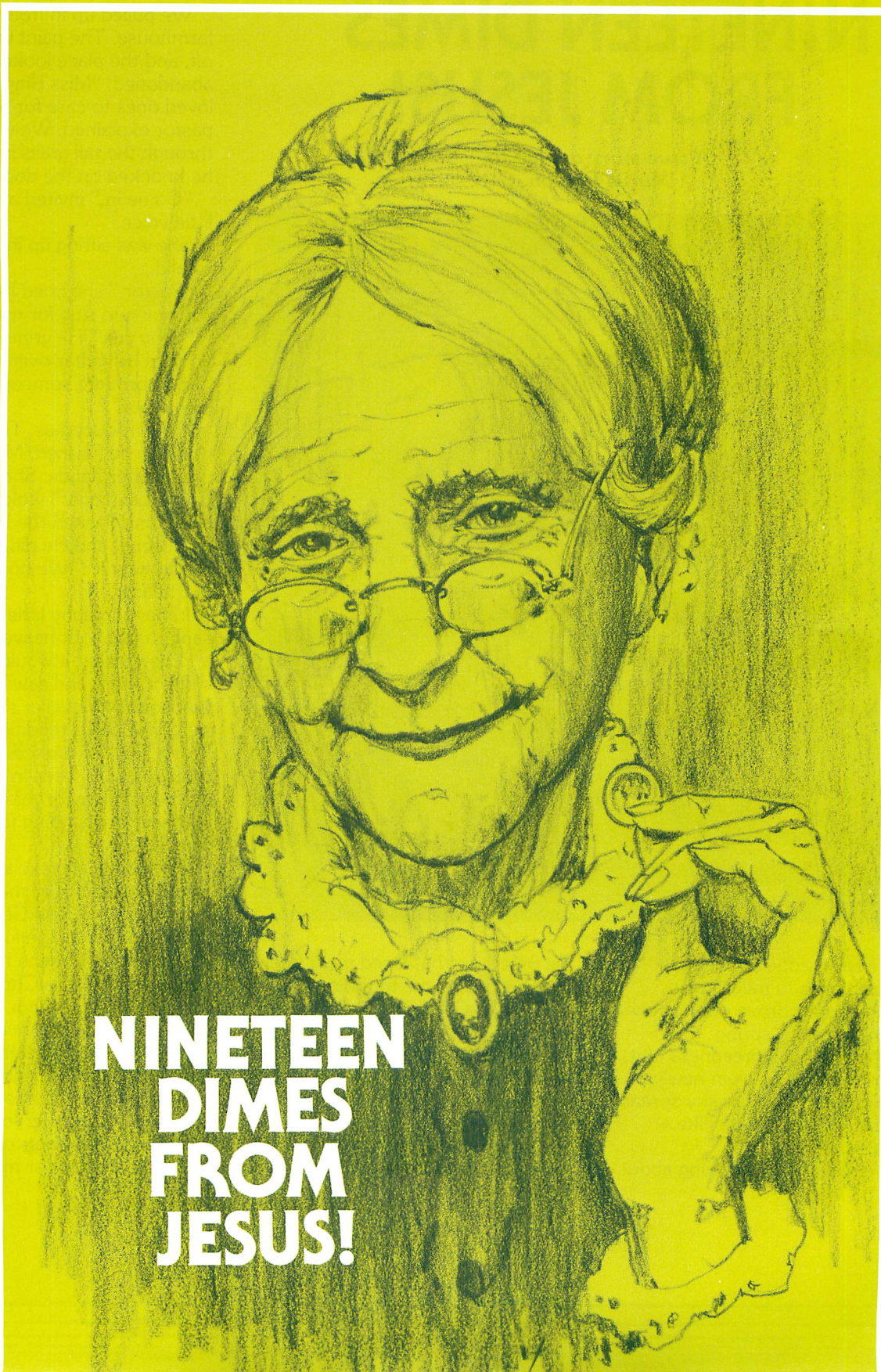


HEARTBEAT

MARCH 1983

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



**NINETEEN
DIMS
FROM
JESUS!**

NINETEEN DIMES FROM JESUS!

*A true story as told to
Muriel Larson*



There's someone special I want you to meet," said our pastor as we drove out into the country that warm spring afternoon. The lush greenness of it, the splashes of color from newly opened flowers, the blue sky spread with white clouds worked like a balm on my soul.

But I couldn't help thinking about

the problems that faced me. I knew God had called me to the mission field. By His leading, I had recently resigned the church I had started and built up. We had debts to pay off, however. And in May we had received our last remuneration, our last salary checks from the school where my wife and I taught. We were at a low point financially.

We pulled up in front of an old farmhouse. The paint was peeling off, and the place looked abandoned. "Miss Bingham has no loved ones to care for her," the pastor explained. We walked through the tall grass in front, and he knocked on the door.

"Come in," invited a screechy little voice.

She was sitting up in bed—an invalid.

"Pastor," she cried happily, "are you going to sing for me today?"

"Why yes." He grinned as he hooked his guitar over his shoulder. "And I brought someone here to meet you."

He introduced us. Then he sang.

When he finished, Miss Bingham clasped her hands. She glowed all over. "Last night I woke up," she said, "and I asked the Lord to give me a song, and He did. Would you like to hear it?" We nodded our heads.

In her screechy little voice she sang to us about heaven and Jesus and how sweet it would be when she got there and saw Him. To me that sounded lovelier than many a rich, melodious rendition I had heard. For as I looked at her, I thought I saw Jesus in her face.

Then the pastor told her, "Our brother here is going to the mission field."

"You are!" she exclaimed. "Oh, how wonderful! Tell me about it."

So I told her how God had called me and about all the folks in Central America who had never heard about Jesus Christ and what He had done for them.

Her face clouded over as I talked, and tears began streaming down her face. "I can't imagine anybody not knowing about Jesus," she sobbed. "I want everyone to know Him like I do! I want to help you."

"You can pray for me."

"No, I want to do more than that," she exclaimed. "My purse is over there on the dresser, Pastor. Please hand it to me, if you will."

As she opened up her purse, she said, "I don't have much—only a few dimes to pay a boy to start my fire for me each day. But somehow I'll get that fire started! Put out your hand, Brother Garlick!"

She reached into her purse, pulled out a dime, and put it in my hand—then another, and another. She counted them—19 dimes. It was all she had. She gave me every one!

Tears started streaming down my face, as well as the pastor's. My heart cried out, *I can't take her last little bit!* But as I looked into her sweet, sincere face, I knew I couldn't refuse it. For I felt I was receiving these dimes from the hand of Jesus!

She said, "I don't have much—only a few dimes to pay a boy to start my fire . . . But somehow I'll get it started!"

As we walked toward the car, I knew what the Lord wanted me to do with those dimes. "Pastor," I said, "I am not going to spend these dimes. I am going to keep them in this envelope. I feel they are from the hand of Jesus. And I am going to use them to win victory after victory for the Lord!"

Those dimes really encouraged my faith! I felt the Lord had led that dear lady to give them to me as a sign that He would supply every need we had and would soon enable us to go forth for Him to the mission field. And He did.

While we attended language school in Mexico, I became very ill

with amoebic dysentery. Over a period of seven weeks neither of the two medicines the doctor was able to prescribe for this problem seemed to work. Cramps doubled me over.

"Lord," I cried, "I came down here to serve You. If I die, I can't do that!" I took out the 19 dimes. "Miss Bingham is trusting me to win souls for You. Please help this second medicine to start working and heal me!" During the following week I completely recuperated.

There were many discouraging things that happened after we got to the mission field. Wherever God is working, so is the devil. But as I took various problems to the Lord in prayer, I thought of the 19 dimes Jesus had given me through Miss Bingham and had faith that He wouldn't let me down in anything! And He didn't.

We started a Sunday school in Santa Tecla. A number of men, women, and children trusted in Christ as Savior. Three months after our coming, I began a Bible institute to train the men for Christian service. Several men who had been in false sects started attending. Before long I had the feeling that trouble was brewing.

I spent the whole night in prayer about it. The 19 dimes reminded me that God was on the throne, and my faith soared. In the morning I learned that the troublemakers had left.

"They tried to get us to leave last night," Carlos said. "But we told them, 'Let us all search our Bibles and see who is telling the truth.' After studying half the night, we found that you were, Hermano Garlick. Those two got angry then, and they left."

God had answered my prayers sent up in faith and had saved the school.

When we came back to the States on furlough, our pastor took me to see Miss Bingham again. She was at a rest home. As the pastor reminded her who I was, I stepped up by her bed. She threw her arms around me and kissed my cheek. "Did a lot of folks come to know the Lord down there?" she asked.

"Yes, many did," I answered. "and four Sunday schools, a church, and a Bible institute were started. On the Sunday before I came home the combined attendance in the four Sunday schools was 688."

We had a wonderful time rejoicing in the Lord together.

But all at once she started sobbing. "Miss Bingham," I said, "why are you crying?"

"Because I don't have any more dimes to give you!" she answered.

"That's all right," I said. "What you did in giving me those 19 dimes accomplished far more than you can ever imagine. I still have them—and they are going to go on helping me get many more victories."

And they have. Truly, "little is much when God is in it!"

Muriel Larson is a free lance writer in Greenville, S.C.

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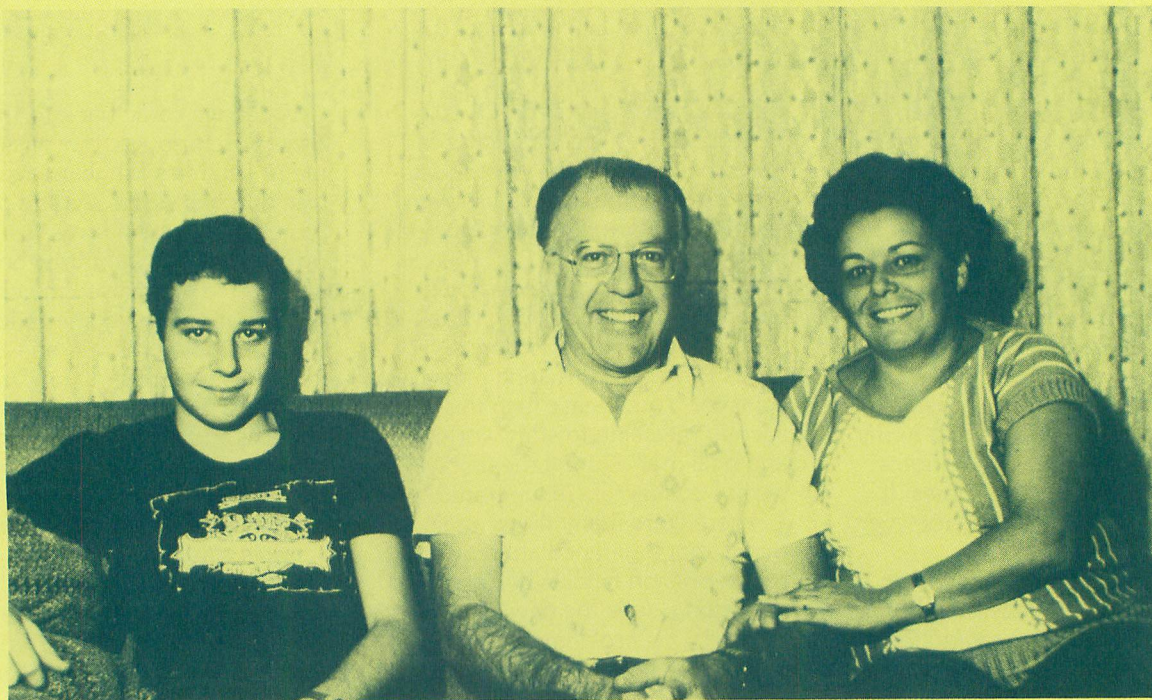
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From Folly To Faith...

—An atheist tells how he found faith in Christ.

by Rogerio Stehling

A materialistic atheist! That's what I had always been. I studied the controversial theories of creation, seeking to explain things scientifically, just for the sake of argument. In reality, I was an atheist simply because I had no idea of God nor His operation in my life. My heretical views led me to ridicule and make fun of those who talked of faith and Christianity.

Then, a 55-year-old friend of mine became very ill. He was sent from our hometown of Barbacena, Brazil, to Rio de Janeiro to undergo surgery for a brain tumor. And,

although he survived the operation, he became a vegetable.

When I learned that he was so ill and had only a short time to live, I became very bitter with life and suffered a great deal as I struggled with it. The two of us had lived a life of what we thought was happiness: good times, drinking, joking, having fun, being indecent, and enjoying pornography.

At that time, I had a good job, a good family, good health, and everything in life was just fine for me. I had all that I wanted and these things made me very happy. I

just didn't seem to have any major problem; therefore, I didn't need God.

But on discovering the severity of my friend's illness, I began speaking to a God that I didn't even believe in. I'd ask Him to bring some good to this friend of mine if He really did exist. I prayed something like this: "Look, God, if You really do exist, if You are full of mercy, if You are love, if You are caring like they say You are, then heal this friend of mine."

My friend and his situation were constantly on my mind, so the next

thing I knew, I would try to say a word of prayer for him. This seeking of God, even though conditional, was very good for me. It brought me a lot of comfort.

One day previous to this, as I passed in front of the cemetery, some Christians were distributing tracts. Though en route to work, I stopped and asked them for one of the little booklets. It happened to be the Gospel of John and was entitled *Do You Believe?* I read it and was blessed by it.

Then, while I was going through the struggle over my friend, missionary Bobby Aycock had a special series of services at the Free Will Baptist church in Barbacena. He was my neighbor, and he invited me to the services. So, I accepted his invitation.

I went to many services after that without missing. Then, one rainy Wednesday night, I went to church having determined that morning that I would go forward at the invitation. I had already decided in my own heart to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I had come to realize that He was not just a hippie, not just a revolutionary of His time, and not a politician who was revolting against the politics of Rome. He was not just a historic Christ, but He was Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

That night I went to the service with great anticipation. All of those attending that evening were Christians, myself excepted. Due to the rain, only a few people were present. Consequently, Brother Aycock did not give an invitation at the end of the service. So, I got a little discouraged because no opportunity was extended. I even began to wonder, "Well, maybe Jesus doesn't want me to accept Him."

Brother Aycock noticed that I appeared somewhat saddened so he asked me, "Is something bothering you? Why are you so depressed?"

I explained that he had not given

an invitation, and I wanted to be saved that night. He clarified that I could accept the Lord that night and make it public even without an official invitation. So, he showed me again, in the Word, how I could accept Christ into my life.

That was truly a magnificent night! My life was changed! I seemed to be walking lighter. I didn't have the worries I had before. Disgust disappeared and I began experiencing a new type of happiness. I had seemed to be fairly happy before and had lived a happy-go-lucky life, but this was different. This really gave meaning and purpose to life. I enjoyed true happiness and peace, the kind I had not experienced as an unsaved person.

On discovering the severity of my friend's illness, I began speaking to a God that I didn't even believe in.

Since I had this new happiness, I took on a different life-style. My wife, Celia, noticed this transformation. She had already been attending church, but she gradually came to recognize Jesus Christ as the Lord who wanted to save her. So, she also accepted Him as her Savior.

Soon after my wife made her decision, Luciane, Marcos, and Renato—three of my four children—one by one, all received Christ. Then my mother-in-law was saved. Now we have a happy Christian family which has purpose and hope. We try to keep and defend the faith as a family.

As for my friend, little by little he began showing improvement. Today, he is back in Yugoslavia, his country, and is living a normal life, completely healed. That, of course, was a miracle in his life. But I believe the transformation in my life

was the greater miracle. God actually did answer that cry to Him, but even more than that, He saved me from the shackles of a life of sin.

Before my conversion, I used to make fun of Christian people and Christianity. When I got saved, I asked the Lord Jesus to use me. I wanted His will to be done in my life.

God has honored that prayer. Through a course in the Bible institute that Brother Aycock offered at our church, and through the natural ability that God has given me, I have become involved in personal evangelism. And I do enjoy this. God is my witness! I try to share the gospel with every person I meet. At work or wherever I am, and whomever I talk to, I try to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God has blessed in this effort and I've been able to see some fruit.

Some people have come to me in time of great anguish and great sorrow. Having heard what Christ had done in my life, they came and wanted me to share the gospel with them. Some of these have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, and their lives have been transformed. Others received comfort but never really made a decision.

A couple of people came to me when they were on the brink of committing suicide. They were able to find comfort in the Word of God. Unfortunately, I cannot say they have decided to follow Christ. But, I am praying they will be saved soon.

I have also been able to help with a work that we began in the city of Carandai, close to the factory where I work. However, we ran into some difficulties and had to close the work there. Now, I am helping in the work in the city of Antonio Carlos, about 15 kilometers from Barbacena. As the Lord's witness, I hope to visit and promote this work with the idea of establishing a church there. □

Rogério Stehling is an Industrial Engineer specializing in electronics. He is a member of the Free Will Baptist church in Barbacena, Brazil.

Tension mounted. Faces turned red and backs ruffled. Missionaries were hassling over the annual field budget and specifically over the pro-rated field expenditures.

"My account can't stand a \$50-a-month vehicle replacement charge," someone snorted.

"Why do we need so much for field council meetings?" complained another.

"My account's already in the red," chimed still another. "Why do we have a literature fund?"

And so it went at the annual field council session in Brazil that day many years ago. It probably was echoed in various other field council meetings around the globe.

Missionaries are sensitive about their mission accounts! And rightly

so. You see, each missionary is responsible to gather from among Free Will Baptist churches enough regular monthly support to maintain his family and ministry (building rental, literature, evangelists, films, automobile expenses, radio broadcasts, etc.) for a full four- or five-year term on the field. And when that mission account dips dangerously toward the crimson, a panic signal darts to the brain: "You'll have to raise that much more when you get home. And you might not get back to the field on time!"

Just like the federal budget or anyone's personal budget, when funds aren't on hand they must be borrowed to pay the bills. So, in reality the missionary's account temporarily borrows from the over-

all balance of missions monies. Money is not transferred from one missionary account to another to cover deficits. And there is a limit to the number of missionary accounts that can be carried in the red.

Problems had been minimal in this system until about four or five years ago. When prices soared around the world and the economy became anything but stable, missionaries had to face a dilemma of gigantic proportions: "How can I raise \$25,000 cash when it costs my account 20 cents a mile plus other expenses to get the 25 grand?"

The answer isn't simple. No one can really answer it except the Free Will Baptists scattered across our land. Deficits really belong to them. That means you and me, fellow



For Moles Or MISSIONARIES?

by Don Robirds

Free Will Baptists!

By helping missionaries cut down on travel expenses and furlough time, we can help the missionary accounts to stabilize and grow. Some churches or individuals can provide free housing for missionary families during furlough. Others can offer to help defray transportation costs to and from their church in addition to regular missionary offerings, etc.

Taking on special projects can also be a positive approach: Some churches raise air fare to and from the field. Others may opt to cover on-the-field costs such as automobile purchase, monthly housing costs, children's education costs, furniture, appliances, equipment, literature, radio broadcasts, etc.

Churches and individuals can make special efforts to underwrite missionaries from their own state or area. In other words, make the Regionalized Support Plan a priority to assure missionaries of less travel while on deputation.

Sometimes a Christian businessman might provide a gasoline credit card for a period of time. This would cover travel expenses which would normally be charged to a missionary account.

Estimates indicate only about 70 percent of money committed through the faith promise or other means is actually received. Pastors might shore up this loss by conscientiously and cautiously reminding their people on a regular basis.

Sometimes church or state treasurers delay sending the money given. This contributes to deficit spending since travel expenses have already been charged to the account long before the contribution arrives.

Add to all of this the costs due to preferences of pastors and churches. By that I mean the strong and abiding conviction that missionary X or Y or WHOEVER is the right choice for the missionary services in the church. Even though missionary A or B might be free

and much closer, neither would be accepted. The personal preference in this case demands extra expense, often without providing money to offset the added costs.

If churches would take advantage of audiovisuals, telephone communication, cassette tape possibilities, etc., and still respond

Foreign Missions Month provides an opportunity to relieve missionary deficits.

financially and prayerfully, this could go a long way toward alleviating the deficit burden.

Most people agree that nothing actually takes the place of a personal contact by the missionary. But sometimes it is impractical and unnecessary. With the development of more and better audiovisual materials, churches can have the benefit of mission-field exposure and challenge without the outlay for missionary travel. (Several new audiovisual presentations will be ready for use shortly. Contact the foreign missions office for information.)

Using the telephone wisely, a church can have the benefit of the missionary's personal challenge even without his presence. If the missionary is in the States, it should be relatively inexpensive to work out a telephone hookup to the public address system. Then, a long-distance two-way conversation could be monitored by the entire church. The same could be worked out for an overseas call. The expense would still be less than travel at 20 cents per mile.

Cassette-taped messages and/or slides from the missionary on the field can be used effectively and economically to challenge Christians without the actual missionary presence. These materials can inform church members of God's work among

Free Will Baptist missionaries and can stimulate financial response with minimal cost.

Some churches have found a missionary revival effective. A missionary or a foreign missions staff member could be the evangelist. A particular missionary or field might be emphasized and the week's offerings could go accordingly. By using one missionary or one staff member over a longer period of time, travel expenses are kept to a minimum. Sometimes this will serve even better than a week-long, round-robin missionary conference featuring several speakers. And it provides more time to get personally acquainted with the missionary or staff member.

Whatever the situation may be in your local church, the facts must be faced as they are: Deficit accounts are really yours and mine. They don't belong to the missionary. So, who will ultimately pay the bill? We will! And we can pay it now without the extra expenses mentioned, or pay it later when it costs us twice as much.

As Christians assume the responsibility to keep abreast of missionary account needs, deficit problems can be eliminated.

Foreign Missions Month provides an opportunity to relieve missionary deficits. Throughout the month of April, missions emphasis can help to stimulate interest and concern. Then, Call-a-thon offerings reported on April 24 can wipe out the deficits.

As we maintain missionary accounts in the black through these special efforts, we will be equipping the missionaries for greater service, saving the Lord's money, and relieving the missionaries' tensions.

Deficits! In the hole! These expressions can be discontinued if we learn the real meaning of stewardship and sacrifice. Otherwise we'll keep paying, and paying, and paying, and paying. And remember, moles, not people, live in a hole. Missionaries can't survive there for long.



Bobby Poole congratulates Antonio Silva, the first graduate of the seminary program, as he receives his diploma from the Seminary and Bible Institute of Ribeirao Preto, Brazil. Geneva Poole looks on.

Graduation Exercises Held at Ribeirao Preto Institute

Brazil—Graduation exercises were held on December 12 at the Seminary and Bible Institute of Ribeirao Preto, Brazil.

Antonio Flausino de Almeida Silva became the first to graduate from the seminary program. He received the diploma in Bible and Theology with an average for the four years of 9.1. Missionary Bobby Poole noted that while others had graduated from the Bible institute program, Antonio is the first to graduate from the seminary.

Before his conversion, Antonio had planned to study nuclear physics and would have been in Germany during this past year working on his master's degree. In his testimony he said that his life and his program of studies was drastically changed when God touched his life. He has been serving as assistant pastor of the Free Will Baptist church in Ribeirao Preto.

During the ceremonies, 12 other students received certificates for subjects studied during 1982.

15 in Agnibilekrou Make Professions, Need Prayer

Ivory Coast—"Fifteen people have prayed recently," writes Alice Smith from Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast. "Only three are showing real signs of repentance," she lamented but urged Christians to pray for those who made the professions of faith.

Alice stated, "The Christians continue to mature in their faith and are sharing in the responsibility of getting the gospel to others. The average attendance at my public school class is 30 and the

children are very hungry for the truth."

Miss Arilla Wode and Alice have been getting settled into their new home. Reports indicate they worked so hard at it that the Africans began to call them "the sisters who work."

Miss Smith requested prayer for the work in Agnibilekrou which includes six Bible study groups, two children's classes, a Christian reading room, evangelistic campaigns, tract distribution and visitation ministry.

Japanese Pastor Brings Students to U.S.

Vera, Okla.—Ben Abe, the pastor of the Higashi Tsukisamu church in Japan, recently brought 11 of his English students to the United States. Five girls and six boys, ranging from fifth grade through second year of college, were housed in the Vera Free Will Baptist Church, Vera, Okla.

The church people helped furnish the food and entertainment for the group. None of the students were Christians but they were exposed to Christian life-style and Christian witness.

Jim and Olena McLain drove to Oklahoma at the end of December and met with the group.

Haases Hold Bible Study; Church Doing Well

France—"We are still rejoicing," write Joe and Barbara Haas from Rennes, France. "God brought in 12 of our neighbors for our first Bible study in our home. All are seeking the Lord Jesus Christ! Please pray with us that they might find Him before we return home."

The Haases expressed gratitude that the French church in Rennes is doing well with their French pastor, Gerard Tynevez. "We have been challenged and blessed by hearing his messages and seeing God work in the hearts of His dear children here."

Joe and Barbara will be returning to the States in May to begin a ministry with Southeastern Free Will Baptist College. They have served under the Department of Foreign Missions since March of 1967.

Flash Flood Nearly Gets Camp Workers

Brazil—When missionary Dave Franks went to the bus station in Belo Horizonte on January 2 to pick up camp workers, a flash flood inundated the downstairs part of the bus station. The two camp workers ran upstairs to safety. Dave was able to get to the station in his car but it took one and one-half hours to make the round trip from his home. It normally takes less than one-half hour.

According to Pat Franks, about 60 people died and thousands were left homeless as a result of the flash flood.

Youth camp was conducted in the Belo Horizonte area from January 3 through 7. Approximately 30 campers were on hand for the camp and all but two of these were Christians. According to Franks, one person was saved and six people dedicated their lives for Christian service. Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, Jr. taught a class daily and preached each night during the camp.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Japan—Oliver Andrew Hersey was born January 7 to Philip and Susan Hersey, son and daughter-in-law of missionaries Fred and Evelyn Hersey in Japan. This is Philip and Susan's first child. He weighed approximately six and one-half pounds.

Brazil—Florine Coscia, missionary wife of Louis Coscia in Uberaba, Brazil, underwent surgery recently for the removal of a tumor. Reports indicated the tumor was benign and that Florine was recovering normally.

Spain—Jeff Turnbough in Spain has requested prayer after learning that he has a torn ligament or cartilage under his kneecap.

Dayton, Tenn.—Tim Pinkerton, son of Jerry and Carol Pinkerton of the Ivory Coast, has entered Bryan College in

Dayton, Tenn. He is planning to pursue the medical field.

Ivory Coast—Clint and Lynette Morgan returned to the Ivory Coast in mid-November after spending two months in France seeking to improve their French.

Brazil—The Free Will Baptist church in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil has elected an all-male board of directors. Bobby Poole noted that these men were spiritual leaders and men of position in the city. They include a dress designer, a medical doctor, a retired army colonel, an economist, a store owner, and a veterinarian.

Brazil—Pat Franks, missionary wife of Dave Franks, underwent a tonsillectomy on December 28 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. According to Dave, "The left side of her throat got infected. She went back to the doctor and he started her back on Ampicillin and an anti-inflammatory medicine." Latest reports indicated she was almost back to normal.

Glennville, Ga.—Miss Laura Belle Barnard, first Free Will Baptist missionary to serve under the current National Association of Free Will Baptists, was scheduled to visit India in February. She was to depart on February 2. This is her first time to return since she left India in 1960.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Ken Robinson, son of missionaries Paul and Amy Robinson in Uruguay, graduated from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on December 10, 1982. Ken graduated with honors, receiving his B.A. degree in art.

Charleston, S.C.—Carlisle and Marie Hanna were scheduled to return to India on February 20. They have been in the United States since April of last year.

Japan—Dale and Sandra Bishop write: "In our October 1982 news and prayer letter we requested prayer for Miss Arai's mother. Since then she has accepted Christ as her personal Savior and has been baptized. Thank you for praying with us."

Nashville, Tenn.—Dock and Norma Caton arrived in the United States on January 31, 1983 to begin their furlough from Spain. They will be living in the Tulsa, Okla., area.

Spain—According to a recent phone call from Ron Callaway in Spain, he and Dennis Owen have located a building in Mostoles, Spain, where they



Herman Hersey, executive secretary-treasurer of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, presents General Director Rolla Smith the first check of the first endowment fund set up through the Foundation.

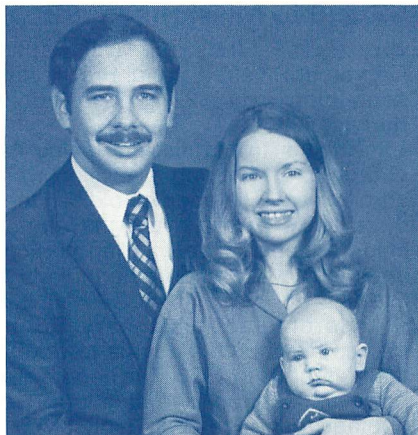
can hold church services. They have urged Christians to pray that God would give them wisdom and help them to make meaningful contacts for salvation.

Dickens Couple Adopts Baby, Plans Departure

Little Rock, Ark.—Patrick and Susan Dickens, missionaries to Ivory Coast, recently became the parents of a baby boy, Joshua Jackson. The boy, theirs by adoption, was born on November 12, 1982.

"We hope to return to Ivory Coast in March of 1983," Dickens stated. "We would appreciate your prayers concerning all the details of packing, visas, immunizations, and the approximately \$6,000 still needed in our mission account."

Patrick and Susan Dickens and their new son, Joshua, hope to leave for Ivory Coast in March.



Foreign Missions Receives First Endowment Check

Nashville, Tenn.—In January, the Department of Foreign Missions received the first check from an endowment fund established with the Free Will Baptist Foundation in Nashville.

This endowment was the first to be set up through the FWB Foundation. It was established by the Cartersville Free Will Baptist Church of Carl Junction, Mo. The church sold property and gave the mortgage note of \$10,000 plus interest at 10 percent to the Foundation to fund the endowment.

While the first check from this endowment was small, it signified the beginning of a potentially valuable program for the National Association. Earnings from the Cartersville endowment are divided equally between foreign missions, the Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greenville, Tenn. and Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Okla.

Herman Hersey, executive secretary-treasurer for the FWB Foundation presented the endowment check to Rolla Smith, general director of foreign missions.

Hersey Reports on New Year's Activities

Japan—Thirty-two people attended a special service on New Year's Day at the Iriso Free Will Baptist Church in Japan.

According to Fred Hersey, "The Japanese usually visit a temple or a shrine during the first few days of the new year. Having a church service gives Christians a good opportunity to

Continued on page 10—>



Missionary Dale Bishop sings with the Gospel Sounds singing group of Japan during the annual Hokkaido Association of Free Will Baptist churches as it convened in the Abashiri church in January.

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start out the year worshipping the true God with other believers."

Hersey also noted that 118 people attended a special Christmas service on December 25. This was a record attendance for the church.

"The old year ended on a good note and 1983 has gotten off to a good start," Fred continued. "The regular Sunday morning service of January 2 had an attendance of 40 people."

One woman attended the service and afterward told Evelyn, "I know nothing about the Bible. Please teach me!"

Ellisons Round up Contacts, Enter Homes

Uruguay—"Montevideo is really growing and glowing," write the Walter Ellisons from Montevideo, Uruguay. "We have rounded up several of the hoped-for contacts and have made an entrance into many homes. Our neighbors are interested in why we chose to come to Uruguay."

Dub and Marcia have been ministering to an 81-year-old granny and her daughter, who are Anglo-Uruguayan neighbors. They requested prayer for this family and for the others they have contacted.

FWB Youth Trained to Be Missionary Pilot

Brazil—Junior Travitzki, of the Araras Free Will Baptist Church in Araras, Brazil, has completed training as a missionary pilot for the Missionary Aviation Fellowship (Asas de Socorro). Junior received his commercial pilot's license recently and will complete his

mechanical course of study in April of this year.

Before proceeding to the Amazon region as a pilot, Junior will work as an instructor at the school in Anapolis, Brazil, during the coming year.

Travitzki's training and future ministry are being supported by FWB churches in Brazil.

Ghanaian Prisoners Receive New Hope

Ghana—Prisoners in Ghana of West Africa have a new opportunity for viewing Christian films due to the efforts of a former prisoner who found Christ while in jail.

According to reports, some 267 inmates had been converted during the first nine months of the past year. Five prison officials and ten political prisoners have received Christ through follow-up Bible classes.

Ribeirao Church Gives \$2,500 to Missions in '82

Brazil—The First Free Will Baptist Church in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, gave something over \$2,500 to missions during 1982.

In addition to this missions giving, the church is sponsoring a mission work across town. The people hold services there twice a week. And the church helps to support three Brazilian missionaries who work among the Indians in Brazil.

According to missionary Bobby Poole, the church's goal is to double their offerings in 1983. The people also hope to take on partial support of another young Free Will Baptist who is now entering mission work.

Report from N. Bengal Appears Encouraging

India—Four days of evangelistic meetings in the North Bengal village of Balurghat, India, have brought in a harvest of 272 first-time inquirers, according to a report in *The Church Around the World*.

In an area with a population of 50,000, the Christian community of 600 was greatly heartened by this response.

Eagleton Reports One Saved as Thigpen Preaches

Brazil—Dr. Charles Thigpen, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, preached in the Araras Free Will Baptist Church in Brazil on November 26.

"We are thankful for Roseliane who was saved at the end of the message," writes Ken Eagleton.

Dr. Thigpen was in Latin America visiting the works in Brazil and Uruguay.

Eagleton noted that the Araras church is still seeking to borrow money to buy property for retreat and camp purposes.

"Even though interest rates are about 250 percent, there just isn't money available to lend," Ken said. "Pray that we will somehow be able to work this out if it is the Lord's will for us to buy this property."

Sparks Reports Decisions, Extension of Ministry

Spain—In a December report from Lonnie and Anita Sparks from Alcala de Henares, Spain, they noted that two people had been saved recently: a mother and a 15-year-old-girl.

Lonnie also noted that a young preacher from their congregation, Jose

Dr. Charles Thigpen stands with missionary Tom Hughes in front of the Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlandia, Brazil.



Manuel, is now serving in military duty. "He and another Christian buddy have started a Bible study," writes Sparks. "One young man has already been saved."

Lonnie and Anita have urged people to pray for their tract distribution ministry and for God's power to be manifest in the salvation of souls.

Bryan Excited About Converts' Enthusiasm

Ivory Coast—"Just before Christmas, five young men made professions of faith," writes Robert Bryan from Tanda, Ivory Coast. "Three of them come from one village, Amanvi, close to Goumere, and had received witness from one of our promising young men presently in Abidjan."

According to Robert, the young men came on a Sunday and returned every time the youth center was open during the week. They asked questions about how to follow God.

"Then on Sunday I gave an invitation," Bryan continued, "and here they came. The Lord had prepared their hearts, and all I did was bring them to the point of decision. They have now returned to Tanda after spending the Christmas vacation in their village, and they are raring to go. It's exciting to work with people who really want to follow the Lord!"

38 Churches Participate in Alabama Conference

Guin, Ala.—Some 38 Free Will Baptist churches participated in the 1983 annual area-wide missionary conference in northwestern Alabama during January 12-26. A total of 25 missionary speakers participated in the annual affair.

According to reports from 30 of the 38 churches (those turned in by February 1), cash offerings had exceeded \$12,500 and faith-promise commitments had reached something over \$5,000 per month. Some pastors indicated theirs to be new commitments only and others included last year's commitments in their figures.

On Saturday, January 22, most of the missionaries participated in the quarterly meeting of the Jasper Association which convened at the Free Water Free Will Baptist Church near Guin, Ala.

Commenting on the conference, one young minister stated, "This conference was a blessing to our whole church but more specifically to the young people." Some pastors indicated it was more "like a revival" for their



Pastor Lamar Cox (standing at the left) of Townley, Ala., shares his testimony of missionary conference blessings as pastors and missionaries listen during a special fellowship dinner in Guin, Ala. on January 19.

churches. "In my opinion it was the best we've had," writes Milton Gann of Liberty FWB Church, Vernon, Ala.

Coordinator for the annual event was Richard Cordell of the Guin FWB Church, Guin, Ala.

Hughes Buys Property, Baptizes New Converts

Brazil—Missionary Tom Hughes, while in Brazil during the months of November and December, purchased a piece of property for the future church site and baptized several new converts on January 2, his last Sunday there.

"We had lost a few people through moving, etc.," writes Tom, "but there were new people attending that I did not know. Several of these had been saved during our absence. Luiz has done an excellent job of leading the church."

The day following the baptismal service, Tom was enabled to lead a lady to the Lord. She is the mother of four of the new converts.

The property cost approximately \$17,000, the amount the church had saved in a land fund.

"Western Pressure" Helps Gain Prisoner Release

Romania—Due to pressure from Western governments and human rights organizations, the Romanian government has released 27 Christians who had been imprisoned for distributing 600,000 Bibles.

The imprisonment of these Christians was discussed during the U.S. House of Representatives' hearings on the renewal of "Most Favored Nation" preferential trading status for Romania.

Prayer Requested for 47th National Association

Ohio—The Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists has requested Christians to pray for the forty-seventh National Association of Free Will Baptists which is scheduled to meet in Columbus, Ohio July 17-21, 1983.

The prayer committee writes: "We urge all Free Will Baptists everywhere to pray much for the success of this session. Pray for the planners, the workers, the speakers and our national leadership."

The Wednesday night missionary speaker at this year's convention will be sponsored by the foreign missions department.

Financial Summary Through January 31 Substance

Total contributions for January	\$ 141,697.55
Total disbursements for January	169,241.88
Projected receipts through January	210,650.60
Total 1983 Budget	2,527,807.00

Contributions for December	\$ 211,283.09
Total income for 1982	2,144,187.64
Total 1982 Budget	2,197,148.00

Shortage

All the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bishop	\$ 5,066.73	McCullough	\$3,349.25
Bunch	2,012.64	Metcalfe	738.71
Caton	11,987.26	Midgett	824.96
Cousineau	378.89	Miley	4,757.83
Cowart	3,640.72	Moser	2,062.54
Crowson	5,446.28	Nichols	2,168.51
Daniel	1,666.57	Owen	2,664.53
Deeds	1,410.32	Sparks	1,552.61
Filkins	9,457.42	Sturgill	1,327.35
Hersey	6,586.60	Sweeney	20.00
Inscow	4,735.24	Vanhook	1,025.05
Lee	3,789.05	Webb	1,925.26
		Wiley	1,879.18
Total			\$80,473.50

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Post Office Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

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.

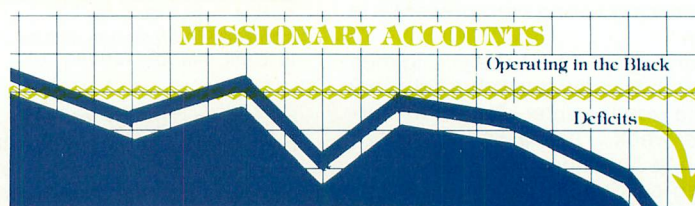
Administrative Staff: Rolla D. Smith, general director; R. Eugene Waddell, associate director; Don Robirds, director of communications.

Please clip and send this label with all correspondence.

WILL THE DEFICIT HOLE GET BIGGER AND DEEPER?

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