

# Heartbeat<sup>®</sup>

Newsheet Edition

JUNE 1975

## J. Reford Wilson Resigns After Serving 13½ Years



**T**hey sat stunned for a few moments! Silence pervaded the conference room! The Board of Foreign Missions had just been handed a letter of resignation by General Director of Foreign Missions, J. Reford Wilson. Board and staff alike were unprepared for the shock.

But after collecting composure, receiving a few minutes of explanation, and having been given the assurance by "the chief" that he would not reconsider, the board "reluctantly" accepted his resignation with "deep appreciation and commendation" for his faithful and untiring service at the helm of the Free Will Baptist foreign missionary force.

J. Reford Wilson, thought of by many missionaries as their "pastor," has served in the capacity of General Director since 1962—13½ years. He acknowledged the difficulty he felt in leaving this "pastorate," and he expressed gratitude to the National Association of Free Will Baptists for their faith and trust in him, to the Board of Foreign Missions for their cooperation and consideration, to the staff and missionaries for the privilege of serving with them, to his family for understanding the demands of his ministry, and to all who have stood behind him through the years for their prayers and friendship.

Then, he gave this explanation: "I am very conscious of my inabilities to meet the growing complexities of administering the affairs of our tremendous world-wide ministries. After much prayer in seeking divine leadership and in consultation with my family, I have discerned that this is the time for me to submit my resignation. I am confident that



*Continued on inside →*



# emphasis: world

EVENTS OF NEWS AND PRAYER SIGNIFICANCE

## **wilson resigns**

→ Continued from front cover

God has His man who is qualified to assume this position of leadership."

Although he has long desired to teach missions, he stated, "I thought my day of opportunity had passed." When he was confronted with the possibility of fulfilling this desire, he was forced to consider it seriously. It was after this prayerful deliberation that he decided to accept the position as Professor of Missions and Bible at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Okla. In that position he hopes to continue influencing people for world-wide evangelism.

Termination date for Mr. Wilson as the leader of the foreign missions department has been set at July 31, 1975. His successor has not yet been chosen, but the board is seeking and screening men who would have the potential to fill the vital role.

Next month's *Heartbeat* will carry a tribute to J. Reford Wilson, this man who has given a good portion of his life to the cause of world missions. Get your copy and save it as a memorial of his contribution to foreign missions and to Free Will Baptists.

## **three friends campaign**

*Ribeirao Preto, Brazil*—Bobby Poole revealed a "Three Friends Campaign" was conducted by the church here during the month of April. The object of the campaign was to in-

volve members in evangelism. Each member was to list three of his or her friends, pray for them, and then seek to get them to attend the Bible Conference which Bobby Aycock conducted in the church here May 5-11.

## **pastor, leaders chosen**

*Agua Buena, Panama*—In light of the approaching furlough for the Bill Fulcher family, the church here held an election of officers in April.

Santos Peiru, a young man from the congregation, was elected to serve as pastor of the flock. Three deacons and a treasurer were also selected during the church business session.

## **aycock baptizes 10 converts**

*Barbacena, Brazil*—Ten people, including two married couples, were baptized here on April 6 by Missionary Bobby Aycock. He noted that a special dedication service was conducted the same evening for the baby of one of the baptized couples.

In the same communication, Bobby indicated that three more people had made decisions recently. These included a thirteen-year-old girl, a neighbor lady, and the wife of a man already attending the church.

Two men were recently appointed to act as a commission to work closely with the missionary. They were set apart in a special prayer of consecration during a Sunday eve-

ning service. They will be working with Jim Sturgill when the Aycocks leave for furlough.

## **luncheon evangelism**

*Tokyo, Japan*—Evelyn Hersey's cooking class was scheduled to hold a special luncheon May 22 at the church. Featured speaker for the event was Yoneko, a Japanese woman who lost both legs, one arm and two fingers in a suicide attempt that later led to her conversion. In an attempt to end her life, Yoneko threw herself in front of a passing train, but God had other plans for her. Now, she shares her testimony with others.

Results of the luncheon had not been revealed at press time, but the Herseys were expecting 40-50 people to attend the event.

## **revival continues**

*Livramento, Brazil*—Revival fires continue to burn on the Brazil-Uruguay border. Last month's *Heartbeat* reported a spontaneous revival in Santa Teresa, Uruguay. Reporting on a number of other recent meetings Walter (Dub) Ellison gave these results:

The meeting with Bobby Aycock (previously reported) showed 47 decisions, 12 of which were first-time commitments. Next was the meeting at Santa Teresa which resulted in approximately 50 decisions. Following this, Dub went to Palomas with Wilson Krenn, national worker in

*santos peiru, agua buena pastor*



*aycock at baptism in barbacena*



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charge of that congregation, and reported 13 more decisions. Four other nights of services were conducted at Alegrete with 16 decisions.

Follow-up efforts will need the prayers of concerned Christians in the States.

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### landlord converted

*Albertville, France*—In a letter dated May 3, Missionary Jerry Gibbs reported this incident:

"Wednesday night at 10:00 o'clock our landlord, Marc Laissus, gave his heart to the Lord. We have been testifying to Marc and his family as the opportunity came. Then we started a Bible Club in the basement for the neighborhood kids. Marc's kids have learned to sing 'La Bonne Nouvelle' (Good News) and they do sing it all the time at home.

"So, the other day we were on an outing together, and what did Marc start singing? 'La Bonne Nouvelle'!

"Monday night I asked him to have a Bible study with me. Wednesday night we went through a study which has an invitation at the end.

"After we prayed, he told four people that he had given his heart to the Lord. We had our second Bible study last night, and he is eager to learn."

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### missionaries begin furlough

*Nashville, Tenn.*—The year 1975 will be one of many furloughing missionaries. Several have already arrived from their fields, but a number of others are scheduled to arrive soon:

Bobby and Sue Aycock and family will arrive June 18 from Brazil.

Wesley and Aileen Calvery and son Jonathan plan to arrive in the

*arriving in June—(l. to r.)—top: aycocks, calverys; bottom: hannas, mileys*



United States on June 19.

Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley are to leave Ivory Coast in early June.

Carlisle and Marie Hanna and sons should arrive sometime in June.

Howard and Joan Filkins and their family plan to begin furlough from Ivory Coast in July.

Tom Willey, Jr., Pat, and family are to arrive from Panama in the month of July.

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### news briefs

*Araras, Brazil*—The church here held a weekend conference May 9-11 with Wadislau Gomez, Brazilian pastor-evangelist doing the preaching.

*Nashville, Tenn.*—Michael Calvery, oldest son of Wesley and Aileen Calvery, and Miss Sandy Hyman have set July 5 as their wedding date in Austin, Tex.

*Quarai, Brazil*—Walter (Dub) Ellison recently announced plans to found a work in this city located approximately 150 kilometers west of Livramento.

*Nashville, Tenn.*—The average Seventh Day Adventist gave \$453 to his church last year—more than any other denomination. Of this amount, \$317 went to missions.

*Sapporo, Japan*—John Yasuda, Japanese evangelist known to many *Heartbeat* readers, is scheduled to become officially engaged to a young girl in his home church on June 15.

*Araras, Brazil*—Nancy Hughes, formerly pronounced cured of her abdominal illness, recently suffered a reversal in her condition. Unless the condition can be brought under control, repeat surgery may be required.

*Miami, Fla.*—"Mom" Mabel Willey entered the hospital here on May 12 to undergo medical tests.

*hughes, wilson discussed nancy's health—ailment has reoccurred*



*Mussoorie, India*—Marie Hanna had major surgery May 15 in the local hospital here. Her condition was not known at press time.

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### april receipts \$117,324.63

*Nashville, Tenn.*—A new one-month record of \$117,324.63 was receipted in April by the Department of Foreign Missions. General Director J. Reford Wilson and the foreign missions staff expressed praise to the Lord and gratitude to missions donors for this tremendous response.

This is only the third time in the history of the foreign missions department that the gifts have exceeded \$100,000 in one month.

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### airplane repaired

*Panama City, Panama*—Tom Willey, Jr., recently indicated that the Panama mission plane was finally repaired and ready to be airborne. The plane had been damaged when Tom tried to land on Isla de Canas late last year.

Larry Incoe is to pilot the craft when it is all checked out.

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### mission board meets

*Nashville, Tenn.*—The Board of Foreign Missions met here May 5-8 for their annual session. The following action was taken by the board:

The resignation of General Director J. Reford Wilson was submitted to the board at the first session. It was reluctantly accepted by the board and a committee was appointed to screen those with potential for filling the vacancy. No official action had been taken at press time.

Interviews were conducted with returned missionaries Sam and June Wilkinson, and Don and Billie Sexton. *Continued on back page →*

*wilson's last board session*



## mission board meets

→ Continued from page three

The Sherwood Lees were reinstated to active missionary standing after a leave of absence to study.

Archie and Sarah Mayhew and Dan and Margaret Merkh were granted leaves of absence to begin September, 1975, and January, 1976, respectively.

Approved for Missionary Internship training in the fall were Miss Mirial Gainer, Ron and Linda Callaway, and Clint and Lynette Morgan.

Officially appointed for mission service were Alice Smith, Sharon Roberts, and Allan and LaRue Crowson, all for the Ivory Coast; Steve and Judy Lytle, Panama; and Patrick and Susan Dickens, unassigned at the present. The Dickens' assignment will be reviewed at the August retreat. Judy Smith and Arilla Wode will be reviewed at the August meeting.

A proposed budget of \$1,232,000 will be submitted to the National Association of Free Will Baptists in July for approval.

Dates were set for future board meetings: annual board meeting, May 3-7, 1976; missions retreat, August 9-13, 1976; and semi-annual meeting, December 6-10, 1976.

The same officers were retained: chairman, Dr. Joseph Ange; vice-chairman, Reverend Raymond Riggs; and secretary, Reverend Rolla Smith.

## financial facts

### THROUGH APRIL 30

On deposit April 1	\$ 257,327.52
Receipts through April 30	347,234.93
Disbursements through April 30	331,281.71
Projected receipts through April 30	410,000.00
Total 1975 Foreign Missions budget	\$1,230,000.00

### MISSIONARY ACCOUNTS\*

Aldridge	\$(4,952.25)	Merkh	\$ 9,828.16
Aycock	(411.00)	L. Miley	7,964.60
Banks	6,994.44	Miley, M.D.	19,426.02
Barker	3,578.55	Palmer	(784.68)
Bishop	4,553.39	Payne	(517.98)
Bryan	8,116.26	Pinkerton	502.64
Calvery	2,055.12	Poole	122.15
Caton	233.60	Richards	3,398.64
Combs	23,893.64	Roberts	1,302.86
Coscia	1,271.72	Robinson	10,499.77
Cronk	5,265.00	Sexton	23,164.77
Crowson	(299.57)	Smith, A.	1,662.75
Deeds	(105.60)	Smith, J.	529.32
Dickens	(200.91)	Sparks	5,617.31
Eagleton	3,945.88	Stevens	1,576.58
Ellison	291.64	Sturgill	1,630.44
Filkins	(5,127.30)	Teague	5,549.13
Franks	547.71	Vanhook	11,133.20
Fulcher	(1,390.19)	Waid	(2,743.94)
Gage	(1,348.87)	Webb	518.38
Gainer	627.47	Wilkinson	(3,345.55)
Gibbs	718.67	Willey, Jr.	(660.45)
Haas	(4,740.32)	M. Willey	1,210.47
Hanna	19,598.68	Wode	(584.05)
Hersey	645.88	Brazil Inst.	1,209.78
Hughes	5,059.89	Brazil Veh.	6,789.17
Inscoc	(1,160.13)	S. India	(831.03)
Lee	17,210.89	Sum. Miss.	2,059.28
Lytle	728.91	Willey Mem.	1,163.91
McLain	193.17	Proj. 5000	6,396.76
Mayhew	7,611.01	Cass. Proj.	1,470.10

\*Amounts in parenthesis indicate deficits.

### STATE QUOTAS—1975

State	1975 Quota	Quota through April 30	Receipts through April 30
Alabama	45,000.00	15,000.00	13,075.48
Arizona	6,000.00	2,000.00	996.86
Arkansas	45,000.00	15,000.00	16,804.49
California	50,000.00	16,666.68	17,635.60
Canada	1,000.00	333.32	361.00
Colorado	1,000.00	333.32	322.20
Florida	40,000.00	13,332.00	10,553.42
Georgia	45,000.00	15,000.00	11,339.68
Hawaii	1,000.00	333.32	140.00
Idaho	1,000.00	333.32	461.71
Illinois	35,000.00	11,666.68	11,105.05
Indiana	9,500.00	3,166.68	2,897.54
Iowa	1,500.00	500.00	477.85
Kansas	6,500.00	2,166.68	1,388.85
Kentucky	21,500.00	7,166.68	6,433.18
Louisiana	1,000.00	333.32	740.00
Maryland	5,000.00	1,666.68	1,077.70
Michigan	75,000.00	25,000.00	17,388.01
Minnesota	500.00	166.68	100.00
Mississippi	21,000.00	7,000.00	5,241.53
Missouri	100,000.00	33,333.32	27,135.37
Montana	100.00	33.32	.00
New Mexico	1,000.00	333.32	390.47
*Northeast	3,150.00	1,050.00	624.19
**Northwest	2,500.00	833.32	240.10
North Carolina	165,000.00	55,000.00	47,707.32
Ohio	45,000.00	15,000.00	8,789.51
Oklahoma	100,000.00	33,333.32	40,172.58
Pennsylvania	100.00	33.32	60.00
Puerto Rico	100.00	33.32	.00
South Carolina	70,000.00	23,333.32	21,687.43
Tennessee	175,000.00	58,333.32	45,461.66
Texas	20,000.00	6,666.68	6,424.60
Virginia	50,000.00	16,666.68	14,753.92
West Virginia	45,000.00	15,166.68	9,951.76
Other States	1,000.00	333.32	1,528.11
Miscellaneous	40,050.00	13,350.00	1,693.86

\*Northeast Assn.  
New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine  
\*\*Northwest Assn.  
Alaska, Oregon, and Washington

## PRAYER WORKS MIRACLES.

WHAT ARE YOUR PRAYERS DOING?

## Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

### Heartbeat

Newssheet Edition

POST OFFICE BOX 1088  
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BOARD of FOREIGN MISSIONS: Joseph Ange, chairman; Raymond Riggs, vice chairman; Rolla Smith, secretary; Allen Moore; James Murray; Gene Rogers; R. Eugene Waddell; Fred Warner; 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

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