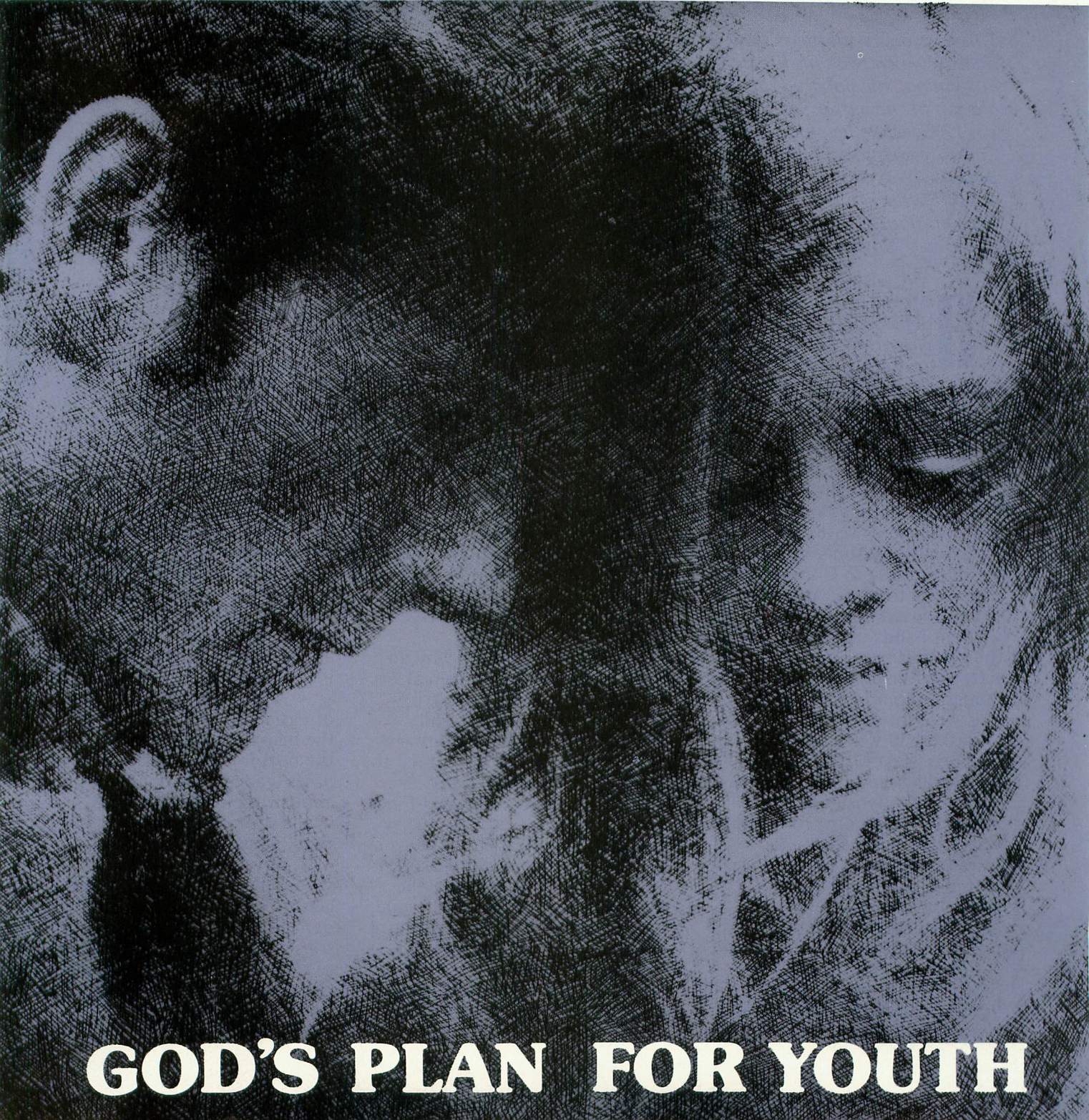


Heartbeat

SEPTEMBER 1974

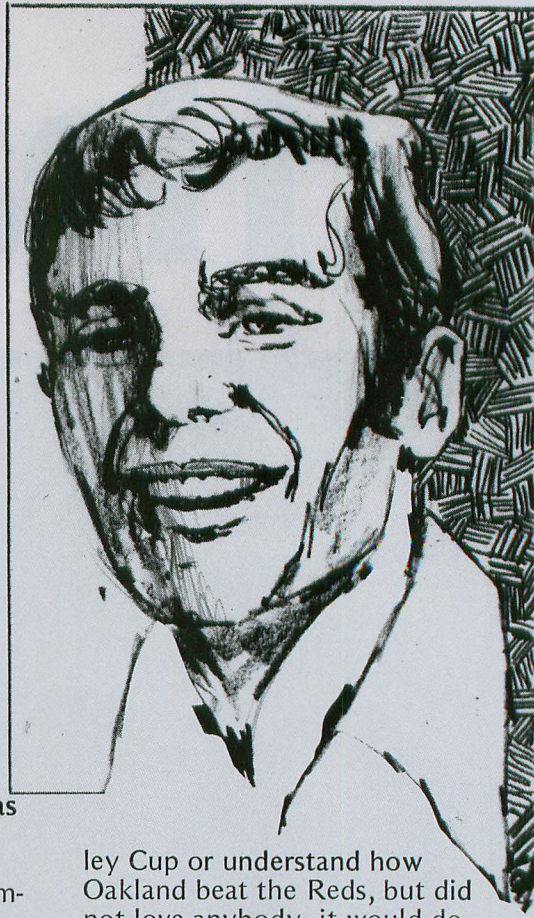


GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUTH

LOVE HAS NO OFF-SEASON

by Gene Carol Olsen

This missionary mother's view of her son and the tragedy which took his life demonstrates God's work in a young "missionary." Mark Olsen, seventeen-year-old son of the author, was electrocuted on September 15, 1973, while helping with the wiring at Ivory Coast Academy, school for missionary children at Bouake, Ivory Coast. Mark was a friend of several children of FWB missionaries. Howard and Joan Filkins were his houseparents in the new dormitory built by Missionary Howard Gage with Free Will Baptist money.



He had a great time at LIFE '72 at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Now he is having a greater time. It's LIFE—dateless! I speak of our seventeen-year-old son, Mark. On September 15 of last year he was electrocuted while working with one of his best friends.

But don't turn the page yet. This is not a crepe-draped post-mortem. I write it in celebration of my son's triumph, a paean of praise to God's molding of one life to please Himself.

Mark loved hunting, working with his hands, Hondas, cars (he got his license on his sixteenth birthday), sports, the modern idiom in music—and girls were interesting, too.

Basketball was his first love in sports. Last March his team took second place in their league in the Ivory Coast national finals, going to Abidjan where they were finally defeated by a team "psyched up" by fetish dancers chanting under the baskets. This year they determined they would do better.

"Mark was no superstar," one of his teammates said, "but he certainly worked at it. He was a no-quitter with a

win-but-play-fair attitude. He rarely missed a practice and was always behind us whether he got to play or not.

"His best game was our championship game in Abidjan. Although he didn't play even half the game he played very consistently and finished the game with eight points."

Mark would never have made the Olympics. But, like Paul, he ran straight to the goal with purpose in every step. He fought to win. He was not shadow-boxing or playing around (see 1 Corinthians 9:26 LB).

Perhaps this explains why an English assignment written after Neill Foster's ministry at Ivory Coast Academy last fall and found by Mark's housemother after his death is rather special to us. Imagining himself a pro-athlete, he had paraphrased First Corinthians 13:

1. If I could rattle off the batting averages of every player in the American League or the E.R.A. of every National League pitcher, but did not love others, I would be as human as a center-field scoreboard.

2. Even if I knew everything about everything, or could predict who would win the Stan-

ley Cup or understand how Oakland beat the Reds, but did not love anybody, it would do no good, even though the bookies might like an "in" with me.

3. Even if I do give part of my \$80,000 contract to feed some poor kids over in the slums, or sign my autograph with a Bible reference under it, or maybe even speak at some church's Father-and-Son banquet about being a Christian and an athlete, but draw two technicals in every game, my love is a fake.

4. A guy with love has a lot of patience; he does not knock the manager who jerks him in the bottom of the ninth with bases loaded. Nor does he brag about winning with a T.K.O. in the second round, or bowling two 294 games.

5. Love does not demand to start in every game, and doesn't get broken up when called for defensive goal tending. It tries not to notice two consecutive wild pitches or the missed clipping call on fourth and first.

6. A fellow with love likes to

play fair, but that does not mean he cannot rejoice when he gets a freaky call.

7. A guy with real love is the one that hangs with the team even when it is twenty-three-and-a-half games out of first place. He also does not blame it on the rookie catcher.

8. Love never quits or has an off-season. Someday all our gifts and talents will disappear, but love goes on forever.

9. Even though we think we know quite a bit about quite a few things, we really do not. Even the brains of great football and basketball strategists know hardly anything.

10. Later on when we get to be perfect, the talents which we have now will really seem useless, so they will just sort of disappear.

11. When I was with the farm club I did things a little awkwardly because of my lack of experience. I also thought and understood differently. But now that I am in the majors I have changed and I do things more smoothly.

12. Even so, I know very little, but one of these days I am going to see God, close up. Then I will know and understand everything.

13. After all that I have said, there are still three things that really count: faith, hope, and love. But, of course, love is the most important.

If Mark was no superstar in sports, he was no angel in his spiritual life either. But he was working at becoming conformed to the image of Christ.

One of my best memories is of his last day at home. Twice he had been very unhappy with me and lashed out in harsh words. (What teen-ager does not?) But

each time—twice in one day!—he came in the house and said simply, “Mom, I’m sorry.”

I was amazed, silenced: That this sometimes overbearing, often arrogant, six-foot-three-inch young man with the gorgeous sideburns should show such signs of being tender to the Holy Spirit’s voice in his conscience was a marvel that awed me even then. My heart said, “Thank You, Lord.”

The next day was the opening day of school. Missionary Don Young, who sometimes played basketball with Mark, was talking with him about how good this year would be. Don asked him, “Are you ready to play ball this year?”

Mark answered, “Yes—but you know, this is not exactly what I really want to do. I want to play ball, yet there’s something deeper than this, and I can’t explain it. What I really want is to have an impact on the kids in my school.”

Eleven days later, on September 15, we saw he had made his impact—not because of his basketball prowess but because in the dorms he is remembered as the fellow who would kneel to pray. His houseparents of last year said, “Many times when we went into his room we found him reading his Bible and praying.”

A former roommate wrote us, “Last year I was coming to the point of throwing Christianity out the window because of the doubts I had about God. But watching Mark having his devotions every morning and night and seeing him kneeling and praying made my conscience bother me. He was close to the Lord and I kept drifting away, not having devotions and not even going to Sunday school.

“Well, when I got the news, I was really struck, and I realized that if it had been I killed, I’d not have gone to be with the Lord. I’ve been doing some hard thinking today and I realize now that I really do need God.”

In the quiet of the night after Mark’s funeral the Holy Spirit whispered the same words concerning Enoch to me and to his friend—miles away—who had been working with him that last day: “(He) walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (Genesis 5:24). We were both assured that Mark was “in constant touch with God” (Living Bible), it pleased God to take him.

I had always imagined Enoch as an old man who sort of tottered off into the eternal presence of God, but he was not. Look at the ages of the patriarchs immediately before and after him: 930, 912, 905, 910, 895, 962, Enoch—365, 969, 777, 950. Enoch’s perfect lifespan was shortest of them all! He “trusted God . . . and that is why God took him . . . Before this happened God had said how pleased he was with Enoch” (Hebrews 11:5 LB).

Mark, too, walked with God. He was not a phony. He was ready. One of his classmates told how, not ten minutes before he died, the ladder he was standing on slipped off the pole he was working on and he almost fell. He heard him say, “It’s in the hands of God.”

Once he had said to Don Young, “You know, I think I might like to come back to Ivory Coast as a missionary. I don’t know for sure, but my life is in God’s hands.”

Adapted and reprinted with permission from *THE ALLIANCE WITNESS*, November 21, 1973.



Confusion exists today whenever people start talking about the call to be a missionary. This is understandable since an unabridged dictionary gives 34 uses and meanings for the word "call." As a transitive verb it means "to select or appoint for a specific office, duty or employment." This is what God has already done for all Christians.

All of us are called to God for salvation (Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Timothy 2:4), to purity of life (Ephesians 1:4, 5), to fruit bearing (John 15:8), and to worldwide evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20). All Christians share in the task of the Great Commission by virtue of being a part of the body of Christ. Paul makes this clear in Romans 10:14, 15 when he shows that some members of the body are to go and preach while others are to send them.

The statement has been made, "He who has a 'command' needs no 'call'." This statement is partially true, yet, it lacks total explanation. God's command is, "Go ye into all the world and

preach the gospel to every creature." Obviously, we cannot individually preach to every creature. Consequently, there must be a specific place and type ministry for each of us in His Church which would enable the body collectively to preach to every creature. The command, "Go . . . into all the world," demands priority, however, and should be seriously pondered by every child of God.

A second use of the word "call" must be considered at this point. Used as a noun, "call" means "a religious duty or vocation regarded as divinely inspired." While everyone has received the job of worldwide evangelism, some are chosen of God to physically go to foreign countries as the "sent ones" to preach to those who have not yet heard. In light of this, we understand that the Church, the whole body of Christ, is given the general task of worldwide evangelism. But we must realize that God also chooses individuals for specific jobs and directs them to specific places.

Some erroneously think they

must wait on an earthquake or blinding celestial light to receive a call. It is possible that God might use these things to get the attention of those not walking closely enough to hear His voice; however, these things are not the call.

The call is that deep "abiding conviction" that God puts in the soul of an individual that he or she should go personally. It is that voice in the conscience that keeps prodding and saying, "I want you to go." Of course, the individual must be committed to Christ before He can communicate this "call." We must "volunteer," that is, surrender all and be willing to do His will before we can expect Him to show us what to do (Romans 12:1, 2). Isaiah saw the Lord and offered himself for service before God called him (Isaiah 6:8). It will be the same with us.

God uses different ways to speak to hearts. Some receive their first concern simply from a study of God's Word. And this

Who is Called?

by Jimmy Aldridge

GO YE!
GO YE!
GO YE!
GO YE!

is the basis of any genuine call. Others are influenced by contacts with Christian friends, missionaries, pastors, etc. Statistical reports, pictures, magazine articles, films, or other media showing the intense human need may speak to some. Many others are touched during missions conferences and retreats. Remember, God has already said, "Go." Now, we each become responsible to discover world needs through any or all of the above means. God uses all of these means! He may use one or more of them to direct you in His will for your life.

Is He choosing you for foreign mission service? Do you hear Him saying, "I want you to go to a foreign field"? Remember, while God does the choosing, your fellow members in the body of Christ will also be made aware of the genuine "call" and participate in the fulfilling of it (Acts 13:2, 3).

God wants us to be "filled with the knowledge of His will" (Colossians 1:9). This being "filled" is of such a nature that it seems to almost overflow to those dedicated Christians closest to the one being called. Consequently, they also become assured of this special calling. If one's life does not demonstrate a genuine walk with the Lord (Romans 12:1, 2), this assurance will not be manifested. To the contrary, they will express doubt about the genuineness of the call.

A call to service includes also a call to necessary preparation. Many have received the call for special service during their teenage years. If you are young, don't feel "pushed" to announce a "call" immediately to the public. God uses many apparent "calls" to get our eyes turned in the right direction. Make certain you know that it is God's will for you, then start making preparations to carry it out.

Seek the counsel of missionaries and others in whom you can confide. Don't worry about the "where" at this point. God will show you where He wants you when both He and you are ready. He won't send you to do a job that you are not prepared for.

Qualifications for Service

Spiritual maturity is absolutely necessary in order to be a missionary. You must let God solve the problems of your life before you can be used to help others. A good knowledge of God's Word and a constant walk with Him are essential. Learn to depend upon Him for your resources and guidance. God's "call" is also essential since it will be that "abiding conviction" that will see you through difficult battles with Satan once you are on a foreign field.

You must be physically strong in order to endure "hardness as a good soldier." The life of a missionary is many times very rigorous and physically demanding. Most foreign countries do not enjoy the high level of medical service that we do in the United States. Cultivate good health.

Missionaries constantly meet changing situations. Nothing remains the same for long. It takes an emotionally well-adjusted person to get along. How do you react to authority? to correction? to injustice, etc.? Learn self-control in all situations.

A good knowledge of the Scripture is necessary to be a missionary. Those receiving the call should plan to get a good education. Our Free Will Baptist Bible colleges offer valuable training for the missionary candidate. Some missionaries function as teachers, doctors and builders and must have the

necessary training to do these jobs in addition to their Bible training. Don't forget that many countries have a level of education equal to or higher than ours. A well-developed intellect is a necessary ingredient for missionary service.

Graduation from high school or its equivalent is required by the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions for all candidates. Male or single candidates must also hold a bachelor's degree from an institution acceptable to the board. (Contact the foreign missions staff for further information or educational requirements.)

Practical Steps to the Field

Whenever you are reasonably sure of the call from the Lord, contacts with foreign missions personnel at the Department of Foreign Missions will be a great help. Let them know of your interest. Seek their advice on how to proceed in order to realize the fulfillment of God's plan for you. While you are training at college, consideration should be given to the summer missionary programs. These might enable you to further determine if God is or is not really calling you. A personal visit to a foreign field of service to see what is actually being done may be of great value in helping you understand God's plan for your life.

Preliminary application for foreign service should be made to the board as soon as you are certain God wants you to go. Ideally, this would take place in the third or fourth year of undergraduate training.

If God is speaking to you concerning foreign missions service, the foreign missions staff stands ready to give you advice or counsel. Write to *General Director*, Department of Foreign Missions, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

getting to know them

(Your Missionaries)



Serving in Panama

BILL AND GLENDA FULCHER



Bill Fulcher from Bridgeton, N.C., graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College with a B.A. degree in 1959. He served as pastor in Greenville, N.C., for one year and spent one year pastoring in Cumberland City, Tenn., prior to appointment to missionary service in October of 1960.

Glenda (Barks) Fulcher graduated from Normandy Senior High School in St. Louis, Mo., and attended FWBBC for two-and-one-half years. As a talented soloist and musician she was active in college and church music events.

Bill and Glenda were married in August of 1957. They now have five children: Billy, age 14; John, age 11; Timothy, age 10; Susan, age 5; and Michael, age 3.

The Fulchers first went to language study in Costa Rica on their way to Uruguay in April,

1961. They served with the Paul Robinsons in Uruguay until 1969, establishing works in and around the city of Rivera. Following these two terms of service, they transferred to Panama to assume responsibilities of the works in Agua Buena and in Novo San Juan.

In recent months new records have been set as the Fulchers have worked to increase attendance in the Agua Buena church.

Bill is also a ham radio operator and uses this means to maintain regular contacts with the missions staff as well as with family members.

LARRY AND PRISCILLA INSCOE



Now studying Spanish at the language school in Costa Rica, Larry and Priscilla Inscoe hope to join the Fulchers and the Willeys in Panama at the end of the year. The Inscoes were ap-

pointed to missionary service in August of 1971 and left the U. S. in December of last year.

Larry is from Durham, N.C., where he graduated from Southern High School. He received his B.A. degree from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1971. Although he is not an ordained minister, he is a dedicated layman. Along with his wife, Priscilla, he completed Missionary Internship training in May of 1972 in preparation for their service in Panama.

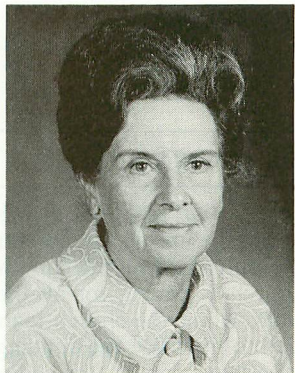
Priscilla Rhodes of Lenior County, N.C., married Larry in September of 1966. They have two boys: Johnny, age 6; and Mark, age 4. Priscilla attended FWBBC during 1962-63 and received her nursing diploma from General Hospital in Nashville, Tenn., in 1966.

The Inscoes expect to be working in the interior of Panama. Since Larry is a pilot, they hope to use the airplane to reach some of these areas with the gospel.

"MOM" MABEL WILLEY

Although "Mom" Mabel Willey is known by most Free Will Baptists, not everyone has had the opportunity to meet her personally. Not many people know the details of her life with "Pop" Willey in the early days of their ministry in Panama and Cuba. And few know much of her background.

"Mom" was born in Huntsville, Ala. She attended Toccoa Falls Bible College and received a two-year diploma in 1928. She received her diploma from Nyack Missionary Training Institute the following year.



Mabel married Thomas H. Willey, Sr., (deceased in 1968) in July of 1930. Thomas H. Willey, Jr., their son, is now serving in Panama and Barbara Willey Moehlman, their daughter, is a school teacher in Miami, Fla.

Mrs. Willey taught in a Christian school in Tampa, Fla., for one year then served with her husband in three separate pastorates following their marriage.

The Willeys were first appointed to missionary service in 1935. They served in Panama for two years prior to their move to Cuba. They served in Cuba from 1940 to 1960 when they were forced to leave the island. "Mom" returned to Panama in October of 1971, following the death of her husband. She carries on a teaching ministry among the women as well as assisting in the Panama City church.

THOMAS H. JR. AND PATSY WILLEY

Tom Willey, Jr., of High Point, N. C., graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College with a B.A. degree in May, 1955. He married Emma Ruth Bennett of Bridge-ton, N. C., in July of the same year. Three children were born



to this union: Alicia, deceased; Kathy, age 11; and Thomas Randall, age one year, 11 months.

Tom attended Peabody College for two years and has completed work for his M.A. degree in missions from Columbia Bible College. He was first appointed to missionary service in 1955.

The Lord took Emma Ruth in death in 1972. Following a period of loneliness and difficulty for both Tom and the children, God provided another companion and mother in the person of Miss Patsy Tyson of Fountain, N.C. Tom and Patsy were married in March of this year.

Patsy graduated from FWBBC in 1964 and received her R.N. from Rowan Memorial Hospital, Salisbury, N.C., in 1959. She served from 1964-1968 under the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions in Quito, Ecuador. From 1969 until her marriage in March, she continued serving in Ecuador but not under the foreign mission board.

Tom and Pat are presently serving in Panama City where their principal work is with the church which was started in that city under Tom's direction. They also are involved with work in Jenene, Canita and Isla de Canas.

deputational echoes

by Henry
Van Kluyve



They Are For Real

Recently (May, 1974), four more missionary couples completed Missionary Internship and embarked on their official deputational ministry: Dale & Sandra Bishop (Japan); Lynn & Ramona Miley (Africa); Dennis & Carol Teague (France); Jerry & Jancie Webb (France).

These appointees are anticipating monthly support from their native states and local churches. The Bishops look to Arkansas and Georgia. The Mileys are counting on Missouri and Alabama. The Teagues are expecting Oklahoma and Illinois to respond to their needs. The Webbs are looking to California and our western states for support. Naturally each one has high hopes that his local church will rally to the need.

Before being approved for departure each couple must have \$15,000 cash in their account. In addition, their total monthly cost figure must be underwritten. (Bishops, \$1,340; Miley, \$1,440; Teague, \$1,260; Webbs, \$1,645).

Our work is cut out for us! I hope to have most of their monthly need underwritten by January, 1975. With your help this can be done!

I will be traveling extensively on behalf of these young missionaries. Mission rally days will be scheduled. Pastor's conferences will be conducted. Faith promise appeals will be offered. Write our office for further information. Pastor, will you open your pulpit to the missionary? Will you also free your people? Please, allow God's Holy Spirit to stir them to become missions activated.



emphasis: world

EVENTS OF NEWS AND PRAYER SIGNIFICANCE

160 attend conference

Doropo, Ivory Coast—Missionary Eddie Payne took 14 people from this area to the yearly conference in Assiasso. Approximately 160 persons attended the event. Four tribes were represented: Koulango, Lobi, Mossi, and Agni.

According to Eddie, "This was an important meeting for the African church. Two young men, who have been licensed for four years, were ordained: Koffi David from Goumere and Victor from Kpanan. Over the years they have proven themselves in the ministry."

(Note: Earlier reports indicated three were to be ordained at this meeting.)

17 attend orientation

Nashville, Tenn.—Seventeen new missionaries (eight appointed and nine approved) attended special orientation sessions at the National Offices here August 9-11. Special orientation was given on mission operations, financial procedures, deputational ministries, photography, communications and preparation for departure to the field.

Sessions were conducted by staff members, J. Reford Wilson, Henry Van Kluyve, Harold Critcher and Don Robirds. Mrs. Cleo Pursell gave orientation concerning the Woman's National Auxiliary provision closet.

Attending the sessions were appointees Jerry and Janice Webb, Lynn and Ramona Miley, Dennis and Carol Teague, and Dale and Sandra Bishop;

and those approved for Missionary Internship training: Steve and Judy Lytle, Allan and Larue Crowson, Patrick and Susan Dickens, Judy Smith, Alice Smith, and Arilla Wode.

thrust gets results

Barbacena, Brazil—During the recent month-long evangelistic thrust put forth here, 32 people enlisted in an effort to memorize 25 Bible verses, and films were shown to an average crowd of approximately 68 persons per Saturday night.

Bobby Aycock reports that through the memorization effort, the 23-year-old son of the Sunday school superintendent made a public profession of faith in Christ. He quoted the 25 verses following his decision.

Nine other people manifested themselves publicly that same Wednesday night, resolving to do the Lord's will. Several new people showed interest and requested prayer.

mclains in charge

Sapporo, Japan—With the Wesley Calvery family gone on vacation during the month of August, Jim and Olena McLain have been in charge of English classes at Airin Chapel. Jim plans to start Bible classes soon with a young man from the church.

The McLains expressed hopes of starting several new ministries and hoped Gombei (David) Uchikoshi would be helping them some.

wilson gives orientation



interior remodeling begun

Rennes, France—Remodeling has begun on the inside of the building recently purchased by the church here. The church is paying for all the interior work while the church loan fund was used to purchase the building.

At the latest report, the ceiling was up, electricity was in, radiant heating pipes were in place, and cement was poured. The Haases request prayer that the building will pass inspection.

Construction, according to the Haases, has caused a great deal of excitement in the area. Many witnessing opportunities have come from the activity.

news briefs

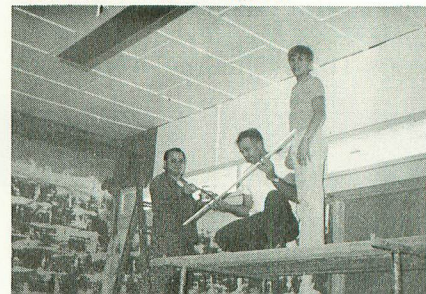
Koun, Ivory Coast—Gene Richards, seven-year-old son of Norman and Bessie Richards, has been confined with infectious hepatitis. Pray for him, the family, and others who have been exposed.

Bouna, Ivory Coast—A Christian here was recently heard to say, "We don't have a shepherd here." The Robert Bryans, in the U.S. on furlough, worked in this area.

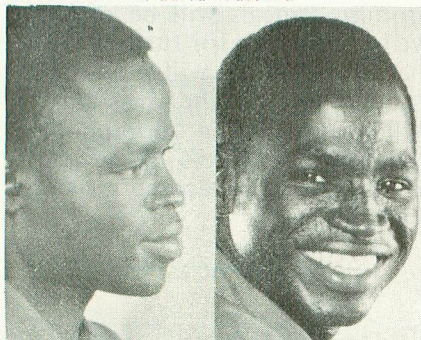
Nashville, Tenn.—Clint and Lynette (Miley) Morgan have a son, Alex Clinton Morgan, III, born here August 5. Lynette is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Laverne Miley.

Panama City, Panama—Kathy Willey, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Tom Willey, Jr., recently accompanied her grand-

haas works on church interior



victor and koffi david ordained



mother, "Mom" Mabel Willey, to the States for a short visit with relatives while "Mom" attended the National Association and the Foreign Missions Retreat.

Nashville, Tenn.—It was learned recently that the house where the Bill Fulchers are living in Panama and the house where the Ernie Deeds are living in Brazil, are both for sale. This will necessitate moves and involves a great deal of additional expense. Pray for direction in each case.

Nassian, Ivory Coast—Jerry Pinkerton says the church here "is presently at a near stand-still. But they did decide to invite the conference here next year." Pray for the Pinkertons and this church.

Sapporo, Japan—The Jim McLains recently informed the missions office that they were able to rent a house for the Jerry Banks family. The house is located within walking distance of the language school.

Agua Buena, Panama—Tauro, Panamanian javelin champion who is studying in the Latin American Bible Seminary in Costa Rica, spoke recently in the church here. Six decisions were recorded in the two nights of services.

Ceres, Calif.—George R. Robirds, father of *Heartbeat* editor Don Robirds, died here on July 25. He had been treated for cancer for approximately one year.

prayer for doctor

Conselheiro Lafaiete, Brazil—English classes are giving the Deeds family new openings. Ernie recently reported a new acquaintance with a doctor and his family in the area. He requests special prayer as they continue to witness to Dr. Nilson Albuquerque and his wife, Marilia.

lee notes growth

Doropo, Ivory Coast—Sherwood Lee, here at the clinic for the summer, has been in charge while the Mileys were on vacation. Writing from a "very busy" station, he says, "It hasn't changed much—at least patient-wise." But he adds, "I do see real spiritual growth. Joseph is a real blessing. Before, he seemed so dependent on the missionaries. It's nice to see him stepping out on his own. God is blessing his ministry."

Sherwood also gave this account of a recent occurrence: "A man came here one day—a man who had heard the gospel three years ago when I preached at Kholaanyodouo. Finally he realized the truth and came over ten miles to pray. We went with him to his village that Saturday and watched him burn his idols. Our hearts rejoiced!"

free methodists bigger abroad

Winona Lake, Ind.—According to a recent news article in *The Missionary Tidings*, missions magazine for Free Methodists, the overseas membership of Free Methodists exceeds the membership of their North American churches. The Free Methodist church abroad now numbers 71,233 members, while in the homeland they number 70,656.

inscoes survey in panama

San Jose, Costa Rica—Larry and Priscilla Inscoe recently reported plans to survey the areas of Las Tablas, Tonosi, and Isla de Canas in Panama during their break from language school. They hoped to gain some insight into housing, schooling, and living conditions to better plan for their future ministry in this area. Priscilla also planned to take some

smith shares with missionaries



medical supplies to administer aid while in the area.

On a recent return trip from Panama City, Larry stopped in Las Tablas. He says, "The Lord led in this visit! We met the director of public health services in the area. (We had no plans to meet him.) He promised his help in any way we needed him. We later learned that he would be the one from whom Priscilla would receive permission to practice nursing in that area."

Tom Willey, Jr. and possibly Bill Fulcher planned to join the Inscoes for the survey.

astounds retreaters

Nashville, Tenn.—Missionaries and board members gathered at Free Will Baptist Bible College July 29-August 2, for the annual Foreign Missions Retreat which featured Dr. W. Robert Smith as speaker. Dr. Smith is professor of philosophy at Bethel College, St. Paul, Minn.

Missionaries, staff, and board members were heard commenting that they were astounded at Dr. Smith's depth of Bible knowledge and his ability to communicate it to his hearers.

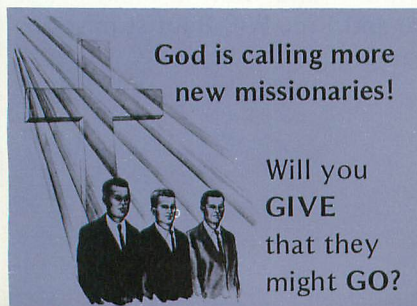
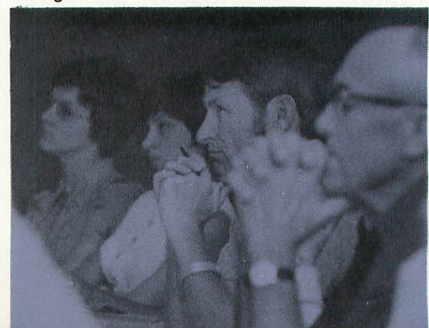
The Board of Foreign Missions also met during the week. They interviewed furloughing missionaries Archie Mayhew, Herbert Waid, Jim Combs, and Jimmy Aldridge.

They finalized appointment of Jerry and Janice Webb and Dennis and Carol Teague, France; Dale and Sandra Bishop, Japan; and Lynn and Ramona Miley, Ivory Coast.

The board also approved Allan and Larue Crowson and Patrick and Susan Dickens to attend Missionary Internship training beginning in September. They had lacked final applications at the May board meeting.

This was the first official board meeting since the election of three new board members at the National Association.

intrigued missionaries at retreat



are we getting too big?

Have you ever gone to a large gathering of people with a certain fear or uneasiness over the possibility you might meet someone you didn't know or someone you should have known but somehow couldn't remember? Well, that seems to be my plight more and more.

Did you ever think of the possibility that your church might grow so big that you would know only a small percentage of the people by name? This has also bugged me somewhat.

But have you ever thought Free Will Baptist missions would get too big? Have you given thought to the possibility that we might have so many missionaries that we would lose all interest in personalities? Is it possible for individual mission

needs to become obscure? Will missionaries be relegated to the same old computer numbering system as the rest of society? Will we start referring only to number 23231, 25673, etc., instead of missionary Dave Franks, Wesley Calvery, or Dan Merkh?

Have you ever stopped to think what that would mean? How would prayers be prayed? How would God respond? Where would interest lie? Where would compassion come into play? On what basis would there be any burden sharing? needs expressed? comfort given?

God has given us a good number of new missionaries. Others have made application. And we are still praying that He will complete the 100 we've asked for in this decade.

As I look toward the future I almost tremble! The population increase urges immediate action, more recruiting, greater involvement, larger budgets—even more personnel. And as we continue to grow, fewer people are keeping track of missionaries and where they are serving. This means fewer and fewer people are praying daily for individual missionaries by name and for their ministries. Less and less personal involvement is almost inevitable unless we make a conscious effort now to keep informed, to keep up the prayer chains, and to call out all the missionary names as we regularly go to the throne of grace.

Are we getting too big?

No, we will never get too big, because the task is too large—the WHOLE WORLD. But we can become disoriented or lose our sense of direction and contact with God's servants abroad unless we structure now to head off the possibility of an impersonal program.

In order to do this you must keep yourself and your church informed. Request missionary maps, directories, and prayer cards from the mission office. Use them to get acquainted with the missionary pictures. Learn to identify them by sight. Keep people in your prayers! Make missionaries' names a personal challenge to your memory bank and don't make them another set of holes in a computer card. Cards are dead and cold! Your prayers could become the same.

Missionaries are alive and warm. Make your prayers like they are and Free Will Baptist missions can never become too big!

'out of my heart'

J. Reford Wilson

A Personal Letter

To my dear friends, whom I love in the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray for you to receive this as a personal letter—as if it came in a first-class envelope to your house. I often long to come to your home or to your church and have the blessing of seeing you and enjoying your fellowship.

I know and hear of your faithfulness in serving our Lord. Through many years you have walked with the Lord. I have felt the strength of your prayers. Your gifts have extended your witness through dedicated missionaries. It gives us great joy to see men and women living with hope and joy because you have shared with them your joy and peace in Christ Jesus.

I, too, know the problems of taking time to pray for my brothers in the work of the Lord. Frequently on Saturday night and Sunday morning, my prayers span across the U.S. and other countries for pastors and missionaries. I often think of you Christian friends whom I have met in various conferences and associations. I remember you young people whose lives have great potential for the kingdom of God.

With deep appreciation, I remember you Sunday school teachers, pastors, public school teachers and friends who have influenced my life for Christ. How can I repay those whose godly example has made it easier to follow on in the work of our Lord? God is using many of you to show others the riches of grace in Christ Jesus.

I think of you who have so graciously opened your homes and hearts to me, our staff and our missionaries. I do thank you for this hospitality of Christian concern. In the name of Christ, you have given many "cups of cold water." These have been refreshing experiences. Your kind and helpful words have been like fragrant flowers along the pathway of our lives.

Recently, we had 17 new missionaries along with furloughing mis-

sionaries attending our missionary retreat. We also had these 17 for three days of intensive orientation sessions. These were precious days together. We talked about our relationship with Christ and with one another. We talked about their work on the mission field. We talked about the services they would have in your churches. We prayed together for the wisdom of God. We asked for the Holy Spirit to fill each one. We asked for the love of God to dominate both words and work.

Now, dear friend, I ask you to pray with us for these men and women who face new ventures for Christ.

We have tremendous financial needs to send these whom God has called. We need 200 churches or individuals who will give \$500 to provide the accumulated cash to send these missionaries. Some could give \$250, \$300 or the \$500 requested, but if less than 200 people or churches make a \$500 commitment we will need more than 200 donors. I ask you to prayerfully consider this a special letter from me to you. Ask God as an individual or as a pastor what He wants you to do and return your response to me immediately. It is urgent.

In Christ,

J. Reford Wilson

financial facts

THROUGH JULY 31

ON DEPOSIT JULY 1	\$ 288,214.43
RECEIPTS THRU JULY 31	544,756.70
DISBURSEMENTS THRU JULY 31	560,545.88
PROJECTED RECEIPTS THRU JULY 31	633,913.00
TOTAL 1974 FOREIGN MISSIONS BUDGET	1,086,716.00

MISSIONARY ACCOUNTS*

Aldridge	\$ 7,897.13	Mayhew	\$ 2,467.64
Aycock	3,143.38	Merkh	(178.46)
Banks	4,908.53	L. Miley	(1,011.99)
Barker	2,363.42	Miley, M.D.	17,035.84
Bishop	(138.84)	Palmer	(3,308.26)
Bryan	2,658.90	Payne	1,417.78
Calvery	(3,124.66)	Pinkerton	(4,117.31)
Caton	6,964.69	Poole	4,802.58
Combs	27,313.19	Richards	(1,528.46)
Coscia	1,673.99	Robinson	9,167.72
Cronk	5,022.90	Sexton	21,167.55
Deeds	2,162.65	Sparks	17,402.62
Eagleton	8,735.62	Stevens	954.46
Ellison	3,458.99	Sturgill	3,546.68
Filkins	(1,785.17)	Teague	2,822.34
Franks	2,938.80	Vanhook	7,745.84
Fulcher	(359.35)	Waid	(3,668.00)
Gage	(531.66)	Webb	(1,444.30)
Gainer	(1,383.95)	Wilkinson	2,850.99
Gibbs	4,930.95	Willey, Jr.	5,428.97
Haas	(8,921.06)	M. Willey	482.26
Hanna	20,955.30	Brazil Inst.	3,107.59
Hersey	1,529.62	Brazil Veh.	7,189.17
Hughes	4,656.84	S. India	531.18
Inscoc	4,237.25	Summer Miss.	2,778.66
Lee	12,611.53	Willey Mem.	1,133.91
McLain	1,845.43	Project 5000	6,845.12

*Amounts in parenthesis indicate deficits

payne's people



Heartbeat

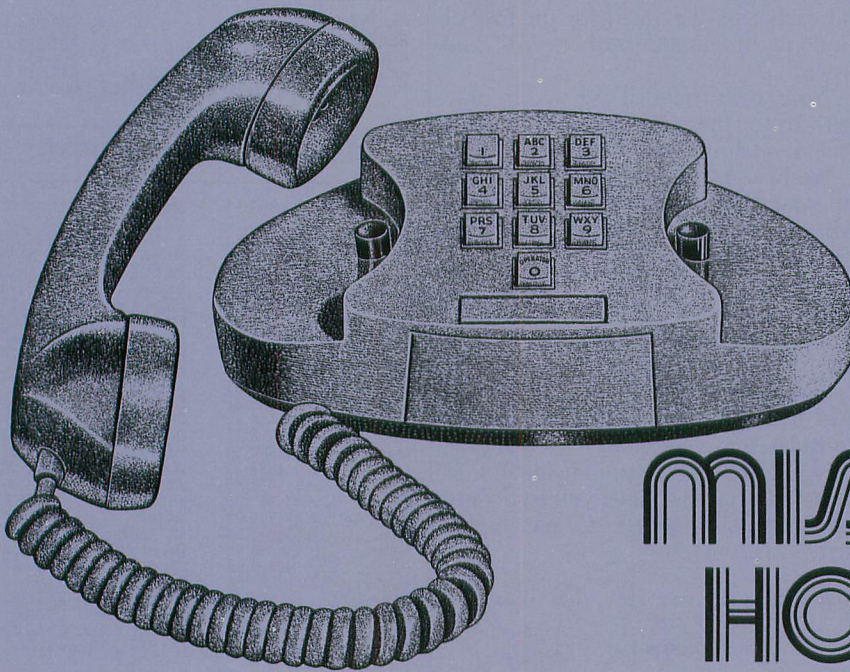
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BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS: Joseph Ange, chairman; Raymond Riggs, vice chairman; Rolla Smith, secretary; James Murray; Gene Rogers; R. Eugene Waddell; Fred Warner; Allen Moore; Dennis Wiggs

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: J. Reford Wilson, general director; Harold Critcher, director of finance; Don Robirds, director of communications; Henry Van Kluyve, director of deputation

Please clip and send this label with all correspondence.



CALL MISSIONS HOTLINE

Get three minutes of up-to-date information and prayer requests.

Keep your prayer meetings alive with prayer for missions needs.

Make this a part of your weekly church activities.

Just call:

615 242-1771

(It costs only the price of a station-to-station call.)

This message is usually updated each Wednesday morning plus anytime urgent requests come in from the field.