

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1979

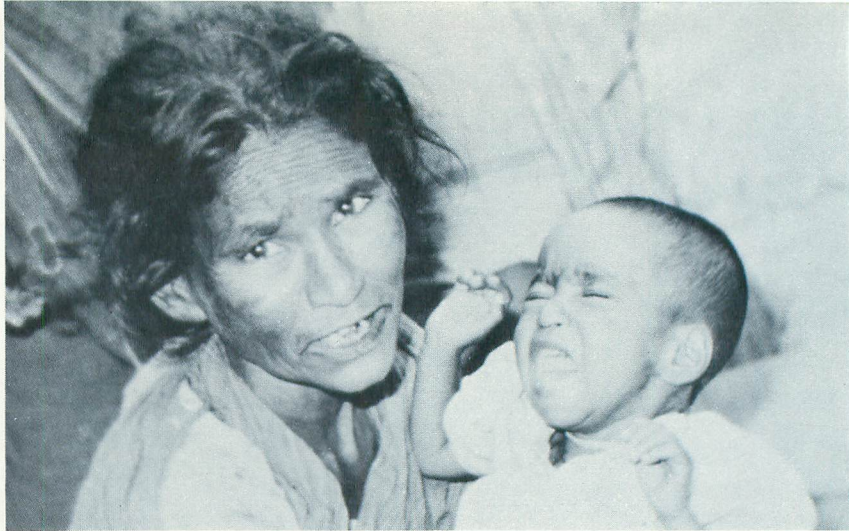
HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



SACRIFICE!

— What does it really mean?



SACRIFICE!

by Don Robirds

Soon after his conversion a Baoule boy in the Ivory Coast joyously obeyed the Lord and sacrificially gave his tithe of the \$16 per month which sustained him.

Os Americanos sao ricos! Todos sao ricos!"

"The Americans are rich! All of them are rich!" So said my Brazilian friends.

"Oh, no!" I assured them in my limited Portuguese. "We aren't rich. We are just missionaries!"

We had only been in Brazil a short time and had learned very little of the background of that statement. But as the months and years rolled by, I came to realize the significance of those words: "Americans are rich!" Because when one compares the standard of living in America with that of practically any other nation in the world, Americans are definitely rich.

The annual wage in many areas of the world does not equal that of the average weekly salary of a worker in the U.S. A large majority of the world is in poverty while most North Americans live in comparable luxury. While millions in the world go hungry, food waste in our land is phenomenal.

Still, most Americans are feeling the pinch of inflation and higher taxes. Concern and even worry can be seen

on the faces of many. Economists paint a dismal picture of the future of our nation. Where will it end? What is the answer? No one really knows. No one, that is, but God.

The only certainty in life is found in Jesus Christ. Apart from our relationship to God in Him, none of us can expect much from the future. But that is exactly what God wants of us—to depend on Him for the future as we obey Him today.

Christ's Command

Over two thousand years ago Jesus gave us the commission to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." That command has not been rescinded nor altered. So, in spite of the phenomenal rising costs and the devastating dollar devaluation around the world, we remain under orders. And with the exception of loving and worshiping Him, these are our priority orders. All else must be subsequential.

"But how can we continue under the present conditions?" one might ask. Unless something changes, to keep a missionary family in Tokyo, Japan will cost nearly \$50,000 this

year. In Brazil, house rent alone is rapidly approaching a frightening \$1,000 per month in some areas. Gasoline abroad is averaging over \$2.00 per gallon. Costs for an automobile for a missionary range from \$6,000 to \$12,000.

Frankly, unless God intervenes, we can only continue operating our foreign mission program through a willingness to sacrifice in a way not previously evident in these prosperous United States. People will have to desire the Will of God more than the comforts of life. More than the luxury of new things. More than the pleasures of recreation and the security of bank accounts.

If we are to obey God, Christians in America and missionaries abroad will have to *learn* how to sacrifice. The story was once told of a pig and chicken who happened to look across the street from the barnyard where a church sign advertised a men's breakfast featuring bacon and eggs. The chicken clucked, "Look at that, would you! If it were not for you and me, they couldn't have that breakfast." "Yes," squealed the pig, "but all you have to do is make a



contribution. *I have to make a real sacrifice.*"

Most Christians today have only learned to make contributions and many of these are inconsequential. Real sacrifice remains largely foreign or else something of the distant past. Our nation has enjoyed affluence so long that real sacrifice from a genuine scriptural standpoint will not come easy. Yet, that will be essential if we keep missionaries on the field fulfilling the Great Commission.

Automation a "Must"

Having become accustomed to all the conveniences of an automated and electronic age, Christians in America and even some missionaries appear to be unwilling to live with anything less. New cars seem to be "necessary" no matter what the cost. Microwave ovens and colored console television sets have become a "must" in most homes.

Granted, these things may serve a vital role for some, but the urgency of obedience to God's command must be reckoned with. And a large majority of Christendom in

America has played the ostrich game of hiding the head in the sand to evade facing reality.

Examples of Sacrifice

When a Baoule boy in the Ivory Coast faced squarely his responsibility before God, his dedication caused him to take 10 percent of the \$16 per month which sustained him and return it to the Lord. He did it joyously and God blessed his faithfulness by meeting his needs.

A few years ago, a widow in Oklahoma called me aside and handed me \$20 from her monthly pension of \$70-\$80. With tears in her eyes, she said she wanted to help a missionary get the message of Christ to the world.

In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus recognized the significance of the two mites put in the offering by the widow: "*She of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.*"

In North India where monthly salaries are between \$40 and \$60, a Free Will Baptist national pastor and his wife have opened their home to be able to minister to people. So many come every day that even

though Indian custom calls for the husband to be served first, he waits until everyone else has eaten. If anything is left he eats. If not, he goes hungry.

Ivory Coast evangelist Anany Victor and his wife Josephine formed a cooperative of Christian families in the village of Dedi in order to pool their labor, resources, etc. and reap a greater harvest. In 1977 their total harvest netted something near \$126 per family. Before it was divided up, however, they gave a tithe to the Koulango radio ministry, and a tithe to the church. After dividing it among themselves, each family gave another tenth to the Lord. The six families then used about 65 percent of that which remained in order to attend the annual conference of Ivory Coast Free Will Baptists.

Perhaps the missionaries have become somewhat spoiled by those concerned for their well-being. By and large they have sacrificed their families, their overall living conditions, and possibly even their health and safety to serve in the regions beyond. But maybe they, too,

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will have to reevaluate their willingness to sacrifice. Even though, by American standards, they may be living on a "sacrificial" plane, they do tend to be considered "rich" by many of those to whom they minister. Yet, at times this is a key to their being able to reach a people who can financially support the ministry in their own country. This will have to be reassessed on an individual and field by field basis.

Poor Folks

Free Will Baptists in the United States have been psychologically portrayed over the years as a "poor man's denomination." Excuses have been invented to salve the consciences of some who were unwilling to "surrender all" to Jesus Christ. Only in recent years have a few people had the dedication to step forward and give significantly large gifts—even out of their abundance. But the majority of gifts still come from common folk who consistently give relatively small gifts. These are to be commended, but only to the degree that they have been willing to give cheerfully and sacrificially—not of their abundance.

In 1977, \$35 billion was given to charity in the U.S.—\$16.5 billion to religious causes. But statistics also indicate that this only represents 1.3 percent of the consumer spending in the United States.

Protestant missions giving in the U.S. and Canada for 1972 totaled \$393 million and in 1975 it jumped to \$656 million. Last year it soared to \$900 million. This actually means that missions giving outstripped U.S.

inflation by 59.8 percent. Still, it did not fully compensate for all overseas inflation and devaluation.

Giving is Good

Praise the Lord for what has been given, but remember, Jesus did not commend those rich people who contributed large amounts of their abundance. That was easy for them. It took real faith and grace for the widow to give all that she had. Free Will Baptists have consistently increased their foreign missions giving over the years. In the eight years from 1970 to the present, an increase of 147 percent has been realized. Already through October 31, 1978, \$1,364,297.31 in foreign missions receipts have been recorded. This is 80 percent of the 1978 budget. Still, projected at that rate of giving, our 1978 proposed budget would not be met.

According to economists, the average American family with two small children living in a metropolitan area on an economy-conscious minimum budget needs \$9,390 to \$10,800 today. The median family income in the United States is \$14,094.

While senior technicians in Brazil might receive as much as U.S. \$25,000 annually and bilingual secretaries could get the equivalent of U.S. \$1,000 per month, the average per capita annual income in Brazil is estimated to be approximately U.S. \$1,200. Per capita, a factory worker in India earns only approximately U.S. \$500 per year. In urban areas of Ivory Coast the minimum wage is about 25 cents per hour, but most villagers only earn approximately U.S. \$150 a year. (Obviously, common laborers do not have automobiles.) Yet, in spite of this poverty, reports of sacrificial giving are common.

In 1977-78, the Ivory Coast churches sacrificially gave \$865 above their local gifts to support a weekly 15-minute evangelistic broadcast in Koulango. Then at their annual conference meeting a special offering of approximately \$60 was received toward this project. This was

given above the sacrifice already experienced in order to attend the meeting.

Unfortunately, the American society is built more and more on the notion that the acquiring and consuming of money and things are signs of success. And while we may have to live *with* this system of values, we must seek to avoid living *by* it.

Avoiding the Urge

Before running out to buy something whenever the urge hits, we must learn to ask ourselves if we really need a new house, a new car, a better television, etc. Then we must be aware of society's conditioning of the Christian to feel guilty if he can't materially prove his "success."

We must imagine what it would be like to live on five ounces (400 calories) of grain a day as many Indians and Africans must do. Our thankfulness should be expressed when we realize that millions in Latin America live in one-room shacks which they and their children share with pigs, chickens, goats and whatever else they might be able to accumulate in their poverty.

Comfort, plenty, and freedom have spoiled the Christian church in the West. Behind the iron curtain Christians could have it much easier if they would but worship God at home so no one would know of their activity. But their longing for fellowship with other saints often leads them to difficulties. A service is to them something so precious that they would not miss it regardless of the cost. Would Christians in America be willing to spend a month's wages to attend a prayer meeting? To see an unsaved person come to Christ? To get the gospel of Jesus Christ to areas previously unreached?

These are wonderful days as we begin 1979. They are days of opportunities for which God will hold us accountable. Will we be worthy of the task? Will we measure up to God's standard of obedience and hear Him say, "Well done!"? Will we ever learn to really deny ourselves? If not, millions will die in their sins and we will be responsible before God.

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(Cover photo by Ken Robinson)

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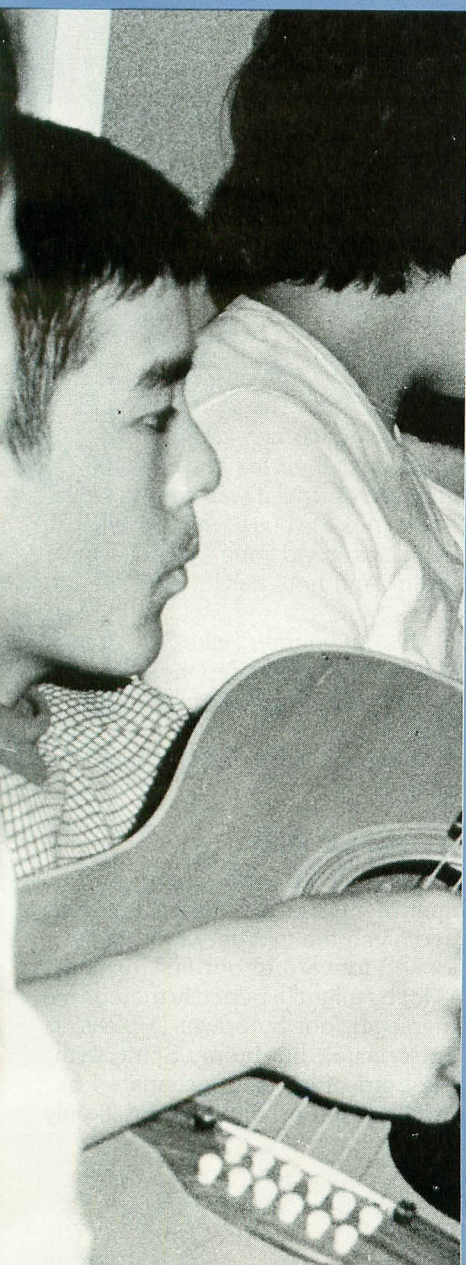
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Expression Of Love

This article was written by Peter Fujii just prior to his return to Japan after attending Free Will Baptist Bible College. Peter lost his life in a boating accident in July of 1976 while on an outing with the youth from Airin Chapel in Sapporo. He was making plans to serve as a missionary to China, but God, in His providence, called him home.



by Peter Fujii

Being just a simple and sinful person, I had many questions about man, the society that we lived in, and the universe. I was filled with many doubts and questions when I thought of such things. I heeded no religion at that time; I just simply said "nonsense."

My parents were Buddhist and Shintoist. They inherited these religions from their parents, and most Japanese claim these today. My mother and father worshiped sitting by candlelight in front of the altar, reading their book, and offering their gods food, drinks, and flowers.

They told me about their religion from the time I was just a small boy. A good person, in their view, went to heaven when he died, but after he went there he became a god. Then, if a bad man died he went to hell. Famous individuals, such as an emperor, became gods after death and were to be worshiped by the Shinto believers.

When I was eleven years old, a friend of mine took me to the only Christian church in the town of Teshikaga. There I heard about the one and true God. I continued to attend, always carrying my little New Testament, a little hymnal, and ten yen (equaling about five cents) with me to church. I enjoyed their fellowship and the new teaching, but after two years I quit attending.

Conflicting Views of God

Now I had two views of God, one by the religion of my parents, and the other by the Christian church. I couldn't understand and accept them both at the same time, so I spent my youth without satisfaction in my heart.

To get in college or a university in Japan we had to pass a difficult entrance examination. When I was in high school I studied hard in order to get into a good public university as most Japanese students do. My older

brother, Yoshihito, also worked hard to prepare for university. As he graduated from high school, he took the tests from one university and failed. But he didn't give up. He tried another university, and failed again. Still it didn't stop him. Once more he tried and failed. At last he tried Sapporo University and passed.

While attending the university in Sapporo, Yoshihito came in contact with the Free Will Baptist church and became a Christian there. I know now that God allowed him to fail at all the other universities so he could come in contact with Christians in Sapporo.

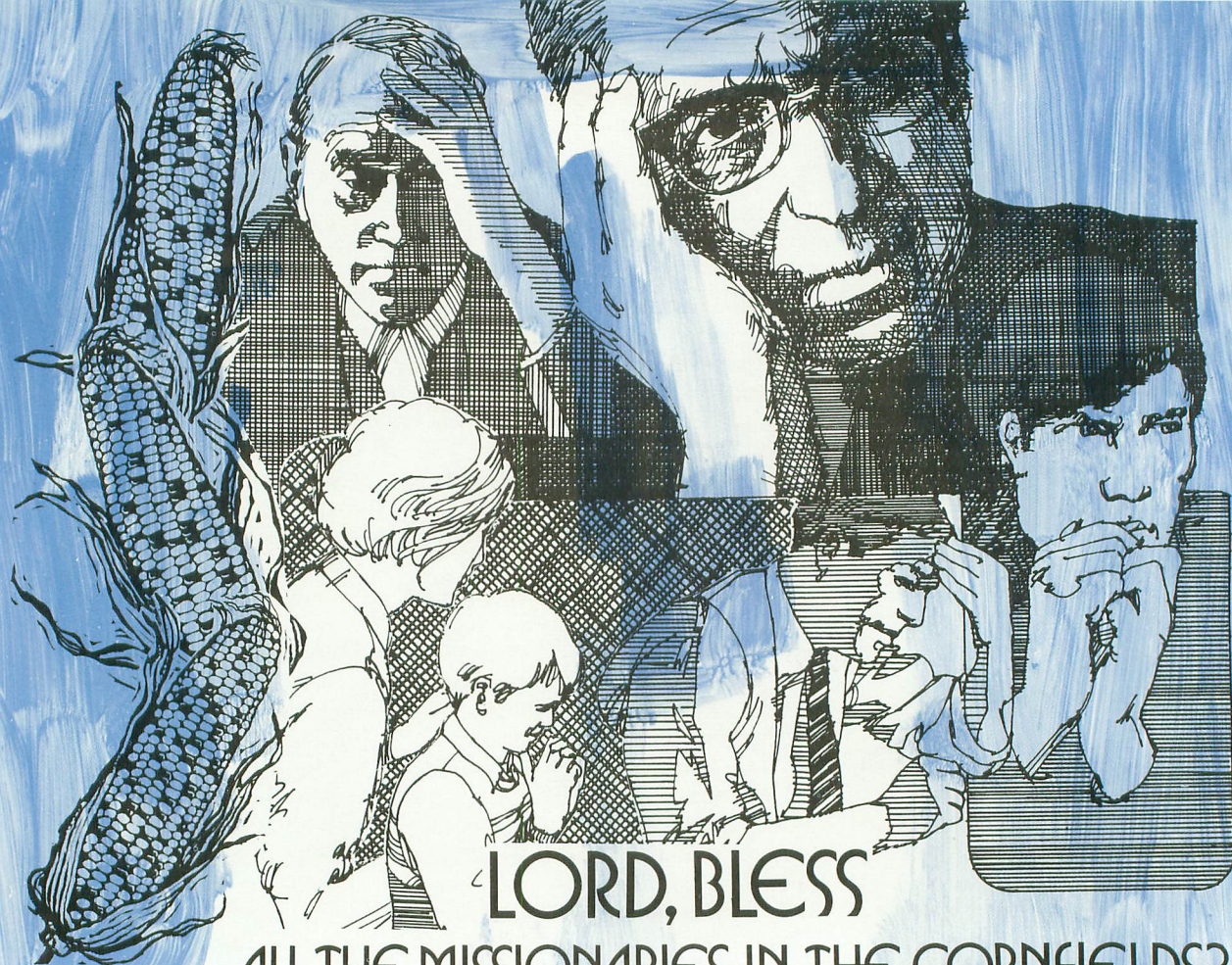
Demonstrated Love

When my sister graduated from high school, she moved to Sapporo to work. While there she lived with my brother and soon she also became a Christian. I could see that something had changed their character. They didn't exactly try to witness to me, but they did so by their actions. They demonstrated love, and I saw somehow they had been changed. I felt their love so much more than I had before they became Christians. But still I rejected anything about *The God*.

One day they took me to church, and I met many of the Christians. Again I sensed their love as they tried to be good to me. I met the kindest people at their church. I noticed a little plaque than hung on the wall inscribed in Japanese: "God is Love." I didn't quite understand at that time, but I recognized that Christians had a special kind of love.

After I had attended the church for six months, I finally found the answer: redemption through Jesus Christ. I accepted Him as my God and personal Savior and surrendered myself fully to Him. Later He brought me to the United States to attend the Free Will Baptist Bible College. He burdened my heart to preach the gospel and work with my people in Japan.

I thank you, Free Will Baptists, for sending and supporting missionaries to Japan where there are very few Christians.



LORD, BLESS ...ALL THE MISSIONARIES IN THE CORNFIELDS?

by Matilda Nordtvedt

Bless all the missionaries in the cornfields," prayed our four-year-old son as we had our family devotions. We smiled, but at the same time felt smitten. Were we merely mouthing words as we glibly prayed for God's blessing on "all the missionaries in the foreign fields"?

I remembered the start of our woman's work in Tsuchizaki, Japan. Nearly all of our converts and church members were students and working young people. How could we reach the older ones with the gospel? We decided to have a *fujinkai* (ladies' meeting).

As Teiko San, our capable helper, and I visited the parents of the young Christians, we were treated courteously in spite of the opposition of many of them to their children's embracing the Christian faith. A number promised to come to the meeting.

Teiko San and I arrived early to get everything ready. We had small

towels to be embroidered as part of our "bait." I had carefully prepared a lesson on the fundamentals of the Christian faith, man's fall into sin, and God's plan of redemption through Christ. After preparing it, with help from my language teacher, I doggedly memorized it.

We were excited when the women started coming. There were six of them that first time. With a prayer for help, I began to give my carefully memorized lesson. Mrs. Yoshida, who got up early every morning to work in her vegetable shop, couldn't keep her eyes open. As her head began to nod, I concentrated on the others. Although they were not sleeping, they seemed totally unresponsive.

I had spoken to women's groups before, but never to one like this. It was like speaking to a blank wall. Obviously the women were not comprehending a word of what I was saying.

The lesson over, Teiko San closed in prayer, and we served tea and cakes. The women came to life again over their tea and enjoyed themselves until it was time to leave. As we took the bus home, we talked it over. Yes, it had gone well, but what a strain! And how hard it had been to speak.

"It's our enemy, Teiko San," I said. "He is fighting to keep these women in his grasp. We were in a battle today."

"I know," she agreed. "I could feel it."

A Spiritual Battle

Later, in our small Japanese apartment, I reread the verses God had given me that very morning as I looked forward to our first *fujinkai*: "Not by might (a perfectly memorized message), nor by power (a pleasing personality), but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

There was no doubt about it; only

the Spirit of God could penetrate the minds and hearts of these Japanese women. We were in a battle indeed. My mind drifted to the *fujinkais* in America, made up almost entirely of Christian women. Suddenly I became excited. Why not enlist their help?

Quickly, I put paper into the typewriter and started a letter. I told about our efforts to begin a work with the women and how it seemed impossible to make them understand. I asked for prayer—not, “Lord, bless all the missionaries in the foreign fields,” but, “Lord help Teiko San and the Nordtvedts to reach the people of Tsuchizaki City. Speak to Mrs. Yamada, Mrs. Yoshida, and Mrs. Aizawa. Help Mrs. Wanatabe to see that Christ is the answer to her many problems.”

I told a little bit about each woman, then sent copies of the letter to several ladies' groups. I'm sorry not every Christian woman who received a prayer request was faithful, but some of them were. We could sense a difference at our next meeting, and the next. The walls began to come down. There were questions, confessions, and attendance at other services.

I'll never forget the day Mrs. Yamada came up to me after a Sunday morning service, beautiful in her lovely kimono and perfect hairdo. “I have believed,” she said simply.

I was so overwhelmed I could hardly keep back the tears. Stifling my urge to throw my arms around her (it just isn't done in Japan), I bowed low instead. Sophisticated Mrs. Yamada seemed the most unlikely one to receive the gospel! But through prayer, God's Spirit had been able to work a miracle in her life.

Prayer Partner

We were home on furlough when I met Mrs. Pearl Stevens, a widow in her fifties. I had just spoken to a group of ladies when she came up to me and said, “I'd like to be your prayer partner.”

I don't think anyone who has never been face to face with the powers of darkness in a heathen land can understand how much those words

mean to a missionary. We returned to Japan, this time to a more difficult station, to a city where we were told nearly every teacher in the school system was a Communist.

Some of the Christians in our new place of service were extremely nationalistic. They resented the missionaries and made it difficult for us. It was hard. But there was always the comforting assurance that Pearl Stevens was praying for us. We shared our burdens with her and sent her specific prayer requests. Knowing that she was with us in the battle made the burdens lighter.

I asked Mrs. Stevens to pray especially for Sumiko San, a girl in her twenties who had been a patient at the local TB hospital for about seven years. Sumiko San, in a siege of discouragement as a new Christian, had tried to commit suicide by taking an overdose of sleeping pills. She was very near death, but God brought her back. Awed by what God had done for her and realizing the sinfulness of her action, she vowed that from that day forward she would spend all her energy serving the Lord.

Sumiko San was the key to the evangelism in the large TB hospital in our city. When we came to visit, she always took us to someone with whom she wanted us to talk. Through her testimony and concern, a number of the other patients were converted to Christ. Many heard the truth of the gospel.

But Sumiko San was weak physically. Although able to be up and around some, many times she was confined to her bed. Year after year went by without the improvement she hoped for. The drab, cold, barn-like hospital was a depressing place for a young girl. Sumiko San needed to be held up by prayer.

Mrs. Stevens prayed for her. She also sent her cards occasionally, which delighted the Japanese girl exceedingly. To think that somebody in far-off America cared enough about her to pray for her and send her cards!

We were in America again for our

second furlough when the package arrived from the Municipal Hospital of Sakata, Japan. When I opened it, I discovered, not one, but nine beautiful doilies which Sumiko San had made for Mrs. Stevens and me. I was deeply touched as I realized the hours of work that had gone into this gift of love.

Instead of sending the doilies to Mrs. Stevens (she lived in Washington State, and we in Iowa), I decided to take them the next time we went home to Washington for our vacation. Not long afterwards we received word from Japan that Sumiko San had gone home to be with the Lord whom she had served so faithfully.

We found Mrs. Stevens in the hospital, dying of cancer. “I won't have any use for the doilies,” she said softly, “but I'll thank Sumiko San when I see her. I'll see her soon.”

A Part in the Witness

I turned away to hide the tears in my eyes. Saying good-bye to our faithful prayer partner, I walked thoughtfully down the hospital corridor to the car. I thought about the joy of Mrs. Stevens when she would meet the Japanese sister for whom she had prayed so faithfully. I thought about Sumiko San's joy. I thought about the many Sumiko San had touched for Christ in the TB hospital. God used Mrs. Stevens' prayers for Sumiko San to make her an effective witness. So, in a way, it was Mrs. Stevens who was reaching those TB patients in far-off Japan. At least she had a part in it.

I smiled through my tears as I vowed to never again thoughtlessly pray for God's blessings on “all the missionaries on the foreign fields”; I would pray for specific individuals who needed my prayers. What a privilege to have a part in the work of God's Spirit in faraway corners of the world! How wonderful it will be to meet someone in heaven who is there as a result of my prayers.

“Lord, bless . . . Show me those for whom I should pray.”

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Eagletons Report Good Response in Araras

Brazil—Ken and Marvis Eagleton reported in November that they were continuing to commute from Campinas to Araras twice each week to conduct services because the house they had rented was still not vacated.

Ken stated that 80 people were in attendance the first Sunday night in November. Twelve people raised their hands for prayer concerning spiritual needs. "One lady was saved last Sunday night, and she is just bubbling over with joy," Ken declared.

"We are very pleased, so far, with the open doors," Eagleton continued. "We have so many contacts and invitations to talk to people, we just don't have time to get to all very soon."

FWBBC Hosts Annual Missionary Conference

Nashville, Tenn.—The annual missionary conference cosponsored by the departments of foreign and home missions was hosted October 29-November 1 at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville.

Speakers for this year's conference included foreign missionaries Jimmy Aldridge, Ivory Coast; Walter (Dub) Ellison, Uruguay; and Jerry Banks, Japan. Representing the department of National Home Missions were Trymon Messer, associate director; Jesse Dunn, Salem, Oregon; and Charles Harris, Northglenn, Colo.

Missionary wives Marcia Ellison and Janie Aldridge were also on the program during missionary prayer band on Wednesday afternoon, November 1.

Several students testified to having made commitments to Christian service at home and abroad.

Billie Sexton Suffers Serious Back Injury

France—While in Albertville helping the new missionaries get settled into language school, Billie Sexton, missionary wife of Don Sexton, suffered a serious back injury as she carried a piece of luggage up two flights of stairs. John Murray and Don had to carry her in a chair up two more flights of stairs to where the Murrays live. Doctors have indicated she has either a slipped or ruptured disc.

Mrs. Sexton was bedfast for 20 days in severe pain. The only time she was allowed out of bed was to cook and wash dishes. The rest of the work was

left with Don. This has disturbed Billie somewhat since Sunday night Bible study, Wednesday morning Bible club for the children, and Wednesday night prayer service are still held in the Sexton living room. Christians were urged to pray for Billie's recovery.

Orientation Session Held for New Missionaries

Ivory Coast—Ivory Coast field orientation committee members met with new missionary personnel October 23-27 in Bondoukou to make them aware of living and health conditions, African culture and customs, field council relations and operations, and financial workings on the field.

Clint and Lynette Morgan, Ledge and Sharon Ferguson, and Patrick and Susan Dickens were given this special orientation in an effort to ease their transition into African society, enable them to overcome difficulties, and help them avoid problems which could hinder their work or the work of others. The orientation committee consists of Robert Bryan, Archie Mayhew, and Allan Crowson. LaVerne Miley and national workers Paul Pale, Kouadio Jean-Baptiste, Anany Victor, and Koffi David also helped in the special sessions.

In addition to the verbal instruction, new missionaries were given a special orientation packet which covered essential things they would need to know about living in Abidjan, driving, certain laws, etc. This is the first time anything of this magnitude has been done for orientation in the Ivory Coast.



Archie Mayhew (right) counsels with Clint Morgan during Ivory Coast orientation session.

Poole Indicates Progress in Ipiranga Work

Brazil—Bobby Poole reports progress in the Ipiranga work across town from the main church in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, even though they lost their national pastor.

"I am giving baptism classes for three adults and they should be ready by the end of the month," writes Bobby. "George and his wife are ready to go all the way with the Lord. Our first contact with him was about eight years ago. He was one of Geneva's English students." The couple has been faithful in the work in recent months.

Sunday school attendance averages between 50 and 55 with 25 to 30 people attending the evening services.

Project 5000 to Aid Japan Missionaries

Nashville, Tenn.—PROJECT 5000 request letters have been mailed on behalf of missionaries serving in Japan. With the drastic dollar devaluation against the Japanese yen, missionary accounts have really been hit hard. The Fred Herseys are \$8,009.26 in the deficit, while the Dale Bishops and Judy Smith show deficits of \$4,841.98 and \$1,528.94 respectively.

The request is for \$10.00 from each PROJECT 5000 member and those interested in helping in this special effort.

Holy Spirit Moving in Doropo Work

Ivory Coast—"We are experiencing a real moving of the Holy Spirit," writes Alice Smith from Doropo. "I started a Bible class in the school at Nakale, about seven kilometers from Doropo. This past Friday, I had the privilege of leading a 14-year-old boy to Christ after the class. This past Sunday (October 29) he walked the seven kilometers to the Doropo church, came forward and made his commitment public."

"That same Sunday morning, after Paul Pale had preached, six people came forward to be saved," Alice added. These were people the African Christians had been witnessing to and praying for. One man and his wife expressed a desire to be saved but were afraid due to a debt owed to a fetishier. In spite of this they were among the six who prayed. Alice re-

quested special prayer for the couple since the fetisher could possibly arrange to have them killed.

The church was reportedly filled on that Sunday morning with around 100 people in attendance. A children's choir, consisting of approximately 35 children under Alice's direction, were among the group.

Betania Has Converts; Las Tablas Holds Steady

Panama—Steve Lytle reports the conversion of two young men and a woman on Sunday night, October 29, in the Betania work. On November 5, eight people responded to the invitation to follow the Lord in believer's baptism. Steve hoped to have 15 baptized believers in Betania by the end of the year.

Lytle recently visited the Las Tablas area to have special services with Raul Sanes who is in charge of the work. According to Steve, the work is continuing stable under Raul's leadership.

In Nuevo Ocu where Larry Inscoc had earlier indicated an open invitation to use the Catholic Church building, some opposition has arisen. While they are no longer able to meet in the church building, approximately 12 people are now regularly meeting in homes. Lytle noted that one elderly man, Mr. Rogelio, was reprimanded by the priest for allowing the Protestants to come and teach the people. He complained that "They (the Protestants) don't teach you about the Virgin." Senor Rogelio responded, "No they don't, but they do teach us about the Son. Which is more important?" The priest turned and left.

Two Baptized at Iriso; Youth Group Growing

Japan—Fred Hersey baptized one couple, Mr. and Mrs. Kushima, on Sunday, November 12, at the Iriso church. The Kushimas had come to the church from the United Church of Japan, according to Hersey. The woman had been saved but after attending services at Iriso for some time, the man realized that he had never been born again. At the baptismal service he gave his testimony, publicly acknowledging his decision for Christ and stating clearly that he "knew he had the forgiveness of sins."

Fred also expressed praise for the growing number of youth in their



Mr. Kushima (left) and Mr. Kobayashi are recent converts at the Iriso church in the Tokyo area.

work. Several university and high school students have attended recently as a result of invitations extended by the Hersey children. "The one high school boy that Stephen teaches English has been attending every week," writes Fred.

A group of young people met at the Hersey home near the end of October to view a Moody Science film. Five of these had never been to church.

Mission Board Meets for Semiannual Session

Nashville, Tenn.—The Board of Foreign Missions convened December 4-6 at the National Office building here for its semiannual session.

Action taken by the board included these items:

Missionaries Jimmy and Janie Aldridge and Howard and Joan Filkins were interviewed.

A special luncheon interview was held with Ivan Lopes, Brazilian pastor attending Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

The board accepted the resignation of Dennis and Carol Teague after one term of service in France. Because Dennis felt inadequately prepared in academics, he decided to further his education while working with the Sherwood Forest FWB Church in El Sobrante, Calif. The Teagues expressed plans to reapply for missionary service in France after he has become better prepared.

Rolla Smith, general director, was granted liberty to accompany other National Association leaders on a trip to Cuba in February to attend the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists, February 22-25.

Nine people were appointed to summer missionary service in 1979: *Brazil*—Patti Hiltibidal from Salem, Ill., Valarie Riley from Corning Ark., and Gary Silence from Jacksonville, N.C.; *France*—James Hanniford from Tucson, Ariz., and Joseph Govreau from Farmington, Mo.; *Ivory Coast*—Pam Wilson from El Sobrante, Calif., and Sandra England from Columbus, Ohio; *Panama*—Tom and Deborah Allen from Norman, Okla.

Excitement Expressed by Smith and Bishops

Japan—According to correspondence from Judy Smith, she and the Bishops are excited about the many new contacts of recent weeks in the Kita Hiroshima work. Along with these new prospects has come a deeper interest in the work on the part of leaders of the Airin Chapel in Sapporo.

A special plan for emphasis was begun in the Thursday morning and Sunday night Bible classes taught by Dale Bishop and Judy. Instead of their regular Bible study, different people from the Airin Chapel will join the group for special evangelistic services. Judy requested special prayer on behalf of this emphasis.

Hughes Cites Blessings; Laments Devil's Work

Brazil—Tom Hughes recently acknowledged the conversion of another young man in Uberlandia—the first conversion in several weeks. "We have about ten others who are attending more or less regularly," writes Tom. "A number of these we expect to see saved soon."

On November 15, election day in Brazil, a special service of testimonies and devotional thoughts was held by the youth. Activities included short Biblical messages by two young men, the testimony of the most recent convert, the radiate testimony of the first convert who has continued faithful in spite of trying circumstances, and various other testimonies of victory in spite of doubts.

Hughes noted that the devil has been working also: "We lost one of our very promising young men, Jose William. He was the fourth convert in our work and was a good layman." He was evidently a factory owner who got

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→ *Continued from page 9*
so involved in making money that he left the Lord out.

Tom also indicated that two or three others in the church seemed to be drifting. He requested prayer on their behalf.

In spite of Satan's influence, Hughes asserted that most of the people are growing and bringing others to the church. The young man saved recently was brought by Gerson who has indicated he feels called to preach.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Ivory Coast—Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson have moved into the second house on the mission station at Goumère where the Archie Mayhews are stationed. They are currently helping the Mayhews in the reading room at Tanda.

Panama—Bill Fulcher recently wrote that people in the Buenos Aires work near Canitas seem quite faithful in the reading and studying of their Bibles. Each time he goes to that area they are waiting with at least one verse for him to explain.

San Francisco, Calif.—Dennis and Carol Teague, furloughing missionaries from France, became parents of a three-pound, seven-ounce baby boy on October 15 in San Francisco, Calif. Jared Daniel Teague was born under premature emergency conditions while the Teagues were on deputation in California.

Brazil—Jim and Susan Moser completed Portuguese language study in December and will soon be moving to the Barbacena area to work with the Bobby Aycoc family.

Nashville, Tenn.—Mel Haas, 18-year-old son of Joe and Barbara Haas, broke his leg recently while playing soccer for one of the four society teams at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Brazil—In recent correspondence from Earnie Deeds, he requested special prayer concerning their location of a house in Conselheiro Lafaiete. At last report he had located only two houses adequate but both were priced at over \$1,000 per month.

Ivory Coast—Allan and LaRue Crowson have indicated plans to begin studying the Dioula language instead of Koulango.

Nashville, Tenn.—General Director Rolla Smith is scheduled to leave for Brazil on January 10 in order to attend the Brazil field council meeting which is scheduled to begin January 15 in Jaboticabal, Sao Paulo, Brazil. He is planning to return to the U.S. on January 26.

France—Jerry and Barbara Gibbs and Miss Patsy Vanhook began a new work in a city-owned room at St. Nazaire, France, in October with 11 people attending their first service. Patsy started a children's Bible club there on November 8. She is also teaching a weekly Bible class at the Nantes church where the Sextons are laboring.

Nashville, Tenn.—Carlisle Hanna is scheduled to return to India near the end of January. Marie plans to remain in the U.S. until around June.

Brazil—Jim and Vicki Sturgill became parents of another baby girl, Vera Lucia, ten pounds, nine ounces, on October 5, in Campinas, Brazil. The birth was by caesarean section. At last report both Vicki and Vera were doing well.

91-Year-Old Man Baptized by Bobby Poole

Brazil—Bobby Poole writes from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil: "I baptized a 91-year-old man Sunday morning (November 19) after Sunday school. It was a blessing. The joy he had in his face when he came out of the water was something." Bobby noted that

the man's health was failing rapidly, so he was anxious to be baptized.

The church held its annual Missionary Conference during the middle of November with John Taylor, an English missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators, as special speaker. Poole noted that faith promises totaled approximately \$75 per month at the end of the conference. He expected more faith promises to be made on the following Sunday.

The young people of the church were making plans for a Youth Congress on December 30-31 in Ribeirao Preto. The event was aimed at uniting the young people in the work of the Lord through Bible tic-tac-toe, sword drills, music, special speakers, etc.

Poole has urged people to pray for the church as they have apparently lost five families recently. "We have tried to take a stand on the Word of God, and I believe we have done the right thing," Bobby concluded.

Rennes Church Hires Child Evangelism Couple

France—The Rennes Free Will Baptist Church, under the direction of missionary Joe Haas, has assumed the full support of a couple from the church, Daniel and Martine Loiret, who have just completed their Child Evangelism training in Switzerland. The couple plans to work with the church for two years before becoming full-time workers with Child Evangelism Fellowship.

Gerard Tenevez, the young teacher from the Rennes church who spent

Philippe Corgne (left) and Gerard Tenevez (right) from the church in Rennes, France, are attending Emmaus Bible Institute in Switzerland.



several years teaching at Bondoukou in the Ivory Coast, and Philippe, another young man from outside of Rennes, have entered Emmaus Bible Institute in Switzerland.

Valerie Sturgill Has Corrective Bone Surgery

Brazil—Valerie Sturgill, two-year-old daughter of Jim and Vicki Sturgill, underwent bone surgery on November 10 in Campinas, Brazil, to correct a birth defect in the left hip. According to Jim, the surgeon cut the femur bone at an angle, rotated and tipped it into the socket where he fastened it with a six-inch pin and a screw.

Crisis Becomes Satan's Tool—Attempt Fails

Uruguay—Missionary Molly Barker reports a crisis which developed in the Central church in Rivera when a 25-day-old baby of some new converts nearly died due to problems caused by a hernia. As a result of Molly's alertness, the child was taken to the hospital and underwent emergency surgery. At last report, the five-pound infant was continuing to improve.

Satan sought to use the incident against the couple as the sister of the baby's mother blamed their conversion for the illness and for several other trials. "But praise the Lord," writes Molly. "They are standing true to Him in spite of it all."

Jimmy Aldridge Treats Tropical Ailment

Nashville, Tenn.—Missionary Jimmy Aldridge underwent special treatment for 15 days during November in Jasper, Ala., for the control of filariasis which he contracted in the Ivory Coast. Filariæ are parasites in the blood which develop as larvae in biting insects such as mosquitoes. Like malaria, this disease is apparently incurable but can be controlled. Side effects of the disease are numerous and can be very serious.

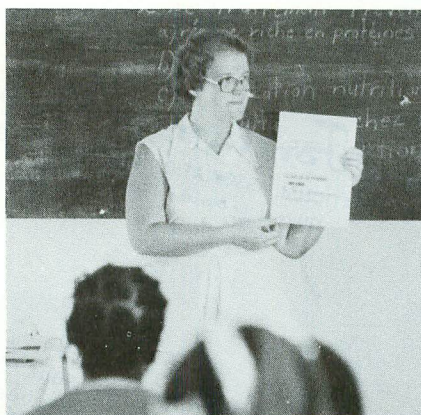
Amy Robinson's Father Preaches in Uruguay

Uruguay—The Reverend A.S. Lucaci, 81-year-old father of missionary Amy Robinson and current pastor of the First Rumanian Baptist Church of Detroit, Mich., was in

Uruguay during October and preached nine times in the FWB churches along the border of Uruguay and Brazil.

Lucaci has been an ordained pastor for over 50 years and has worked extensively with refugees from Yugoslavia and Rumania. He has played an important part in re-opening many churches in Rumania.

Paul Robinson reported that near-record attendance was evident at most every service. Amy's younger sister, Mrs. Marian Monroe, accompanied her father on the trip.



Alice Smith teaches nutrition at a special training seminar in Bondoukou.

Special Training Seminar Held in Bondoukou

Ivory Coast—A special seminar was held during the second week of November in Bondoukou. Alice Smith taught a course on nutrition and Robert Bryan presented special material about the Christian family. Those attending this special seminar were selected representatives of the churches who will later help in the teaching when these seminars are held in the various churches.

Fulchers Back in Panama; Report Storm Damage

Panama—Following a 4,000-mile trip by van from St. Louis, Mo., the Bill Fulcher family is back in Panama and has found a house which is conveniently located in relation to the schools the children attend.

The Fulchers are currently working in the Agua Buena church where they had worked previously. "False cults have tried to infiltrate and we are doing battle with them," Bill noted. "In addition, a hurricane-type wind completely destroyed the home of one of our most dedicated workers in

Agua Buena. The roof was blown off of several other houses and we lost part of our church roof. But we were able to get the roof back on the church without too much problem."

Bill reported an increase in attendance of about 30 people since they returned. He also indicated a renewed interest in the work. They recently showed the film, "The Burning Hell."



Financial Summary

Substance

Through November 30

On deposit November 1	\$ 401,674.29
Receipts: October	117,747.55
November	118,636.36
Total receipts through November	1,482,333.67
Total disbursements	1,453,621.51
Projected receipts	1,545,133.26
Total 1978 budget	\$1,685,600.00

Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Aycock	\$1,010.24	Hughes	\$6,907.32
Bishop	4,841.98	Inscoe	1,948.29
Caton	1,876.57	Lee	1,640.91
Combs	5,187.56	Miley, L.	1,069.27
Crowson	1,533.53	Moser	5,180.42
Dickens	3,037.49	Payne	988.59
Franks	3,801.70	Smith, J.	1,528.94
Hersey	8,009.26	Sparks	2,387.66

State Quotas - 1979

State	Monthly Quota	1979 Quota
Alabama	\$ 6,666.67	\$ 80,000.00
Arizona	6,000.00	6,000.00
Arkansas	7,666.67	92,000.00
California	4,583.33	55,000.00
Colorado	250.00	3,000.00
Florida	4,166.67	50,000.00
Georgia	4,583.33	55,000.00
Hawaii	166.67	2,000.00
Idaho	166.67	2,000.00
Illinois	6,666.67	80,000.00
Indiana	2,166.67	26,000.00
Iowa	416.67	5,000.00
Kansas	1,500.00	18,000.00
Kentucky	4,750.00	57,000.00
Louisiana	208.33	2,500.00
Maryland	708.33	8,500.00
Michigan	8,333.33	100,000.00
Minnesota	83.33	1,000.00
Mississippi	2,666.67	32,000.00
Missouri	13,000.00	156,000.00
Montana	125.00	1,500.00
New Mexico	250.00	3,000.00
* Northeast Association	375.00	4,500.00
** Northwest Association	625.00	7,500.00
North Carolina	19,333.33	232,000.00
Ohio	5,000.00	60,000.00
Oklahoma	15,416.67	185,000.00
Pennsylvania	58.33	700.00
South Carolina	8,750.00	105,000.00
Tennessee	19,166.67	230,000.00
Texas	3,375.00	40,500.00
Virginia	5,833.33	70,000.00
Virgin Islands	41.67	500.00
West Virginia	6,416.66	77,000.00
Other States	40.58	487.00
Totals	\$154,057.25	\$1,848,687.00

*Northeast Association
New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine

**Northwest Association
Alaska, Oregon, and Washington

HEARTBEAT

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January 1, 1979

Dear Heartbeat Reader:

Since its inception, Heartbeat Magazine has been sent free of charge to anyone who requested it. No one has ever been charged even for the costs of mailing. We want to continue this service to our readers but costs are spiraling out of sight. In an effort to economize, we cut the publication back to six issues per year in 1977.

Would you help us avoid further cuts in the publication? If you have benefitted from reading Heartbeat, why not take the time to designate a special gift for its publication? Your gift of appreciation in January or February will assure its continuation on at least the current bi-monthly frequency.

Just send your money to "Gift for Heartbeat," Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

In behalf of the Department of Foreign Missions and the Heartbeat staff, I want to thank you in advance.

Yours in Christ,

Don Robirds

Don Robirds, Editor

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