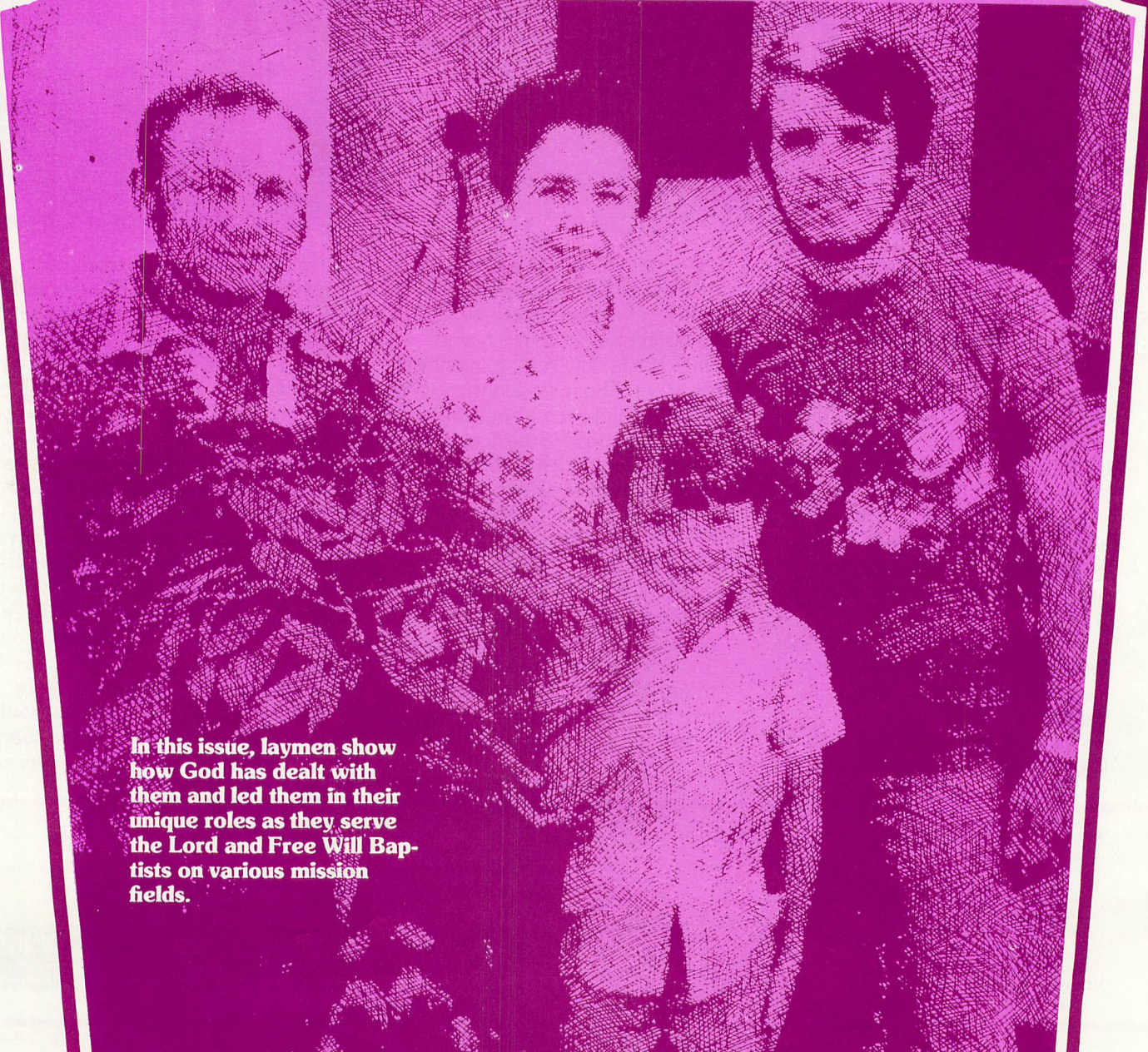


MARCH 1977

# HEARTBEAT

*of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions*

## THE LAYMAN MISSIONARY



**In this issue, laymen show how God has dealt with them and led them in their unique roles as they serve the Lord and Free Will Baptists on various mission fields.**



# LIVING, LOVING & LEADING

by Howard Filkins



**L**eaving the city of Bouake, Ivory Coast, and driving eastward into the rolling countryside, a cluster of whitewashed buildings will be spotted in the distance surrounded by African vegetation of palms, elephant grass, and various crops. The bright silver tin roofs gleam in the tropical sun and the large A-type roof of the chapel looms above all else. This little settlement is Ivory Coast Academy (ICA), a school for missionary children.

In 1973, the Lord brought our family to ICA to begin a ministry as dorm parents for Free Will Baptists.

"How in the world did a Missouri farmer get transplanted to

Africa?" you might ask.

The seed of missionary service was first planted in my heart through pastors in my home church, Hazel Creek in northeast Missouri. Those young men were faithful to preach about the needs in lands beyond America. The seed grew while in Bible college as courses in missions spoke to my heart.

## Directed to "Go Plow"

Still God did not open the door. Instead of "go preach," the direction to "go plow" was given and we spent the next 15 years tilling the land and working in the local church to promote missions.

In 1972 after the commissioning service for Jerry and Carol

Pinkerton (who are from our church in Kirksville, Mo.) I made a passing statement to General Director J. Reford Wilson that if there was ever a need for laymen in missionary service, and a place where God could use a couple of "flunkies," we might be interested. A few weeks later, just as the combine was ready to head into the harvest fields, we received a letter asking if we were really serious about mission service. Dorm parents were needed for the new dormitory that Free Will Baptists were building at Ivory Coast Academy.

As I read the letter, my wife Joan was reading over my shoulder, and she laughed at the seeming impossibility. Here we were,

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Rolla D. Smith, general director      Harold Critcher, director of finance  
Don Robirds, director of communications  
Henry Van Kluyve, director of deputation

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farming 800 acres of crop, pasture, and cattle and under heavy financial responsibility that goes with modern farming. The letter stated that if we felt it would be God's will for us, we would need to leave by the end of May. That was just eight months away!

That night we shared the letter with our two oldest sons, Dan (16) and Dave (14). Dale (age 3½) was tucked in bed. We tested their reactions because so much was at stake for them. Both answered to the affirmative. If God wanted us there, they were willing. We prayed for definite guidance.

One morning I stood on the porch looking over the rolling green pastures, pretty black cattle, and all that we enjoyed on the farm. From inside the house the song, "Lovest Thou Me More Than These, My Child?" came floating out on the crisp morning air. With tears, I said, "Yes, Lord, I do love You, and I'll go."

### **God Does the Impossible**

To get untangled from our farming responsibilities was going to be a major problem, but God delights in the impossible. And within two days we had someone willing to take over the farm. One after the other, the problems melted away, and on May 28, 1973, our Pan Am flight was winging toward a new land.

Being Mom and Dad to someone else's children was not new to us. When we were married in 1955, we asked God to take our home and use it for His glory. Our first two years were spent in France (military service), and we shared our food and fellowship with many G.I.'s. Also, we directed the Sunday school for military children.

When I was in Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1958 we took a child from the juvenile home for two months. Later in 1965, our home was licensed by the state of Missouri for foster

care. Besides all of these, other children have lived with us for short periods. God was using all these experiences to pave the way for our work as dorm parents.

We soon discovered life in a mission boarding school runs something like this: On opening day, students arrive in all shapes and sizes—grades one through twelve, and by many modes of transportation. Some drive overland two or three days in landrovers from up near the Sahara. Others ride the train all day from Mali and Upper Volta. Those from more distant countries fly commercially into Abidjan, then come 200 miles north on the school bus. Kids from Liberia and Niger are flown in by mission planes. The rest come by car.

It's exciting, believe me!

The school has seven dorms, three for elementary age and four for highschoolers. Our dorm houses 20 high school boys. This year we have approximately 160 students, from 15 different missions, representing 12 different countries.

Rising time is 6:30 a.m. followed by breakfast in a common dining hall at 7:15. The rooms are hurriedly put in order before leaving for class at 7:55. During study periods, students come back to the dorm, so we have a 24-hour vigil.

Sports, including basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball are played during afternoons. Our teams compete with African schools in the area.

Extra-curricular activities include Friday night games, parties and cookouts, class trips, weekend outings, plays, musical presentations, banquets, and youth meetings. Also, the student ministry of witnessing called "Outreach," includes teaching Bible classes in public schools, singing at African youth rallies, and village evangelism. Life is full, and VERY BUSY for everyone on

campus.

These students are in our care eight-and-a-half months out of the year, so the dorm parents have a heavy responsibility to love, lead, and discipline each child. We are taking the place of their parents during the crucial years of their lives—an awesome thought!

### **Glimpsing the Reward**

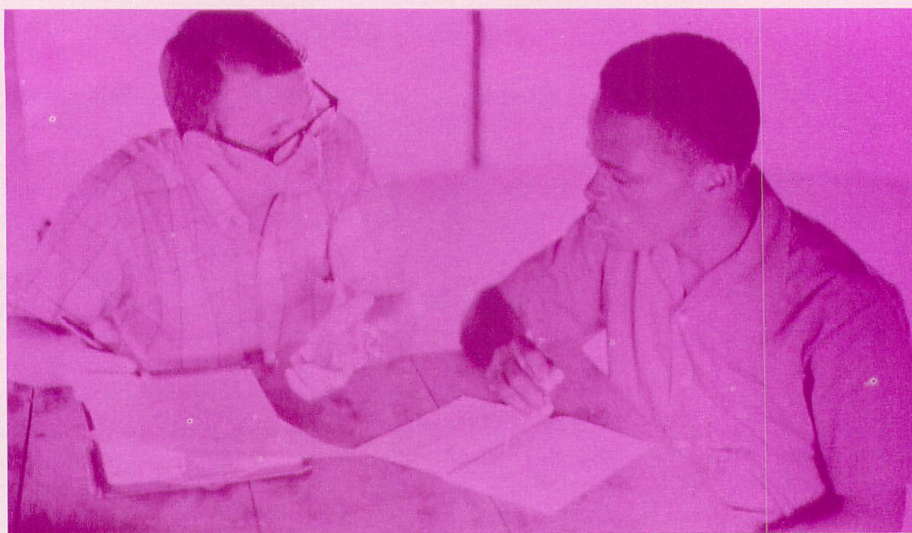
I wouldn't be honest unless I admitted there are some very discouraging, trying days. At times I wonder if it's worth it all. Discipline problems (MK's are normal kids), sickness, and confrontations with other staff members all come our way. Yet, our spirits are lifted when we catch a glimpse of the rewards. To see a boy or girl mature spiritually, commit his or her life to service and begin to win others in this adopted homeland makes it all worthwhile.

Ken came knocking on our door late one night trembling with excitement. He had just led his roommate (from a non-Christian home) to the Lord, and wanted to share his joy with us. While John was cutting weeds in the yard, he was visited by several little African boys; so he came in, got his Bible class material and sat down under the tree and explained the gospel to them. And Steve has been witnessing in a military camp. Faithfully, he requests prayer in devotions for a young soldier he has led to the Lord. On one occasion a little African boy found his way to the dorm and asked for David, who has been a member of the team teaching Bible at his school. We invited him in and before he left, he prayed to receive Jesus.

Worth it all? Yes, without a doubt!

During these days Psalm 37:3-5 has been precious. The Lord is my delight, I committed my way to Him, and He in turn has given me the desire of my heart—to be a helper in His great missionary thrust around the world.





# From Tears to Triumph

by Robert Bryan

I cried myself to sleep the night I realized the Lord wanted me to serve as a missionary. "No, Lord, not that," I thought. "Call someone else! I want to serve in youth work."

I had nothing against missionaries; I just didn't intend to be one. Missionary conferences in my church appealed to me, and even as a teenager I made faith promises. I was willing to take the first two parts of the "you can pray, give, and go" sermon. But I "knew" God wouldn't call me.

## Youth, Music Ministry Plans

During high school, my time was divided between my church (First Free Will Baptist Church, Newport News, Va.), the local Youth For Christ, and work. Since I was active in my school's Bible Club and helping other clubs, I thought the Lord might want me in a youth and music ministry.

Two lessons, repeated by YFC leader Dwight McSmith and by my pastor J. B. Chism, Jr., remained with me: "It's worth any cost to win someone to Christ," and "You can trust the Lord with your life." Dwight said it was only wise to commit ourselves to God

since we can't see tomorrow as He can.

Early in my freshman year at Free Will Baptist Bible College, my roommate burst into the room one Sunday night and called out all the fellows to pray for a mission church he was helping in. As I was praying silently, suddenly it seemed like I was talking to a blank wall. "What's the matter, Lord?" I asked. "Why can't I pray?" After a few minutes, I thought, "Well, maybe the Lord wants me to do something. . . . Lord, show me what You want me to do." Suddenly I was sure the Lord wanted me as a missionary! That's the night I cried myself to sleep.

## After the Struggle

After two weeks of fighting the decision, I finally said, "OK, Lord, I'll go. Now show me where."

A few weeks later I decided the Lord wanted me to go to Japan. Then, in my junior year (1964), Jerry Ballard asked me if I could work a few hours a week at the foreign missions office, cleaning films and mailing out literature. I took the job. Soon after that Jerry, who was director of communications and editor of

**Heartbeat** at the time, asked me to compile a prayer calendar for **Heartbeat**. Gradually I got more and more opportunity to write and help edit **Heartbeat** articles and other materials being prepared.

## Thirst for Writing

I developed an intense thirst for writing and for literature. Missions classes at school emphasized the effectiveness of literature. I thought, "If an illiterate person were taught to read by a Christian, wouldn't he be unusually receptive to the gospel in literature? If communists and cults can win converts through literature, why can't Spirit-aided Christians win even more?"

Although I enjoyed writing and editing, I realized that enjoyment may not indicate the Lord's leadership. So, I kept on praying, "Lord, show me the next step." By the time I finished college, I was sure the Lord had chosen literature and teaching as my areas of work. Since then, all the steps have been easy.

Only one college in the country offered graduate-level courses in religious journalism: Syracuse



University. But I wondered if they would accept me, a graduate of a nonaccredited, church-related college? They did, and my decision was made.

### Deciding Where

After a year and a half studying how to write, edit, and teach literacy, we faced the decision of where to serve. Only Brazil and Ivory Coast had missionary staffs large enough to merit someone working principally in literature and teaching. In Brazil, Don Robirds was already developing a literature ministry; in the Ivory Coast, no one was meeting this need. So, we determined to go to the Ivory Coast.

With a growing assurance of the Lord's will, those decisions were made, one step at a time; as each step was taken, the next one became clear.

That's also the way the Lord led regarding ordination. No, I am not ordained! "Then, aren't you called to preach?" you might wonder. All Christians are called to "proclaim" the gospel. But I feel that ordination should be reserved for pastors, evangelists, and special leaders in the local church. The Lord has not called me to those ministries.

Part of our ministry is assisting churches, and in particular the local church at Goumère, the village where we live. I do preach occasionally in services there, and I take my turn in preaching in outlying villages.

In addition to preaching, a major part of our work involves organization of a leadership-training program through a joint missionary-Ivorian committee. During the recent dry season (November-March) ten one-week schools of evangelism were held in ten different churches. Leaders from practically every assembly of Christians in our area were taught evangelism.

We're hoping to soon begin a Theological Education by Extension

(TEE) program in which the students would study on their own every day and meet once a week with a group and the teacher. They would remain in their villages, supporting themselves, working in their churches, evangelizing their own and adjacent villages; the teacher would do the traveling.

The first textbook—on evangelism—has already been translated from French into Koulango and is awaiting testing before being printed. By the time you read this article, translation of the second text should be completed. Both these books will probably be translated into Lobi, also. Actual translating is done by a native speaker of Koulango. I supervise the testing and revision.

When the TEE program gets started, I will probably teach many of the groups at first. However, we plan to start a teacher-training program to enable Ivorian personnel to assume responsibility for the ministry as soon as they are ready. We hope to train writers as well, so that textbooks may be written directly in Koulango or Lobi.

Writers must also be trained to produce literature for new readers. Probably eight out of ten people in northeastern Ivory Coast do not read or write. When an illiterate becomes a Christian, he needs to learn to read so that God's Word can speak directly to him.

### Printing and Publishing

Presently only a primer and the New Testament are available to help him. Yet, the jump from primer to New Testament is practically impossible for one just learning. We need a "ladder" of books, successively more difficult until the new reader can read fluently and understand the Word of God.

When books are written, they must be published. Last year summer missionaries printed

(with supervision) three Old Testament books which Lonnie Palmer had translated into Koulango. Ten pages of notes in each of French, Koulango, and Lobi were printed for the evangelism schools. These along with thousands of sheets of other teaching materials, prayer letters, and report forms, keep the machine and operator tired out.

### Unexpected Delight

In addition to all of this, working with the Evangelical Publications Center in Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast, has been an unexpected delight to our ministry. When the editor of the evangelistic magazine, **Champion**, left, we were asked to assist until another editor is found. **Champion** is aimed at young adults and is sold in 15 French-speaking African countries. Our board graciously allowed us a month each year to be spent at the center.

When I cried myself to sleep that night years ago in my dormitory room, the word "missionary" brought all sorts of things to my mind: clothes that didn't fit, people feeling sorry for the "poor" missionary, stumbling over English in a deputational service, being out of touch with all the new things, having to ask people for support, etc.

What I couldn't see then were all the good things: the fascination (in spite of the frustration) of learning another language and culture, the thrill of telling someone for the very first time about the love God has for him, the excitement of watching the new birth and growth of believers in a place where they are the first ones, and the happiness of teaching new converts and seeing the Spirit of Christ bring them to maturity. But most of all, I didn't understand the joy of knowing God led me here.

I think if the Lord told me to return to the States, I might cry myself to sleep tonight.



**A**fter 14½ years in Uruguay the people understand that I am just a layman, and this has had its advantage in challenging other laymen to active witnessing. But the people do respect me as a leader—a lay leader and even as a pastor.

Many events and numerous individuals have influenced my life over the years to make my career as a layman missionary possible.

It all started when I was saved in 1950 under the preaching of Benito Rodriguez in the Highland Park Free Will Baptist Church (now Central in Royal Oak) in Highland Park, Mich. This highly-organized missions church was constantly giving missionaries a chance to speak and then receiving an offering for their mission accounts. Benito, himself, was the product of missionary activity in Cuba.

When the church needed a Sunday school teacher and everyone else had refused, even though I knew nothing about teaching the Bible, I accepted the young married couples class. Of course in studying I had help from our pastors—first Brother Raymond

Riggs, then Brother Charles Thigpen, and finally from Brother Joe Ange. Void of theological preparation, I read extensively.

### **Employed by the Church**

Since I had received office training at Ford Motor Company, the church employed me in 1955 to do office work and personal work through visitation. I took the job at \$80 per week, leaving a job of six hours a day, six days a week with a salary of \$102 per week. Yet the Lord supplied everything we needed.

Over the years I have been involved in every phase of church work but I have especially been active with my wife Amy in visiting young married couples. While in Highland Park we visited the homes of many, many people. We won some and some rededicated their lives. But we built a Sunday school class by the time I left that averaged about 90 people and many times ran over 100.

When Brother Thigpen left the church, I was charged with the responsibility of keeping the church together as best I could.

A local pastor helped me during the interim period until Brother Ange arrived to assume the pastorate. That experience helped to shape me for the future as a layman on the mission field.

In our churches in Uruguay we teach our laymen that they are the keys to the success of the ministry. The layman's life and his active witness will bear fruit. Also his personal commitment to Christ and missions will have a tremendous influence.

### **Church Influence**

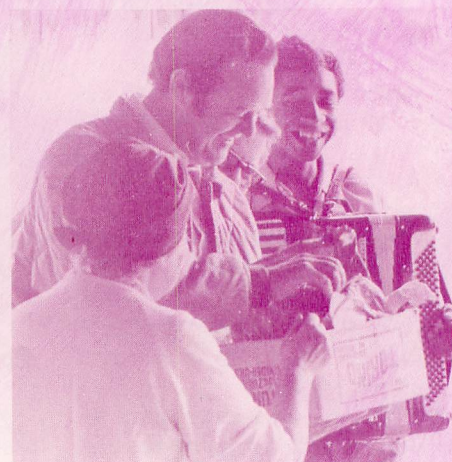
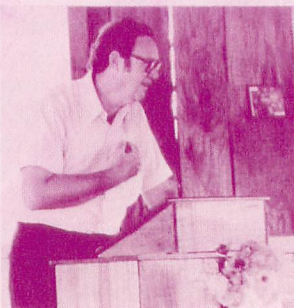
A great part of the calling to foreign missions, in my opinion, comes from the background of the local church. Hearing of missions, having missions preached, and having missionaries in the church all contributed to my discerning of God's call.

Many times the missionary came, and it hurt me that I couldn't give. I'd give all that I had sometimes and just didn't have any more to give. We were acquainted with several missionaries, and I often invited them to stay at our house for the fellowship. Later we even drove

# Practicing what is Preached!

by Paul Robinson

*"Many times the missionary came, and it hurt me that I couldn't give. I'd give all that I had sometimes and just didn't have any more to give."*





to Cuba and visited the Free Will Baptist work on the island.

I began thinking the Lord might want me to be a missionary, but then I reasoned it would be impossible since I had never heard of a layman missionary in our denomination. I talked to Brother Joe Ange, our pastor at that time, and he said he didn't see why a layman couldn't serve. So, we contacted Raymond Riggs who was general director for the Department of Foreign Missions. He assured me it would be possible provided I attended Free Will Baptist Bible College for one year in addition to a year of study at Detroit Bible Institute (now Detroit Bible College).

To get the necessary Bible training, I had to carry on my full-time job with the church and study at Detroit Bible Institute at night. Then we had to sell everything and move to Nashville strictly by faith with no promise of a job or financial support. But we made it all right even on through summer school.

Following our study in Nashville, we went to Monterey, Mexico, to get some more practical training and to study Spanish. Living and working hand in hand with the missionary there all served to intensify my calling to missions.

### **Gospel Team**

Somewhere the idea of a gospel team came to me, so I consulted with Brother Riggs. He seemed to favor the idea. Then I heard that Bill Fulcher, just out of Bible college, was wanting to go to the mission field. I contacted the Fulchers to see if they were interested in Bill being the ordained minister teamed with me as a layman missionary. Bill responded in the affirmative.

Originally we thought we would try to get into Venezuela, but it didn't work out. Then, through a long chain of circumstances the Lord directed us to

Uruguay.

We began language study in 1961 in Costa Rica but were permitted to study only six months due to a conflict with the Uruguayan government. The Fulchers had already begun their language study, but we had to leave them there and depart for Uruguay.

### **Started in a Village**

Once we were in the country, we sought the Lord's direction to a particular area. We had already determined that we would not build upon another man's work. We wanted to go where there was absolutely nothing, so we were directed to the village of Santa Teresa just outside of Rivera. Many villagers received the message of Christ and some of them are still faithful to the Lord.

When the Fulchers arrived, they initiated a work in the city of Rivera. I continued with the Santa Teresa church, and we also started another work out in the rural area where we now have our camp.

We were working together in these new churches when the Fulchers discovered one of their children needed special schooling. They had to leave Uruguay rather suddenly. We had no time to request other personnel from the States, so we had to regroup and say, "We'll get along somehow."

In the meantime we had gained a national pastor who had been trained in a Bible institute in Montevideo. Through his help and the work of the Christians, we managed to keep the work going.

The work was moving along fairly well until finally the national pastor resigned. Once again the work was thrown on me. With our gospel team broken up, I, just a layman, was left with the work of pastor, coordinator, visitor, plumbing repairman, and everything else. In addition to this I had a health problem that

really jarred me. (The Lord has brought this under control for the present.)

### **Only Laymen**

Once more the people were doing the work—a lay organization through and through. Mario Conceicao and Casildo Trindade, two good lay preachers, helped then, and they are in charge of things now while I am on furlough. Molly Barker and Dub Ellison keep their eyes on things but basically the work is being carried on by these laymen.

Another layman, Mario Torres, felt the call of God and sold his house and shoe repair shop to move to the city of Quarai (about 150 kilometers from Rivera) to begin a work. Mario Conceicao had already begun traveling to Artigas on his own because he decided it was the Lord's will. Now, with work in Quarai on the Brazil side and Artigas on the Uruguay side of the border, we hope the two works can develop into something similar to that of Livramento and Rivera.

In Livramento two Brazilian boys (laymen), without any prodding from Dub, regularly go into homes with their Bibles. They are well versed in the Scriptures and know how to lead a person to Jesus Christ. This has been accomplished largely through placing literature in their hands. But many of our people do not read. So, even with our successes, we are handicapped.

Looking at the picture realistically, I'm convinced that it will take a long time in Uruguay to produce a good, strong church without an artificial setup, but with a good training program we could do it faster. Still, even without the training program and the strong churches we would desire, we have some trophies of God's grace that we can present to the Lord. And these believers, laymen though they are, make all our efforts worthwhile.



# NEWS UPDATE

March 1977

## Rolla Smith Visits South America

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Rolla Smith, general director, returned on January 21 from a tour of the mission works in South America. Mr. Smith attended and preached at the annual Brazil field council meeting in early January and then traveled by automobile, bus, and plane to visit the mission stations and works throughout Brazil and Uruguay.

Rolla traveled on some occasions accompanied only by Terry Eagleton or Kenny Robinson, both MK's, to act as his translators. He started his trip on December 29.

In evaluating the work in South America, Smith spoke mainly of Brazil: "Brazil is a vast country whose people for the most part are in spiritual darkness. The mission is now in a position to profit from past experiences, including some mistakes, and develop a strategy to reach more souls and to develop a stronger national church. The shortage of national workers is our biggest lament and concern," he said.

"We are now reaching larger numbers of people with a fair education and are trusting the Lord to call more men who can be trained to carry the gospel to their own people," Rolla continued. "A stronger emphasis will likely be given to Bible institutes in local churches with different levels of instruction being offered, and these mostly in the evenings so students can work during the day."

## Eight People Baptized in Rivera, Uruguay

**Uruguay**—Eight persons were baptized in Rivera in early December by Missionary Walter (Dub) Ellison. Rebecca Robinson, daughter of the Paul Robinsons, was included in the number.

According to Paul, one of the girls baptized—Miriam Fervenza, age 19—plans to attend a Christian and Missionary Alliance Bible institute in Buenos Aires.

Robinson indicated the girl has been involved in soul winning and intends to return to Uruguay to work with Free Will Baptist missionaries.

## News Briefs from Around the World

**Brazil**—Louis Coscia had surgery in early December to correct a hernia. Latest reports indicated a slow recovery.

**Ivory Coast**—Latest reports from Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley came while they were still aboard ship en route to the Ivory Coast. Although they left on December 23, due to several delays while at sea, they were not expecting to arrive until about January 12.

**France**—Timothy Crowson, nine-month-old son of Allan and LaRue Crowson, was reportedly hospitalized in Albertville, France, recently for congestion and dehydration. The Crowsons arrived in France in late December to begin French language study.

**Brazil**—Kenny Robinson, son of Paul and Amy Robinson, is studying Communications and Public Relations in a college located in the city of Sao Leopoldo, Brazil.

**Detroit, Mich.**—Arilla Wode, appointee to the Ivory Coast, underwent surgery in January for the second time within a two-month period. The latest encounter with the surgeon's scalpel was due to failure of a muscle to accept the sutures of the previous surgery for removal of cysts. Reports indicate a normal recovery.

**Brazil**—Jefferson Moreno, a 24-year-old Brazilian, was recently called to pastor the church in Livramento, Brazil, which was started and continued under the ministry of Walter Ellison.

**Nashville, Tenn.** — **Heartbeat** readers will note that they did not receive a February **Heartbeat** due to a change in frequency of publi-

## Payne's People

by Eddie Payne







*Rolla Smith, general director, is greeted at the airport in Livramento, Brazil, by Dub Ellison and several local Christians. (See story on page 8.)*

cation. In order to save on expenses as well as diminish the staff workload at peak intervals, publication has been modified to monthly except bi-monthly in January-February and July-August.

**Japan**—The Iriso church in the Tokyo area had a special family Christmas gathering on December 25 with a candlelight service and fellowship time. Approximately 55 attended the event which also featured a special puppet show presentation by the children.

## **Record Giving Supplies 1976 Budget Needs**

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Free Will Baptists set another one-month record in giving to foreign missions as \$138,764.51 poured into the mission office in the final month of 1976, a good portion in response to the general director's special appeal. The missions staff expressed praises to the Lord and appreciation to contributors who sacrificed to make possible the surpassing of the 1976 Budget of \$1,232,007.00 by \$14,744.75.

Although a number of states failed to meet their projected quotas for the year, 17 states surpassed their quotas and these

five did so by more than \$10,000: Arkansas exceeded by \$10,578.85; Illinois by \$15,141.33; Missouri by \$14,219.12; North Carolina by \$22,531.97; and Oklahoma went over by \$32,672.73. These states also topped their quotas: Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, N.W. Association, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas.

Average monthly giving for 1976 totaled \$103,895.98. On the other hand, the proposed budget for 1977 as approved by the National Association calls for \$1,415,865.00 with monthly giving to average \$117,155.42. Inflation like the 46 percent annual rate currently experienced in Brazil has compelled this sharp increase. This looms as a challenge to continued faithfulness and trust in the Lord through the current year.

## **Sextons Seek New Meeting Place**

**France**—Although the Sextons have indicated a fair attendance in their new work in the city of Nantes, they have been searching for another meeting place for their services. People "are willing to have meetings in a home

on a temporary basis, but they are wanting to move out now," writes Don Sexton.

At their English study night after Christmas, Don noted they had 22 students, five for the first time. Then, 48 people attended a children's party program.

Don indicated that Billie's health is improving considerably.

## **Hannas Report Many Recent Decisions**

**India**—Two retreats were held during the first part of 1977 in North India. Carlisle Hanna reports, "Many decisions were made. Twenty-four followed our Lord and took necessary action for church membership."

Three North India Free Will Baptist men participated in the All India Congress on Missions and Evangelism during the second week of January, according to Carlisle.

The annual conference of Free Will Baptists in North India was held February 2-6, but the results of the meeting were still not available at press time.

## **Catons Excited about New Opportunities**

**Spain**—Dock Caton recently invited a missionary with Evangelism in Action to present a puppet show in a special room in the attic of their apartment building.

"We had a total of 33 present," writes Dock. "We were really overjoyed. Every family in our building (six) was present, man and wife, except in one case the man had to work." A few others came from outside the building.

The puppet show took the format of a television program with one-and-a-half hours full of

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# NEWS UPDATE

## March 1977

→Continued from page 9

the gospel. The five commercials consisted of puppets giving the plan of salvation and the audience was asked to memorize it. Prizes were given to those who were successful in memorization.

Although no decisions were recorded during the special evangelism session, "it left a strong witness in the neighborhood," Dock concluded.

He expressed excitement at being privileged to knock out some walls in the attic, lay some carpet, paint, and put in some folding chairs to make a room large enough to hold approximately 40 people. This provided space for the puppet show.

### **J**udy Smith Better; Studying and Singing

**Japan**—Missionary Judy Smith, who suffered a back injury in late 1976, is back at language study following her hospital confinement and the holiday season. "My back is much better," writes Judy, "although I haven't been released by my doctor yet. He feels it will take some time for things to heal."

Judy has been singing occasionally on Friday nights at a coffee shop near Airin Chapel in Sapporo. A group from the church has been using the coffee shop for Christian outreach.

### **F**ulchers Have First Convert in New Work

**Panama**—Attempting to start a new work in El Dorado, an area of Panama City, Bill and Glenda Fulcher recently reported that a neighbor lady was converted in a revival meeting of the Panama City church. This is the first

"breakthrough" in this new work.

"We have made contacts with several families who come from time to time," write the Fulchers. "Many are interested in studying the Bible and seem to enjoy the services. Some who attend are neighbors and others come from other residential areas nearby. Please pray for us as we strive to win these souls to Christ."

### **A**ttendance Good at Special Events

**Japan**—Two Christmas parties were held in the home of Jerry and Janice Banks during the latter part of December, according to a recent letter. A Sunday school Christmas program was held on December 19 with 58 present.

On Christmas eve a special candlelight service was held with 27 attending. Of these, Jerry noted that 18 were teens and adults. The service was climaxed by a slide program about the birth of Christ and the need to receive Him as Savior.

*Janice Banks (center) leads the children in singing at the Christmas program in their home at Kita Hiroshima, Japan.*



### **M**ore Than 250,000 Attend Crusade

**Indonesia**—More than 250,000 persons were reported to have attended an eight-day evangelistic crusade held in Kupang, Timor, recently. Many of them arrived by boat and plane from islands up to 400 miles away.

Because of civil war in the mountains 250 miles away, missionaries were concerned that the meetings might not be permitted by the government. But the governor of the province personally appealed to military authorities, saying, "We need this evangelistic effort to strengthen the spiritual life of our people."

Although the stadium where the meetings were held has no seats, 50,000 persons stood on the closing weekend for three-and-a-half-hour services. Thousands responded to the invitation and went for counseling. To climax the closing service scores of witchcraft objects given up by new converts were destroyed in a "fetish burning."





Left to right, Paul and Amy Robinson have been home on a short furlough; Tom and Nancy Hughes have returned to Brazil; and Jim and Vicki Sturgill recently arrived from Brazil to begin their regular furlough. Below, Bobby and Geneva Poole and their two sons are shown receiving a check for \$1,523.00 from Reverend John Reed in Effingham, S.C.

## Evangelism School Indicated Effective

**Ivory Coast**—Preliminary evaluation of the evangelism schools taught recently in the Ivory Coast indicates they were profitable, although results are not conclusive.

Robert Bryan recently reported that church members in the village of Nassian came together for prayer, then paired off in two's and went witnessing during Independence Day festivities. A number of people from Nassian along with some from the nearby village of Talahini have gone to a third village to witness and preach. One young man reportedly made a profession of faith.

Five schools were planned for January and February with Robert Bryan, Jimmy Aldridge, Lynn Miley, and Norman Richards teaming with national leaders in these special schools.



## Pooles Receive Their Largest Offering

**Effingham, S.C.**—Bobby and Geneva Poole were honored recently by the Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church in Effingham with a check in the amount of \$1,523 for their missionary account. This is the largest single offering the Pooles have ever received.

Lebanon is Geneva's home church. The pastor is Reverend John Reed.

## Missionaries Arriving and Departing

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Paul and Amy Robinson arrived with daughter Rebecca from Uruguay on December 20. They tentatively plan to return to Uruguay sometime this month (March).

Tom and Nancy Hughes and daughter Lori departed for Brazil on January 26 after approximately a year and a half in the States. They had an extended furlough largely due to Nancy's health. Tentative plans call for them to enter the city of Uberlandia to begin a new work. Their son Tommy remained in the States to continue his high school education until summer.

Jim and Vicki Sturgill and their children arrived in Washington, D.C., on January 27 from Brazil to begin regular furlough.

Children at the Iriso church in Tokyo present a puppet show during their Sunday school Christmas program. (See News Briefs on page 8.)



## \$ubstance

### Through January 31

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| On deposit January 1 ..... | \$ 292,812.21  |
| Total receipts .....       | 83,787.12      |
| Total disbursements .....  | 104,129.17     |
| Projected receipts .....   | 117,155.42     |
| Total 1977 Budget .....    | \$1,415,865.00 |

## \$hortage

These accounts are in the deficit:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Ellison .....       | 228.59   |
| Gibbs .....         | 154.37   |
| Incoe .....         | 2,125.19 |
| Mayhew .....        | 4,640.68 |
| McLain .....        | 2,833.50 |
| Palmer .....        | 7,115.86 |
| Sparks .....        | 811.91   |
| Sturgill .....      | 3,346.97 |
| Webb .....          | 8,283.66 |
| Willey, M. ....     | 392.67   |
| Willey, T. Jr. .... | 1,264.64 |
| Wode .....          | 97.75    |

Total deficits .....\$31,295.79

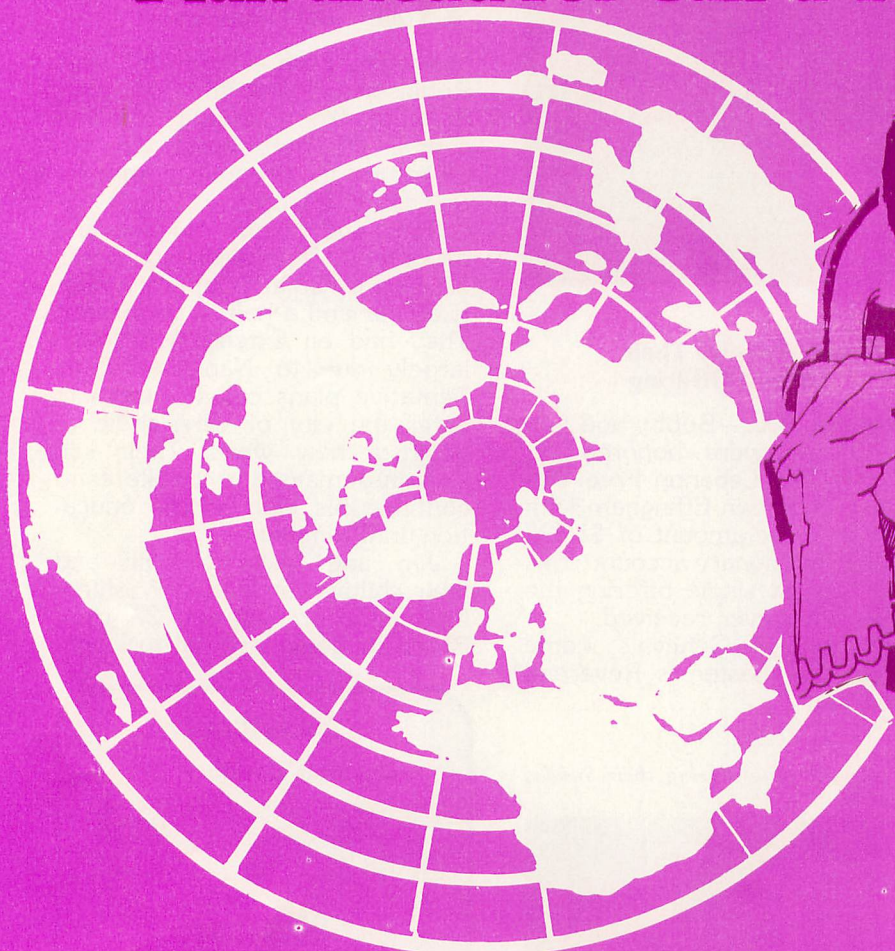


**HEARTBEAT**  
of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

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## Plan ahead for Call-a-Thon Sunday



**THE WORLD  
IS AS NEAR AS  
YOUR PHONE!**

## CALL-A-THON SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1977

Here is another opportunity for you and your church or Sunday school  
to reach out to our world!

Plan now to give your regular offering or a special offering to  
Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions.

So your gift can be included in Heartbeat, report your gift by telephoning

**(615) 361-1010**

between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in your time zone.

Send to: Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions • P.O. Box 1088 • Nashville, Tennessee 37202