

SEPTEMBER 1977

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

EDUCATION AND TRAINING **their vital role in missions**



In this issue:

—Culture and the Gospel

—Introduction to Missions

—Missionary Internship
Missionaries in Training

CULTURE and the GOSPEL

by Dan Cronk

Dan Cronk is currently missions professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., as well as a member of the Board of Foreign Missions. He served as a Free Will Baptist missionary to India for 27 years.



If a young missionary candidate has prepared himself through Bible study, theology, etc., if he is very familiar with church organization, and if he knows how to conduct worship services, why does he have to take college courses that study foreign cultures and societies? Why not just let him go out there and preach the gospel? Some question, "Does this mean that if a missionary knows all about cultures it will get people saved?" Let me explain.

Communication

The primary call to missions is to ministering—the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. This preaching and teaching, however, involves more than language. Traditionally we have thought that learning to use the language was the first and primary bridge to the mind and heart of the lost, but it involves much more than just saying words. Communication of the gospel centers on the fact that the Word must be preached, taught and given witness, but until it is heard, understood and acted on, communication has not really taken place. The new, changed life in Christ is the evidence of effective communication in the New Testament sense.

Language involves not only words and meanings but the very patterned way in which people think, feel and express that feeling. It involves what people know or think to be absolutely right or absolutely wrong. The

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Lobis of Ivory Coast think in different categories from the Santals of India. They express their feelings in different ways and they differ as to what is natural, what is right, and what is wrong. This is their culture. Every society has culture in this sense. **Culture** does not mean how a person holds his knife and fork, nor does it mean that a person went to an Ivy League College, has his name in the social register, listens to Bach, or practices a certain kind of etiquette. By **culture** we mean the total way of life of any group of people who interact with one another as a unit: the Lobis of Africa, the Bengalis of India, the American Indians, etc.

Opposition or Resistance

A missionary often learns the vocabulary and language structure of a tribe and begins preaching only to find a passive response or even active resistance simply because he is going against the grain of culture. Because of his ignorance of the social structure, of the interdependency of all the components of culture, he may be creating opposition not to the gospel but to what they understand him to be saying or doing. It may be that he is advocating some "good" practice from his own culture that contradicts theirs, and it is not really a Biblical principle at all.

If the people reject either the personality or the foreignness (strangeness) of the missionary, they will also reject his message. It is essential to his success that he not go against the grain of culture more than the gospel itself requires. Rather, he should go with the grain, building upon and using all the components of the culture which the Bible does not forbid.

Culture Like Inventory

Today a missionary can study the many components of a culture because every culture has an inventory. American businessmen take annual inventories of their stock. We do the same daily. We enter a building, note the rows of medicines, cosmetics, birthday cards, etc., and immediately identify a drug store. If we see rows of tools, kegs of nails, and stacks of garbage cans, we know we are in a hardware store. The inventory tells us. We may say that the total inventory of what makes up a society is its culture.

During the 200 years of missions and the more recent studies of anthropologists, sociologists, and missionaries, general inventories of many cultures have been made. We now have specific studies of Japanese, Chinese, Indian, North American, African and Latin American cultures as well as many studies of subcultures.

The missionary student can now be introduced to the contents of the culture in the society where he hopes to work as a missionary. We can give him the tools for understanding that culture and for taking the inventory himself so that when he gets to the mission field he can more quickly adopt the parts of the culture which will aid response and avoid doing that which would cause unnecessary resistance. He can be made aware of the parts of the culture which will never square with Biblical principle and reject that from the beginning with as little offense as possible.

The well-trained missionary will begin with more than a knowledge of the verbal language. He will also know the people's belief about God, nature,

and man. He will know about their philosophies, art forms, music styles, ways of making a living, doing business, politics, methods of educating the young, ways of dealing with deviants, means of controlling the society, methods of integration, and provisions for growth and change.

Knowledge Gains Acceptance

By working with actual case studies and field problems, the student in the classroom can learn in advance what will help him to be accepted by the people to whom he goes so that they will also accept his message. He can know what his own American culture consists of and be able to discriminate between what is Biblical and basic to all Christian cultures. He will also recognize what is just American and therefore not a necessary part of his message. He will be able to avoid those practices that are totally destructive of all the life ways of the people to whom he goes. Instead, he will understand the processes of change which the gospel produces in all the cultures where it goes and makes itself at home. He will be able to communicate Jesus' love for his hearers because he himself loves them in their life situations, and he appreciates all that is good and acceptable in their culture.

The Holy Spirit uses both the knowledge of the Word and such insights as these to make the missionary's life and ministry fruitful in a cross-cultural situation. Since the Board of Foreign Missions recognizes this necessary combination, they have made cultural studies an essential part of missionary training. Experienced missionaries verify the validity of this requirement.

The class was told to define missions in five words or less. The answers were interesting: "Adventures in strange places." "Love thy neighbor as thyself." "God-given command—to tell!" "Soul winning—home and abroad." "Christians giving/sending the gospel." "Truth for all the world." "God's Word where never heard." "Go, teach, preach, redeem millions." "Ye are my witnesses."

What is your definition?

Missionary candidates and students with missions aspirations need to understand missions from a Biblical perspective. While they may have sensed a need for missions outreach, they also must know what God's Word says regarding world evangelization. In broadening their Biblical knowledge, they will also strengthen their commitment and increase their faithfulness.

A Missionary Book

As I tell my students, the Bible is a missionary book. From Genesis chapter three to Revelation 20 God reveals His redemptive plan. Last December on the University of Illinois campus at Urbana '76, a missions gathering sponsored by Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship, John Stott told the assembly that the God of the Bible is a

missionary God. The act of grace which preserved Noah and his family is indicative of divine provision which God made for man's salvation.

The significant events in the Old Testament are as stage lights focusing on Jesus Christ. Like a fabulous stage production, the trumpets sound and the curtain rises on Abraham traveling to Canaan, Joseph ruling in Egypt, and the judges, kings, and prophets taking their places—all fulfilling their roles in God's missionary plan.

The law given to Moses revealed the demands of the holy God and the depravity of sinful man. The separation of the nation Israel from the pagan nations had a missionary purpose. In the midst of the Pentateuch is this gem in Numbers 14:21: "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord."

Scattered through the Psalms are glistening missionary jewels: "The earth is the Lord's . . . and they that dwell therein" (24:1); "I will be exalted among the heathen . . ." (46:10); "O praise the Lord all ye nations . . ." (117:1). Psalm 67 sparkles with these missionary gems: "That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."

The latter chapters of Isaiah also shine with missionary

brilliance: "The Lord has made bare His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations . . . and all the ends of the earth shall witness the salvation of our God" (Isaiah 52:10). Thus the Old Testament gives us clearly an introduction to missions.

Missions Dynamics

Missions involves three dynamics: (1) The condemning lostness of man; (2) the constraining love of Jesus Christ; and (3) the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

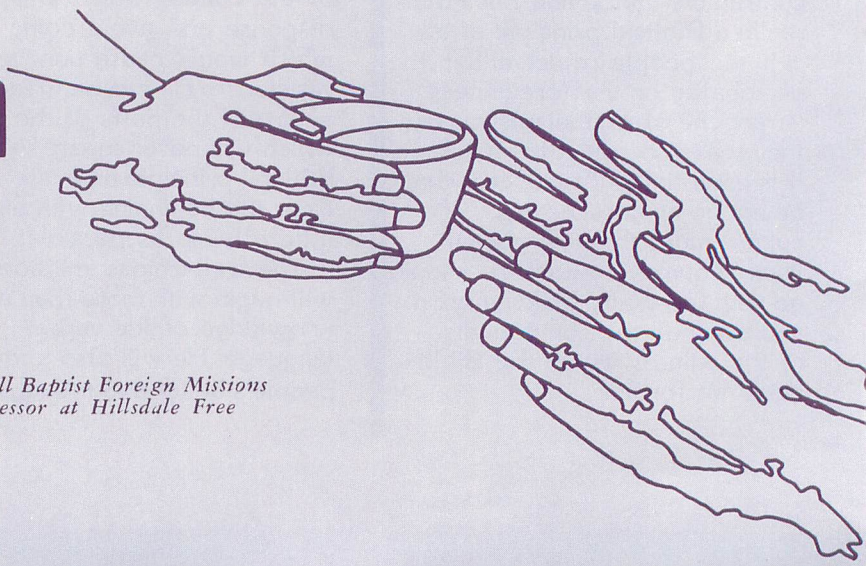
Dr. Henri Blocher in his message "The Lost State of Man" declared, "The mission of Jesus cannot be defined without speaking of man as being lost. Salvation presupposes the lost state, as the cure presupposes the disease; as forgiveness presupposes evil done; as liberation presupposes slavery and as reconciliation presupposes conflict."

One of the most vivid descriptions of the lostness of man is written by Paul in Romans 1:18-32. Man is pictured as being so lost that Paul says, "God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts . . . God gave them up unto vile affections . . . God gave them over to a reprobate mind." How great is that lostness! God gave men **nous adokimos**, a disapproved mind,

Introduction to Missions

by Reford Wilson

The writer served as General Director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions from 1962-1975. He is currently missions professor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Okla.



a mind which becomes incapable of distinguishing right from wrong, one which is confused and lost.

Blinded, groping millions, like the creatures of the underground, are unaware that there is light for them. A darkened mind is not capable of discovering the salvation of God either by logic or by chance. Only through the revelation of the gospel of Christ and by the work of the Holy Spirit can man discover and receive the gift of salvation.

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Man is lost before God! Man is lost **now**. He is presently in a state of darkness and bears the guilt of condemnation. The miserable plight of millions, the immorality which plagues our society, and the criminality which casts a dismal shadow over the beauty of our cities all depict the lostness of the human race.

How lost is man? Man was/is lost enough that God sent His Son, not to condemn man but that man through Christ could be saved. God's love for lost man was manifested in the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Love of Christ

The second dynamic of missions is encompassed in these words: "the love of Christ constraineth us" (II Corinthians 5:14). Paul makes this statement in the context of the universality of sin, "... that if one died for all, then were all dead." The compelling love of Jesus is the never diminishing motivational force of missions. Dr. Harold Cook says, "The love of Christ is the deepest motivation possible. Compassion moved Jesus to touch the leper and make him clean (Mark 1:40-42). Today, medical missions is an effective

means of demonstrating God's love.

The ministry of Jesus Christ dealt with the total man, and there is only one gospel "which is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). Consequently, to describe the message of Christian missions as a social gospel is a misnomer; this transforming gospel does change man and he, in turn, changes the social order.

Man's greatest need is not physical but spiritual. In the words of Jesus, "man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Christian missions is the only "cause" where greater value is placed on the "here and after" than on the "here and now." It is competitive with the world system of "eat, drink and be merry."

Jesus made perfectly clear His purpose for the disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). It is repeated in Matthew 28:19,20, in Luke 24:46-48, in John 20:21, and in Acts 1:8. Obedience to this command is a willing response to the compelling love of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit's Ministry

It was a thrilling sight to see 17,000 students with a concern for world missions gathered for Urbana '76. Is this evidence that the Holy Spirit is continuing His ministry as another dynamic in missions? The God of the Old and New Testaments has not changed His plan for world evangelization. Jesus has not altered His command. The work is done by men and women who willingly go wherever He sends. His promise of power was fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), and His abiding presence is assured through the continuing ministry

of the Holy Spirit, "Lo, I am with you alway. . . ."

The disciples saw the amazing results of their witnessing and persisted in proclaiming the gospel in the face of persecution. The Holy Spirit directed the fellowship and ministry of the new believers. In this century, He has moved the church to intensify its evangelistic outreach. Historic missionary conferences and congresses have focused attention on the missionary task of the church. These meetings have updated missionary information. They have made available statistics about unreached areas, conversion rates, population growth, etc.

In many evangelical missions there is an overwhelming sense of divine urgency. A corp of missionaries is now penetrating social and political barriers with a devotion which would match that of earlier missionaries confronted with unexplored and disease-ridden areas.

And God is at work among Free Will Baptists! Not only are young people showing genuine concern for world missions but older adults are learning that there could be a place for them on the mission fields.

Everyone should realize a Biblical basis for missions clearly appears in both Old and New Testaments. The lostness of man necessitated not only a plan of redemption but also the proclamation of the redemptive message. In God's eternal love for man provision was made for both the plan and the proclamation. The love of Christ compels obedience. The Holy Spirit amazingly continues to work through men to give others the gospel.

Since knowledge of these dynamics strengthens missionary productivity, all missionary aspirants need to be exposed to them.

MISSIONARY INTERNSHIP... missionaries in training!

by Raymond Riggs

Raymond Riggs is Chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions and pastor of Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church, Cookeville, Tenn. He became acquainted with the Missionary Internship program while pastoring in Michigan and was actively involved with training missionary candidates.

It was past midnight, and I found myself in an automobile driven by the late Mark M. Lewis. We were returning to Detroit from Chicago after attending an Evangelical Foreign Missions Association Convention. Seated in the back with me was Dr. Thompson, a man with a Scottish accent whose hair was frosted over with many winters. He had spent forty years in China as a missionary but had been forced to leave because of the Communist takeover. I had heard him speak at the convention, and we learned that he needed a ride to Detroit. As we rode along, he shared with me his inner feelings.

After the second World War and Vietnam, many of our young men who had been in various parts of the world felt the burden to return with the gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ. In light of this, Brother Thompson recognized a need for some missionary statesmen with experience to set up a training

program to help develop and mature missionaries before they went to the field. He was concerned that missionaries go out as well-equipped and well-prepared as possible to face the many shocks and disappointments of a foreign culture.

M.I. Started

Dr. Thompson believed the Lord was leading him to open up such a training program in the Michigan area. His burden became a reality when Missionary Internship began on a very small scale in 1952. Today M.I. is located on a lovely campus in Farmington, near the Detroit area, where they are training an average of 100 missionaries per year. These missionary candidates and appointees come from 20-30 different sponsoring societies.

Thompson initially headed the program and added to the staff only veteran missionaries who had served overseas under various boards and circumstances. He felt missionary candidates needed exposure to experienced men and women in order to enhance their development in every area of life.

The program was outlined to get a local church to sponsor a missionary intern who would then be under the direction of

that local pastor. He would work with the church three weeks out of the month. The interns would come to the campus of M.I. for the remaining week and would sit at the feet of these experienced missionaries. This experience has been of tremendous value to the interns who have gone through the program.

Some would perhaps say, "Well, what is the need of an intern program?" If a candidate has graduated from our Bible college and has had experience pastoring, etc., why waste another year in an intern program? As chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions I know the board senses the responsibility not only of recruiting workers but also of helping to bring maturity to these workers. Thus, in recent years, the board has agreed that it actually accelerates our missionary program to ask our candidates to spend one year at M.I.

Pre-field Orientation

The program at M.I. is designed as a pre-field orientation which endeavors to expose the candidate to the primary issues in cross-cultural communication and interaction and to begin the process of developing abilities that will make him an effective



missionary, with the unique personal qualities God has given to him.

The program content of M.I. is comprised of four interacting factors:

Regular **in-depth seminars** include field trips to the inner city and other cross-cultural situations.

A **ministry situation** involves a missionary candidate in Christian service at his sponsoring church. He may teach, preach, sing, work on a bus route, visit, do office work, youth work, or anything else that needs to be done.

Peer interaction is a vital part of the program. Each seminar is conducted in a community setting, with stimulus for interaction throughout.

Advisor counseling is available to every missionary candidate to help him think through the issues raised during his training and to help him assimilate all that he needs for effective service.

The Missionary Internship program relates to the intern in several ways:

1. **Mentally.** The intern is required to do research and reading concerning his field. His knowledge is also increased by listening to lectures from veterans who have been to these areas. At least two or three times a year he is asked to serve in large meetings such as the Mid-America Sunday School Association.

2. **Socially.** The intern has a tremendous opportunity to broaden his horizons socially through association with the people in the sponsoring church. Many of our candidates come from small towns or rural back-grounds. In the seething metro-

polis of Detroit they serve shoulder to shoulder with people of every walk of life. The opportunity to serve with missionaries and candidates from 20 or more different sponsoring societies at M.I. exposes the intern to various habits of life and different theological persuasions yet all having one common objective—the presenting of Jesus Christ to a lost world. We certainly do not expect an appointee to compromise any of his personal convictions or religious standards, but this experience enables him to learn how to cope with every situation. It is vital to a new missionary going abroad.

M.I. urges the sponsoring pastor to get the intern exposed to as many people and to as many different kinds of situations as possible. If he does not learn to cope with different situations, he will find himself in deep trouble when he lands in a foreign culture.

Periodically, during his stay in the intern program, the intern will be assigned to an ethnic group in the inner city or in some foreign element. He is asked to live with a particular family for one week to learn how they live and act and to learn something of their customs and habits. When possible, he is assigned to a group similar to the people where he hopes to minister.

3. **Emotionally.** In my opinion, the M.I. program is good for the candidate emotionally. He will learn to control his emotions; he will learn to feel the needs of the people, not only to become sympathetic but empathetic. This is important for one to effectively minister the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. **Spiritually.** The intern is exposed to lectures, large religious rallies, and to some of the nation's greatest expositors

and preachers. He is taught how to direct and conduct his own personal and private devotional life in a way that will be most enriching to his experience. This discipline is essential if he is to dispense the Word in a way that will benefit others.

5. **Financially.** The intern program suggests that a local church assume the sponsorship of a missionary candidate or appointee, paying him a very nominal salary. In this way he learns to depend upon the Lord and trust God by faith to supply his needs. He is also taught at M.I. how to properly and effectively relate to his supporting constituency through writing of prayer letters, etc.

At least once or twice during the year the intern's advisor will meet with the pastor to discuss the progress the intern is making—how he relates to people, how he is progressing in soul winning and in spiritual depth, and how he is doing in his teaching and preaching ministry. At the end of the year a report is sent to the Board of Foreign Missions regarding the activities and service of the intern.

To our knowledge, we have not had a single fatality among our missionaries who have finished the intern program although one or two who began the program dropped out in the midst because of the revealing effects upon the intern himself.

Evident weak points or areas in which the intern needs improvement are pointed out, and special efforts are put forth to make necessary adjustments. M.I. is not a psycho-analysis program, but it is a program of experience through which personalities can be developed and matured for maximum efficiency in the service of the Lord.

NEWS UPDATE

September 1977

Two Couples Begin M.I. Training

Farmington, Mich.—Two couples entered Missionary Internship training in Farmington, Mich., this month:

Dennis and Trena Owen of Sunny Hills, Fla., aspiring to go to Brazil, will be working with the Central Free Will Baptist Church while attending M.I.

Mike and Delene Cousineau of Norman, Okla., looking toward Ivory Coast, are scheduled to labor in the Hazel Park Free Will Baptist Church in conjunction with their intern training.

Lee Teaching Nursing; Cassette Ministry Helps

Ivory Coast—Recent correspondence from Sherwood Lee indicates busy days at the hospital in Doropo as well as other activities in the area.

"I'm in the process of writing and preparing nursing lessons, and it takes a lot of time since we have to simplify so much," writes Lee. "But I enjoy it, and the students are trying so hard."

Four Africans are studying; only one has been to sixth grade.

Sherwood has also assumed the cassette ministry responsibilities for the Doropo area and reports good progress.

"I was in a village yesterday where a man with a cassette was able to witness to a lady," writes Sherwood. "And she has been saved. He can't read and depends heavily on the cassettes. God is really using this ministry."

Alice Smith Leaves for Ivory Coast

France—"I'm so thankful to the Lord for His faithfulness," writes Alice Smith upon graduation from language school in Albertville, France. After spending a month with the missionaries in Nantes and Rennes, France, she planned to arrive in Ivory Coast the first week in September.

Alice's ministry in Ivory Coast will include work in the hospital, secretarial work for Dr. Miley and teaching among the women and children of the villages. "I am so looking forward to being used of the Lord to bring Africans to Christ," she related.

Seven Baptized in Bondoukou Service

Ivory Coast—Jimmy Aldridge reports the baptism of seven people recently at Bondoukou. Over 75 attended the service.

Aldridge requested prayer for the students from Bondoukou as they witness in their villages now that school is out. One young fellow is teaching the Bible to a group of 30 in his village. Concerning another student, Jimmy writes, "One young man took some Gospels of John home with him to start a daily Bible study. From it has come at least 12 conversions, all of which were previously Catholic. He is a convert of only 18 months."

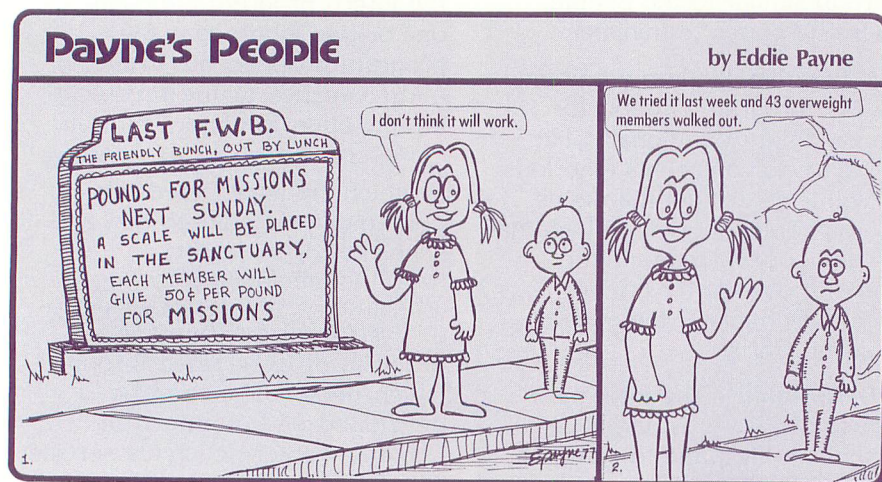
Marcia Ellison and Children Arrive

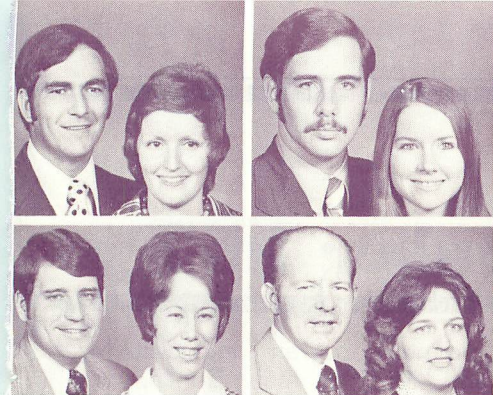
Knoxville, Tenn.—Marcia Ellison and the five Ellison children arrived in the States from Brazil August 1 to enroll the children in school for the fall semester. Their furlough was scheduled to begin in December. They expressed thankfulness for receiving exemption from the deposit normally required by the Brazilian government before a resident can leave the country.

"Dub" Ellison will remain in Livramento until December to supervise the construction of the new church building.

New Missionaries Depart for Fields

Nashville, Tenn.—Two more new missionary couples left recently for language school: Clint and Lynette Morgan and Patrick and Susan Dickens were scheduled to begin language study in Septem-





To depart—top, left to right, Morgans, Dickens, Callaways, and Murrays.



Pastor Jim McAllister introduces Pinkertons on "Jerry Pinkerton Day."



Don Sexton baptizes new Christian in fish pond in Nantes, France.

ber in Albertville, France, prior to entering the Ivory Coast next year. The Morgans left the U.S. on September 1 and the Dickens departed on August 8.

Two other new couples are hoping to leave soon for their fields of service: Ron and Linda Callaway plan to depart September 1 for Spain, and John and Pansy Murray are scheduled to leave for France before the end of the year.

Jim and Susan Moser are tentatively scheduled to leave in January for Brazil to begin Portuguese language study.

Annual Retreat Held August 8-12 at FWBBC

Nashville, Tenn.—The annual Foreign Missions Retreat was held August 8-12 at Free Will Baptist Bible College here. Attending this event were 18 returned missionaries, 16 missionary appointees, 4 missionary candidates, 9 board members, and the foreign missions staff.

Special participants on the program were Dr. Robert Picirilli, registrar at FWBBC; Harold and June Critcher; and Trula Cronk. Board members Allen Moore, Dan Cronk, Fred Warner, Dr. Ronnie Winkle, and Jim Walker were Bible speakers for the session.

A banquet on Thursday, August 11, highlighted the week as special commendations were given to missionary personnel present, and a special time of commitment and prayer featured those who were soon to depart for their fields of service.

Pinkerton Day Aids Return to I.C.

Farmington, Mo.—"Jerry Pinkerton Day" was held July 31 at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Farmington, Mo., for the Jerry Pinkerton family in an effort to raise funds to get them back to the Ivory Coast. A total of \$2,373.25 was raised on that day; in addition to that, the church has provided a house for the Pinkertons free of charge during their furlough.

Jerry and Carol were scheduled to leave September 16 from New York aboard the S.S. African Dawn. Their sons, Jerry Jr. and Tim, left by air on August 21 accompanied by Joan Filkins who had been home for a short visit.

The Pinkertons are tentatively scheduled to return to Nassian to continue their work among the Koulangos.

Fish Pond Serves As Baptistry

France—"Did you ever hear of baptizing someone in a goldfish pond?" questioned Don Sexton in recent correspondence to the missions office. "Well, we did! We baptized two girls recently and have two more awaiting baptism."

"It is wonderful how God works," Don continued. "Billie cleaned the pond out and got it ready for some goldfish but we were so busy we didn't have time to purchase the fish. Of course, God knew we needed it to baptize the girls the following Sunday."

Don reported an increased attendance of 36 in services and announced the start of Sunday school meetings in their garage.

The new Nantes church was officially organized June 11 with 25 charter members.

Mayhew Claims New Milestone in Radio

Ivory Coast—"We've come to a new milestone in the radio ministry," declared Archie Mayhew. He noted that African pastor, Anani Victor, has recorded 16 messages in Koulango ranging in topics from the creation to Christian maturity. These are for the radio program over ELWA in Abidjan.

Several of the nationals, including Victor, recently recorded some Koulango songs to accompany his messages.

Inadequate facilities for recording has necessitated the building of a sound studio to aid in this radio ministry. Archie indicated work on the studio is scheduled to begin soon.

Judy Smith Witnesses Through Songs

Japan—Judy Smith writes, "Language study is getting more complicated now but I'm enjoying the challenge." She has completed the Beginning Japanese course and has begun the Bible course and vocabulary work.

Judy indicated she has seized an opportunity to witness to one of her teachers who is helping translate into Japanese some

Continued on page 10 →

NEWS UPDATE

September 1977

→Continued from page 9
songs Judy has written. The teacher is unsaved, so Judy has taken time to explain the meaning of her songs.

Miss Smith is also helping with music and with the preschoolers in the Kita Hiroshima work.

In reference to an injury which occurred shortly after her arrival in Japan, Judy says, "My back has almost completely healed, and I have very little pain, although changes in the weather affect it some."

Banks Reports Special McLain Tribute

Japan—Jerry Banks reports special services were conducted at the biannual meeting of the Hokkaido churches, and a special tribute was given to Jim and Olena McLain prior to their departure for furlough. The moderator thanked the McLains for their witness through words and their fine Christian home which was an example to the people.

The Kita Hiroshima work under Banks' leadership recently celebrated their first anniversary. A special service included testimonies from many of the group and a time of refreshments and fellowship.

News Briefs from Around the World

Columbia, Tenn.—Mrs. Gladys Sloan, bookkeeper at the foreign missions department for 25 years, died June 24 in Columbia, Tenn., following a stroke which had left her hospitalized for several months. The funeral services were conducted by Dr. Charles Thigpen.

Nashville, Tenn.—Terri Robirds, daughter of Don and Carol Ro-

birds, was married July 30 to Steven Roof of Nashville. The ceremony was held at the Donelson Free Will Baptist Church.

Sophia, W.V.—Vernon Sturgill, father of Pat Sturgill Franks and Jim Sturgill suffered a stroke June 11. He has reportedly regained use of most of his right side which had been paralyzed.

Brazil—The Ken Eagleton family was tentatively scheduled to arrive in the U.S. early this month to begin furlough. At last report they were having difficulty in obtaining exemption from the required government deposit which could cost several thousand dollars.

Queen City, Mo.—Joan Filkins and son, Dave, arrived in the States July 9 for a short visit with her parents before enrolling Dave in Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Okla. Joan planned to accompany the Pinkerton boys back to Ivory Coast Academy in Bouake August 21.

Nashville, Tenn.—Several missionaries have been visited by family members this summer. Those visiting included Steve Lytle's mother, Carlisle Hanna's sister, Dale Bishop's parents, Judy Smith's father and a friend, and Sue Aycock's sister and nephew.

Brazil—The Bobby Poole family arrived safely in Brazil on July 14 and were met by a busload of people from Ribeirao Preto. After going through customs duty free, the Pooles boarded the chartered bus and accompanied their Christian friends back to Ribeirao to resume their work.

Nashville, Tenn.—Ten summer missionaries have returned to the States after ten weeks' activities abroad. Those involved in the

summer program included Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bunch, and Sandra Tucker, Brazil; Tom Diamond, Mark King, and Jeff and Susan Turnbough, Ivory Coast; Glenn Harlinger, Japan; and June Arnold and Lynn Midgett, Panama.

President Supports Volunteer Missionaries

Kansas City, Mo.—President Jimmy Carter addressed Southern Baptists at their annual convention held here recently and promised to personally support a volunteer missionary for two years.

Declaring "there is an immediate, documented need to increase the number of foreign missionaries by 50%," Carter suggested a volunteer missionary system much like that of the Mormons might be successful. The Mormons' 26,000 volunteer missionaries include seminary professors, graduate students, church staff members, and pastors who are encouraged to do volunteer missionary work as a routine part of their full-time careers.

Annual Conference Hosts Over 300

Ivory Coast—The Annual Conference of Ivory Coast Free Will Baptist Churches convened July 7-10 at the local high school-junior college in Bondoukou.

According to Jimmy Aldridge, over 300 people from 23 villages attended the services. Jean Baptiste, an African pastor was ordained to the ministry at the Sunday morning service. He is the third ordained Free Will Baptist national pastor in Ivory Coast.

Several missionaries partici-



Jimmy Aldridge, Dr. Miley, and Robert Byran participate in ordination service for African pastor, Jean Baptiste, at conference of Ivory Coast churches.

pated with the nationals in the services. Jimmy declared, "The messages as well as the singing were just outstanding."

Hanna Praises WRC Irrigation Project

India—Carlisle Hanna writes concerning the World Relief Commission's recent gift of \$21,500 to North India for irrigation purposes: "We plan to finish the irrigation project in June. God's timing is so perfect in this for so many have been helped—those who did the work, the local business men, and, of course, those who received the wells. This project has created such an open door to the hearts of many. We believe this is something that will continue to benefit the area where we live for many years to come."

Palmer Recalled from Missionary Service

Nashville, Tenn.—Reverend Lonnie Palmer, missionary to Ivory Coast, has been recalled by the Board of Foreign Missions. The final action took place at the recent National Association at De-

troit, Mich., and became effective on July 19, 1977.

Reasons for Palmer's recall were stated by Board Chairman Raymond Riggs: "Although Brother Palmer worked effectively within the framework of the foreign missions structure for several years, over the past eight years he has chafed under the structure. Differences have grown proportionately greater between him and the policies of the board and of the Ivory Coast field council. Repeatedly he has refused to accept field council and board decisions and in some instances has not submitted to Ivory Coast government regulations. In so doing, he has caused disunity among the missionaries, has hampered the mission program, and in the judgment of the field council, has jeopardized the standing of the mission in the country.

"After repeated efforts on the part of the board to reconcile the differences, Lonnie determined he could not work within the framework of our organizational structure, consequently he nullified his signature on the recommitment form with a qualifying statement. This left the Board of Foreign Missions no alternative but to sever the working relationships."

Prayer Call Issued for Ethiopia

Cedar Grove, N.J.—Sudan Interior Mission General Director Dr. Ian Hay has issued a worldwide call to prayer for Ethiopia in light of adverse conditions that have resulted in a sudden and major cutback in missionary ministry there.

Uncertainty and tension have prevailed for some months, Hay explained, and a phased reduction of S.I.M. ministries has been in effect since early this year. During April and May, however, the situation peaked, pushing mission societies to a crisis point. In those two months, S.I.M. closed 15 mission stations and redeployed several dozen missionaries.

Although there is no overt opposition from the central government, Hay pointed out that an intensive ideological campaign has identified missionaries with "imperialists."

Substance

Through July 31

On deposit July 1	326,295.62
Total receipts	805,343.31
Total disbursements	779,234.43
Projected receipts	820,087.94
Total 1977 Budget	\$1,415,865.00

Shortage

These accounts are in the deficit:

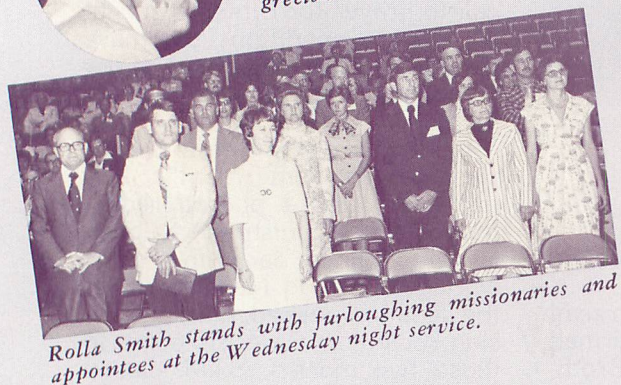
Banks	1,285.18
Combs	525.25
Cowart	152.53
Deeds	6,179.60
Ellison	3,754.17
Filkins	376.07
Gibbs	2,874.38
Inscoe	135.34
Mayhew	4,158.79
McLain	3,885.71
Richards	4,834.30
Smith, J.	983.75
Sparks	2,848.54
Sturgill	4,689.92
Teague	504.02
Webb	3,989.27
Willey	905.00
Willey Jr.	1,341.25
Total deficit:	\$43,424.07

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Please clip and send this label with all correspondence.



*Norman Richards
greet the National.*



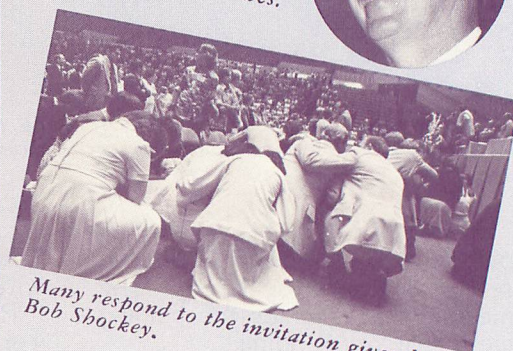
*Rolla Smith stands with furloughing missionaries and
appointees at the Wednesday night service.*



*Bill and Glenda Fulcher are
introduced.*



*Fred Warner
preaches.*



*Many respond to the invitation given by
Bob Shockey.*

Missions Highlights at National

Detroit, Mich.—The National Association of Free Will Baptists met in Detroit, Mich., July 17-21. A number of foreign missions personnel were involved and special missions activities were featured:

Glenda Fulcher, missionary wife from Panama, brought the devotional message for the WNAC meeting on Tuesday morning, speaking on the theme, "Such as I have, give I thee . . ." (Acts 3:6), and Home Missionary Larry Powell preached the missions message at the 11:00 a.m. worship hour.

At 1:30 on Tuesday afternoon the Department of Foreign Missions sponsored an educational seminar on the theme, "World Outreach—Main Line or Incidental?" Conducted as a symposium under the leadership of Rolla Smith, general director, the session featured returned missionaries Joe Haas and Eddie Payne, speaking on the respective subjects of "Needs which call for a sustained missions emphasis in

the local church" and "Overcoming hindrances to a proper missions emphasis in the local church."

Reverend Dennis Wiggs, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, N.C., shared his personal experience of God's provision for a church missionary conference in spite of heavy financial burden.

Acting as a panel to field questions along with the speakers were the foreign missions executive staff members.

During the business session of the National Association on Wednesday Rolla Smith gave the report for the Department of Foreign Missions and the body adopted the proposed foreign missions budget for 1978 which totaled \$1,685,600.

As usual, the high point for missions came on Wednesday evening. Don Robirds, director of communications for foreign missions, introduced the 26 new and returned foreign missionaries

present, then Roy Thomas, associate director of home missions, presented 37 home missionaries who were on hand.

Reverend Fred Warner, foreign missions board member and pastor from Russellville, Ark., preached on being "Triumphant in Christ in World Missions." Preaching from Matthew 28:18-20 he called on Free Will Baptists to evangelize the world. He urged preachers to enroll in the local church new converts who can be educated and edified. As the invitation was given and continued for nearly 30 minutes by Bob Shockey, general director of home missions, scores of people of all ages filed forward to commit their lives to various areas of Christian service.

Although the crowd was one of the smallest in several years, a total missions offering of \$9,184.00 was registered. Undesignated money was divided between the departments of foreign and home missions.