries.

The Merkhs previously served a five-year term in Ivory Coast, West Africa, during which most of present mission buildings were constructed. For the past two years Mr. Merkh has pastored the Florence, S. C., church.

Concentration in France will be on small towns and rural work. The Merkhs are expected to be on the field by fall of this year.

Europe has been under study by the board for several months. It is hoped that additional couples may be sent shortly.

In other action, the board authorized its candidate committee to make a detailed study of short-term missionary assignments.

The general director was instructed to schedule administrative trips to at least one field each year. This action came in view of rapid changes taking place in every area of the world and vital results of consultations on the field in early 1965.

## PANAMA

### Willey, Sr., Makes Visit

*Panama City*—Veteran Missionary Thomas Willey, Sr., arrived here January 21 for six to eight weeks during which he will assist missionaries and work with Christians at Jenené who are without regular witness due to furlough of Tom Willey, Jr.

Mr. Willey, who underwent surgery in early October, has made a remarkable recovery and is in Panama with approval of doctors and the board.

## PER CAPITA GIVING TO FOREIGN MISSIONS IN 1965

NATIONAL AVERAGE: \$2.25 PER MEMBER

STATE	MEMBERSHIP*	PER CAPITA
1. Iowa	103	\$10.78
2. Michigan	5,346	8.81
3. Hawaii	29	7.66
4. Northeastern Assn.	218	7.29
5. Arizona	200	5.47
6. Colorado	116	4.44
7. Kansas	587	4.32
8. Illinois	2,633	3.95
9. Indiana	812	3.47
10. North Carolina	17,591	3.14
11. South Carolina	7,208	3.01
12. Idaho	123	2.89
13. Alaska	40	2.76
14. Missouri	11,306	2.65
15. Florida	4,817	2.41
16. Tennessee	16,498	2.14
17. Northwestern Assn.	212	2.12
18. Ohio	6,865	2.11
19. Texas	5,680	2.01
20. Georgia	10,569	1.87
21. New Mexico	306	1.87
22. Oklahoma	18,624	1.83
23. Virginia	6,711	1.79
24. Mississippi	3,043	1.69
25. West Virginia	7,290	1.11
26. Arkansas	14,693	.79
27. Alabama	15,908	.66
28. Kentucky	9,252	.56

\*As Reported in 1965 Minutes of the National Association



**GLADYS SLOAN, ACCOUNTANT, RECEIPTS CHECK FOR \$6,229.93 FROM CENTRAL CHURCH, DETROIT, RESULTING FROM THEIR ANNUAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.**



by 1,154 per cent, Idaho by 78 per cent and Oregon by 59 per cent. Exceeding by more than 40 per cent were Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Iowa. Others going over the top were Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Smaller, younger states led per capita giving with older, larger states lagging well behind. Per capita giving leader was Iowa with \$10.78. Michigan was next with \$8.81, significant when compared with next state of more than 5,000 membership, North Carolina with \$3.14. National per capita average is \$2.25.

State quotas for 1966 will be listed in January financial statement appearing next month.

## 20 + 8 Campaign Announced

**Nashville**—A special campaign has been announced by the management committee of the Free Will Baptist National Office Building. The campaign, designated as the 20 + 8 Campaign, will seek to secure \$20,000 for purchase of two acres of land adjacent to present property and \$8,000 for costs of present building which are not covered in permanent loan.

February 20, the Sunday nearest George Washington's birthday, marks the first major effort of the drive. "Let George do it" will be the basis of the special emphasis," according to the chairman, Sam Johnson, director of CTS. "George Washington's picture appears on a one dollar bill. We are asking every Free Will Baptist to give one dollar on this Sunday to retire indebtedness. If pastors and churches will cooperate, George can do it."



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

DECEMBER 1965

CASH IN BANK DECEMBER 1, 1965...\$48,086.41

### RECEIPTS

State Quotas .....	\$45,675.57	
Other Income .....	620.44	46,296.01
		\$94,382.42

### DISBURSEMENTS

Foreign Fields .....	\$24,994.52
Traveling & Promotion ...	3,620.66
Administrative .....	5,823.88
	34,439.06

CASH IN BANK JANUARY 1, 1966...\$59,943.36

### UNEXPENDED FUNDS

Operational Fund .....	\$ 2,175.46
Trust Fund .....	3,180.14
Rev. and Mrs. Jimmy Aldridge .....	1,339.76
Miss Molly Barker, R.N. ....	4,000.15
Rev. and Mrs. Wesley Calvery .....	4,084.12
Rev. and Mrs. James Combs .....	1,548.51
Rev. and Mrs. Louis Coscia .....	715.51
Rev. and Mrs. Earnie Deeds .....	113.40
Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Eagleton .....	3,442.82
Rev. and Mrs. Walter Ellison .....	2,123.55
Rev. and Mrs. Dave Franks .....	474.58
Rev. and Mrs. William Fulcher, Jr. ....	1,117.46
Miss Ruby Griffin, M.D. ....	4,628.87
Rev. and Mrs. Carlisle Hanna .....	414.14
Rev. and Mrs. Bill Jones .....	3,044.84
Miss Ella Rae Jones, R.N. ....	4,433.45
Miss Eula Mae Martin, R.N. ....	83.63
Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne D. Miley .....	7,405.52
Rev. and Mrs. John Moehlman .....	1,085.34
Rev. and Mrs. Eddie Payne .....	4,938.77
Rev. and Mrs. William Phipps .....	581.53
Rev. and Mrs. Bobby Poole .....	32.13
Miss Mary Ellen Rice .....	533.49

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Robinson .....	2,008.92
Rev. and Mrs. Don Robirds .....	1,178.51
Mrs. Josephine Stevens .....	857.79
Miss Patsy Tyson, R.N. ....	4,766.47
Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Waid .....	1,691.44
Rev. and Mrs. Sammy Wilkinson .....	517.83
Rev. and Mrs. Thomas H. Willey, Jr. ...	188.29
Rev. and Mrs. Thomas H. Willey, Sr. ...	380.45
Africa—Medical Building .....	6,503.22
North India Building .....	369.27
Africa Bible Institute .....	1,314.11
Africa Vehicle .....	114.15
Mayhew House .....	3,660.08
Brazil Institute .....	1,474.53
Brazil Vehicle .....	711.64
Payne House .....	1,538.07
Repatriation .....	3,190.59
CERF .....	67.96

\$82,030.49

### DEFICIT

Rev. and Mrs. Bobby Aycock .....	\$ 2,398.17
Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Cronk .....	939.23
Rev. and Mrs. Estenio Garcia .....	3,934.89
Rev. and Mrs. Fred Hersey .....	2,841.79
Rev. and Mrs. Archie Mayhew .....	1,068.78
Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Palmer, Jr. ....	1,364.50
Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Sparks .....	230.75
Miss Volena Wilson .....	2,613.33
Furlough Car .....	50.74
Palmer House .....	409.19
Audio-Visual .....	6,235.76

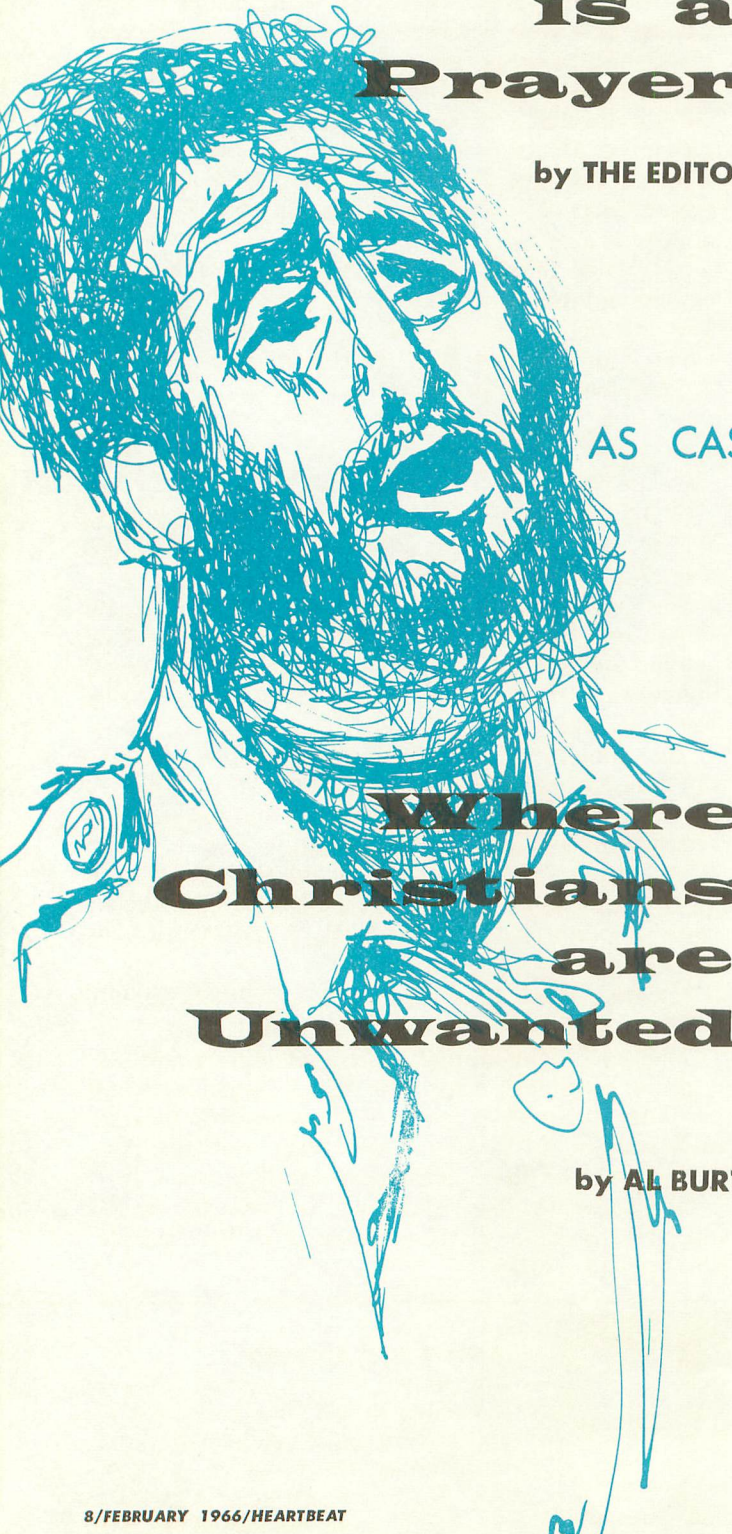
\$22,087.13

\$59,943.36

### STATE QUOTAS—1965

STATE	DECEMBER RECEIPTS	QUOTA	TOTAL RECEIPTS	UNDER QUOTA	OVER QUOTA
Alabama .....	\$ 855.66	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 10,387.01	\$ 1,862.99	
Alaska .....	18.00	300.00	110.39	189.61	
Arizona .....	15.00	750.00	1,093.73		\$ 343.73
Arkansas .....	809.57	13,000.00	11,605.35	1,394.65	
California .....	627.93	20,000.00	28,073.67		8,073.67
Colorado .....	27.42	500.00	514.54		14.54
Florida .....	587.05	10,500.00	11,615.63		1,115.63
Georgia .....	2,658.37	15,750.00	19,776.88		4,026.88
Hawaii .....		150.00	222.00		72.00
Idaho .....	19.87	200.00	356.00		156.00
Illinois .....	454.70	11,700.00	10,404.99	1,295.01	
Indiana .....	200.22	3,500.00	2,817.23	682.77	
Iowa .....	248.62	750.00	1,109.87		359.87
Kansas .....	218.83	2,500.00	2,534.34		34.34
Kentucky .....	580.49	5,500.00	5,287.58	212.42	
Louisiana .....	28.00	200.00	145.79	54.21	
Maine .....	80.00	100.00	1,253.82		1,153.82
Michigan .....	13,834.78	45,000.00	47,064.50		2,064.50
Mississippi .....	392.10	6,000.00	5,165.20	834.80	
Missouri .....	3,978.82	23,500.00	29,936.04		6,436.04
New Hampshire .....	55.72	750.00	336.66	413.34	
New Mexico .....	12.34	1,350.00	571.01	778.99	
North Carolina .....	5,204.55	48,500.00	55,323.05		6,823.05
Ohio .....	1,521.11	11,000.00	14,460.33		3,460.33
Oklahoma .....	3,888.18	45,000.00	34,042.66	10,957.34	
Oregon .....	95.82	100.00	159.31		59.31
South Carolina .....	2,144.08	18,500.00	21,717.49		3,217.49
Tennessee .....	4,020.96	30,000.00	35,230.29		5,230.29
Texas .....	898.92	13,500.00	11,397.62	2,102.38	
Virginia .....	1,481.56	18,000.00	12,018.46	5,981.54	
Washington .....		350.00	198.31	151.69	
West Virginia .....	716.90	10,000.00	8,074.38	1,925.62	
Miscellaneous .....	139.33	4,250.00	12,523.08		8,273.08
	\$45,814.90	\$373,450.00	\$395,527.21	\$28,837.36	\$50,914.57





# Where Freedom is a Prayer

by THE EDITOR

# Where Christians are Unwanted

by AL BURT

YOU HAVE INVITED me here today to do homage to me," Raul Castro, Fidel's brother, told the group of more than 200 evangelical ministers gathered to applaud the valiant revolutionaries who overthrew the murderous Batista regime. "But I have accepted the invitation to come personally and thank you for all the evangelicals did for us in the revolution."

This was in 1959. Evangelical missionaries in Cuba declared, "A new day has dawned!" It was a new day indeed. But the rays of sunshine were quickly dispelled by red thunder clouds. The Castro boys did an immediate about face. And the darkness of night descended once again as a new dictator began his reign of terror.

The Communist pattern of stifling the influence of the Church was set into motion. At first, evangelicals were given prominent positions in the government, later to be removed if they did not embrace the revolutionary line.

Youth activities were organized to function during times of regular church meetings. Attendance was made compulsory. And churches were required to hold services only at regularly scheduled times estab-

## AS CASTRO'S 'REVOLUTION' CONTINUES, THE

AT THE UNIVERSITY of Havana, Jesus Christ is viewed as a martyred revolutionary and Christianity as an interesting historical movement that has no importance in the 20th Century.

In general terms, there is no place for persons who believe in God either among the student body or on the faculty.

Roberto Ruesca, 29, studying to become a history professor, explained why. He was a Presbyterian minister until 1963, and then rejected Christianity for the revolution.

"We think that we are constructing our future life, and for that reason all students that are in the university must be revolutionaries," he said.

"Not all the students understand perfectly the Marxism that is the ideology of our revolution, but of course all feel like revolutionaries."

Ruesca, an intense, dark-haired man, speaks of the revolution in terms he once used for religion.

Last March, Jaime Crombet, president of the Student Federation, called on the university to make a "general depuration" of the campus, expelling all homosexuals and undesirables. In practice, this also developed into an unofficial purge of Christians. Student assemblies were held to denounce those who did not believe in the revolution.

In Cuba now, a young Christian faces a bleak future. He cannot attend a university and thus cannot prepare himself to assume a responsible position in society. Those already trained find themselves being pressured out of their jobs when dedicated revolutionaries acquire the skills to replace them.



lished in the past, thus preventing reshuffling of the schedule to allow youth participation. The result: today only a few young people are in the Church.

Outside activities, such as street meetings, mass rallies and opening new works, were systematically curtailed. Unofficial pressures began to be placed on Christians who took their Christianity seriously. Threats of being fired from jobs or given undesirable assignments were part of harassment tactics. Government workers found themselves on special duty during hours of church activities. Result: attendance began to decline in spite of reports of continual conversions.

Informants were planted in preaching services to report anti-revolution propaganda heard from the pulpit. Some ministers found it difficult to purchase items of necessity. And their children became special targets of communist indoctrination.

Ministers who had been outspoken against communism in the past were treated as foreign spies. And then arrests began to be made. Today, scores of ministers and key laymen are in prison.

Evangelical schools were closed or taken over by

the government. Property was confiscated in most cases. However, Free Will Baptist property has been untouched, at latest report.

Many Cuban church leaders found themselves facing the alternatives of imprisonment or departure. Those who have been able to leave have done so. And negotiations are presently underway for the United States to send a special plane to bring out pastors who are under imminent threat of danger.

It is reported that the Castro regime is now placing Christians in concentration-type work camps to work side by side with homosexuals and other degenerates in attempts to break down moral restraint.

And in some cases, Christians have been thrown in jail for carrying a Bible in public. A Christian mother arriving in Miami in mid-January told of the imprisonment of her son for several weeks without trial or presentation of charges because he carried a Bible under his arm to church.

Yet, while atheists declare that Christianity is outmoded and that Communism is the wave of the future, men are being transformed by the power of God in living demonstration that "If I shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." ✚

## NOOSE TIGHTENS ON THE CHURCH BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN

"The University is paid for by the workers, and the revolution cannot permit people here who might study and then go to work in another country," Ruesca said.

He explained that he broke relations with the church, after having been graduated from the seminary in Matanzas and being a minister for one year, because religion was not practical.

"Religious ideas are not the reality in life. I tried to take another way so that I can help the people with their problems in all ways.

"I think Christianity was a very good movement in the medieval era. It was an organization that helped humanity to grow in some ways, not in all ways.

"But now we are living in the 20th Century. Religious ideas are old for this century of war, of scientific research. Science does not agree with the religious idea, with its philosophy.

"We must try to find a solution in the world not with love only. You know, Christians say that love is the central part of life. I think, yes, this is part, but not all.

"This century is not exactly the era of love. I think the world must take another way.

"Because, for example, in Cuba we have had the experience that if we go in the way of love only now, our revolution would be broken completely.

"I think the U. S. is very far from the ideology that they say they have. One thing is Christianity and another is the life that a majority of the people live.

"Especially the political people, because the policies of the U. S. are very far from the ideas they say they have. Christ is very far from those points.

"I think Christ was a revolutionary of his time. He was attacked and he was killed by the political groups that didn't want his political idea to grow."

He made no direct reference to Prime Minister Fidel Castro, but his parallel by implication was clear.

"The Bible is a very good book for the history of humanity, but in real life it is impossible to live that way," he said.

The minister of education, Jose Llanusa, outlined the policy of the university. He said it was either for revolutionaries or those whom the revolution regarded as honest people who would soon join.

"Effectively, the university is for revolutionaries," he said. "We must put revolutionary men into the key posts of production, into posts where material benefits for the people are being created.

"Clearly, there is a conflict between Christianity and Communism. A man cannot be both.

"We don't want students or technicians who are not with the revolution. It is clear that there are many not yet with it, but they are honest people that have an understanding of revolutionary things and they have the influence of their parents and family.

"We know that they are going to integrate into the revolution because they are honest. For those people, we can wait a little." ✚

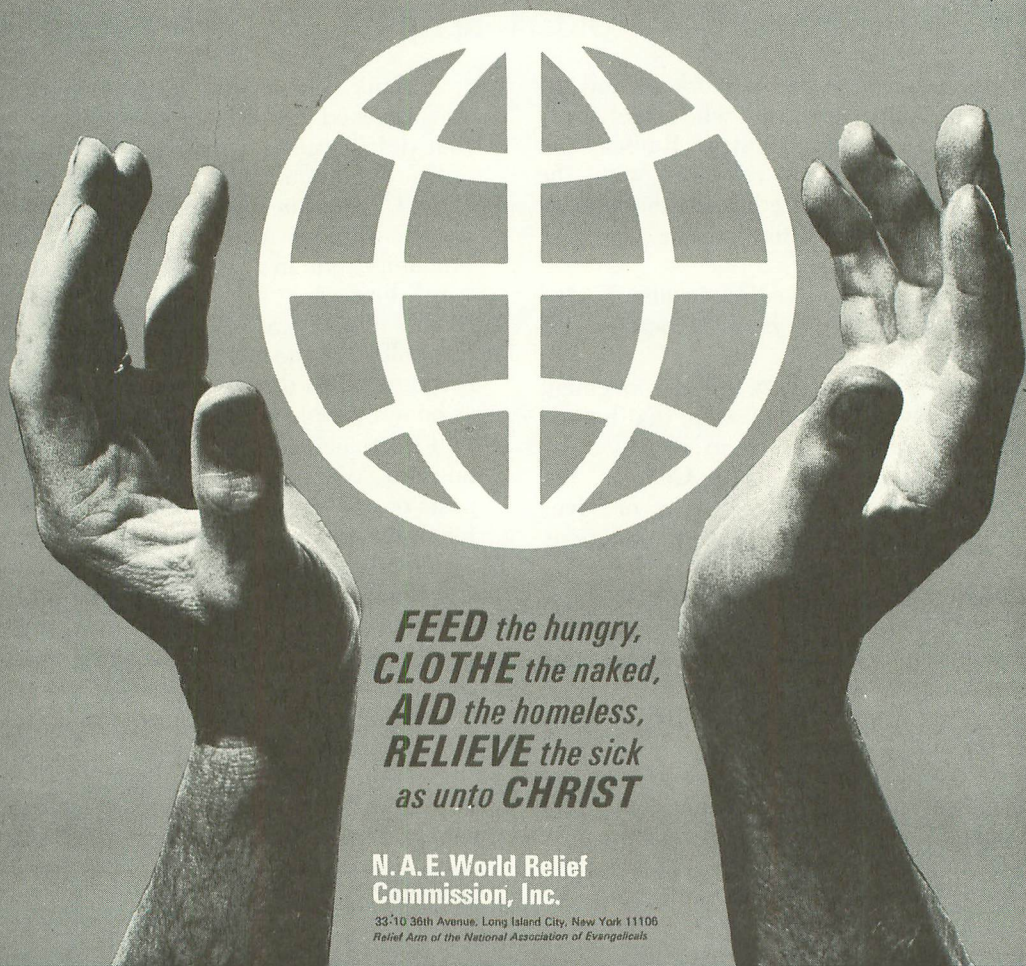


### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MR. BURT is Latin America editor for the *Miami Herald*. This article first appeared in the *Herald* and is reprinted by permission.



# One great hour of sharing

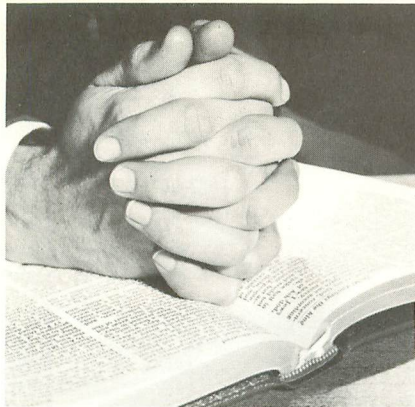


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# powerline

"LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD." PHILIPPIANS 4:6

USE THIS PRAYER CALENDAR AS YOU REMEMBER  
YOUR MISSIONARIES DAILY BEFORE THE LORD

**FEBRUARY 15:** Mary Ellen Rice is teaching vacation Bible schools among Free Will Baptist churches in Brazil through the rest of February. Pray that many of the children attending will be saved.

**FEBRUARY 16:** More than 250 listened to the gospel recently in the village of Korla, Ivory Coast. Several seem interested. Pray that these will be saved.

**FEBRUARY 17:** Volena Wilson writes: "Do pray for many here in the Kotagiri church without work. Scarcity of food in addition to no employment makes it difficult to manage."

**FEBRUARY 18:** Pray that the young men with whom Bill Phipps works at the airport in Las Tablas, Panama, will find Christ through Bill's personal witness.

**FEBRUARY 19:** Jim and Shirley Combs moved to Araras, Brazil, during December after a year's language study. Pray that they will quickly become adjusted to their new ministries.

**FEBRUARY 20:** Benito Rodriguez pastors the Cuban Free Will Baptist church in Miami in addition to directing the C.E.-R.F. Center and editing *Impacto*. Pray that God will give strength and wisdom for these responsibilities.

**FEBRUARY 21:** Pray that patients at Doropo, Ivory Coast, clinic will be receptive to the gospel presented as they are treated.

**FEBRUARY 22:** Herbert and Geraldine Waid are working through the Unejima church, Tokyo. Pray that their witness will be effective.

**FEBRUARY 23:** Director of Publications Jerry Ballard will be in Brazil through March 15 assisting literature missionary Don Robirds in finalizing initial plans for Portuguese popular-appeal magazine to be printed in mid-1967. Pray for God's direction and wisdom in these important first stages of development.

**FEBRUARY 24:** A missionary writes: "Pray that we will have some God-called nationals who will take the Word to their people. . . ." Pray that Christians in missionary-established churches will assume leadership responsibilities as they grow in grace.

**FEBRUARY 25:** Praise the Lord for more than \$1,600 recently given to purchase a diesel generator for the Kishanganj, North India, station. Pray for increased effectiveness for Carlisle and Marie Hanna, ministering here.

**FEBRUARY 26:** Lonnie Sparks, Goumere, and Bill Jones and Jimmy Aldridge, Koun, are directing Bible institutes in Ivory Coast. One of them writes: "Pray for our classes in the Bible school. We need physical and spiritual stamina and wisdom that comes from above."

**FEBRUARY 27:** Pray that children attending child evangelism classes in Earnie Deeds' garage each Friday will be saved. Pray that missionaries will gain access to parents through these young people.

**FEBRUARY 28:** Pray that the Holy Spirit's power will accompany the Agni-French translation of *Mark* recently published for use in the Agni tribe, Ivory Coast.

**MARCH 1:** Pray for Carmen, a young woman recently saved in Panama, who has begun teaching in the Panama City church. She is the first Panamanian worker in Free Will Baptist ministry here.

**MARCH 2:** Archie and Sarah Mayhew have started services in an area with no other Protestants. Already several have been saved. Pray for continued witnessing opportunities as they finish studying Kulango.

**MARCH 3:** Pray for the young woman who recently began teaching in the Pirasununga, Brazil, church. She is the first Brazilian worker here.

**MARCH 4:** Dan and Margaret Merkh were appointed as missionaries to France in January. Pray that support will be supplied quickly and that God will call other young people to Europe through their deputational ministry.

**MARCH 5:** Pray that the Lord will give witnessing opportunities to Ella Rae Jones and Patsy Tyson in language study in Costa Rica.

**MARCH 6:** Literature missionaries skilled in production and distribution are urgently needed in virtually every country

where Free Will Baptist missionaries work. "Pray ye therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into his harvest."

**MARCH 7:** Pray that Rufus Coffey, Director of Conference Ministries, will know the Lord's direction in planning missionaries' itineraries and Crusades for World Evangelism.

**MARCH 8:** The clinic load at Doropo, Ivory Coast, is often very heavy. Pray that God will supply Eddie and Sandra Payne with strength for these responsibilities.

**MARCH 9:** Pray that God will give Evangelist Sakharan Benjamin an effective ministry in Karamadai, South India. He leads a small church in a town of 15,000 people.

**MARCH 10:** Dave Franks writes: "There are two towns, Taquaitinga and Taiuva, near us where there are opportunities to open new works. Pray that God will supply the needed workers."

**MARCH 11:** Pray that God will supply needed funds for missionaries on itineraries: Bobby Aycock, Bill Fulcher, Dr. LaVerne Miley, Bobby Poole, Tom Willey, Jr. Pray also that God will use these to challenge others for missionary service.

**MARCH 12:** Estenio Garcia leads the Agua Buena church outside Panama City in addition to the downtown church. Pray that he will know God's wisdom in pastoring and witnessing.

**MARCH 13:** Pray that the Lord will grant unusual wisdom to Joy Jones and Jamie Aldridge in planning special work among the women around Koun, Ivory Coast. They write: "Pagan customs and beliefs are kept alive only by the women in most areas. If they are reached for Christ, a definite advance has been made."

**MARCH 14:** Opportunities are unlimited in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan (pop. 657,000). Pray that Wesley and Aileen Calvery will know God's direction in initiating Free Will Baptist ministries here.



# HEARTBEAT

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## 'OUT OF MY HEART'

A word from the General Director

*J. Reford Wilson*

**AN ELEVENTH HOUR WITNESS** • What would you think, what would you say, what would you do, if you had but one hour to live? Solemn thoughts, selected words, concentrated work. No time for idleness. No time for wishing. No time for guessing. • Is this the "eleventh hour" for missions? Paul's admonition, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2), is relevant not only to the sinner but to the believer. The African asked the missionary, "Why did you not come sooner?" How would you have answered? • Is this the eleventh hour for the church? • In the parable of the labourers (Matthew 20), there were those who for most of the day were idle and only in the last hour did they become involved. There was reprimand for having stood idle, but once involved with labor there was reward. More of our churches have sensed the lateness of the hour, the significance of the task and have involved themselves directly with our ministry of world evangelism. • Idleness has been to many churches like an anchor holding a ship close to shore so that it has never launched out into the deep for the great "multitude of fishes" waiting to be caught (Luke 5:6). Peter was gripped with bewildering amazement at the results. Many churches are yet to be amazed at the results of obeying Christ. • I do not propose that increased missionary giving and praying will pack the pews and pad the church treasury. These are by-products of a Bible-preaching, Bible-teaching and Bible-practicing church. But let it not be said of your church, "Too late for the eleventh hour reward." • Is it the eleventh hour for you? What have you done to win the world to Jesus Christ? Do not excuse yourself because of the enormity of the task. As a body of believers the field is the world in which we labor together. As an individual it is not the billions but the man with a soul whom you can reach for which you are responsible. • The hour is late but there is yet time, why waste it? No Christian can rationalize his idleness. To give token service to Christ, tips to missions and live for other things is folly.