

# HEARTBEAT

NOVEMBER 1982

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

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FAREWELL

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**T**he telephone rang. It was Saturday morning, June 12. "Hello," I spouted as I slid the phone to my ear.

"Alo! Dona Shirley? This is Lelis Filho," came the voice from Brazil.

"Lelinho? What a surprise!" I exclaimed.

Lelis, a Free Will Baptist convert, is a Brazilian missionary pilot and instructor with Missionary Aviation Fellowship (Asas de Socorro) in Brazil. His parents, also saved through FWB efforts, were living in Oklahoma at the time of the call.

The audio quality of the telephone made it sound as if he were calling from across the street!

"Your parents just left," I quickly

added.

"No, I don't want to talk to them," Lelis responded. "I have some sad news . . . about Jose Pedro Mendes."

"Oh, okay," I responded. "I'll call Jim to get on the other line." I leaned against the desk, braced for the news I had already guessed.

Jose was our son in the Lord. I remembered when he had come to know the Lord in 1972 at age 17. He started attending the Saturday morning youth meetings and finally began coming to Sunday morning services. Though his decision was made privately, he made it known publicly and requested baptism.

Then, as a Christian teenager, he

always seemed to want to help. As I thought of his commitment to be a missionary, I wondered, "What now?"

"Dona Shirley, Pastor Jaime," Lelis continued. "Jose Pedro was in a plane crash today," he blurted. "There were no survivors. He was on a commercial airline, TABA, on his way to his new assignment to help a MAF pilot in Boa Vista."

"Where did it happen?" Jim inquired.

"It was on the Brazilian border with Colombia in the Amazon region. On the way, they arrived in Tabatinga and approaching the airport the plane struck a metal tower 72 meters high. It fell on the airport parking lot . . ."

"What about his body . . . the identification?" I broke in. It seemed unreal to be talking about Jose as a "body."

"Felipe, (an MAF team member) as soon as he heard the news, went to Tabatinga on one of the MAF airplanes. Jose's body was identified by his documents and Felipe's confirmation."

There was a pause of silence.

Lelis continued, "Listen, I thought since you two were so close to Jose that you should be among the first to know. Our Heavenly Pilot decided that Jose's mission was completed, but we still have ours to do. Pray for us. We'll miss him!"

Just one week before the accident we had received a letter from Jose. He told about finishing his mission in Bolivia where he went to work as a pilot-mechanic in January, then two months in the Amazon before being transferred to the northern territory of Roraima.

Jose Pedro was excited about his new assignment in Boa Vista. He wrote he was 27 years of age and was ready to get a steady girl and

by Shirley Combs

# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

## FAREWELL



Cover photo: Left to right, Junior Travitzki, Jose Mendez, Tanya Combs, Lelis Fachini, and Cindy Kemper, Shirley, and Jim Combs are pictured with a small plane. Photo at left: Jose Mendez (top right) teaches a flannelgraph lesson in Tubarao, Santa Catarina, Brazil.



get married. He also asked us to pray about an offer he had received from a doctor in Africa to work as a pilot-mechanic there . . . after his assignment in Boa Vista.

In another letter from a family in Bolivia where Jose had been working, we had received these special words: "We haven't met before but your son in the faith, Jose, has been helping our mission repair an airplane here in Santa Cruz. He really is a fine young man! He is really liked and appreciated for the work he is doing with the plane. Everyone was sad to see him go back to Brazil. Thank you for your part in the molding of his Christian life."

The phone call came on Saturday. On Sunday I kept thinking about his body. Brazilian law requires the body of the deceased to be buried within 24 hours since embalming is generally not available in Brazil. We called his hometown of Tubarao in Santa Catarina and one of the Christian brethren said they were hoping the body would arrive by Sunday. Since no pastor was working there for their little flock we tried to contact a FWB missionary to arrange a Protestant-Christian funeral for the family.

We found nobody home. The closest missionary was about 20 hours away so we agreed the next day would be too late. Later we discovered the Brazilian newspapers had published news regarding the bodies. The newspaper account reported burial had already taken place, thus the FWB missionaries had assumed there would be no local funeral.

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***"Jose wasn't really ours; he was more God's than ours and this is my comfort."***

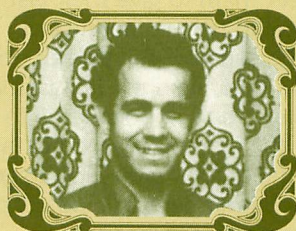
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Our heavy hearts were much relieved when Lelis wrote about the funeral: "Pastor Paulo and Wilson, from MAF, went to Tubarao to

comfort the family and direct the funeral. Though Jose died on Saturday, the body only arrived on Tuesday.

"During the short wake they had with the body in their home, Jose's mother, Laura, walked over to the side of the casket. (Jose had won her to the Lord.) She told all those present that she knew Jose wanted all of his family to accept Christ as Savior. That was his prayer. Paulo led the grave-side service. It took place that same night at 11 o'clock."

Isabel, one of Jose's ten brothers and sisters, a new Christian, wrote about that day: "The body of our dearest Jose came to our house without life, already with the terrible odor of decay just to show us that our body is nothing here on earth—but our soul is! We all need to prepare for our great encounter with Jesus.



"I'm still broken over the death of my dear brother but I know God took him," she continued. "Jose wasn't really ours; he was more God's than ours and this is my comfort. I know God wouldn't use my brother in vain. He has a great plan."

Only two of his large family had openly confessed Christ at his death but they all respected his dedication to God's call. His family asked that all of his belongings—his motorcycle, tools, etc.—be sold and the money used for the training of new missionaries. His sister wrote, "The family met and decided to use the insurance money from the airlines to build a church. Well, I have learned to say, 'if it is God's will.' We need your prayers that this idea won't be only ours but that of God's also. We have no pastor

to orient us or feed us. Pray for us."

In 1978 Jose felt the call to Christian service during a missionary conference in the mission where we were working in his hometown. He stepped out on faith and enrolled in training

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***He always wanted to help. Be busy . . . He was faithful and learned everything well.***

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depending on a small FWB church and friends. He took an elementary pilot course but really excelled in the mechanics field. After three years of intense practical training and theory at the aviation school, he was found capable of being sent to help other areas. Our first FWB Brazilian "foreign missionary."

One of his Brazilian co-workers wrote, "It is difficult to believe that it is real. We still feel we will arrive at the hangar and find Jose all covered with grease trying to fix up his motorcycle to go downtown to choir practice at the church."

Another wrote, "The last time I was with Jose was on the trip to Rondonia, Acre, and Amazonas. When Jose arrived, he fixed the MAF jeep, the pump, the motor to the lawn mower, the pickup for New Tribes Missions, besides all the maintenance of the airplane!"

Then he added, "We remember him as one that was always ready to help at any time, day or night. He was always ready to do a complex job or clean the belly of the plane when it was dirty. We give thanks to God for his example!"

Yes, that sounds like Jose. He always wanted to help. Be busy. In fact, it would be almost frustrating in those years to find enough to keep him busy and "out of the way." It took patience waiting for him to catch on to teaching with flannelgraph, puppets, and playing the guitar. But he was faithful and learned everything well. He was

*Continued on page 4* →



→ Continued from page 3

good at building, electronics, mechanics, art, and sports. And he was an "A" student in college. So we weren't surprised that God found potential in His handsome Brazilian son and called him to be a missionary.

What did Jose think about death coming to the young? A few months ago he wrote to a missionary wife who had lost her husband in an accident a few years ago. In his unpolished, self-taught English, he scrawled, "I can imagine how you felt when John left you—when God took him. Maybe I'm not able to understand the extension of the emptiness he left on your life. But I just want you to remember that he's still alive. He's just there quietly and comfortable. You probably know I'm working as missionary-pilot-mechanic. These next days I'm leaving Brazil to work in Bolivia for some months. God's got a plan for us all. Remember that!"

Yes, we'll remember, Jose! God does have a plan for everyone.

God's plan for Jose was perfect. Today he is alive and comfortable too. But for one so active and so full of energy here on earth, it is hard to realize he can be "quietly" anywhere. God's plan for him included a flight schedule on Saturday, June 12, that took him non-stop into His presence. Mission accomplished! □

## HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

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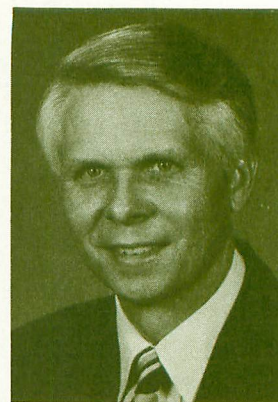
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# GENEROSITY in Hard Times

by R. Eugene Waddell

**T**he bare cupboard testified of the family's desperate, paltry situation. No one could expect them to give their last morsel to help someone else. After all, the sense of self-preservation is man's basic instinct. It is primary among God's endowments to man. Still, the woman shared her last handful of food with God's servant. Her commitment to God eclipsed her natural instincts.

How would God's people act today under similar circumstances? And what would happen if they followed the same principle?

Because this mother shared, God multiplied her meager means. He supplied her family's necessities for many days while using her to meet the needs of others (1 Kings 17:8-16).

Today, many Americans can identify with this widow. The year 1982 has seen more unemployment than at any time in the last 40 years.\* Numerous older Americans are staggering from the shock of cuts in benefits they have depended on for years.

The current recession has distressed many of our churches. When mortgage payments, salaries, utilities, etc. have to be met and the income is down, it is quite natural to think of cutting back. And giving

to foreign missions and other outside causes tends to be the first to go.

A few months ago we received this notice from one supporting church: "This is the last check which we will be sending you during this church year. Our income is not sufficient to meet our budget, therefore we are temporarily discontinuing our support for your department."

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***Becoming Christians cost the Macedonians in at least two ways: personal suffering and monetary loss.***

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The Macedonian Christians couldn't have written that letter: ". . . in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their DEEP POVERTY abounded unto the riches of their LIBERALITY" (2 Cor. 8:2).

Becoming a Christian evidently taxed the Macedonians in at least two ways: personal suffering and monetary loss. Paul refers to the fact that the believers in Thessalonica, "received the word in

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\*U.S. News and World Report, Aug. 16, 1982



much affliction" (1 Thess. 1:6). More than likely the new Christians suffered persecution by their pagan neighbors and employers. Possibly, they were ostracized so that they lost their income or had difficulty in finding a job.

We in America can hardly realize what it costs for believers in heathen lands to follow Christ. Norman Richards tells of a young Muslim who turned to the Lord in the fall of 1979. Soon after his conversion he visited his parents. When he shared his faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Son of God, his father renounced him and commanded him never to set foot in his house again.

When his Muslim teachers learned of his conversion they came to talk him out of his commitment. When he stood firm for Christ they forbade his coming to their houses. They proceeded to the school where the young man taught and pressured the director into firing him.

Perhaps the Macedonian Christians were experiencing this type of affliction because the text further emphasizes their, "deep poverty." This territory had also been ravaged by the civil wars between Caesar, Pompey, and other Roman rulers. Yet these simple believers, in spite of their dire circumstances, distinguished themselves for their generosity.

Perhaps God is using the present recession to test Free Will Baptists to see how important it is that we reach the world with the gospel.

"Mom" Willey, who pioneered the work in Cuba in 1938 with her late husband, Thomas H. Willey, described the situation she found during a visit to the island this past August: "What a beautiful group of about 165 young people, most of them very poorly dressed. I could not believe the shoes of some of them who were on the platform, mostly just 'flip-flops,' as we know them. But there was a deep hunger for spiritual food.

"Most of them have heartbreaking stories. They are like

lilies growing in the midst of what is decadent and tarnished. I have seen that God's grace and love can sustain believers in the most trying circumstances, in the almost unbelievable situations. 'Where sin doth abound, grace does much more abound!'

"They are making plans to reconstruct the buildings at the school, now that they are able to get some building materials. I was thrilled to see them give joyfully, in cash and promises, \$10,000. I sat on the platform and wept, that out of their poverty, they gave!"

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***"In 1930, at the depth of the depression, the China Inland Mission . . . called for 200 new workers in two years—and got them."***

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In his book, UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN MISSIONS, J. Herbert Kane reports, "Some of the greatest events in mission history occurred when the times were least propitious. William Carey was pleading the cause of world missions during the French Revolution, which threatened to engulf the whole of Europe. The first American missionaries sailed for India in 1812, the year that war broke out between Britain and the United States. Hudson Taylor first arrived in China in 1853 as the Taiping Rebellion was getting under way—a rebellion that lasted 15 years and took at least 20 million lives. In 1930, at the depth of the Depression, the China Inland Mission, now the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, called for 200 new workers in two years—and got them."

Some churches are experiencing the miraculous provision which Paul hints at in 2 Corinthians 8:3, "For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves." These Macedonian Christians found God

abundantly providing in spite of their poverty. The promises related to generosity are strewn throughout the Bible.

Proverbs 11:24 declares, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; And there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." And remember, "God shall supply all your need . . ." (Phil. 4:19).

Last spring a pastor told me with a sob in his voice, "Two weeks ago as I looked out over the congregation on Sunday morning, I realized that every able-bodied man in my congregation, except one, was drawing unemployment." But he went on to emphasize, "We will still do what we can to help our missionaries get to the field."

A pastor who had been visibly moved by a missionary service related some of his emergency needs—car repairs, a new refrigerator because the old one had burned out, etc.—then he stressed that he was signing a faith-promise card because missions came first.

Faith-promise giving involves trust in God's ability, not ours. Paul says the Macedonians had that kind of faith and gave "as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability" (New International Version).

Most people give on the basis of their ability or assessed ability. When bills pile up or income gets slim, they determine to give less or nothing.

The widow's oil would have been spent in one day had she taken that attitude. The Macedonians would never have been honored on sacred script with that reasoning. The blessing on the widow in Mark 12:42 was not based on the amount of her gift but on what she had left. She gave out of her poverty.

If Free Will Baptists fulfill the obligation to reach out to a dying world, a good number of those under "financial burden" must be willing to reevaluate priorities and give out of their poverty. God will bless the effort. □



# SHADOW OF THE OCCULT

## Part Two of a Two-part Story

by Kathleen Fenton

*The deep, dark jungles of Northern Luzon in the Philippines resist the light from above. But the shadows of fear and superstition are more difficult to penetrate.*

*Sandayaw, a Christian from the Ga'dang Tribe, worked for Wycliffe Bible Translators helping missionary Mike Walrod learn the language.*

*Tabbagon, his brother-in-law, sought revenge on a neighboring tribe who killed his father-in-law and mocked his tribal name.*

*Manda, 14-year-old daughter of Tabbagon, pondered Sandayaw's words about God. Yet, she feared the killer Sabbakal and watched for him as she entered the thatch hut.*

*A dark figure bending over her mother shocked her into action. She seized him by the hair and threw him against the wall.*

"Did he hurt you, Mother?" she called.

Turning to ward off the intruder, she gasped as she faced her father struggling to regain his balance. In his arms he held a newly-born baby.

"Oh, Father! I thought you were . . ."

"Do not waste time thinking. Go. Get the children. Take them away. Your mother has very quickly given me a son," he said.

"My father! You are not angry with me?" she asked.

"Go!" was his only reply.

As Manda ran from the house to call the younger children, she was startled to hear a shrill cry from within the little hut.

"Manda!" her father called after her, "send Isik to get your

grandmother, the witch doctor."

Manda ran. "I will take the little ones to the Wycliffe missionaries' house." She turned and called to her 12-year-old brother. "You get Grandmother and then come to us." Isik scrambled across the river toward the grandmother's hut.

On reaching the missionaries' house the children were soon occupied with the wonders of Marty Walrod's new red wagon. Even two-year-old Toby Walrod proudly pointed to its pretty wheels. The Filipino boys had never seen anything like it. There was also a buzz of activity around the new building. However, Mike Walrod the missionary, and his helper kept their attention on the translation of the Gospel of Mark, the first book of the New Testament to be written in the Ga'dang tribal language.

Manda told the Walrods all that had happened since noon. The slender, attractive, young missionary turned to her husband, "Mike, if Manda's mother is still in labor, there's no doubt she's having twins. You know what the Ga'dang beliefs require." This was stated in English.

"Did you say your father sent for the witch doctor, Manda?" Mike asked the wide-eyed native girl.

"Somebody has to help my mother. It must be a woman," she answered, "and my grandmother is a 'doctor.'"

Verna Walrod put her arm around the trembling young native, "We'll pray and talk to our God about it," she said softly in her limited Ga'dang tongue.

This was a new experience for the pagan girl. When her people call on their gods they jump up and

down, shout and bang on gongs and all kinds of noise makers. She watched with interest.

Mike prayed in the Ga'dang language, "Lord God in heaven, You who created these dear people, come and help us right now. We call on you to save this mother's life and the lives of both of her babies. You are stronger than the evil spirits whom they serve, and fear . . . ." He went on talking as if he were speaking to a close friend who was right there in the kitchen.

Then Verna prayed, "Oh my God, if Adig has twins Tabbagon or the witch doctor will have to bury one of them as a sacrifice to quiet the spirits. Please, Jesus, hear our prayers. Not only our prayers, we are so helpless. Tell my mother, tell Daddy back home to pray. My Jesus," she breathed, with tears flooding her cheeks, "tell the people in my church at home to pray for these dear Ga'dang people right now! Bring glory to Your name out of what could be tragedy. In Jesus' name."

Manda couldn't understand Verna's English prayer; but was astonished at the short, quiet prayer Mike added in her native language. "Thank you, Savior, for hearing and answering our prayers. Through Jesus' merits. Amen."

The next morning the grandmother bustled around the jungle hut. Children quarreled, and two babies cried. The air in the tiny room was hot, humid, and heavy with a repulsive odor. Manda placed one baby at its mother's breast as hot tears rolled silently down the older woman's tired face.

The grandmother held out the other baby to his father. "I had hoped this would never happen in our family. But it did," the old woman rasped. "This baby has



brought a curse on someone in this hut. Quick, Tabbagon, take him and that basin. They must be buried right fast. Death took my man when the moon was big. The spirits are angry, do not keep them waiting. They may take you today."

Tabbagon stood motionless. The old woman shuffled over to their fetish shelf, holding the screaming, kicking infant high over her head in her withered, leather-like hand and with her free hand she picked up an iron rod and banged furiously on a sheet of galvanized metal, which was put there for that purpose. With that, her shrill voice shouted over the noise of the crying baby and barking dogs.

"Oh great spirit, we give you this wretched child. Hear me, great one! And lift the curse, LIFT THE CURSE! LIFT THE CURSE!"

Tabbagon took the baby, looked at him and hesitated. Turning, he laid the tiny infant in Manda's arms, as the astonished and terrified grandmother-witch doctor looked on. With a determined step the tall man picked up the offensive basin with its swarm of black flies, reached for a shovel and closed the loose mesh door behind him.

Manda's heart swelled as she felt the tiny, warm body. "Listen to me, my little brother." She spoke to the tiny form who quietly lay in her arms. "Our father must be thinking about uncle Sandayaw's talk. He has a brave and strong God. Do not be afraid, tiny one."

Minutes later when the father returned, his wife lay nursing her two sons.

"My mind feels good now, Father." Manda smiled shyly.

"I must learn more about Sandayaw's powerful God who lives," was the warrior's only reply.

The old grandmother-witch doctor in the above story, because she was also a spirit medium, had close contact with the frightening spirits. Therefore, she was more fearful than the other members of her family. Since this incident took place in 1975 the grandmother also has surrendered her life to the God who lives, accepting Jesus Christ as the sacrifice she needed. Her fears and omens have disappeared.

Mike Walrod, missionary under Wycliffe Bible Translators, and his native helpers have steadily worked on their task of putting the Ga'dang

language into writing and then the Bible into print in their tribal tongue. They have now completed the New Testament. Wycliffe has organized literacy programs with full-time accredited teachers to instruct the Ga'dang people to read their language. As the natives become sufficiently trained in reading and writing, they will replace the white teachers. The aim of the missionary organization is to establish indigenous school teachers and Bible teachers from among their own tribespeople.

So greatly has the Word of God spread in that northern jungle tribe that six years after the first breakthrough a Wycliffe missionary reports that dozens of families have burned their fetishes. Once-enemy tribes are now enjoying Christian fellowship. They even entertained those neighboring tribespeople in their primitive little huts recently when the community trekked through jungle trailways to attend a Christian convention in the village of Bananao. Former dreaded enemies have asked for forgiveness. They have met the God who lives and loves, and have invited Him into their jungle villages. □

*This picture, which also appeared in the September issue, shows the twins who were spared by God's intervention.*





## Wode, Smith Involved in Auto Accident

**Ivory Coast**—Missionaries Arilla Wode and Alice Smith were involved in a one-car accident on August 26 near Bon-doukou in the Ivory Coast.

According to a letter from Miss Wode, the two women were returning from Doropo to Agnibilekrou when Arilla lost control of the car on a washboard curve. The car turned over, hit a tree, and came to rest right side up.

Alice, who had already been suffering from a whiplash received while on furlough, reinjured her neck in the tumble.

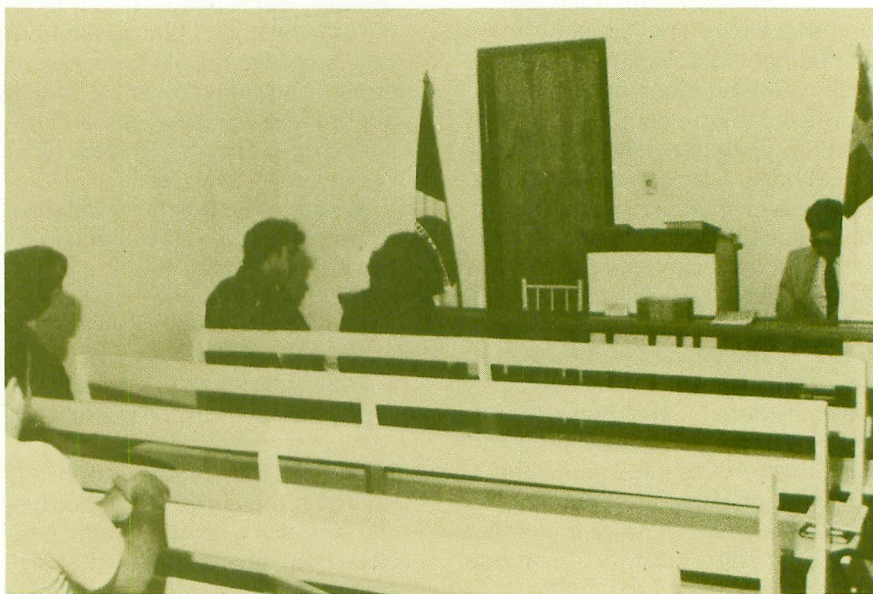
Arilla declared, "Our spinal columns took the brunt of the shock. The roof was caved in and resting on top of my head. I had a bad headache for a while and I had a good knot on the crown of my head."

The two had not been to a doctor when the letter was written, but Wode indicated their physical condition seemed generally okay.

The left rear axle of the car was bent, the windshield was broken out, and the roof was caved in.

## Coscias Lose Some, Gain Others in Need

**Brazil**—Louis and Florine Coscia write from Uberaba: "The most faithful family in the church has moved to the state capital because of a job transfer. Along with the loss we are gaining others.



*Louis Coscia, seated by the pulpit, awaits the arrival of the congregation at Uberaba.*

Several of the new comers have desperate spiritual needs."

According to Louis, one young man arrived late for a recent Sunday night service. When the invitation was given he went to the altar and pleaded with Louis to cast out the many voices in his head which were tormenting him day and night. Louis counseled with him to receive Christ but he couldn't seem to understand.

The Coscias requested special prayer for another man, Djalma, who is an English teacher intellectually inclined toward spiritism. "He is beginning to show an open mind and a good attitude toward the Bible," says Louis.

Dr. Homero, a lawyer in Uberaba, is evidently developing a stronger desire to understand the Scriptures. Chico Xavier, Brazil's most famous spiritist medium, recently claimed to have received a message from the lawyer's deceased wife. Louis had weekly Bible studies with Dr. Homero for several years and had shown him that God forbids communication with the dead. Consequently, he refused to see Xavier and proceeded to dispose of his books.

## Christian Population in Japan Increases Slowly

**Japan**—According to the Kansai Mission research center, the church in Japan has grown just five percent between 1970-1980, much less than in the previous decades.

The total nominal Christian population in 1980, including 416,300 Roman Catholics, was 1,155,235 or slightly under one percent (0.98 percent). Out

of 738,930 Protestants, only 564,585 were active, adult members of the church. Mormons and other cults are also included in the Protestant figures.

Full-time Christian workers in the Protestant churches in Japan in 1980 numbered 13,330 including 2,745 missionaries. Protestant churches have 1,000 kindergartens and 500 nursery schools. They have emphasized literature production and high quality theological education.

From 1950 to 1970 the combined total Christian population growth rate was 189 percent, going from 242,460 to 701,400 during the two ten-year periods.

## Ivory Coast Conference Reported in More Detail

**Ivory Coast**—According to a more detailed report from missionary Robert Bryan, the fourteenth annual conference of Free Will Baptist churches in Ivory Coast (partially divulged in September *Heartbeat*) was held in July at Bouna. Seven regional associations of churches brought reports to the conference, and every session was conducted in French, Lobi, and Koulango.

The young people attending the conference, mostly high-school and junior-college age youth, formed a national youth organization. This is intended to encourage Free Will Baptist young people to live for the Lord and to give them a sense of identity. The first major undertaking of the group will be a retreat and training seminar combined with an evangelistic outreach during the February school vacation.

The churches, through their dele-

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(Top) Delegates hear a church report given in three languages during the annual FWB conference at Bouna, Ivory Coast, and (bottom) Christians fellowship together at the conference.

gates, voted unanimously to join the Evangelical Publication Center in Abidjan. Though probably more than half the members of Free Will Baptist churches in Ivory Coast do not read French, they felt it important to share in the EPC ministry. The Center is the only French language publishing house serving all of West and Central Africa that publishes Biblically sound materials.

Regional association reports revealed two evangelistic trips to villages previously untouched by the gospel, one church building under construction, and two others in the planning stage.

The report of giving for the weekly Koulango radio broadcast over ELWA showed that gifts more than met the expenditures for the year even though costs doubled. Offerings for the year totaled more than \$1,300.

## Turnboughs Start Studies of Spanish Language

*Spain*—Jeff and Susan Turnbough have been taking Spanish lessons from a private tutor in Spain. Their formal language school was scheduled to begin on September 27. At that time they were expecting to have classes six hours per day, five days a week.

The Turnboughs report their baggage arrived safely with no customs charges, and they have now moved into a third-floor apartment.

## Evangelistic Effort Nets Eight Converts in Tanda

*Ivory Coast*—Eight young men made professions of faith in Christ as a result of a six-day evangelistic campaign in Tanda, Ivory Coast, near the end of

August. The special outreach was carried on by missionary Robert Bryan and five young men (four students and one teacher) who had received training in a special Bible institute program offered by Jimmy Aldridge.

More than 500 tracts were distributed by the team who also gave an explanation of the plan of salvation. Mornings and afternoons were spent going out two by two and talking to people in the streets or visiting homes. At night, one service was held at the youth center by two team members while the other four went to present the gospel more fully in a courtyard (a common yard enclosed by several dwellings) where they had been invited.

The team was invited to two Muslim courtyards and was well received although no professions of faith were recorded.

Follow-up classes were begun with those converts who could speak French. Some of the Koulango-speaking Christians in the church are working with the new believers who speak only Koulango.

## Mini Reports from Around the Globe

*France*—Joe and Barbara Haas write, "Pray that we can 'readjust' quickly to the culture of France as we attempt by His help to begin another FWB church in the same city in cooperation with the mother church in Rennes. Pray God will provide His wisdom in finding a suitable building."

*Japan*—A group of young people from the Iriso Free Will Baptist Church in the  
Continued on page 10→

## Address Changes

These missionaries have new addresses since the publication of the 1982-83 Foreign Missions Directory:

Walter and Marcia Ellison  
Casilla de Correo 6787  
Montevideo, Uruguay  
South America

Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson  
Mission Protestante Evangelique  
B.P. 24  
Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast  
West Africa

Dennis and Trena Owen  
Avenida Alcalde de Mosteles 29, 10-A  
Mosteles, (Madrid) Espana

Ron and Linda Callaway  
c/o Pintor Salvador Dali 4  
2º D.iz.  
Mosteles, (Madrid) Espana





→Continued from page 9

Tokyo area of Japan visited the Free Will Baptist works on the northern island of Hokkaido during the week of August 13-20. Fred Hersey drove a 26-passenger bus to carry the group there and back. Special services were conducted at various points during the trip.

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Individuals desiring to contribute to the publication of the book written by Miss Laura Belle Barnard should send money designated to "Barnard Book," P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

**Spain**—Lonnie Sparks reported at the end of August, "Just two weeks ago, Gregorio, a young preacher boy, won his brother to the Lord." Eight people have been saved in the Alcala work since the first of the year.

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Tim Pinkerton, 19-year-old son of Jerry and Carol Pinkerton of the Ivory Coast, underwent surgery September 14 in Nashville. This was to be the final surgery to correct scarring which resulted from an automobile accident in Switzerland in August of 1973.

**Albania**—According to a report in *The Church Around the World*, refugees from Albania indicate a small number of believers are meeting secretly despite a complete ban on all religion. Anyone in Albania possessing a Bible can, by law, be shot on sight. Three Christian organizations broadcast the gospel into Albania.

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Jim and Vicki Sturgill and Jim and Karen Cowart arrived in the United States on September 29 from Brazil to begin furlough. The Co-

warts had planned to leave Brazil in October or November, but due to their baby's illness, they decided to leave early with the Sturgills.

**Panama**—Thieves stole over \$300 worth of church-owned items from the Free Will Baptist church at Betania on July 16. According to Steve Lytle, the home of one of the church families had been burglarized two weeks earlier while they were in Sunday school.

**Brazil**—Louis Coscia, in Uberaba, Brazil, has been having some trouble with his eyes. He has glaucoma and the pressure has increased in both eyes. Christians have been requested to pray that medication might effectively relieve this pressure.

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, is scheduled to leave on November 15 for a two-week visit in Brazil and Uruguay. This will be his first visit to these mission fields.

**Raleigh, N.C.**—Tom Hughes, missionary to Brazil, was scheduled to return to the field on November 3 for a two-month period of encouragement and strengthening of the church in Uberlandia. Since Tom and Nancy have extended their furlough due to their daughter's education needs, Tom felt this time necessary. The church is currently being led by Luiz Tannus, a young Brazilian in the church. Nancy will remain in the States.

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Milton and Martha Crowson, parents of missionaries Susan Turnbough and Allan Crowson, suffered a tragic loss on August 6 when their home in Nashville and all its contents were destroyed by fire. Officials have determined that the loss was due to burglary and arson.

**McAllen, Tex.**—Felix Lima, husband of the former Lucy Wisehart who served as missionary to Cuba, had exploratory surgery recently after doctors discovered a brain tumor.

## Three Area Bible Clubs Give Message to 120

**Brazil**—Open air week-long Bible clubs were held at three different locations in the area of Campinas during the month of July. A total of 100 children and 20 adults heard the message during the daily programs.

Daily vacation Bible school at the new work in Bandeirantes had an average daily attendance of 15 children for two weeks.

Jim and Vicki Sturgill left Brazil on September 28 to begin furlough. They

write, "We have about six men capable of bringing messages in the services and teachers and leaders capable of continuing the Sunday school both in Bandeirantes and at the Campinas church."

The Sturgills hope to be able to spend a short furlough and return to Campinas. They plan to continue the building which was still not completed when they left the country.

## Bible Institute Effective; Christian Finds Theft

**Ivory Coast**—Jimmy Aldridge, reported conducting a Bible institute in August with ten college- or high-school age young people attending. Following the institute program, an evangelistic team of five young men was formed to serve in Tanda (see "Evangelistic Effort").

Aldridge also disclosed another young man of the group had uncovered an embezzlement plot. While serving as secretary-treasurer of his farm cooperative, the boy was able to recover \$18,000 that a buyer was trying to steal from them.

Jimmy writes, "He was one more surprised Moslem thief when he got caught by a 22-year-old Christian boy!"

## 815 Evangelical Assemblies Reported in Portugal

**Portugal**—Among approximately ten million citizens in Portugal, an optimistic estimate considers close to 50,000 of them as evangelicals, only .5 percent of the population. These comprise 815 evangelical churches and preaching points with an average of 33 members each.

## Lytle Reports Growth in Betania Church

**Panama**—According to missionary Steve Lytle the church in Betania has averaged "right at 50" for preaching service for the past four months with a high attendance of 67. He also praised God for "more consistency among our people."

Lytle noted that a young woman about 23 years of age accepted Christ on August 1 and on September 30 he led the middle-aged lady to the Lord. Seven new converts have attended baptism classes and were scheduled to be baptized on October 10.

Bienvenido Perez, a 1979 graduate of Rio Grande Bible Institute, is serving as assistant pastor at Betania and "is doing a fine job," Lytle states.

In another expression of gratitude Steve reported that most of the families in the church are now tithing. A monthly

## Special Gifts

These people gave special gifts in September:

Donor	In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Highbarger Kirkville, Mo.	Rev. George I. Stitt

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_





Ledgel Ferguson teaches a Bible lesson to a group of Ghanaians in Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast.

budget of \$357 was adopted on September 19. This includes a partial salary for Perez, a monthly tithe to the Panama Association of Free Will Baptists, and a designated amount will go for their newly-created building fund.

The Lytles requested prayer as they seek to find additional space for their growing congregation. Some additional space can be gained if they knock out a wall in the present rented building. Eventually, the church must decide whether to buy and enlarge the building, buy property elsewhere and build, or relocate and pay rent on another larger building.

Steve and Judy also requested special prayer for several unsaved men with whom they have been working: Abilio Ledesma, Jorge Peraza, and a young college student named Eric.

## Thieves, Lightning Strike Pooles' Home

**Brazil**—Thieves entered the house of Bobby and Geneva Poole on August 21 in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil. They stole an estimated \$1,500 in personal belongings.

In addition to this loss, lightning struck in their area and burned out their hot water heater and the television.

Having already suffered loss when their house in Ribeirao Preto was vandalized while they were on furlough, the Pooles had reason to be discouraged. Instead, they declared, "We hope to use these to grow spiritually."

Bobby announced a new class for young married couples started August 29 in their church. He also expressed

praise for the recent conversion of the parents of Maurilio, a Brazilian boy attending Free Will Baptist Bible College in the United States.

## Callaway, Owen to Begin Work in Mostoles

**Spain**—Ron Callaway has revealed plans to team up with Dennis Owen in launching a new work in the city of Mostoles, a suburb of Madrid.

The Callaways have already moved to Mostoles which has a population of over 150,000, comprised mostly of high-rise apartments. Ron noted the city has only two or three small evangelical churches. Then he added, "On our side of town there is a large Mormon group but no evangelical church."

The two missionary families have already met many people and are praying for their salvation. They requested Christians in the U.S. to pray with and for them. Also pray for Linda Callaway as she teaches Rachel the first grade at home this year.

## Ghanaian Christian Starts Personal Witness Effort

**Ivory Coast**—One of the men in the Ghanaian group in Agnibilekrou recently became convicted about not witnessing. He challenged both his English-speaking group and the French-speaking group with their responsibility to share the gospel.

According to Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson, "Now both groups are meeting together twice a month for evangelistic outreach. They pass out tracts and

witness to anyone who will listen. The first week, two people prayed to accept Christ and several expressed interest in hearing more. These were revisited on the second outreach."

The Fergusons asked Christians to pray that Ivory Coast believers might become more enthusiastic and hearts all over Agnibilekrou might be prepared to receive their message.

## Financial Summary

Through September 30

### Substance

Receipts in September .....	\$ 172,657.53
Total receipts through September .....	1,530,318.60
Total disbursements through September ..	1,680,796.45
Projected receipts through September .....	1,647,860.94
Total 1982 Budget .....	\$2,197,148.00

### Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Allen .....	\$ 612.61	Metcalf .....	\$ 254.00
Banks .....	1,975.20	Miley .....	5,750.65
Bishop .....	4,919.08	Moser .....	3,986.87
Caton .....	12,204.70	Nichols .....	243.95
Cowart .....	1,133.96	Owen .....	7,075.97
Crowson .....	4,856.49	Payne .....	636.11
Daniel .....	29.00	Pinkerton .....	1,033.90
Deeds .....	4,825.60	Riggs .....	106.26
Ellison .....	2,290.87	South India .....	3,413.59
Filkins .....	9,401.90	Sparks .....	1,829.62
Gibbs .....	4,259.95	Sturgill .....	3,410.38
Hanna .....	1,564.68	McCullough .....	974.07
Hersey .....	7,542.55	Vanhook .....	1,211.51
Incoe .....	5,200.49	Webb .....	3,422.58
McLain .....	2,603.02	Wiley .....	1,109.19
Total .....			\$97,878.75

### State Quotas

State	Quota 1982	Quota thru Sept.	Receipts thru Sept.
Alabama	\$ 133,000	\$ 99,750	\$ 100,807.08
Arizona	2,500	1,875	1,535.01
Arkansas	103,000	77,250	88,451.36
California	65,000	48,750	27,188.77
Colorado	4,500	3,375	1,701.63
Florida	61,000	45,750	41,671.00
Georgia	70,000	52,500	50,120.27
Hawaii	1,000	750	145.32
Idaho	1,000	750	362.24
Illinois	73,000	54,750	46,921.17
Indiana	18,000	13,500	11,678.21
Iowa	1,000	750	170.00
Kansas	12,000	9,000	7,408.45
Kentucky	57,000	42,750	46,921.17
Louisiana	1,000	750	00.00
Maryland	10,000	7,500	6,156.45
Michigan	100,000	75,000	61,603.33
Minn.	500	375	208.55
Miss.	31,000	23,250	21,117.25
Missouri	130,000	97,500	107,264.32
Montana	1,000	750	551.11
N. Mexico	500	375	324.92
*NE Assn.	5,000	3,750	4,511.85
**NW Assn.	8,000	6,000	5,167.50
N. Carolina	312,000	234,000	212,108.68
Ohio	68,000	51,000	63,625.29
Oklahoma	282,000	211,500	173,192.96
Penn.	1,000	750	1,417.60
S. Carolina	140,000	105,000	106,378.00
Tennessee	282,000	211,500	209,727.54
Texas	55,000	41,250	34,939.60
Virginia	85,000	63,750	57,574.59
Virgin Is.	3,000	2,250	377.44
W. Virginia	77,000	57,750	46,661.82
Other States	3,148	2,361	460.70
Total	\$2,197,148	\$1,647,860	\$1,538,279.74

\*Northeast Association  
New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine,  
Connecticut, Washington, D.C.,  
Massachusetts, and Canada

\*\*Northwest Association  
Alaska, Oregon, and Washington



# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Post Office Box 1088  
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

**Administrative Staff:** Rolla D. Smith, general director; R. Eugene Waddell, associate director; Harold Critcher, director of finance; Don Robirds, director of communications.

**Board of Foreign Missions:** Bill Jones, chairman; Bob Trimble, vice-chairman; Jim Walker, secretary; Fred Warner, Dan Cronk, J. Reford Wilson, Bill Fulcher, Joe Ange, Norwood Gibson.

Please clip and send this label with all correspondence.

## Why not make God's Son your main gift this Christmas?

Millions of people around the globe have never known a Christmas because they have never heard of Christ. Life for them is void of the joy which Jesus came to give. They don't have the hope or life that He alone can offer. Can you give a gift to a friend and not share your greatest Friend with the untold millions? Send your gift today! Remember, this year-end gift is tax deductible.

( ) Here is my gift to make God's Son my main gift this Christmas.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply this money to the following account:

- ( ) general fund  
( ) missionary  
( ) cassette ministry

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_