

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

JULY/AUGUST 1980

Life on the Other Side



**Missionary wives
share their views
of life on
the mission field!**

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Life at Doropo, Ivory Coast by Lynette Morgan

The other evening I was dropping some of our garden-grown, home-roasted peanuts into my peanut butter maker. As I watched the brown, nutty butter ooze out, I tried to determine how our life style here is different from that Stateside. Suddenly it dawned on me that what I was doing was different.

Perhaps I could sum up life here with the words "isolation" and "self-dependence." Being isolated from shopping centers, repairmen, and other people of our own culture all result in our having to do most things for ourselves. Also, most of our activity (outside the realm of evangelism) is limited to our home and our station.

A small store in the village may

carry a few canned goods and cleaning and paper products, but stocking up on groceries involves a trip to a bigger town a few hundred miles distant. We buy eggs 150 miles away and usually six dozen at a time. But since these must last for a few months, we use them sparingly.

If company surprises us, we just run to survey the pantry rather than run to the store. Often we do run out of things, and we may have to do without potatoes, butter, or fresh vegetables for a month at a time.

A missionary to Ivory Coast learns to be a jack-of-all-trades. If the commode or pipes leak, we fix them. If the generator breaks down or termites invade the well, we solve the problem or do without electricity or water. We must learn to repair the car, cut the family's

hair, and treat their minor medical problems.

We become schoolteachers for our children, seamstresses to make their clothes, and maybe even a "Shoney's strawberry pie" cook. We ask God to give us gifts and enable us to do things that we never thought ourselves capable of—even to making a plain chocolate cake turn into a yummy Snoopy dog to make a little boy's birthday something special.

If we are blessed, we may have a co-worker on our station. We learn to appreciate not only having someone to talk to in our own language, but to value Christian fellowship. As a family, also, we enjoy each other more since there are no outside influences to compete with. We depend on one another and learn from each other.

Isolation also influences our dress. A man may never put on a tie or a woman a pair of nylons during the four years they are away from the States. Sunday best is a cotton dress and sandals, or a sport shirt and slacks.

At times we do get homesick for a good ol' taste of home. But a conversation I had with five-year-old Trey one day best sums up the idea of being content in whatever state God puts us.

"Is the United States as beautiful as Africa?"

I tried to explain they were different.

"Are we going to the United States soon?" he continued.

"No."

Relieved he said, "I'm glad. 'Cause I want to stay here a long time!"

Living in Uberlandia, Brazil by Nancy Hughes

Put up the ping-pong table and soon the carport is full of church family, friends, neighbors, and others who just happen by. Gradually the crowd spills over into the living room where there is a conglomeration of singing, noisy

conversation, other games, and a big cake if we're all lucky.

This is what happens to a big part of my day when we have youth meetings—sometimes Saturday nights, sometimes Sunday afternoons, and almost always on holidays. On certain special days the carport becomes a “picnic ground” and the ping-pong table is laden with an assortment of food brought by our church people. The fact that we have no trees or grass doesn't seem to matter.

When everyone is “played out” and “filled up” (if it is picnic day) the best part is still to come. The newcomers stay out of curiosity and the home folks know the last part is special indeed. They know because through songs, special speakers, studies, testimonies, and discussion, many of them heard about the Savior.

Testimonies are heard from one who answered the call to preach, from another who will enter Bible college to prepare for work among the Indians, and from others who tell how they have yielded their lives completely to the Lord.

A story of defeat is shared and a request for prayer and help is presented. Mutual sharing of discouragement and victory is characteristic. And joyous singing along with sweet fellowship in prayer are common.

Once a month, a birthday cake with candles is prepared to honor those who accepted Christ during that month of the year. In November of this year, three candles will represent the oldest member of our church family.

All the crumbs, mess, arranging and rearranging of the living room, the sore muscles after playing teenager, etc., are worthwhile because the Lord is using this small effort to win some to Christ in Uberlandia.

My “unpicnic” days have a semblance of routine as I help and encourage our daughter, Lori, with her ninth grade correspondence studies. I disappear from the class-bedroom to go to the street

market, to the grocery, answer the phone or door, and cook or do some necessary thing around the house.

During school months, I teach English two hours an afternoon at a private school. This takes a slice out of my day, but it gives me contact with many of the 600 students enrolled.

Saturday afternoons I teach one hour at the Bible institute in our church. Then, as time permits I squeeze in directing plays, Bible school, helping with the puppet ministry, teaching Sunday school and training Sunday school teachers, visiting, writing letters, and helping my husband in any way I can.

Living with the French People

by Barbara Haas

Perhaps it seems strange, but I first had to be taught by my patient Lord how to love the French people just like God made them before I could contently live with them and eventually laugh, pray, and weep with them.

Loving the French people was essential for me to be able to overlook their “unAmerican ways” (not their sins). As I have tried to identify with each problem they have faced, I have realized they were not as privileged as I have been. They were not reared in a wonderful Christian home and they have not had the Word of God taught to them daily.

The French people are very proud of their beautiful language, but after 12 years on the field, I still have difficulty communicating in French as I would like to. In spite of this, the people know I love them. They know the “compelling love of Jesus” brought us to France. The fact that we left our country, family, and friends so they could hear the Good News and be saved means a great deal to them.

One weekend we had invited a preacher friend from Paris to have services in our church. He was an

American, married to a French woman. “All of the conversation will surely be in English,” I concluded. It promised to be wonderful for me, because I love my language!

During the morning service that Sunday, the Lord led me to invite a young French lady to our home. She had been attending the weekend services. “Surely,” I thought, “some French family will invite her.” You know, I thought a French couple would have no problem conversing with her.

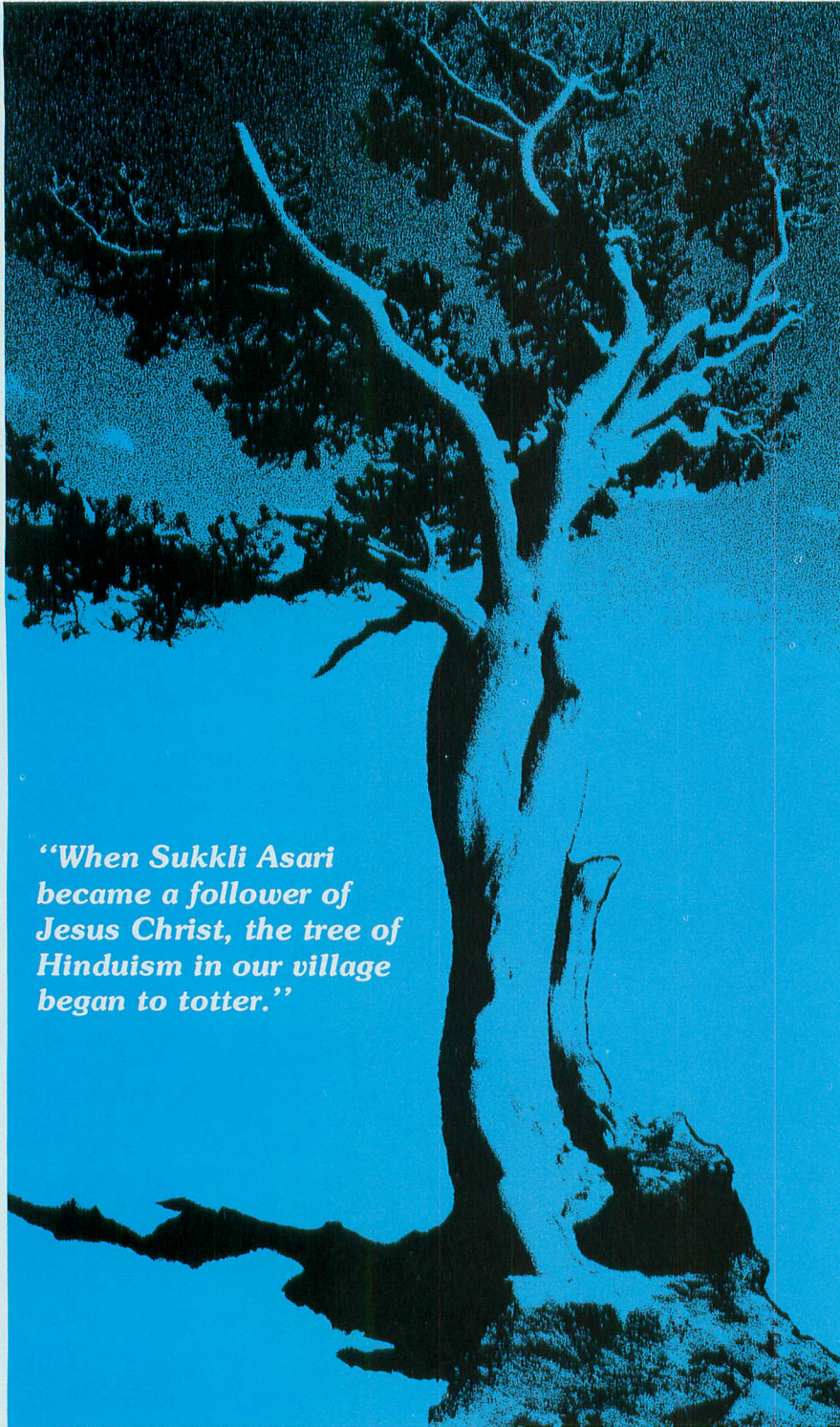
I couldn't believe my eyes, but there she stood after most all the French families had left the church. It seemed as if she was just waiting for me to say, “Wouldn't you like to come home and eat with us?”

I did invite her. And God showed me (again!) “obedience is better than sacrifice.” That precious French lady was saved in our living room before I could even get the food on the table! Since then she has thoroughly “eaten the Word of God” and has shared it with many. As a result, several French men and women have come to know Jesus.

What if I had allowed my language weakness to keep me from inviting her?

Another problem I have faced is one of the most difficult to combat on the mission field. The lack of privacy as a family sometimes makes us feel like we live in a “glass house.” Even with the shutters closed, our neighbors know all about us. And they are aware of the work we are trying to do for the Lord!

In spite of our problem with the lack of privacy, the Lord is leading us in a very definite way to open our home to begin a “mini Bible college”! We will have five or six full-time students living with us this fall, studying the Word of God, etc. Although we do not live like French people, I know I can continually claim Philippians 4:11—not only for today, but for this fall also. I know God is leading my husband in this vital endeavor.



"When Sukkli Asari became a follower of Jesus Christ, the tree of Hinduism in our village began to totter."

The Toppling Tree

by Laura Belle Barnard

Like the Bible epistles, the writer identified himself: "P. Ponnai Maistri, Sukkli Asari, the priest who is reputed to be able to give life to the dead."

Penned in quaint handwriting of Tamil script, the letter reached me in the daily post. Evidence indicated the writer to be an elderly person, though the language was choice and the grammar and spelling accurate.

"To the honorable missionary Ammah, greetings!" the letter continued. "Take notice, I have just found that, in spite of my title, I have been dead in trespasses and sins for 65 years. But, hallelujah! I write to tell you that by your prayers I have found the Lord of Life and I live in Him."

What a letter! What a miracle!

I first met this 65-year-old man through one of our own Christian young men. He had become acquainted with the Asari while working near the priest's village. The young man was a sincere witness to his own faith in Christ, and the priest had been eager to discuss with him the merits of Christianity. Somehow, the old Hindu received a Bible and began to study it diligently. Later, he told me that this Christian youth and his companions had greatly impressed him. Something about them attracted him.

Excerpted from manuscript being prepared by pioneer missionary Laura Belle Barnard for publication in book form. Miss Barnard was the first missionary to go abroad under the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Her story is your story!

The old priest's wife, quite younger than himself, had died, leaving him with a small son and two small girls. The responsibility of rearing them lay heavily upon him. As a religious man he desired education and good moral instruction for his children. Having observed the results of Christian education in the young people from our schools, he believed his children should attend a Christian school.

Since the children had no mother and he had no inclination to take on another wife now, they needed a boarding school. However, our mission did not conduct any kind of hostel or make any live-in provision for children.

The Asari asked me to find a boarding school and to assist him in getting his children admitted. He made it clear that he was not asking for charity. He was entirely able to assume financial responsibility for his family, if he could but provide the training they needed. I did recommend and help enroll them in a school where I was sending my own fosterchild at the time. It was operated by a good mission.

The elderly father, still very much alert, visited his children frequently. Soon he discovered they were already believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, he was reading and studying the Bible and conversing with his young Christian friends.

During one visit to the boarding school, his children challenged him, "Father, we have become Christians and are looking forward to going to heaven. But we are sad because you are not going to heaven. How is it that you are such a wise man, and yet you do not believe in Jesus?"

The priest later testified, "My children's words pierced my heart!" Of course the Holy Spirit had long been moving upon him, giving him light from the Word and challenging him through the witness of his Christian associates. So, on that day he was a prepared vessel, and God met him.

A saintly missionary, retired at the time but re-visiting his old field of service, was on hand to give the immediate guidance needed. The two knelt together while the Sukkli Asari found access to the Mercy Seat. The Great High Priest had made the perfect atonement for his sins, and he became a new creature in Christ.

Back in his own village, he lost no time in penning the letter to me. "When can you arrange to have me baptized? I want to join your congregation and throw in my lot with God's people," he wrote.

***As fear and dread
tightened upon the
onlookers, the tree was
seen to give and sway with
each lick.***

An old peepul tree, sacred to Hindus, stood in the Asari's front yard. It served as a sort of temple where he met with his votaries, performed ceremonies, and chanted prayers for them. A large and somewhat impressive temple stood across the street, only a short distance from his house; but the Asari was a "Pothuvana Priest" or a priest common to all places. He was too high in rank to be confined to any one place.

According to his own story, the title of "Sukkli Asari" had been conferred upon him by a kind of college of priesthood in Bombay. He had spent many years on pilgrimage, visiting the most important holy places in India from east to west and from north to south. Much of this had been covered by foot; some had been by dandabat (throwing himself down on his face, marking his length, then arising to stand on the mark and repeat the performance mile after weary mile). Never had he traveled by modern transportation.

The Hindu devotee had perched for days on a bed of spikes. Many days and nights he had sat in a

frozen stream. For days at a time he had remained surrounded by five fires which were kept burning by coolis paid to heap on fuel. With fellow-priests he had lived in the jungle, eating only what could be foraged. Nothing was cooked and nothing was bought.

Like all Hindu holy men, he carried only a leopard skin, a staff, and his begging bowl which doubled as a drinking cup and a receptacle for alms.

Meanwhile, he diligently studied the Hindu scriptures until he was recognized as an authority. Some have said that he knew them "all by heart." Although exaggerated, this statement did reflect his vast knowledge of Hindu writings, even from memory. He had well earned his title. And he was widely known and revered in his profession. The peepul-tree shrine near his front door spoke for that.

Returning from that visit with his children, and that life-changing experience with Christ, the words he had read in II Corinthians 5:17 kept coming to mind: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." He realized he was a new man. Now, where should he start to put away the things of the old life?

All the paraphernalia of his heathen priesthood would have to go. But as he came near his house he saw the sacred peepul tree.

"There's where I have to begin,"

Continued on page 6—>

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→Continued from page 5

he resolved. Almost at once he found his axe and began to chop away. Neighbors saw him and were filled with fear. His fellow-priests came to inquire and to remonstrate with him. He gave his testimony as he chopped.

The priests and the villagers who had gathered out of curiosity and fear, stood almost in a daze. What could have happened? "Never have we seen even a priest dare to destroy a sacred tree," they reasoned. This high-ranking priest was surely angering the gods. If their wrath were vented on the priest alone, that would be one thing, but no doubt the entire village would be in for judgment.

None of the pleas and warnings of the priests or common people seemed to stop the Sukkli Asari. He continued chopping.

As fear and dread tightened upon the onlookers, the tree was seen to give and sway with each lick. Then it leaned to one side. The tree-god could not defend itself! The leading men of the village, religious and secular, closed their eyes and waited for the inevitable calamity. The old priest's axe struck its final blow and with a prolonged crash, followed by a sudden thud, the sacred tree toppled and fell to the ground.

All was quiet. Then the fear-stricken spectators opened their eyes in dread of what they might see. Lo, there was the tree on the ground, but otherwise all was in tact just as it had been before. There stood Sukkli Asari, axe still in hand, glancing from the tree to the crowd of people. He had a glow of triumph on his face that was more eloquent than any sermon he would ever preach. Now was no time for words. So, one by one the men began to move away, back to their places to think and to marvel.

Although I personally observed the stump of the peepul tree which had been felled, one of his fellow-priests in the village, an eye-witness, related the story to me, not Sukkli Asari himself. And as he

told me the story, it was obvious the event had deeply impressed him.

When the priest ended the story, he sat silently for a few moments. Then he spoke again, "You know what I'm thinking, Ammah? That old tree has always been a symbol of the religion of our village. We would never have believed anyone could harm it without fearful consequences. Now the tree has fallen, and no Hindu god has been able to move." Again, silence.

"I have been dead in trespasses and sins for 65 years. But, hallelujah! I have found the Lord."

Then came his reflection, "When Sukkli Asari turned from Hinduism and became a follower of Jesus Christ, the tree of Hinduism in our village began to totter. I can see it shaking more and more. No doubt it will soon lose its hold and topple over, just like the tree."

Hinduism has not toppled in that village, but it has indeed been invaded by the gospel of the Lord of Life. Shortly after this event our own mission agreed to a longtime and now very urgent plea to open a Christian school in the village. Soon a group of believers emerged. It became our largest school enrollment. The largest church membership for some years was in that village. So, the local priest's prediction was not in vain.

Sukkli Asari's baptism was indeed arranged in due time, and a large number of people from far and near came to witness it. Afterwards, he told me that as he came up out of the water, a great light from heaven seemed to envelope him. He could speak of this experience only with deepest reverence. It was very real, and he cherished it.

A similar thing had occurred as he knelt in prayer with the elderly missionary who was with him when he made his commitment to Christ.

He had first seen the Light then. Later, as I shared this with the missionary, he recalled, "Yes, I remember that the priest remained on his knees for sometime. It was as though something special was taking place between himself and God. But I asked no questions, and he did not comment. I understand now."

Many a time Asari referred to his former life and the utter dedication of himself to his Hindu beliefs and to his lifeway as a Hindu priest. He was never a half-hearted person. He sold out to whatever cause he committed himself. He had been a performer of miracles, he admitted. We never discussed his reputation as a priest who was able to raise the dead.

"I had superhuman power," he assured me. "It was given to me from the spirit-world. I was a slave of Satan and I found pleasure in exercising the power he gave me."

Asari bowed his head and wiped manly tears from his face. "To think that all those years I did not know Jesus Christ but worked against Him and His church. Now I have made it my aim to learn the Christian Scriptures just as thoroughly as I learned the Hindu books, and to serve my Lord Jesus as devotedly as I have His enemy."

For the five remaining years that God gave him to live and witness, Asari did just that! At his own expense he provided himself with a supply of Bibles, Scripture portions and gospel tracts. He trudged over the mountains from day to day giving witness to his faith in the Son of God.

At baptism he had chosen the Christian name of Paul (Paul Ponnai Maistri), with the determination to follow in the footsteps of his namesake. And, although his time for evangelism was relatively short, he was privileged to preach, witness, and to suffer numerous forms of persecution for Christ's sake. Through it all, he was never moved, and even his persecutors held him in high esteem.

Call-a-thon Reports Total \$22,116.77

Eighty churches and/or individuals participated in the 1980 Call-a-thon Sunday activities on April 20 by reporting a total of \$22,116.77 for foreign missions.

Only 18 of the 50 states took part this year. Tennessee had the largest number of participants with 12 churches reporting.

Fellowship FWB Church in Kingsport, Tenn. reported the largest gift of \$5,532.20. First FWB Church of

Mountain Grove, Mo. gave the second largest amount of \$1,904.14.

Two other churches gave more than \$1,000: Lockhart FWB, Lockhart, S.C. and Sciotodale FWB of Portsmouth, Ohio. At least eight others gave \$500 or more.

These churches and individuals took part in the 1980 Call-a-thon effort:

Alabama Fairview—Leeds Holmes—Ariton	First—Melbourne First—Miami First—Pensacola Salem—Alford	Michigan Athens Chapel— Detroit Garden City Old Fashion— Warren Trinity—Warren	North Carolina Canton Faith—Gastonia Mt. Calvary— Marion Palmetto Chapel— Vanceboro Trinity— Greenville	First, Aux.—Edmond First—Moore Panama—Cameron Pleasant Hill— Norman Silver City—Jennings Trinity—Tulsa	Friendship— Ashland City Horton Heights— Nashville Liberty—Chuckey Oaklawn— Chapmansboro Oakwood, Ch. and Aux.—Woodlawn United—Cookeville Woodbine—Nashville
Arkansas Centerpoint—Vilonia Mt. Bethel— Rose Bud Slaty Crossing— Dardanelle Union Grove—Atkins Welcome Home— Hector	Georgia Bay FWB and Jr. S.S. Class— Hartsfield Double Branch— Hawkinsville Okefenokee— Waycross	Missouri Beacon—Raytown First—Mt. Grove First—Viburnum Kirksville Low Ground— Novinger Myrtle New Harmony— Kirksville Overland Stockton Terrill Rd.—Moberly	Ohio Antioch— Wheelersburg McArthur Sciotodale— Portsmouth Urbana West Side— Columbus	South Carolina Bethel—Ft. Mill Beulah—Pamplico First—Greenville Lockhart St. John's—Patrick	Texas Cross—Iola First—Pampa Levelland
California Antioch Exeter Hanford Garden Grove Tulare	Indiana Ft. Wayne			Tennessee Bethany—Fall Branch Faith—Knoxville Fellowship— Kingsport Fellowship— Nashville First—Oak Ridge	West Virginia Dry Branch Lick Branch— Charleston Sophia Mrs. E. Winger— Amherstdale
Florida First—Deerfield Beach	Massachusetts Randall Mem.— N. Chelmsford	New Jersey Hope—Franklinville	Oklahoma Calvary—Norman Eastside—Muldrow		

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Memorial Gifts

These people gave Memorial Gifts during the months of April and May:

Donor	In Memory of
Mrs. Beatrice Thomas and Family Four Oaks, N.C.	Mrs. Roy Rikard
Rev. and Mrs. Carlisle Hanna North India	Mr. J. E. Frazier
Mrs. Beatrice Thomas Four Oaks, N.C.	Mrs. Cortez Jackson Freeman

Memorial Gift to Foreign Missions

Amount \$ _____

Given in memory of _____

Given by: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send memorial card to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Honors Haas on Fiftieth Birthday

France—Following the worship service on April 13, the Rennes congregation gathered in a city social hall to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of missionary Joe Haas.

Mr. Marshand, one of the leaders in the church, gave a lengthy biographical sketch of Joe's life. Letters were read from Dr. Charles Thigpen, Dr. L. C. Johnson, and several family members.

Haas gave his personal testimony and several families sang special numbers for the occasion. Rolla Smith, general director of foreign missions, happened to be on hand for the celebration and was asked to make some remarks. A gift was presented to Haas by the church.

Special Campaign Sparks Enthusiasm

Ivory Coast—A special combined Bible conference-evangelistic campaign was conducted by Ivorian Christians March 29-April 1 in the city of Bondoukou.

According to missionaries, enthusiasm and a sense of unity among the Christians marked the campaign. Some professed faith in Christ and seeds were sown which should bring further harvest in days to come.

During the day, the group met at the Bondoukou church building for preaching and prayer. They ate their meals together on the church property.

On Sunday morning an evangelistic meeting was conducted at the market place and that evening they walked

from the church to a particular section of town, singing and playing tapes amplified by a small loud speaker. Jean-Baptiste, pastor from Goumère, preached an evangelistic message in Koulango.

A similar pattern was followed on Monday and Tuesday nights as Pastor Anany Victor from Dedi preached. While the preaching continued, some of the Christians on the outskirts of the circle witnessed personally to interested bystanders.

Following the campaign in Bondoukou, some of the Christians went to the village of Taoudi to hold a similar meeting.

Mother's Day Drama Draws Large Crowd

Uruguay—Molly Barker writes: "For our Mother's Day play last Sunday night (May 11) the Central Free Will Baptist Church was packed and folks were standing throughout the service. At the woman's auxiliary in Barrio Recreo another nice-sized group came to see the play."

Miss Barker noted the play was written by a Christian medical student who goes to the Free Will Baptist church in Uberlandia, Brazil.

At the present time, Molly is conducting a course on Christian teaching for the teachers from Central church and others who care to attend. Currently, eight have enrolled in the class which meets twice each week.

Three students from the Rivera churches are attending a Bible institute in Montevideo. "They seem to be enjoying their studies," notes Molly. "They work days and study nights."

Bishops Receive \$3,950 from Arkansas Church

Russellville, Ark.—Dale and Sandra Bishop were featured on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1980, in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Russellville, Ark., and the church responded with an offering of \$3,950.82 to the Bishop account.

The Bishops were on hand for the entire day with Dale speaking during the morning worship service. Both he and Sandra participated in the evening service which included their slide presentation.

This is the fourth or fifth year that this church has made Easter Sunday "Foreign Missions Sunday" according to the pastor, Reverend Fred Warner. No special campaigns or drives were made prior to the Easter services, but the regular offering and all other offerings of that day were given to the Bishops' account. Approximately 350 people were on hand for the Sunday morning services.

Brazil Association Meets in Araras

Brazil—The annual session of the Sao Paulo State Association of Free Will Baptists was held in Araras on April 4, 1980.

The day was spent in fellowship, Bible competition, prayer, and dramatic presentations. Honors in Bible Tic Tac Toe and sword drill went to the First Free Will Baptist Church of Ribeirao Preto.

New officers elected included Jim Sturgill, president; Carlos Alberto Fuganholi, vice-president; Salete Fontes, secretary-treasurer; and Geneva Poole, assistant secretary. Antonio Magalhaes, Jim Cowart, and Isaura Dames were elected as members-at-large for the executive body.

Missionaries Arrive, Others Depart

Nashville, Tenn.—A number of missionaries have arrived or will arrive shortly in the United States to begin furlough from their various fields of service.

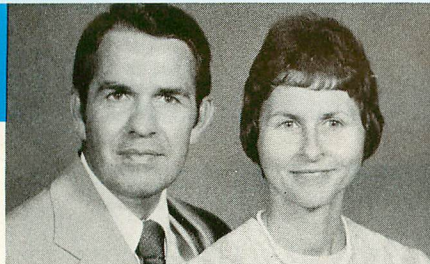
Miss Judy Smith, first-term missionary to Japan, returned to the U.S. on April 28 for regular furlough.

Miss Patsy Vanhook arrived in the States from France on May 20 to begin a short furlough.

Allan and LaRue Crowson left the Ivory Coast on May 26, stopped off in

(Left) Eddie Payne builds rafters for the new reading room being constructed in Bouna, Ivory Coast. (Right) African laborers are seen working on the actual building.





Leaving for their fields of service are, (top, left to right) Jimmy and Janie Aldridge, and Dale and Sandra Bishop, (bottom, left to right) Fred and Evelyn Hersey and Tom and Patty McCullough.

France, and arrived in Atlanta on June 8.

Archie Mayhew landed in Nashville, Tenn. from the Ivory Coast on June 3. Sarah and Merry, his wife and daughter, were scheduled to leave the Ivory Coast on July 5. They remained on the field so Merry could graduate from Ivory Coast Academy in Bouake.

Miss Alice Smith left the Ivory Coast on June 4 and deplaned in West Virginia on June 5.

Ken and Marvis Eagleton were scheduled to land in Ft. Worth, Tex. from Brazil on June 27.

Bobby and Sue Aycock are tentatively scheduled to arrive from Brazil in late July.

Steve and Judy Lytle hope to leave Panama in late July or early August.

These have left or are planning to leave the United States for their respective fields of service:

Jimmy and Janie Aldridge left on June 16 with plans to fly to France. They were to pick up their surface-shipped baggage and catch a ship from Marseilles, France, to Abidjan in the Ivory Coast.

Larry Inscoe left Nashville on May 26 for Panama to solve some housing and ministry difficulties which had arisen on the field. Priscilla and the children remained in the U.S. to finalize naturalization papers for adopted daughter, Debora. They hope to join Larry soon.

Dale and Sandra Bishop plan to return to Japan on July 26 for their second term of service.

Fred and Evelyn Hersey are tentatively scheduled to return to Japan on August 20.

Others scheduled to return to their fields later this year include Robert and Judy Bryan, Ivory Coast; Paul and Amy Robinson, Uruguay; Patsy Vanhook, France; and Lonnie and Anita Sparks, Spain.

Dennis and Trena Owen are still delayed awaiting their visas to Brazil.

Tom and Patty McCullough are awaiting visas for France and hope to leave in August.

Combs to Assume Hillsdale Post

Nashville, Tenn.—After three complete terms of missionary service in Brazil, Jim and Shirley Combs have submitted their resignation to the Board of Foreign Missions. Jim will assume new responsibilities beginning with the fall semester at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Okla.

According to information received from the college, Jim will serve as dean of men and Bible/missions instructor.

The Combs arrived in the States on June 27.

Crowson Gives Results of Filmstrip Tests

Ivory Coast—Missionary Allan Crowson spent much of the months of February and March testing the evangelistic filmstrip which is being prepared for use in the Ivory Coast.

Crowson listed several strengths of the filmstrip, namely the African storyline, similarity to New Testament parables, and the wide normal use of such proverbs or parables in the African culture.

The research indicated necessity of certain modifications at the end of the filmstrip as well as the possible combining of the three sections into one complete program. Prospects look good for the production of this story in flipchart form.

Special prayer has been requested on behalf of those who will be trying

to complete the project since Allan and LaRue were scheduled to begin furlough in June. Hopefully, Jimmy Aldridge will be able to assume some of the responsibilities soon after his return to the field. Tentatively, Robert Bryan will be joining the team in the Ivory Coast sometime in September and will carry on the work for this project.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Brazil—Missionaries Ken and Marvis Eagleton became grandparents for the third time as little David Arthur came into the world at 5:20 a.m. on April 22 in Brazil. The baby, born to Kenneth, Jr. and Rejane Eagleton, weighed eight pounds, one and one-half ounce. He is the couple's third son.

Elizabethton, Tenn.—Billie Sexton, wife of missionary representative Don Sexton, was hospitalized on May 9 due to a deteriorating disc in her back. She was placed in traction for a period of time. Although she has returned home from the hospital, doctors have ordered her to take it easy for about six months.

Japan—Kita Hiroshima Chapel had to relocate in May because the owner wanted the house the Banks were renting for their services. Within about four days they located another house in the same area with better possibilities for growth.

Nashville, Tenn.—Philip Hersey, oldest son of missionaries Fred and Evelyn Hersey, is scheduled to marry Miss Susan Tucker on August 16 in Vancouver, B.C. The couple plans to live in Japan where Philip is teaching English conversation in a language school and his wife-to-be is an art instructor at the Christian Academy in Japan.

Brazil—Three women and one man (a young law student) were baptized recently in Conselheiro Lafaiete, according to a report from Earnie and Jean Deeds.

Ivory Coast—Aaron Carl Morgan was born May 28 at Conservative Baptist Hospital in Ferkessedougou, Ivory Coast. The seven and one-half pound boy is the third son of Clint and Lynette Morgan.

Nashville, Tenn.—Porter Free Will Baptist Church, Sciotoville, Ohio recently voted to give \$5000 cash

Continued on page 10→

—>Continued from page 9

and \$100 per month in commitments to new appointees to the Ivory Coast, Neil and Sheila Gilliland. Porter is Neil's home church.

Japan—Sandy and Dari Goodfellow, associate missionaries in Japan, have returned to the United States and will assume positions at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville during the fall semester.

India—Mark Hanna, son of Carlisle and Marie Hanna, left the United States for India on May 9. He will spend the summer with his parents before returning to college in the fall.

Brazil—Tom Hughes, Jr., son of Tom and Nancy Hughes, will be visiting his parents in Uberlandia, Brazil, during the summer. He has been studying in the United States and has recently been awarded a scholarship to study electronic engineering.

Japan—Mary McLain, 15-year-old daughter of Jim and Olena McLain, broke her ankle while playing basketball in May at the Christian Academy of Japan.

Uganda—The president of Uganda has asked Christian ministers, including missionary preachers, to hold evangelistic crusades throughout the country.

April Missions Receipts Reach Record High

Nashville, Tenn.—Foreign missions receipts during the month of April reached a record high of \$183,863.48.

The foreign missions staff expressed praise to the Lord for this increased giving in the light of below-budget receipts during the first three months of the year.

The previous one-month record for receipts was \$156,226.60 which was received in May of 1978.

France FWB Churches Meet in St. Nazaire

France—The France Free Will Baptist churches held a fellowship meeting in St. Nazaire on April 7 with approximately 120 in attendance. Rolla Smith, general director of foreign missions, preached during the morning service, and Jerry Gibbs translated.

During the afternoon, testimonies were given by Yannick and Dominique Kermorvan, and Philippe Corgne. Special music was presented



Missionary Jerry Gibbs plays the guitar for the choral group from St. Nazaire as they sing at the fellowship meeting held in April in that city.

by groups from the three churches: Rennes, Nantes, and St. Nazaire.

Gerard Tynevez, a Bible college student from the Rennes church, preached the afternoon message. Gerard is a university graduate with a degree in architectural engineering. He taught for three years in the Ivory Coast and worked closely with the church in Bondoukou.

Three Young Men Answer God's Call

Ivory Coast—"Three young men have answered the call to preach since the evangelization at Bondoukou," write Sharon and Ledge Ferguson, who are working in the reading-room ministry at Tanda in the Ivory Coast.

"I am taking teams out on weekends for preaching and personal witnessing," continues Ledge. "They are reaching some who have never heard the gospel. One of the boys (Kouadjo) has a special burden for the older people. Often they present the greatest opposition to change and are the hardest to reach."

"The other day a new Christian asked Kouadjo to go with him to his village to witness to his mother. The mother prayed, also the village chief, some other older people, and a couple of young people. The boys came back rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord."

Sharon reported that in addition to her regular ministry in the reading room, she is teaching a Bible class for grade-school children on Thursday afternoon.

The Fergusons expressed praise for God's goodness and protection during the past year and noted they had killed 27 snakes in their yard and garden during that time.

Board Meets, Proposes Budget of \$2,022,885

Nashville, Tenn.—The Board of Foreign Missions met for their annual session April 21-24 in Nashville. A 1981 proposed budget of \$2,022,885 was adopted subject to approval of the National Association in July.

Among the other actions, the board made official the appointment of Miss June Arnold to the field of Panama as she recently completed her Missionary Internship training. Neil and

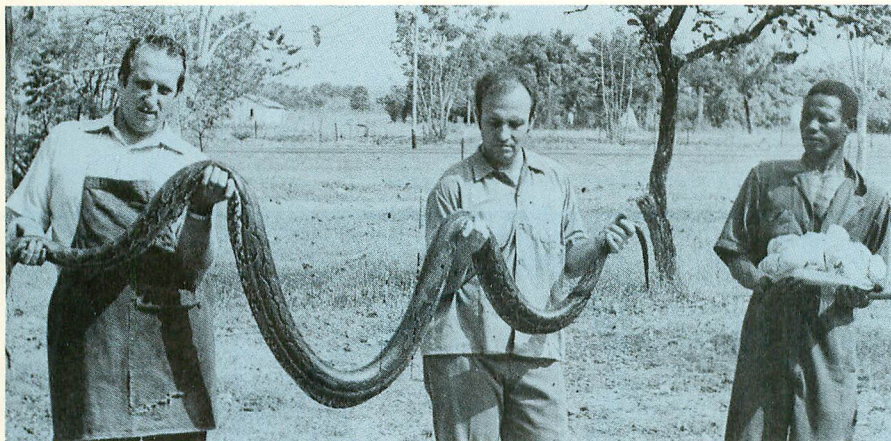


June Arnold is the new missionary appointee for the field of Panama.



Neil and Sheila Gilliland are new dorm parent appointees to the school at Bouake, Ivory Coast.

Sheila Gilliland of Greeneville, Tenn. were officially appointed as new dormitory parents for Ivory Coast Academy in Bouake, Ivory Coast. They will assume their respon-



This giant snake was killed by Jerry Pinkerton (center) behind the boys' dormitory at Bouake in the Ivory Coast. The African (right) is holding the 35 snake eggs found with the snake.

sibilities when the Pinkertons leave for furlough.

Steve and Becky Riggs of Nashville were approved for short-term service of up to eight months in France to begin in the fall of this year.

Allan and LaRue Crowson were given official approval to transfer from the field of Ivory Coast to France. The field council of both fields had already approved their transfer.

The board officially accepted the resignation of Jim and Shirley Combs, missionaries to Brazil. It became effective at the end of this term of service. (See news item.)

Provision was made for the semi-retirement of "Mom" Mabel Willey who will be returning to the States sometime in August. She will continue to be involved in some missionary speaking engagements.

Interviews were conducted with missionaries Louis and Florine Coscia, Dale Bishop, Lynn and Ramona Miley, Robert and Judy Bryan, Paul Robinson, and missionary representative Don Sexton.

Dates for the 1981 meetings were set: annual session, April 27-May 1; semi-annual session, November 30-December 4; and missions retreat, August 3-7.

Officers for the coming year remain the same: James Murray, chairman; Dennis Wiggs, vice-chairman; and Jim Walker, secretary.

Pinkerton Kills Big Snake Near Dorm

Ivory Coast—A huge snake (13 feet, four inches without the head) was killed recently behind the dormitory at Bouake by missionary Jerry Pinkerton. The snake was discovered by the

night guard who asked Jerry to get his gun and kill the reptile.

"The snake was coiled in a hole along with 35 eggs," writes Carol Pinkerton.

It took both Jerry and another man larger than he to pull the giant from his hole.

Two Scholarships Go to MK Terry Eagleton

Nashville, Tenn.—Terry Eagleton, son of missionaries Ken and Marvis Eagleton of Brazil, was awarded the Dr. L. C. Johnson Alumni Scholarship of \$500 during the annual Bible Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Terry also received the Fannie Polston Scholarship, awarded by the Woman's Auxiliary of East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church.

Terry is spending the summer on the border of Brazil and Uruguay as a part of his internship training from the Bible college.

Relief Agencies Help Displaced Cambodians

Thailand—Evangelical relief agencies, working together, built a 1,000-bed field hospital in one week in Thailand to care for displaced Cambodians. They have been asked by the United Nations to construct additional facilities.

Food and medicine being shipped into Cambodia is reaching some civilians despite massive distribution problems and apparent opposition by the Vietnamese rulers of that nation. A shortage of trucks, plus roads and bridges, have bottled up supplies in many areas.

Three Saved, New S.S. Average Set

Brazil—According to a recent report from Tommy and Nancy Hughes in Uberlandia, Brazil, three people made decisions for Christ in the month of April. The Sunday school attendance averaged an all-time record high of 60 for the month.

The church had special services on Mother's Day, May 11. The program included a junior choral reading, music, poems, and a play presented by the youth. Each mother received a copy of the Gospel of John and a small rose.

A puppet ministry was also begun during the month of April, according to Nancy. The puppets make announcements, teach songs, and teach Bible truths during the Sunday school.

Missionary Fellowship Set for National

Anaheim, Calif.—A special foreign missions fellowship hour is scheduled for 1:30 to 2:30 in the afternoon on Tuesday, July 22 during the National Association. Listed under educational seminars, the session entitled "Meet Your Missionaries" will be held in the convention center, Orange County Room 18.

This is scheduled to be an informal hour during which people can get personally acquainted with the various missionaries who will be on hand for the National.

Financial Summary

\$ubstance Through May 31

On deposit May 1	\$ 624,049.57
Receipts: April	183,863.48
May	142,679.23
Total receipts through May	713,476.40
Total disbursements through May	686,077.95
Projected receipts through May	795,131.53
Total 1980 Budget	\$1,908,316.00

\$hortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Caton	\$4,880.16	Murray	\$ 804.50
Combs	4,028.37	Payne	5,942.46
Crowson	5,491.36	Richards	1,708.11
Dickens	295.73	Smith, J.	4,450.02
Gage	288.44	Sturgill	503.82
Gibbs	2,944.55	Webb	5,661.53
Lytle	2,274.60	South India	792.28
Moser	1,869.75		

Total \$41,935.68

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

Board of Foreign Missions: James Murray, chairman; Dennis Wiggs, vice-chairman; Jim Walker, secretary; Dan Cronk; Allen Moore; Fred Warner; Joseph Ange; J. Re-ford Wilson; Robert Trimble

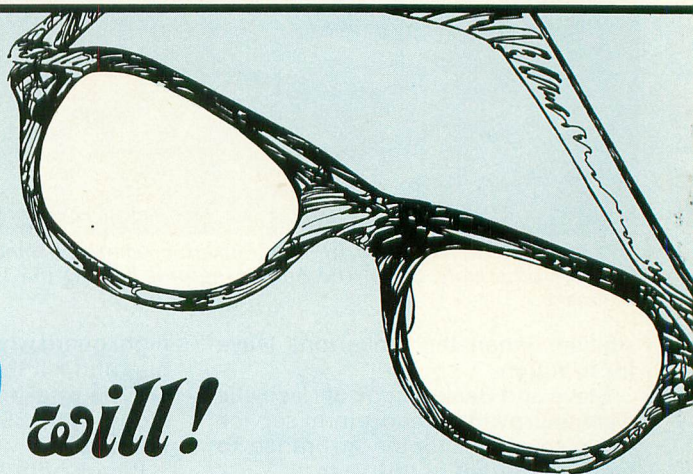
Administrative Staff: Rolla D. Smith, general director; Harold Critcher, director of fi-nance; Henry Van Kluyve, director of depu-tation; Don Robirds, director of communi-cations

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