

*His Last Command-
Our First Concern...*

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and preach the gospel
to every creature."*

Mark 16:15



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by Bobby Aycock

Deathbed requests carry a compelling force which often changes the entire lives of those for whom the requests are intended. The seriousness of the moment and the finality of the request tend to make it binding.

Just prior to Christ's ascension back to glory, He issued His last urgent request in the form of a command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

The good news of salvation through Christ's atonement for sin is supremely important. But the proclamation of that gospel has become as important as the gospel itself. You see, "Faith cometh by hearing, and

hearing by the word of God." The world cannot be saved without hearing the gospel.

The great commission carries a number of implications which make the missions mandate exceedingly urgent.

All men are descendents of Adam and have the same standing, or perhaps we should say, the same lack of standing, before God. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

The plight of David when he acknowledged that he was born a sinner (Psalm 51:5) characterizes the condition of all mankind, including the

heathen (those people living in darkness and never knowing or hearing of Jesus Christ). Paul proved that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin (Romans 3:9). And he quoted from the Old Testament to show that (1) none are righteous, (2) no one understands, and (3) no one seeks after God (Romans 3:10, 11). He concludes: "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable. . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:12, 23).

Not only are all sinners, but the same penalty of sin (the wages of sin is death) applies to all (Romans 6:23). God is no respecter of persons. God is not unjust in permitting the heathen to go to hell nor is His goodness impaired by such. God can do no other and remain the holy God that He is. You see, all mankind deserves hell! Therefore, the heathen and all other people not experiencing the new birth remain lost and destined for eternal damnation.

The heathen are not only lost, they have no means of salvation. Sincerity of belief in their gods, sacrifices and rituals will not provide forgiveness of sins nor entrance into heaven.

God does not want lost humanity to go to hell. Therefore, at great sacrifice (one we will never understand) He provided salvation in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Only through Christ can the heathen or any other sinner be forgiven, be reconciled to God, and have entrance into heaven. Jesus declares himself to be the only way to the Father (John 14:6). And Peter explicitly says,

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

As the population of the world continues to increase, we should become more and more concerned. According to the August 2, 1982 edition of *U.S. News and World Report*, the population of the world increases at the rate of "146 a minute, 8,790 an hour, 210,959 a day and 77 million a year." This rate of increase is much greater than the rate of those being saved; thus the ratio of lost relative to saved people becomes greater every day.

Jesus saw the multitudes and declared to his disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few . . ." (Matthew 9:36, 37). This was

In the military, the last command supercedes all previous commands.

Jesus' observation after passing through many cities and villages in Galilee. The world population in Jesus' time was probably not more than the present U.S. population of 256 million. Yet, if population growth continues at the present rate, in little more than three years, just the new additions to the world will equal the population of the United States.

As Jesus looks out over the 4.6 billion people today, He certainly must be repeating His words to His disciples, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). In line with His last command,

we must do our part to reach the multitudes who are under God's wrath (John 3:36).

No option was issued with the mission mandate. It is urgent because it is a command given by our Lord. I am told that in the military, the last command supercedes all previous commands. The mission mandate does not annul other commandments, but it is very significant that Jesus expressed this concern just before His ascension. It was indeed His last command. The importance and urgency of the task of world evangelization cannot be stressed in any greater way.

Still, after nearly 2,000 years, the church has not gone into all the world. If for no other reason, the very fact that Jesus gave the command should stir us to carry out the missionary task with urgency. Someone has said, "If the command had been given to angels, heaven would have been empty in five minutes." They would have obeyed immediately!

After these centuries, we should certainly be conscious of the imminent return of our Lord. This, in itself, makes the mission mandate impelling and demands immediate action. With the command yet echoing upon His disciples' ears, the angels gave the promise of His return: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Jesus came into the world, died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Soon He is coming again, and multitudes still have not heard the gospel message.

The period from Pentecost

to His second coming, among other things, has been called the dispensation of grace. But whatever we call it, we must recognize that it is a *limited* time. We don't know when (Matthew 24:36), but we know for sure that Jesus will return. Although told to watch and pray (Mark 13:33), we must not be idle while we wait. We are to occupy until He comes (Luke 19:10-27). And time is running out. Jesus could come today!

Yes, the heathen are lost! And Christ is the only way of salvation. The mission field continues to grow and our Lord's command is to make disciples in *all* nations. These facts, coupled with the certainty of Christ's imminent return, make missions an urgent matter indeed!

Death ends the opportunity of the lost to be saved and our own opportunity to reach them. Therefore, we must act now. Enough people slip into hell each day to populate a city of one hundred thousand. Priority must be given to our Lord's last command. It certainly should be our first concern. □

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HEARTBEAT

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People once stood in awe at the presence of the white messenger of God. Stories once flowed freely—stories of special treatment and praise for American missionaries. Those days are gone!

No longer can the missionary expect a foreign government to welcome him with open arms as was often witnessed in years gone by.

Rural and horseback ministries, weeks on a jungle trail, three-month voyages by cargo ship, lively street meetings, economical housing, low food costs, simple life styles, etc. for foreign missionaries are by and large things of the past.

More and more, today's mission field consists of skyscrapers, automobiles and vast highway networks, business people and well-educated technicians, sky-rocketing economies and unstable political scenes.

Missionaries who once paved the way for a new era of world change have suddenly awakened to realize they are about to be swallowed by the complex society they helped to educate and thus create.

No one can deny the many overall benefits from such

changes. But few ever dreamed that this progress might provide such mighty instruments for the hands of satanic forces.

A missionary in today's technological age must be equipped to meet intellectual giants. He must keep up with high technology, understand human behavior patterns even in the most complex of multinational societies, and adapt to a myriad of situations

Today's missionary must learn the art of sacrificing and stretching the dollar.

and cultural differences. Lamentably, he must face most of these knowing he is going to be hampered on every hand by limited resources, suspicious nationals, antiquated methods, and over-simplified evangelism efforts. He will be pressured from good-intentioned supporters, and he will face a new wave of demonic forces.

Leftist governments and Marxist-controlled individuals put up barriers to the gospel ministry. At best, the missionary is harassed in most countries. Out of 158 nations in

the world, only 40 enjoy complete freedom, 53 are partially free, and 65 have few if any civil rights.¹

In spite of this, these servants are expected to accomplish miraculous feats in time frames fitted for rocket-powered, computer-directed robots with unlimited resources. Little thought is given to the limitations placed upon them by those of us who send them forth.

Life and ministry were much simpler in bygone eras. Missionaries lacked modern conveniences but they did not have to face the barrage of attacks prevalent today. These often come because someone in their area has seen and heard of alleged atrocities committed by the U.S. government or U.S. citizens in other countries around the globe.

The globe has become a community through advanced travel and sophisticated communication technology. New satellite communication is tremendous! But it is also disastrous. It miraculously informs people of world events within minutes or seconds of their occurrence. Unfortunately, nothing is left to one's personal perception or

CHANGING ROLES IN A CHANGING WORLD

by Don Robirds

imagination. The events are often both shown and interpreted or distorted for the hearers.

To be significantly fruitful in such a world, missionaries must play the role of diplomats, servants, guides, lawyers, technicians, preachers, counselors, psychologists, professors, etc. And—above all else—they must be able to effectively deal with the varied, the different, the complex, the untried and untested, and much of the unknown without becoming discouraged and defeated.

They must be willing to try new methods even in the face of critics at home and abroad. They may need the grace to modify their efforts according to the cultural background of those to whom they are ministering. And they need the wisdom to know when to back off and let the nationals do things their way. Today's missionaries must be willing to submit to trained national leaders even though they may feel the wrong approach is taken.

More succinctly, a missionary today must be compassionate and harsh, tough but tender, understanding but uncompromising, submissive but steadfast, wise but not boasting of knowledge. He must be willing to give up his own cultural values for the sake of the gospel. And most of all, he must be committed to God's work, filled with God's Spirit and guided by His hand.

Missionaries in the 1980s will need to know how to plan for the future on a long range basis, taking advantage of all the technology that is available. They must be able to set long-range goals as well as

intermediate goals along the way. They must know how to evaluate and reconsider these goals on a regular basis due to the rapid changes taking place around the globe.

While being familiar with technological developments, the present-day missionary must also be alert to the need for human involvement. People feel displaced by technology even while using and enjoying its advantages. They need interaction and personal communication but they want it from knowledgeable and understanding people.

The demands for a personal touch in a technological age will call for missionaries who can relate to people.

The demands for a personal touch in a technological age will call for missionaries who can relate to people within and without the framework of the mission organization. Team efforts will become more and more vital to the fulfillment of the task. Missionaries must be able to function as team members, investing more in people and less in material structures or institutions. And they must learn to respect authority and leadership while limiting or dispelling missionary "power rule" or dictatorship.

In the light of economical conditions, today's missionary must learn the art of sacrificing and stretching the dollar. He must demonstrate frugality and conservation. And he must demonstrate patience in seeking to raise necessary funds.

According to well-known missiologist Ralph D. Winter, reconsecration leading to such a reformed lifestyle with wartime priorities is not likely unless there is a will to do so. Then he adds, "But we will find there is no will so long as the Great Commission is thought impossible to fulfill; so long as anyone thinks that the problems of the world are hopeless or that, conversely, they can be solved merely by politics and technology; so long as our home problems loom larger to us than anyone else's; . . . so long as well-paid evangelicals, both pastors and people, consider their money a gift of God to spend however they wish on themselves rather than a responsibility from God to help others in spiritual and economic need; so long as we do not understand that he who would seek to save his life shall lose it."²

A missionary in this age and time frame must value human development and Christian relationships as foundational to Christian missions. In other words, he must place major emphasis on bringing a person to Christ and helping him to recognize his place within the Body of Christ, His church. Then he must develop that person into a functioning disciple in the framework of a local body of believers, regardless of physical or material circumstances.

Due to economical and political conditions, some—and I believe more and more—missionaries in today's world will of necessity be tent-making missionaries. In addition to biblical knowledge, they will have to manifest special skills needed in the foreign

Continued on page 6 →

→Continued from page 5 marketplace. They will also have to maintain an extraordinary physical stamina in order to carry on the spiritual ministry in addition to their secular employment.

But most important among considerations mentioned, today's missionary must be one who is committed to evangelism and church planting in their truest form. While tools are definitely needed to do the job effectively, the hope of the future lies in a calling to evangelize and disciple people. And this must be done within the context of the local congregation. Missionaries must put less emphasis on institutions, organizations, specialization ministries, etc. and they must put more emphasis on personal soul winning and discipling.

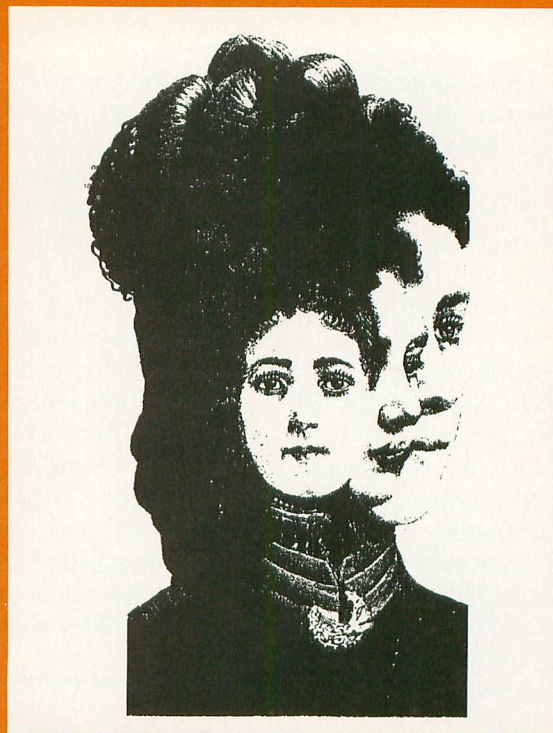
The greatest need today is to be true to the Great Commission itself. In the power promised to those who will accept that challenge, missionaries must be equipped and committed to make disciples of all nations, "teaching them to observe all things . . ." (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Though the changes in today's world demand a different mentality, a different approach, a more sacrificial attitude and a more demanding schedule than those faced by missionaries in some eras, the message remains unchanged.

Practically speaking, to be an effective missionary in the 1980s a person will have to be more adaptable, less self-centered, and more evangelistic than ever. □

¹U.S. News and World Report, January 19, 1976.

²Ralph D. Winter and Steven Hawthorne, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, 1981, page 815.



"The Bun on the Back of Her Head"

by Joan Martin

A woman missionary! I could see her in my mind's eye—unmarried, black skirt, white blouse buttoned high at the neck, long hair done up in a bun pinned tightly to the back of her head. And she was never pretty by man's standard.

That was my impression!

Though grownups referred to her being "called of God," the idea of going to some far-off, bug-infested area to serve as prey for wild animals, somehow didn't excite me. I simply hoped never to be "called."

As I grew older, missionaries came to our church to testify and recount their work. They

shared some interesting pictures, but it seemed obvious many were never intended to be public speakers. Church members were not always kind in their remarks. If the clothes worn by the family did not come from the missionary barrel, the family was criticized for being "wasteful and ungrateful."

Then, my missionary impression changed! During a special month set aside for missionary conference, our church engaged a variety of speakers. They told exciting stories from various countries and shared problems our missionaries have encountered

as ambassadors for Christ. We ate a meal together and shared food from other countries.

Some students from those countries were attending our church at the time. They had expressed intentions of returning to help their own people following their studies in the United States. So, we were able to demonstrate our love to them by helping in various ways.

I also became aware of missionary work in my own country as couples carried the gospel into rural areas where there were no churches. They aided farmers with their work so that the family would have time to attend church services. They even baby-sat for the parents so they could attend Bible studies in neighboring homes. The old fashioned, unattractive missionary image that I had gave way to one of a modern, caring, interesting person who gives his or her life and time for the Christ he or she loves so much.

As my interest grew, I noticed the lethargy of people about me. Throwing a dollar in the collection plate seemed to relieve them of all responsibility. I thanked God for the men and women who impressed and challenged me: "These people are representing us. We must take care of them and give something of ourselves." "God bless the missionaries" didn't mean anything. We had to be specific!

Missionary work clearly stood as the responsibility of the whole church. Paul told the Christians at Philippi, "... no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only" Philippians 4:15b. In this context, he called the material

which they sent "an odour of a sweet smell" and well pleasing to God.

Soon, I became involved in missions, and I discovered ways to get acquainted with a missionary family such as offering to keep them in my home. If they stayed several nights, I could help them by arranging periods when the house was theirs alone.

Then, the idea of obtaining addresses of missionaries and writing to them regularly struck me. One missionary confided, "At first, missionaries will not tell you their needs. Later, as

If the clothes worn by the family didn't come from the missionary barrel, the family was criticized.

you correspond, they will learn to trust you and will share their problems." I decided to challenge the church to keep a file showing ages, pictures, sizes of clothing, and needs of missionary families along with their addresses.

One church keeps up-to-date missionary pictures on the bulletin board near the front door. Then, they place a list of needs beside the pictures and when someone promises to meet a need, they cross it off.

A "Christmas party" could be held in summertime with a booth erected for each missionary family. While the festivities progress, a tape recorder might play a message from the missionary. Then, during the activities, the church can share messages to be sent to the missionary along with the gifts. Boxes, packed on the spot with a "Christmas food

feast" plus "gifts," can give everyone the joy of being involved. Another group might even prepare a feast for the weary packers to make the evening complete.

Some suggestions for gifts include (1) a subscription to a Christian periodical, (2) a musical tape of one of the missionary's favorite performers, (3) a book, (4) a beauty product, (5) tools or special equipment for a favorite hobby, (6) clothing, (7) toys and games, (8) or craft materials.

Woman's missionary groups might be encouraged to break into small segments at the end of a meeting to pray for their missionaries. Other groups could be constantly reminded of a commitment to pray. The missionary needs should be kept before these groups. Something new needs to be shared at each session and people mentioned by name. Meetings come alive by using missionary speakers, missionary kids, missionary parents, or by presenting slides, movies, tapes, and messages from particular people involved in the work.

Missionaries are not gods. Neither are they little old ladies with a bun on the back of their heads. Whether male or female, they are representatives on our behalf and they are God's servants in places where most of us will never go. Sometimes they live an exciting life; sometimes it's dull and often it's dangerous. But now I know: Missionaries are ordinary people called of God to win souls for Him in areas where the gospel has not been shared. □

Joan Martin is a free lance writer living in Libertyville, Ill.

"Mom, do you mind if I go to that missionary's church tomorrow so he won't be disappointed?"

"No, Luiz, I don't mind," came the response.

I had arrived at Luiz's house just a few minutes earlier that Saturday afternoon. The next day, September 4, 1977, we were scheduled to hold our first services in the city of Uberlandia, Brazil. We had rented a small meeting hall on the main street in that neighborhood. Pews, a pulpit and furniture for the children's Sunday school class had all been constructed and for several days I had trudged from door to door to invite people to our services.

Luiz, a teenager, was just coming out the front door when I arrived at his house. Since I always tried to talk to the adults at each house, I asked him if his parents were at home. "My mom is here," he responded. Turning, he entered the house and returned a moment later accompanied by his mother. I had interrupted his flight to the sandlot soccer field to join those on his neighborhood team. This time his curiosity compelled him to wait.

After introducing myself, I handed her a tract. Then I invited her and her family to attend our services the following day. She politely responded that the family would "visit" our church. Her choice of words and expressions in Portuguese clearly revealed her desire to be courteous. But they also assured me she was not really planning to come to our services. Fortunately, Luiz did not know I understood.

After I left, Luiz turned and



BRANCHING OUT... forming family trees!

by Tom Hughes

spoke to his mother: "Mom, I'm afraid that he misunderstood what you meant. I know by what you said that you don't plan to visit his church, but I think he will be expecting all of us tomorrow. I'm afraid that he will be disappointed."

That's when he asked his mother if he might attend, so I would not get discouraged.

And sure enough, the next day Luiz and a few others from the neighborhood filed in and

Sunday, only 12 were present, including our family of four and three of our neighbors who had come out of courtesy to their American neighbors. The following Sunday only 11 people attended. But since our three neighbors had not returned, this indicated an increase of those from that immediate neighborhood. The next Sunday we had about the same number.

We continued house-to-house visitation and within a few weeks 20 people were coming to study the Bible. Within three months the Sunday school was averaging 40.

For the first several months I taught a detailed study of the plan of salvation to the teenagers and adults. The messages during preaching services were basically evangelistic. About three months after we started the work, the light of the gospel began to dawn in the hearts of some of those attending.

Luiz was the second person to claim Christ as Savior. The first was Gelma Menezes de Faria, a young Brazilian English teacher who had been invited

Within three months the Sunday school was averaging 40.

sat through our first Sunday school class. He later testified that even with so few people present in the services he had felt a sense of joy and peace that he had never experienced.

The teenager became a regular attender of our services. Soon he was bringing friends, including members of his neighborhood soccer team.

Gradually the Sunday school attendance increased. The first

by our son, Tom. They were both converted within a three-day period in November 1977. Both had attended our first service.

In the following weeks and months many other people came to Christ. Most of them were invited by Luiz and Gelma. Then, these new converts began bringing friends and relatives with them. The concern of these new converts for their lost loved ones was a tremendous blessing.

Luiz first led his mother and sister to the Lord. His sister Vanessa, in turn, has introduced several of her friends to Christ and has witnessed their conversion.

All but one of the members of Luiz's soccer team have been saved. He now has seven "children" in the Lord, six spiritual "grandchildren" and spiritual descendents to the sixth generation. (That is, someone he reached has reached someone else. Then, that person has reached someone else, etc. to the sixth person.)

Gelma has seen her sister and two of her brothers saved. Her spiritual family has grown to the fourth generation. Several months after her conversion, her brother, Gerson, committed his life to the Lord. Although he was a very quiet and timid teenager he, too, wanted to pass on the Good News. Soon he had a high school classmate, Celio, attending our church services. Before long, he also yielded his life to Christ.

Celio couldn't keep quiet about his new life. He was employed at a building supply company, and began witnessing at work as well as at school and at home. His transformed

life impressed a fellow worker, Jose Wilson. Jose sought to learn more about this new way of life which brought peace and happiness. Praise God! In July of 1979, he joined the ranks of the redeemed. Celio has also seen a niece converted as a result of his witness.

Geter, another brother of Gelma, was involved with drugs and alcohol. He visited our church several times in the beginning of the work. But he quit coming when the conviction of the Holy Spirit touched him. We all continued to pray for his conversion. Finally, on our last Saturday night in Brazil before returning to the States for furlough, Geter was saved at a cottage prayer meeting.

A number of spiritual "families" like these are now in the church. One was started by our daughter, Lori. She invited many friends to attend the church. After several of her invitations, Betania finally came

He now has spiritual descendents to the sixth generation.

to a special service celebrating the church's second anniversary. She had never attended services in a Protestant church. The Lord used the testimonies given by the people during the worship service that day.

Betania responded to the invitation and claimed Jesus Christ as her Savior. Soon she was witnessing to her family and friends. Her older sister Tania taught school and had carried the household responsibilities since the death of their mother. She always had an excuse to avoid

attending. More than a year passed before she finally came. But, like her sister, Tania confessed Christ as her Savior in the first service she attended.

Other "families" have started through those invited by door-to-door visitation. Some have started through people who came to our services because they noticed the sign on the building. It clearly indicated the hall to be a church and carried the invitation, "Welcome." These "families" also continue to grow as the church carries the gospel to relatives, friends and neighbors. A number of these are composed of at least three "generations."

Adding to this blessing of spontaneous growth, the Lord has called Luiz into the ministry. He is now preparing himself through studies in the Bible institute program being conducted in our local church. He even pastored the church in Uberlandia from June of 1982 to July of 1983 while we were in the States on furlough.

Since most of the first contacts in Uberlandia were with young people, such as Luiz and Gelma, most of the following contacts have also been with youth. The average age of converts in the church would be in the early twenties. But efforts are being made to reach other age groups to balance out the total church program.

As we begin a new term of service, we are thrilled with what God has done. And we often wonder how many "generations" will get the gospel and "pass it on" during Luiz's lifetime. We rejoice at the prospect! □

Tom Hughes has just begun his third term of service as missionary to Brazil.

Missionaries Serving and Where They Serve

BRAZIL, SOUTH AMERICA

Louis and Florine Coscia	Tommy and Nancy Hughes
Jim and Karen Cowart***	John and Kay Metcalf*
Earnie and Jean Deeds***	Jim and Susan Moser***
Ken and Marvis Eagleton	Bobby and Geneva Poole
Terry and Jamie Eagleton* **	Jim and Vicki Sturgill
Dave and Pat Franks	

FRANCE, EUROPE

Cathy Crawford*	John and Pansy Murray
Allan and LaRue Crowson	Steve and Becky Riggs*
Jerry and Barbara Gibbs	Charolette Tallent
Tom and Patty McCullough***	Patsy Vanhook
Lynn and Ramona Miley	Jerry and Janice Webb***

NORTH INDIA

Carlisle and Marie Hanna

IVORY COAST, WEST AFRICA

Jimmy and Janie Aldridge	Clint and Lynette Morgan
Elaine Allen***	Darrel and Lila Nichols*
Robert and Judy Bryan	Eddie and Sandra Payne
Mike and Deleen Cousineau***	Jerry and Carol Pinkerton
Mark and Donna Daniel*	Norman and Bessie Richards
Patrick and Susan Dickens	Alice Faye Smith
Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson	Dawn Sweeney*
Neil and Sheila Gilliland	Robert and Pam West* **
Sherwood and Vada Lee	Anilla Wode

JAPAN

Ken and Judy Bailey*	Fred and Evelyn Hersey
Jerry and Janice Banks***	Jim and Olena McLain***
Dale and Sandra Bishop	Judy Smith
Mirial Gainer**	

PANAMA, CENTRAL AMERICA

Stan and Brenda Bunch*	Steve and Judy Lytle
Larry and Priscilla Incoe***	

SPAIN, EUROPE

Ron and Linda Callaway	Lonnie and Anita Sparks***
Lynn Midgett*	Jeff and Susan Turnbough
Dennis and Trena Owen	

URUGUAY, SOUTH AMERICA

Molly Barker***	Paul and Amy Robinson
Walter and Marcia Ellison	

* New appointees ** Associate missionary *** On furlough

Special Gifts to Missions

These individuals gave special gifts in June and July in memory of friends or loved ones:

Donor	In Memory of
Mrs. Ruth Thompson Salem, Mo.	Rev. Lawrence Thompson
Rev. and Mrs. Dave Franks, Sr. Brazil, South America	Mrs. Albert Proctor
Mrs. Owen Thomas Four Oaks, N.C.	Mrs. Albert Proctor
Jewell Sexton Chapmansboro, Tenn.	Miss Katherine Harris
Mrs. Ellen S. Morlock Washington, N.C.	Robert E. Morlock, Sr.

Memorial Gift to Foreign Missions

Amount \$ _____ Date _____
 Given in memory/honor of _____
 Given by: Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Please send memorial/honorary card to:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HEARTLINE

Can't somebody do something about the missionaries having to wear themselves out traveling all over the country?"

I was glad to answer this brother's question during a missionary service in his church: "Our Regionalized Support Plan will help relieve that problem!"

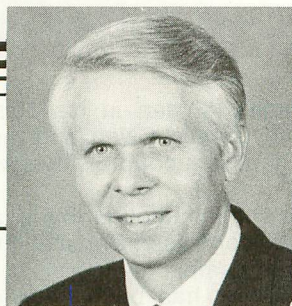
The question mark on his face prodded me to elaborate: "Regionalized support is our method of trying to get missionaries underwritten as close to home as possible. For example, if your missionary could get all of his support from his home association he could spend much more time at home with his family and supporting churches. This would be much better than chasing around to a dozen states trying to find supporters. You can see that it would save thousands of dollars in travel expenses as well."

By this time several were nodding their heads in agreement and the questioner seemed to be satisfied.

In December, 1981 our foreign missions board officially adopted this strategy. Since then we have been making a determined effort to implement the plan. And the overwhelming majority of our people favor it.

Regionalized support makes it possible for the missionary and his supporters to develop a stronger relationship during the deputational and furlough periods. If the missionary can live in an area where most of his support originates he can attend quarterly meetings, Master's Men meetings, woman's auxiliary functions, help out in youth camps and participate in the various activities of the district. In addition, he can conduct revivals, hold missionary conferences and possibly assist in vacation Bible schools in neighboring churches. This will enable his supporters to pray for him as a person instead of just as a picture. And when he receives a letter from a church he will better remember those people.

However, some missionaries have lived in several places and find it hard to claim one area



R. Eugene Waddell
Associate Director

as "home." And some missionaries come from areas where we have only a few churches in the whole region. The answer to these problems is adoption. Since a few states have no native son or daughter on the foreign field they should consider adopting a missionary who needs a "home."

The same is true when several missionaries come from the same association. For example, Vada Lee, Patrick Dickens and Norman Richards all come from the New Hope Association in Arkansas. It would be great to see another association adopt one of these. Then, even though he might not live in that immediate vicinity while on furlough, it would be very simple for the missionary to visit all of his supporting churches without traveling half way across the country. This would be true even if it took more than one area or association to muster full support of a missionary family.

"We've been supporting the Herseys all of these years; don't tell me you're trying to get us to drop them now," someone reacts. Several pastors have raised questions like these. We don't intend to force anybody to support a particular missionary or tell him he can't support someone else. If your church has been supporting a missionary from another state for a number of years it is understandable that you have developed a strong relationship with that servant of Christ. By all means, continue to support him! As a matter of fact, we would discourage any church from dropping a missionary without first discussing the matter with one of us in the office.

To fully take advantage of this Regionalized Support Plan we need cooperation, especially on the local and district level. We hope to see more district moderators and leaders rally all the churches behind the support of a particular missionary. Again, if your association has no candidate, I challenge you to adopt one. I will be glad to suggest one if you will write me at P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202 or call me at 615/361-1010.

Financial Summary

Through July 31

Substance

Contributions in June	\$ 204,777.49
Contributions in July	182,923.40
Total Contributions through July	1,359,714.13
Total disbursements through July	1,290,384.44
Projected receipts through July	1,474,557.00
Total 1983 Budget	\$2,527,807.00

Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bishop	\$ 2,525.47	Miley	\$ 2,110.19
Caton	3,373.15	Nichols	232.35
Cousineau	2,103.14	Owen	4,891.32
Crowson	1,809.21	Sparks	1,981.46
Hersey	102.16	McCullough	2,371.29
Metcalf	254.03	Vanhook	1,726.53
Midgett	1,259.10	Webb	12,078.21
Total			\$36,817.51

1983 State Quotas

State	Quota 1983	Quota Thru July	Receipts Thru July
Alabama	\$ 159,000	\$ 92,750	\$ 72,348.74
Arizona	3,000	1,750	718.42
Arkansas	123,000	71,750	80,684.05
California	60,000	35,000	17,291.03
Colorado	4,000	2,331	1,563.10
Florida	70,000	40,831	38,089.16
Georgia	80,000	46,669	46,723.68
Hawaii	1,000	581	362.04
Idaho	1,500	875	390.59
Illinois	83,000	48,419	43,823.91
Indiana	21,000	12,250	12,673.97
Iowa	1,000	581	265.28
Kansas	14,000	8,169	5,434.87
Kentucky	66,000	38,500	33,318.19
Louisiana	1,000	581	10.00
Maryland	11,000	8,169	5,290.32
Michigan	110,000	64,169	52,126.34
Minnesota	500	294	.00
Mississippi	36,000	21,000	17,943.58
Missouri	145,000	84,581	108,141.58
Montana	1,000	581	368.60
New Mexico	500	294	147.45
*Northeast Association	9,000	5,250	1,481.00
**Northwest Association	9,500	5,544	1,990.34
North Carolina	355,000	207,081	186,748.14
Ohio	80,000	46,669	73,442.91
Oklahoma	315,000	183,750	154,847.57
Pennsylvania	1,000	581	1,025.46
South Carolina	164,000	95,669	96,028.19
Tennessee	325,000	189,581	200,222.88
Texas	64,000	37,331	33,411.04
Virginia	98,000	57,169	41,744.40
Virgin Islands	1,000	581	1,115.03
West Virginia	89,000	51,919	32,525.36
Miscellaneous	23,807	13,888	1,733.56
Canada	2,000	1,169	960.25
Totals	\$2,527,807	\$1,474,557	\$1,364,990.83

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

**Northwest Association
Alaska, Oregon and Washington



Delegates gather in front of the new Bondoukou church (right) and then prepare for a meal (left) during the annual convention of Ivory Coast Free Will Baptists held at Bondoukou in July.

Over 350 Delegates Attend I.C. Annual Convention

Ivory Coast—Over 350 registered delegates and visitors from 24 Ivory Coast villages and churches attended the annual convention of Free Will Baptists in the Ivory Coast. The three-day meeting was held in the Bondoukou FWB Church July 19-22.

According to a report from Arilla Wode, the meeting was highlighted by "great preaching, teaching, singing, fellowship and some . . . open confession of sin."

The convention chose Pastor David from Bouna and layman Yeboua Alexander from Bondoukou to plan the convention for next year at Nassian.

Pastor Victor from Bondoukou is currently president of the convention.

Radio Interview, Film Showing Reported by Miley

France—"On Thursday, June 16, I was invited to be interviewed on radio," says Lynn Miley from Lorient, France. "They only envisioned ten minutes, but they ended up giving me 35."

Three people interviewed Miley and "all three were atheists," he noted.

The film *Joni* was shown on June 16 in the Handicapped Rehabilitation Center in Lorient. An attendance of 92 was recorded. Lynn followed the film with discussion and an eight minute message on what it means to accept Christ.

Approximately 20,000 invitations to

the film had been distributed, articles had been placed in three newspapers, and spots were placed on five radio stations for one week.

Plans were being laid for the distribution of another 50,000 tracts during summer vacation.

Hokkaido FWB Association Meets at Abashiri

Japan—The Hokkaido Association of Free Will Baptists met June 11 and 12, 1983 at the Abashiri church for their bi-annual session which combines a Bible school and associational meeting.

According to Dale and Sandra Bishop, "The messages were inspirational and were recorded on cassette tape." Taping was done to help Sapporo area Christians hear the messages even though they were unable to attend the meeting.

The association voted to ordain Mr. Kurosaki, a graduate of Hokkaido Bible Institute, who worked with Jerry and Janice Banks for one year. He has been working in the Abashiri church for the last two years.

Callaway, Owen Have Breakthrough in Mostoles

Spain—According to a July report from missionary Ron Callaway in Mostoles, Spain, two people from the new work there have made professions of faith in Christ.

"We now have two Spanish families who attend the public meetings regularly," says Ron. "One member in each family has prayed to be

saved. Tomas, a man in his 50's, prayed with Dennis Owen and me out in his garden a couple of weeks ago."

An older son in the other family, a family of six, confessed Christ at the June church camp.

Dennis Owen has been helping Callaway in starting the new work in Mostoles.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Nashville, Tenn.—Janice Banks, wife of missionary Jerry Banks, has reported some improvement in her condition originally diagnosed as tendonitis. Jerry and Janice have requested continued prayer that she will recover adequately for them to return to Japan by the end of the year.

Brazil—Young people from the Ribeirao Preto Free Will Baptist Church sponsored a vacation Bible school in the Jaboticabal church July 11-15 using the theme, "Pictures of Jesus." Six children made professions of faith and attendance for the five days averaged 34.

Spain—Jeff and Susan Turnbough escaped injuries in two small auto mishaps recently near Madrid, Spain. One incident involved their windshield being blown out while traveling at top speed. Only minor cuts and scratches were received. In the other accident a motorcycle hit the car in the side. The cyclist was at fault and no injuries were reported.

Miami, Fla.—Barbara Hart (Phipps) Whitman, former missionary to Panama, died on August 2 with cancer. Funeral services were held August 6 in Ayden, N.C. Bob King and Novice Edwards officiated. In lieu of flowers, the family requested gifts be sent to foreign missions and designated for Panama.

Spain—Dennis and Trena Owen have assumed responsibility for the church in Alcala de Henares while the Lonnie Sparks family is in the United States for a short furlough. Jeff and Susan Turnbough will be helping with the music and the youth activities in the church.

France—Patrick and Susan Dickens left France near the end of July and have returned to the Ivory Coast.

They had been in France taking a refresher course in the French language.

Ivory Coast—Pastor Kouadio Jean-Baptiste of Goumère was taken to Abidjan for treatment on a dialysis machine after suffering kidney failure. Latest reports indicated the treatment was not completely effective.

Saratoga, N.C.—Funeral services were held on June 6 in the Saratoga FWB Church for Mrs. Albert Proctor, mother of Vicki Sturgill, missionary to Brazil. Mrs. Proctor died on June 4 in the Wilson Memorial Hospital in Wilson, N.C. after a short illness. Vicki's father, Mr. Albert Proctor, was hospitalized on August 2 and released the following week after doctors adjusted his medication.



Tim and Deanna Thompson

Nashville, Tenn.—Tim and Deanna Thompson, short-term missionary appointees to France, are scheduled to leave the U.S. sometime this month to begin a nine-month ministry in Lorient.

Ivory Coast—Robert and Judy Bryan are tentatively scheduled to arrive in the U.S. on October 14 to begin their regular furlough from the Ivory Coast.

Nashville, Tenn.—Terry and Jamie Eagleton, new associate missionary appointees to Brazil, are the parents of a baby girl born July 30 in Nashville. Sarah Elizabeth, the Eagleton's first child, weighed five pounds, ten ounces and measured 19½ inches in length.

155 Attend Two July Youth Camps in Brazil

Brazil—A combined total of 155 people were on hand in Jaboticabal, Brazil for two youth camps held during July. Junior camp, held July 11-15, had a total of 72 present while the teen camp of July 18-22 had a total of 83 in attendance.



Pictured (top, left to right) are departing missionaries Norman and Bessie Richards, Earnie and Jean Deeds, Tom and Nancy Hughes, Jim and Vicki Sturgill, (bottom) Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, Eddie and Sandra Payne, Terry and Jamie Eagleton and Jerry and Barbara Gibbs.

The theme, "More Than a Carpenter," was taken from a book by Josh McDowell. Maurilio Amorim was the speaker for the first week and Robert Poole was the evangelist for the young people during the second week.

Eleven juniors and five youth made first-time decisions for Christ and many other campers rededicated their lives to Him.

Progress Seen in Ivory Coast Churches

Ivory Coast—"The church is progressing and the Lord is blessing," reports missionary Jimmy Aldridge from Bondoukou, Ivory Coast.

Aldridge further stated that 12 people had recently been saved, including one man for whom they had been praying for 15 years.

Jimmy reported that the number of believers continues to grow in the villages of Kouafo and Appimandoum. He stated that they need more workers to minister to these new Christians.

Musical Program Held in Ribeirao Preto Church

Brazil—A one and one-half hour musical program entitled "Night of Praise" was held on June 5, 1983 in the Ribeirao Preto Free Will Baptist Church in Brazil. Approximately 150 people attended the program.

According to Bobby and Geneva Poole, the program was sponsored by the church music department and included 40 people from the church. Seventeen of these played musical instruments.

The Pooles expressed praise for this answer to prayer: "Some years ago we cried out to the Lord for someone with music ability. We are grateful that there are at least 17 in

the church who play the piano and eight or more who play the guitar." Bobby and Geneva concluded that these are people who are dedicated to the Lord and His work.

17 Foreign Missionaries Depart for Their Fields

Nashville, Tenn.—Several new and returning missionaries were scheduled to depart in August and September for their fields of service:



Cathy Crawford

Miss Cathy Crawford, appointee from Ohio, was to leave the U.S. on August 19 to begin her language study in Albertville, France prior to her ministry in that country.

Jim and Vicki Sturgill were to depart on August 22 for their third term of missionary service in Brazil. They will resume their ministry in Campinas in the state of Sao Paulo.

Jerry and Barbara Gibbs planned to return to France on August 19. They start their third term continuing their ministry in St. Nazaire.

Terry and Jamie Eagleton, associate missionary appointees to Brazil, hope to leave for the field on September 19. They will work in the city of Araras.

Eddie and Sandra Payne plan to leave the U.S. on September 15 en route to Ivory Coast where they will resume their responsibilities in the Bouna work.

Earnie and Jean Deeds expect to

Continued on page 14—>

—>Continued from page 13
leave for Brazil in mid-September. They will return to Conselheiro Lafaiete where they hope to complete the church building during this term in addition to fulfilling the regular ministries in the church.

The Jerry Pinkertons left for the Ivory Coast on July 2. They will work in Tanda along with the Fergusons.

Tom and Nancy Hughes departed on July 17 for Brazil where they resumed their work in Uberlandia.

Norman and Bessie Richards left the United States on July 30 to return to their ministry in Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast.

Eight Saved at Spanish Church Camp Near Madrid

Spain—According to missionary Lonnie Sparks, eight people were saved at the June 1-5 Free Will Baptist church camp about 120 kilometers from Madrid, Spain. A total of 51 people attended the camp.

Among those converted were five from Alcala de Henares and two from the area of Mostoles where Ron Callaway and Dennis Owen are working. All Free Will Baptist missionaries in Spain participated.

Franks Reports on Youth Camp in Minas Gerais

Brazil—Dave Franks, Jr., just back in the U.S. from Brazil after the summer, informed the missions office that a youth camp was held July 25-29 near Belo Horizonte for Free Will Baptists in the state of Minas Gerais: Belo Horizonte, Conselheiro Lafaiete,

and Barbacena. A total of 45 people, including workers, were on hand for the camp.

One person was saved during the camp and Brazilian Christians from Ribeirao Preto in the state of Sao Paulo helped with the activities during the week.

Dave Franks, Sr., and his wife Pat are the only FWB missionaries working in the Belo Horizonte area. Dave, Jr. is a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Record Offering Received, 85 Missionaries Attend

Columbus, Ohio—Delegates and visitors numbering an estimated 3,500 attended the Wednesday night service of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Columbus, Ohio on July 20. At the end of the service, a \$17,968.43-record-breaking missions offering was received.

The undesignated portion of the offering was divided equally between the home and foreign missions departments.

Some 85 home and foreign missionaries were on hand for the special missions night service. Don Robirds and Trymon Messer introduced the group as they trekked across the platform.

During the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention service on Tuesday morning, Mike Cousineau challenged the audience with the thought of God's preparation of people to receive His Word. Then he shared how God did it at Panzarani in the Ivory Coast.

Missionary Representative Don Sexton took his place among the speakers during the Bible Conference services on Tuesday. Speaking on the subject "Always Abounding in the Lord," Sexton blurted, "It's impossible to believe a man of God can say, 'I understand the Scriptures, but don't believe in missions.' Brethren, that can't be."

On Tuesday afternoon June Rolen, newly elected president of the WNAC, conducted an interview of foreign and home missionaries. Those participating included Molly Barker, Uruguay; Janice Banks, Japan; Janice Webb, France; Deleen Cousineau, Ivory Coast; Glenda Fulcher, Texas; Virginia Van Kluyve, Virgin Islands; and Lois Reagan, Maine.

McCullough Plans Baptisms; Tract Ministry Effective

France—Missionary Tom McCullough reported plans to baptize two teenage girls on August 7 in a joint service of the St. Nazaire and Nantes Free Will Baptist congregations in France. These were to be his first baptisms in France.

Summer missionary Paul Creech of Nashville, Tenn. has been busy putting tracts in mailboxes, etc. to blanket the city of St. Nazaire. The offer of a "free book" by a French evangelist has evoked good response.

Tom and Patty McCullough are scheduled to arrive in the United States this month to begin furlough.



Paul Creech, summer missionary to St. Nazaire, France, stuffs a tract in a French mailbox.

Coscia Expresses Praise for Answered Prayer

Brazil—Missionary Louis Coscia in Uberaba, Brazil expressed praise for answered prayer as he wrote, "The Lord has graciously restored a good deal of my sight in my left eye. Some progress has been made in my right eye."

Louis had been told by doctors that he has glaucoma, cataracts and disease of the cornea in both eyes. He has been using medication in addition to jogging to improve his overall condition.

Foreign Missions Retreat Features Jim McAllister

Nashville, Tenn.—Furloughing and newly appointed missionaries met with foreign missions board and staff members August 1-5 at Free Will Baptist Bible College for the annual foreign missions retreat. Jim McAllister, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington, Mo., delivered

Missionaries file up the steps for introduction at the Wednesday night service of the National Association in Columbus, Ohio.





Jim McAllister, pastor of First FWB Church in Farmington, Mo., was special speaker at the annual foreign missions retreat held at FWBBC in Nashville.

the keynote message and spoke several other times during the week on the subjects of church growth and finances.

Among other considerations during the session were the revision of the foreign missions handbook, planning procedures, and deputational ministries.

Missionaries shared information from their fields and participated in open discussion regarding problems, needs, plans, etc.

New missionaries had just completed a three-day orientation session with the foreign missions staff prior to the retreat.

Board action during the retreat included interviews of recently returned missionaries and action on an Ivory Coast field council proposal: Miss Marilyn Pritchard was approved to help Clint and Lynette Morgan in Doropo, Ivory Coast with their children's education, etc. while Mrs. Morgan awaits the arrival of their fourth child. Miss Pritchard is from Illinois and has been employed at Free Will Baptist Bible College for the past nine years.

Sparks Couple Involved in Auto Mishap in Spain

Spain—Missionaries Lonnie and Anita Sparks were involved in an auto wreck about 3:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 10, as they were returning from the funeral of a church member who had died of cancer. The funeral was held in La Carolina, about two hours by car from Alcala de Henares.

The accident occurred about 200 kilometers south of Madrid. All in the car were asleep except the driver when a car going in the other direction struck their auto. Their car spun around and flipped over. It was demolished as it slid about 75 yards on its top.

Passing motorists transported

Anita Sparks and another woman to a medical center about 50 kilometers to the south. Although no bones were broken, Anita was treated for trauma, cuts, bruises, and whiplash.

Evangelistic Campaign Nets Over 200 Souls in Tanda

Ivory Coast—More than 200 people made professions of faith during a special evangelistic campaign July 26-31 in Tanda, Ivory Coast.

The special campaign followed the same basic plan of the Bouna effort reported in July-August *Heartbeat*.

An intensive training program was held July 22-25 in preparation for the event. Christian workers were taught how to witness and lead a person to Christ as well as how to follow up new converts. During the training period, groups of workers went out witnessing in an attempt to visit every house in Tanda.

During the actual campaign, the film on the life of Christ was shown three times in its entirety.

Follow up lessons were scheduled for the first two weeks of August.

Revival Marks Barbacena Church's Fifth Year

Brazil—The Barbacena Free Will Baptist Church in Brazil celebrated its fifth anniversary on the second weekend of May as missionary Ken Eagleton conducted a weekend revival.

Missionary Dave Franks related an incident which followed the last service: A lady asked him some questions about the saints as taught by the Catholic Church. After answering her questions and giving her a clear presentation of the plan of salvation, he led her to receive Christ as her Savior.

Approximately 145 people attended the last service of the revival and about 50 of these were visitors.

Hanna Experiences Close Call in Airplane Incident

India—Carlisle and Marie Hanna narrowly escaped being in a landing mishap recently. The airplane in which they were traveling had problems with the landing gear when they approached the airport in Calcutta, India.

"The pilot circled Calcutta for an hour and 35 minutes to use up fuel,"

writes Carlisle. "They dumped the oil and we came down for a belly landing. At the last moment, the wheels came down and we were jolted but safe."

Hanna went on to say that 25 fire trucks and numerous ambulances were on the scene when they landed.

The Hannas expressed special thanks for prayers offered on their behalf.

Fergusons Move to Tanda, Eight Saved in Agnibilekrou

Ivory Coast—Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson were scheduled to move from Agnibilekrou to the Tanda area sometime in July to resume their ministry among the Koulango-speaking people in that area. They will be working with Robert and Judy Bryan until the Bryans leave for furlough. Jerry and Carol Pinkerton have returned to Ivory Coast and have also assumed responsibilities in the Tanda area.

12 Spaniards Baptized by Sparks and Callaway

Spain—Missionaries Lonnie Sparks and Ron Callaway reported having jointly baptized 12 Spanish converts on July 2 at the Free Will Baptist church in Alcala de Henares, Spain.

Among those being baptized were a number of young people who had been converted several years. They had not previously received permission from their parents to be baptized. Also included in the group were a mother and her three children and Rachel Callaway, daughter of missionaries Ron and Linda Callaway.

Ron Callaway (left) and Lonnie Sparks (right) baptize a Spanish convert.



HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 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.

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