

MAY 1977

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



BRAZIL
Gigantic
Harvest
Field



PICKING UP THE PIECES!

by Jim Combs

Don't they ever patch the holes in this road? This highway, the only one linking Sao Paulo with the south, seems worse than before. And the trucks! How could I so easily have forgotten the never-ending line of trucks? Will we ever get to Tubarao? What will it be like? Will the people be glad to see us?"

These and thousands of related thoughts occupied our minds last August on our return trip to Tubarao, the city we had learned to love during our three years of working there. Our unexpected and abrupt departure a little more than two years earlier (March, 1974) due

to a devastating flood, now raised certain questions: Had these three years been in vain? So few had made a personal commitment to the Lord. "Why, Lord, did this happen just when it seemed that interest and attendance was at its peak?" Would those few remain true without an older Christian to help and encourage them? Only the Lord knew the answers.

Fears of the unknown gave way to joys as we finally embraced the friendly **Tubaroneses**—citizens of Tubarao. These courageous people, unable to flee the disaster, had dug and scooped through the mud in an effort to salvage hard-

earned belongings. Their efforts were not in vain; consequently this was not the same Tubarao which we had left two years earlier. Predictions of a ten-year recovery had failed to consider the drive of these people to revive their city. What a joy to see it beautiful and alive again as we remembered it!

But, what about our little group? Would we ever see them together again singing praises to Christ and sharing opinions and questions in Bible studies? Only time would tell.

The providence of God enabled us to get our same house back. Still, several obstacles confronted us. The house, still

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Editor: Don Robirds



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Department of Foreign Missions
Administrative Staff

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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carrying old scars from the flood, had been unoccupied for a year and was a mess. We had no furniture whatever. The household items which we brought from the States had not yet arrived. How were we to live in a house with nothing? And wintertime at that!

Neighbors Pitch In

One neighbor loaned us two twin-size beds, a table, and four chairs. Another brought a few plates and utensils. Still another arranged for some bed clothing; boy, was it cold those first few days!

We had been accustomed to helping others. Now we needed help. How good they were to pitch in! We ate with four different families the first week. Our children slept at their friends' homes. Bewildered looks revealed inward but usually unspoken thoughts: "How could Kemper, Cindy, and Tania have forgotten how to talk? They spoke Portuguese so well before. Now they don't understand us nor we them!"

The gift which God has granted children is amazing—the ability to be together, to express understanding and acceptance without fear and embarrassment even though word communication is impossible. Oh, to be more like them! "Help me, Lord."

Would the house ever be ready to begin services? Ten days passed before our baggage arrived. These were long days of cleaning and painting, nights of visiting those who had once participated in the services, days spent searching for furniture and appliances, and hours spent making bookshelves and benches for the little chapel in one room of the house. During all of this a constant companion and helper was Jose Mendes, a 22-year-old Christian man from the church group. During those

two years of our absence he had attempted to keep an interest alive.

What seemed an eternity finally ended in just a few short weeks. "The people certainly appear to be friendly and interested. But, will they actually come back?" The anxiety intensified.

As we look back now we feel ashamed that we would even worry about those things. How could we have doubted? Didn't the Lord send us back here? Certainly He would not have sent us had He not also gone before and prepared the way.

Five months have passed since we returned to Tubarao, and it seems as if we just picked up where we left off. Two of the families have moved away. Except for one other family, the rest of those who attended the services before the flood have been back. Most attend more regularly now than then. Attendance runs usually in the 40's and our little chapel is already overflowing.

Children and young adults comprise the larger part of the Sunday morning service. Shirley has effectively used puppets to dramatize Bible stories and teach Bible principles in these meetings. The evening service is about 50 percent adult, with the other half made up of children and youth. One thing particularly encouraging is the leadership shown by the men as they bring their families. Sometimes only part of a family comes but rarely does the wife come without her husband. The opposite is often the case. Occasionally, ten or more men are on hand. Since Brazilian society is largely patriarchal this seems to be a healthy sign.

The Dark Side

This represents the bright side of the work but there is also a dark aspect: Most of those

who attend are not truly born-again believers. Only about eight people seem to be actually committed to Christ. So the plowing and planting continues. Much prayer and watering will be necessary to patiently await the Lord of the harvest to produce eternal fruit through transformed lives.

Talk of buying land and putting up some type of building has already begun. However, this creates a problem: We do not have an organized church nor is it in condition to be organized at this time. Of course, the Lord can give needed direction regarding these apparent obstacles.

New Doors Opening

Other doors are opening for more work in the area. Repeated invitations for religious films and services have created two preaching points in rural areas outside the city of Tubarao. One of these meetings is held on a soccer field and the other in an old grist mill. Attendance at these meetings ranges from 30 to 80. Constant invitations for visits or special services keep us on the go. The first baptismal service since returning was held in February, 1977.

We are happily back at work. Wherever we encounter old friends the conversation inevitably goes back to the flood. Having experienced it together seems to break down formerly held barriers and establishes a certain affinity. Somehow in their minds our purpose in being here seems to be genuine.

What does all this mean? We are not completely sure. Certainly God's eternal plan of redemption includes Tubarao. Our being here is a part of His plan. We hope to see a harvest, and we desire it soon. But, above all we want to be faithful to Him who is building His church according to His plan.

"I don't want anything to do with you who are opposed to the Church and God!" said the man as he closed the door in the faces of two young men who were participating in a door-to-door radio audience survey. His words reflect the thinking of many in Conselheiro Lafaiete toward those who are of "another religion," as they say.

In an effort to penetrate a traditional area of Brazil where the mentality of the people is dominated by the Roman Catholic Church, we have used various approaches such as radio, films, a reading room, literature distribution, and English classes, as well as services in homes and in a rented hall.

From the beginning, radio was considered a seed-sowing and ground-softening tactic. A radio program was started by Dave Franks in 1973. Then three years ago (April, 1974) it was turned over to me. During this time we have had many indications that it is being heard by a large percentage of Lafaiete's population, as well as by some in rural areas and neighboring small towns. Religious prejudices instilled over the years prevent many from attending Protestant services, but they do not prevent people from listening to the gospel over the radio.

The original five-minute program was increased to ten minutes in October of 1976. One faithful listener heard the Ten

Commandments read on one broadcast. She is not a Christian, but she was surprised to learn that God prohibits the MAKING of images. Some radio listeners believe that Protestants dishonor Mary, the mother of Jesus, and others have heard that we deny the Trinity. Daily, little by little these misconceptions can be corrected.

Reading Room

A reading room has served as another means of breaking down barriers and erasing some of the misgivings. A display of several Biblical books was prepared. These books focused on the subject of salvation, as well as the home, the family, discipline, the danger of drugs, etc. Jesus Christ was presented as the only real solution. The books were and still are loaned to anyone who desires to read them.

A ping-pong table, checkers, and chess games also comprised the reading room ministry. Many young people meandered into the rented hall to participate in these activities. This provided an opportunity to talk with them, win their friendship, give them literature, and present the gospel to them. While this approach served in making contacts, it was not as productive as we had hoped, so it has been discontinued.

Moody science films effectively break down barriers of preconceived ideas. They meet

young people on a scientific level to give them a proper perspective of the universe and its Creator. This helps us present the claims of Jesus Christ.

Showings Suspended

The Moody films were proving very useful in a local state high school until three Roman Catholic priests visited the superintendent. Showings were immediately suspended because the superintendent felt his position would be in jeopardy if he did not do so. Several students and teachers who saw some of the films have asked why I have not shown them anymore, and I have sought to explain. One teacher, upon learning the motive, commented, "What ignorance! That is why the Roman Church is losing its people."

State schools here are required to give weekly religion classes. Strangely enough, prior to the film showings, the Roman priests were not giving religion classes in that school. They have now begun!

A door-to-door religious survey revealed that most people who live in Lafaiete are quite ignorant of the simple truths about salvation. The great majority believe salvation to be based on personal merit with one's "good works" counterbalancing one's sins. Most said they believed the Bible was God's Word, but they had never studied it. We offered them a



GROUND BREAKING? AND SEED SOWING...

by Earnie Deeds

Bible portion and home study course. These were accepted better than we expected and many people completed a simple course based on the Gospel according to John. Here, too, we had some opposition. A few welcomed the course at first but returned it without answering any of the questions.

Among those contacts made through the survey and home study courses, we found some with hearts full of anguish. An occasional visit, a prayer for their needs, a booklet with Scripture portions—these helped to open hearts. Death in a family presents an excellent opportunity to show compassion as we quietly say, "Meus pesames," offering our condolences. Then we sit with them for a while during the short time (less than 24 hours) between death and burial. Although we do not agree with the lighted candles, extreme unction, or mass for the dead, we can accompany the funeral procession through the streets to the cemetery. Several have expressed their appreciation of such gestures. No doubt they mean more to people here because such is not common practice among religious leaders.

English Classes Help

Since English is widely used in international commerce, many people desire conversational English classes. When they came to me with their re-

quests, I decided to give a little time to teaching English for two reasons. First, I wanted to make a positive contribution to the community in a way the people could appreciate. I also sought to break down barriers and suspicion through this contact.

Confidence Gained

Confidence seemed to be gained through this continuous contact, and after a time some student would find an opportunity to ask timidly what we believed on some particular religious question.

I was careful not to take advantage of the students by trying to evangelize during the class periods, but at the end of the year each student received a Bible as a Christmas gift. Several said they were grateful. Others said that either they did not have a Bible or had never read any portion of it. A few asked to borrow books they saw on display.

One woman, who had accepted the Bible study offered in the survey, became so enthusiastic that she persuaded the others in the English class to study also. Some of these students have attended our services, and two young women have made professions of faith in Jesus as Savior. This method permitted penetration into the upper and middle classes of society.

Obstacles and opposition in

Christian work are not unusual, but God is faithful. At last we are seeing cracks in the wall of resistance. Several have been saved through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who have been converted have caught the vision of witnessing to others. We provide gospel tracts and booklets for them to use in their personal witnessing. Some have participated in door-to-door surveys.

Francisco, the first convert, made himself an electric guitar and contributes his musical talent to the services. Estenio, another young man, feels that God may be calling him to preach the gospel although he has an inherited eye disease and is gradually losing his sight. Still another young man, though only sixteen, already shows real possibilities in speaking, and is a diligent student of the Word.

Paul said, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" 1 Corinthians 16:9. That expresses our feelings about Lafaiete and her more than 60,000 inhabitants. Less than half of one percent of these profess to be believers.

While we are sowing, we are seeing some fruit, but we anticipate much more in the coming months as the converts continue to help in the preparation for the harvest. The seed will bring forth fruit in due season. The Lord has made this promise and will fulfill it.

Youth from Lafaiete and Barbacena sing during a retreat for the two churches.



Bordering the impossible!

by Walter (Dub) Ellison



Ellison and national workers walk the street on visitation.

"Instability seems to be a characteristic of our area. People make a decision then later seem to be bothered very little that their decision has come to mean nothing."

When I left the States in 1964 I felt like God was calling us to start a church in Livramento, Brazil, and I have never lost that vision nor for one moment have I abandoned those thoughts. We've been working here to plant, establish, and to build a local Free Will Baptist church. But due to many uncontrollable circumstances and numerous problems it is impossible to accomplish overnight the objectives we set for ourselves.

"Portuneo"—Border Talk

On the border of Brazil and Uruguay people naturally speak two different languages: Spanish and Portuguese. And although they mix the two together and have come up with what they officially call, "Portuneo," this has been no great problem. Those problems which have given us most difficulty include cultural differences, local and national laws, limited financial ability on the part of nationals, extremely difficult circumstances for the education of our children, tremendous governmental

"red tape," deep-seated religious and pagan traditions, and limited numbers of potential leaders among the nationals.

I'm sure each new missionary goes out with his plans but eventually, if he stays long enough, he begins to realize that cultural differences must be understood in order to be effective. He must learn to adapt many of his concepts to the culture where he labors.

Cultural Problems Faced

One cultural problem which we and other missionaries in Brazil face is that of marriage and divorce. For instance, one man was married and separated from his wife. Brazilian law prohibits divorce so he took to himself another "wife" but they could never legally marry. After living together for 30 years, they attended our church, made professions of faith and wanted to be baptized to become members. I wondered what to do, but the Lord worked out the problem when the woman became angry over her husband tithing. She made them

both quit the church so we did not have to deal with that problem although other missionaries have dealt with it.

Low Salaries Hinder

Another cultural difference involves church finances. We first started our work in a little garage, and it took us from 1969 until 1972 to get a group large enough to accumulate sufficient money to buy a small piece of property. Then came the problem of getting people to the point of assuming the responsibilities for acquiring and maintaining a building. Add to this the problem of finding a qualified man to lead the church. Since a large percentage of Brazilians are in a very low education and income bracket, the task loomed as gigantic.

Church services are often thought to be on the order of those in the average Free Will Baptist church in the United States. I guess we were like most missionaries in our original thinking. But getting a Sunday school going on Sunday morning was difficult. In fact,

due to cultural customs, Sunday morning church services have been nearly impossible. Our young people's and children's Sunday school includes over 50 pupils. But due to the cultural system we have adapted our services to have only Sunday school on Sunday morning and preaching service on Sunday night.

Since most people work five and a half to six days a week and usually much longer hours than people in the United States, their living conditions, smaller salaries, lack of transportation, etc., all tend to dictate what they do on Sunday. Many people feel they have to use some time on Sunday morning for necessities at home or some business which they could attend to at no other time.

Evening services, on the other hand, lend themselves to a greater degree of liberty than do services in the States. Our Sunday night service begins at 8:30 and seldom ends before 10:00 p.m. The missionary and his family have to adjust to this.

Accepting the People

Accepting the nationals with their differences tends to be very problematic for missionaries. Brazilians don't even greet one another as we do. They are much more free in their greeting and show a great deal of outward expression. But many times the outward appearance does not express the true feeling of the individual. This is very difficult for an American missionary to accept. He is inclined to label them as deceivers. We have had to face this and learn to accept the people as they are.

Instability seems to be a characteristic of our area. Many times people make a decision one day and then seem to be bothered very little that the following day, week, or month their decision has come to mean

nothing. This can discourage a missionary very quickly. But recognizing this as a trait, we learn to watch for it and deal with it accordingly.

Noise Is Common

Brazilians are generally noisier than those we knew in the States. They even create greater volume at their football games than we. Consequently their church services also often become very noisy. Frequently people get up and walk around during the service, and parents do not always make their children behave. This has disturbed us at times, but with patience we have been able to teach the people to take on a new attitude during the worship services. Still, if an outsider from our homeland were to visit our services, I am sure he would think it is a noisy crowd.

One other cultural problem which has caused us a great deal of concern involves the education of our children. The Brazilian school system is basically good, but it differs greatly from that in the States. For example, our oldest son was to finish the eighth grade and go on to high school. On the day he was to graduate, I went to the school and was waiting around when I noticed a piece of paper on the door. It was a list of those who would not pass to the next year. As I looked I noticed Stephen's name on the list.

When we questioned the director, he said, "Yes, we are sorry to inform you that Stephen had three points too few on his Portuguese final examination." He had passed all his other courses but failure in one course in Brazil causes a student to repeat the entire school year. Thank the Lord he was advanced when he went to study in Montevideo and is now actually ahead of schedule. But this concern for our own chil-

dren and their well-being can often create burdens which keep us from being effective in our ministry.

"Red tape" seems to keep us occupied for a great deal of time and sometimes it is costly. Securing documents, purchase of two license tags for our cars due to the necessary border crossings, repetitious trips to the license bureau to get a driver's license, and many other types of activities keep us "very busy" and often discouraged.

A predominantly Roman Catholic population has had its implication in both political and religious circles. In general we have had little difficulty from the Catholics but the potential for such exists.

Church Organized

In spite of all the apparent problems which I have cited, God is building His Church. Our objective was to plant and establish a Free Will Baptist church. We are pretty well along the way. Our church is organized and going into its second year. We have registered our statutes with the government and stand as a tax-exempt organization. And now, at last, our church has called a young Brazilian man as their pastor. They are getting ready to build a new building which should be done before our furlough in December. So, we plan to have a church with all the main ingredients—people, a pastor, and a building.

In order to accomplish this, we have been compelled to modify our plans to meet difficulties, differences, and often disastrous situations. Through them all God has given us many victories and some people who have been touched by God's grace. What may have seemed impossible has been made possible by God!

NEWS UPDATE

May 1977

Cassette Ministry Proves Effective

Ivory Coast—Archie Mayhew reported recently that the cassette ministry is being effective in the Ivory Coast: "I seriously doubt that we would be able to leave the villages that we have evangelized if we did not have tapes to follow up the teaching."

Archie noted that one village Christian told him that the cassette was "better than having a missionary." The man explained that a pastor would only give the message one time, but the tape player could be heard several times and consequently the people could retain much more. The cassette ministry promises to make it possible for the missionary to enter new villages much sooner.

VBS Conducted in Fulcher's New Work

Panama—Vacation Bible School was conducted during the week of March 14 in the new work which was started by Bill Fulcher in El Dorado, a suburb of

Panama City. Bill announced that the church has now moved to a location near the post office in Betania. The new meeting place, a rented house, has a large room, several smaller rooms for Sunday school classes, and a large yard.

The Vacation Bible School attendance averaged approximately 30 each day.

Water Crisis Shortens Bouake School Term

Ivory Coast—According to a recent report from missionary Howard Filkins, a water shortage in Bouake necessitated the lengthening of school days in order to shorten the school trimester from 11 weeks to eight weeks. At last report it was unknown whether they would be able to resume the school on April 5 as scheduled or not.

"We had two good rains, but the lake is very low," writes Howard. "About 50 days left, someone said. For a city of 100,000 it sure isn't much." Filkins and another dormfather bought a pump in Abidjan and installed it in a well by the creek. This is

used when water from town is shut off. But the pump will not supply sufficient water for the 160 students at the school.

People were reported to be walking six kilometers (approximately three and a half miles) to get water. Then they were compelled to pay a very high price for the water once they arrived.

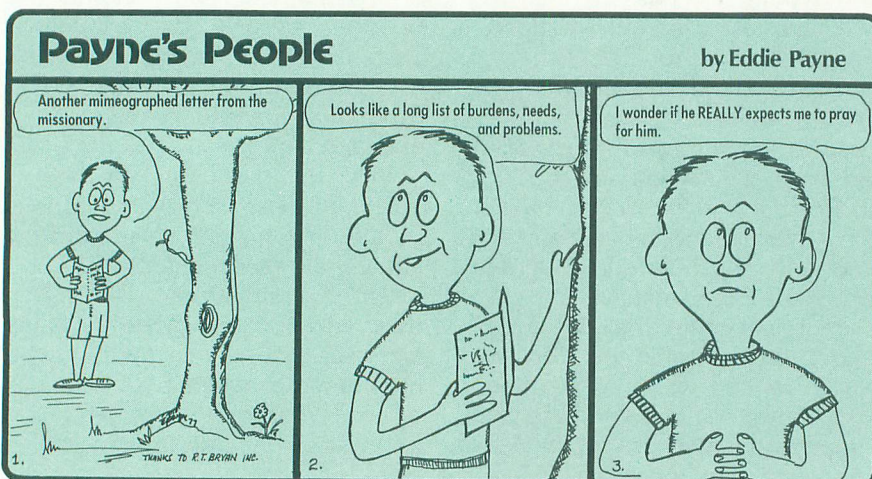
Apparently weary, the Filkins noted, "This has been the hardest year we have had here at the school. So many kids are new, etc. The bulk of ours are junior high age, and that is a big change from the 14 juniors and seniors we had last year. We have felt the tremendous need for supporting prayer."

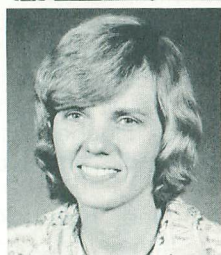
Jerry Gibbs Teaching "Precepts for Practice"

France—Jerry Gibbs recently reported that he has just completed teaching a soul-winning course to his adult Bible class on Sunday mornings and is now teaching "Precepts for Practice," by Malcolm Fry. The new course was recently translated into French and Jerry is trying to improve the lessons to make them more understandable to the French people. Approximately 10 to 14 people have been attending the class.

"One whole family has started coming since the mother attended the last night the Haases were here," writes Jerry. "There are seven in the family. The eldest son is about my age. He has accepted the Lord and has really been faithful along with his wife. She is open to the gospel and will surely accept the Lord soon."

Gibbs indicated elections had been held in the church recently and certain church policies were straightened out.





Pictured from top to bottom are Missionary Internship graduates Jim and Karen Cowart, Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson, John and Pansy Murray and Charolette Tallent.

Internship Trainees to Graduate May 12

Farmington, Mich.—Seven foreign missions candidates are scheduled to graduate from Missionary Internship training here on May 12. Upon satisfactory performance at M.I. these will most likely be officially appointed to missionary service in the May board meeting.

Jim and Karen Cowart are looking to go to Brazil, John and Pansy Murray and Charolette Tallent plan to go to France, and Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson hope to leave soon for the Ivory Coast.

New Programs, Film Utilized by Sparks

Spain—A recent report by Lonnie and Anita Sparks indicated they have initiated several new programs and utilized a Christian film to provide new contacts and open doors for witness in Alcala, Spain.

Anita started a children's class in late January, an informal Bible study and a young people's meeting were started in early March, and a Christian film was shown in late February. Approximately 115 attended the film which was shown in the Sparks' living room.

"The Lord has given some new contacts, for which we are thankful," writes Lonnie. "Some have come through Christian families (American) from the air base." He noted that one couple, who had been led to Christ by a serviceman, has attended the Bible study on Wednesdays and has shown real interest in the Word.

Sparks noted that he is receiving some help with the youth program from a missionary and a university student who live in Madrid.

Lonnie expressed praise that the offerings are now paying most of the church expenses, including the rent.

Young Church Gives to Radio Broadcast

Ivory Coast—A young church from the Mossi tribe in the village of Koffikokro recently indicated their desire to support radio broadcasts in the Koulango language being aired on ELWA radio from Monrovia, Liberia. This village was one of the last

villages to open prior to the Archie Mayhews' furlough in 1974.

According to Archie, "The fact that a Mossi church wanted to support another tribe's radio broadcast on its own initiative is certainly good news." This church has been without a missionary for two years.

The yearly church conference of Ivory Coast, held last July, voted to accept the responsibility for paying for the Koulango radio broadcast.

Bible Teachers Still Needed in Nigeria

Cedar Grove, N.J.—Over 600 inquiries have been handled by Sudan Interior Mission's headquarters as Christian teachers have responded to the plea by Nigeria's Universal Primary Education program for 40,000 teachers.

Thousands of new schools are under construction to accommodate an estimated 11.5 million primary students by 1980. It is predicted that this free education scheme for all children through grades seven will effect "the biggest social change in the history of the nation."

"UPE presents the Christian church with an unprecedented opportunity," SIM's United States Candidate Secretary Gerry Johnson explains. "The impact that Christian teachers could have is extremely significant. And the opportunity is now, while the teacher training phase of UPE is developing."

In addition to teachers who will sign government contracts, SIM is actively seeking qualified missionaries to zero in on training Bible Knowledge teachers. Bible Knowledge is a compulsory

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NEWS UPDATE

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subject in all Nigerian schools for students registered as "Christian," and a crash training for Bible Knowledge teachers is underway. Missionaries for Bible Knowledge instruction should have a B.R.E. or B.Th. degree, or a Master's degree in Theology. Interested teachers should contact the Sudan Interior Mission, P.O. Box C, Cedar Grove, N.J. 07009.

News Briefs from Around the World

Norman, Okla.—J. Reford Wilson, former general director of foreign missions, had surgery here on March 16 for removal of kidney stones and correction of a bladder problem. Latest reports indicated he was recovering normally.

Zaire—U.S. mission leaders are privately concerned about conditions developing in Zaire, formerly the Congo. Mercenaries in Shaba province are joining with dissident Zairian tribesmen in

what could turn into serious turmoil.

Nashville, Tenn.—The Board of Foreign Missions was scheduled to meet in its annual session May 2-6 in Nashville.

Peru—Wycliffe Translators, formerly ordered to leave Peru by the end of 1976, have been granted five more years to consummate a Spanish language education program among the nationals.

Uganda—An estimated 50,000 Christians have been slain in Uganda under Idi Amin's leadership, and some observers indicate the situation could get worse before it gets better.

Janice Banks Has Surgery in Tokyo

Japan—Jerry Banks recently informed the mission office that his wife Janice was to enter the hospital in Tokyo on March 9 and was scheduled to have surgery on March 10. Her condition of severe pain in her legs

and joints was reported in the April **Heartbeat**. She apparently did not improve with medication.

Surgery was successful but latest reports indicated her leg pains continue. Further test results were not available at press time.

Summer Missionaries Depart in May

Nashville, Tenn.—Ten summer missionaries are scheduled to depart this month for their respective assignments on four mission fields:

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bunch, Oklahoma, will work with Bob and Sue Aycock in Barbacena, Brazil, while Sandra Tucker of Alabama will be assigned to work with the Hughes and Coscias in Uberlandia and Uberaba, Brazil.

Tom Diamond, Kentucky, and Mark King, Illinois, will help the Robert Bryans at Goumère, Ivory Coast, and Jeff and Susan Turnbough from Tennessee will aid those at the clinic in Doropo.

Glenn Harlinger of Iowa will go to Tokyo, Japan, to help the Fred Herseys at the Iriso church.

June Arnold and Lynn Midgett, both from Oklahoma, will work with the Larry Inscoes at Las Tablas, Panama.

The summer missionary program lasts approximately ten weeks.

Missionaries Scheduled to Begin Furlough

Nashville, Tenn.—Several missionary families are due to begin furlough from their fields of service during the next few months:

Jim and Olena McLain are ten-

Summer missionaries scheduled to depart this month for their fields of service include, (left to right) top, Stanley and Brenda Bunch; bottom, June Arnold and Lynn Midgett; right, Glenn Harlinger, Sandra Tucker, Susan and Jeff Turnbough, Mark King and Tom Diamond.





Janie Aldridge nestles African child while talking with Rolla Smith in the home of Samuel Appia, a Christian businessman in Bondoukou.

tatively planning to leave Japan on June 10 to return to the States for a year's furlough.

Earnie and Jean Deeds are scheduled to leave Brazil in June and Ken and Marvis Eagleton hope to return to the U.S. in late summer.

Norman and Bessie Richards plan to arrive in New York on June 1 to begin furlough from the Ivory Coast.

Jerry and Barbara Gibbs intend to leave France in mid-summer for a short furlough of six months.

Bill and Glenda Fulcher plan to return to the United States in June to begin a year's furlough from Panama.

Smith Sees Progress in Ivory Coast

Nashville, Tenn.—General Director Rolla Smith left the U.S. on March 18 for Ivory Coast, West Africa, where he met with missionaries, visited mission stations, and viewed the various works before returning home on April 10.

"Opportunities are great at the present in Ivory Coast with progress and growth being experienced in many areas," said Mr. Smith. "But how long we will have to get the job done seems questionable. No one knows what will happen when a new

president is elected."

Smith was thankful to be able to visit the field and return with no evidence of contracting meningitis although an epidemic was spreading at the time of his visit.

Hughes Reports New Address, No Baggage

Brazil—"We got moved without undue problems," writes Nancy Hughes after their move to the city of Uberlandia, Brazil to open a new work. "Our washer had to be worked on, but the rest of the appliances are fine. Lori is in school about five blocks from home."

Nancy gave the following change of address: Caixa Postal 291, 38.400 Uberlandia, M.G., Brazil, South America.

"We really like Uberlandia, and our neighbors are very friendly," Nancy continued. "They were especially nice during the days before our transformer was functioning so that we could use all our appliances. It was terribly hot and they brought ice and cold water. People from all the houses close by have come to welcome us to the neighborhood and have invited us to stop by and see them."

Much of the Hughes' baggage was still reported to be tied up in customs, but they were hoping to receive it soon.

Mini-Bibliothèques in Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast—Thanks to the new mini-bibliothèque (mini-library) plan, 15 small lending libraries have been placed in various areas of West Africa including the Ivory Coast. These small lending libraries, funded by the David C. Cook Foundation, have been placed throughout West Africa by the Centre de Publications Evangeliques in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Each mini-bibliothèque costs about \$36 and includes a selection of French-language books, a Bible, a New Testament, and a supply of plastic wrapping to protect the books from the glue-drying climate. "Librarians" receive a brochure with ideas for displaying and taking care of the books and hints on how to interest others in reading.

Robert Bryan serves on the board of directors for the publications center in Abidjan.

\$ubstance

Through March 31

On deposit March 1	\$ 277,295.29
Total receipts	150,161.69
Total disbursements	132,379.08
Projected receipts	351,466.26
Total 1977 Budget	\$1,415,865.00

\$hortage

These accounts are in the deficit:

Deeds	102.24
Ellison	5,733.90
Gibbs	1,737.79
Inscoe	1,446.11
Mayhew	7,293.15
McLain	2,839.88
Palmer	3,515.43
Richards	2,761.70
Smith, J.	206.03
Sparks	2,389.52
Sturgill	4,944.16
Webb	8,912.62
Willey, Jr.	2,199.70
Wode	469.02

Total deficit \$44,551.25

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Please clip and send this label
with all correspondence.

COBO HALL

DETROIT

July 17-21, 1977

41st Annual Session

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Theme:
"Triumphant In Christ"



LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES that _____
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will
Baptists from _____

(Name of church)

_____ of _____
(District Association) (City) (State)

Pastor

Clerk or Secretary

IMPORTANT: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$10
registration fee entitles a local church delegate to register for voting
privileges.



DENNIS WIGGS

Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Beaufort, North Carolina



JOE ANGE

Director of Religious Activities
Free Will Baptist Bible College
Nashville, Tennessee



FRANK DAVENPORT

Pastor
Faith Free Will Baptist Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina



FRED WARNER

Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Russellville, Arkansas



TRYMON MESSER

Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Salina, Kansas