

NEWSHEET EDITION

DECEMBER 1976

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



*Christmas
Greetings*

NEWS UPDATE

December 1976

Bryan Helps Publish Evangelistic Magazine

Ivory Coast—Missionary Robert Bryan recently acknowledged he had spent part of August and September in Abidjan working in the Evangelical Publications Center where he helped produce the evangelistic magazine, **Champion**. The magazine is used for evangelism in several French-speaking African countries.

Robert also revealed he has been involved at Goumère printing three Old Testament books in Koulango. He and Judy are still studying the Koulango language.

Interest "Good" as Combs Start Again

Brazil—After having been forced to leave Tubarao, Brazil, due to a flood in March of 1974, Jim and Shirley Combs have now resumed the work. Jim recently wrote, "There is a good interest here, but so far most of those who come haven't made a firm commitment to the Lord."

The Combs reported an attendance of 40 for the evening service on October 1. "Only about five outside our family are believers," Jim explained. "They are outgrowing our home as a meeting place and I am trying to determine the Lord's leading regarding any type of move."

Difficult School Term Indicated by Filkins

Ivory Coast—According to a recent report from Howard and Joan Filkins, the school year at Ivory Coast Christian Academy in Bouake has been unusually

difficult due to accidents, sickness, discipline problems, and adjustment of new students.

"In our dorm we had a 75 percent turnover," write the Filkins. "Many have gone through a real spiritual struggle. But praise the Lord we have seen several make new commitments during the past two weeks."

The Filkins requested special prayer for strength and wisdom.

Missionaries Return; Others to Depart

Nashville, Tenn.—Scheduled to return to the United States in December from Rivera, Uruguay, for a short-term furlough are Paul and Amy Robinson and daughter Rebecca.

Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley are planning to leave the States by ship on December 10 as they return to the hospital and clinic at Doropo, Ivory Coast.

Allan and Larue Crowson are tentatively scheduled to fly to Albertville, France, in December to begin language study in preparation for service in the Ivory Coast.

Doctor Miley Earns Two New Degrees

Nashville, Tenn.—Dr. LaVerne Miley, medical missionary to the Ivory Coast, recently completed study which earned him two new degrees—one in the area of medicine and the other in the area of theology.

Dr. Miley completed work for his Master of Public Health degree at the Columbia University School of Public Health in New York. The course normally takes two years but due to previous



Top to bottom—Paul and Amy Robinson begin furlough; Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley and Allan and Larue Crowson depart for the field.

experience, Miley was able to complete the requirements in one year. He was to receive the degree in October.

Work towards the Bachelor of Divinity degree which had been started many years ago at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary was also completed during the past year under supervised study; however, the degree has been changed to a Master of Divinity. It will not be conferred until June of 1977.



Left—Dr. Norm Lewis challenges students at Free Will Baptist Bible College with the command to "make disciples." Right—Foreign Missionary Fellowship displays attracted special attention on Tuesday evening at the Missionary Conference.

S tudents Challenged at Missionary Conference

Nashville, Tenn. — Dr. Norm Lewis, special guest speaker for the November 1-3 Missionary Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College, clearly placed Christian missions and discipling as the response to divine command, and anything less he showed to be utter disobedience.

Lewis challenged those present as he illustrated, through the story of the costly perfume poured on Jesus, the fact that supreme love and adoration for the Lord tend to render insignificant the tremendous costs of world missions. He noted that the perfume represented about nine-months' salary in those days.

Students responded positively to the prompting of the Holy Spirit as the missionary speakers shared their burdens and God's calling. Numerous commitments were made as students responded to the invitation at the conclusion on Wednesday evening.

Foreign Missionary Fellowship students added a special touch to the Tuesday evening service as they set up tables and displays featuring the various fields where Free Will Baptist missionaries serve.

Special music for the services was provided by the music department of the Bible college.

A number of pastors and laymen from various parts of the

country were also on hand for this special event sponsored jointly by the departments of foreign and home missions.

Other speakers for the conference included missionaries Joe Haas, Eddie Payne, Dave Franks, and Larry Powell. Bob Shockey and Roy Thomas of National Home Missions rounded out the program.

A ldridge Reports More Village Converts

Ivory Coast—Jimmy Aldridge has reported more converts in villages as a result of student witness trained during the previous school term at Bondoukou.

"School has started," writes Jimmy. "The students are back in town. How good it was to see them all again and a thrill to hear their testimonies of God's faithfulness! Some were delivered from false satanic accusations, others were healed as a result of prayer and some were used in soul winning."

Kouma, one of the young men from Kouafo, went with his father to work in the coffee plantation near Goumère. There, he was able to win three other young people to the Lord. According to Jimmy, he has already been instrumental in winning at least 15 others. He was converted May 23.

Evangelist Theodore is working regularly on "follow-up" with these new converts. David Fil-

kins, son of missionary Howard Filkins, is contributing in the youth and music ministries, and Gerard Tynevez, the French math teacher, is back. According to Jimmy, he is "having a tremendous influence among the students."

J udy Smith Suffers Back Injury

Japan—Judy Smith who recently arrived in Japan to begin language study was hospitalized during the latter part of October due to a back injury which she suffered when she tripped on the top of her stairs. Although she did not fall, she twisted her spine and doctors indicated some nerves had been pinched.

She was placed in the hospital in traction. The last report indicated possibly three weeks of hospitalization.

\$ubstance Through October 31

On deposit October 1	\$ 257,252.45
Total receipts	1,008,444.02
Total disbursements	1,043,377.74
Projected receipts	1,026,673.50
Total 1976 Budget	\$1,232,007.00

\$hortage

These accounts are in the deficit:

Dickens	\$ 1,272.95
Ellison	1,097.52
Hanna	7,787.17
Inscoe	3,404.79
Mayhew	2,603.74
McLain	1,422.22
Morgan	2,177.99
Palmer	8,560.02
Pinkerton	288.97
Poole	2,644.20
Sturgill	1,396.22
Webb	6,713.05
Willey, M.	586.26
Willey, T. Jr.	999.19

Total deficits\$40,974.29

Herseys Indicate Iriso Church Still Stable

Japan—According to a recent report from Fred Hersey, the services at Iriso “held up good while we were gone. Three men really pitched in and worked hard to keep things going, and we plan to continue to keep them busy.” Evelyn and the children arrived in Tokyo on September 11 and Fred returned on September 17.

Phillip Hersey, the oldest son, had kept a number of English classes going at the church while the family was in the States. He is now attending a university in Tokyo and teaching some English.

The three men—Onoue, Kushima, and Kzama—did some of the preaching when no one else was available. Fred noted, “It was a good experience. The women also did well in keeping the Thursday morning Bible Class-Prayer Meeting going.”

The first Sunday after Fred’s return 40 attended the morning service.

Coscias Request Prayer for Victim’s Family

Brazil—Louis and Florine Coscia have requested prayer for the family of a 23-year-old man who died recently from “Chagas di-

sease,” a disease contracted from a black beetle which usually comes out of hiding only at night and bites a person on the face as he sleeps. The disease attacks the intestines and the heart.

Although the young man had professed faith in Christ, his mother and sister have become bitter and rebellious due to the death.

News Briefs from Around the World

Nashville, Tenn.—General Director Rolla Smith is scheduled to visit the fields of Brazil and Uruguay during the month of January.

Japan—Sandra Bishop has been undergoing tests for gallbladder problems as she has been suffering from constant pain.

Uruguay—Paul Robinson reports eight people were baptized in Rivera, Uruguay, by Walter Ellison on October 17.

Ivory Coast—Bessie Richards has been on a strict diet recently since developing stomach problems which have been diagnosed as possible gallbladder difficulties. She has undergone tests in Abidjan but results were unknown at last report.

Nashville, Tenn.—Dr. LaVerne Miley was hospitalized in November for special tests and possible surgery. He has been under doctors’ care for phlebitis for several months.

Ivory Coast—Overseas mailing is still problematic. Norman Richards recently disclosed that he received a Christmas package in October which had been mailed to them for Christmas in 1975.

California—Gospel Recordings, Inc., is hoping to record Bible stories and basic Christian teaching for every known tribal language and dialect in the world by 1981. The project has been accomplished in 3,900 of these languages and dialects. This leaves 1,600 more languages in which to record.

Brazil—Brazilian Baptists report 1,700 conversions last year in settlements and towns along the new Trans-Amazon highway.



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