

Meningitis Epidemic Hits Ivory Coast



April 28 Call-a-thon Aims at Deficits

"Touching the Untouchables," by Laura Belle Barnard
RELEASE DATE: MAY 1, 1985

Midgett Progresses in Recovery from Accident

Spain—"As of today I have completed six sessions of physical therapy," wrote Lynn Midgett in early February from Madrid, Spain. "The therapy consists of doing exercises to loosen muscles, lifting weights strapped to my left foot, massage, and traction. Already I have noticed improvement and lessening of the pain in my back."

Miss Midgett suffered damage to the vertebrae in her neck and lower back as a result of a snow-sledding accident during an outing with young people from the church.

Therapy was to continue until February 26.

Payne Reports Having Services in New Village

Ivory Coast—"Just last Sunday (February 3) I had services for the first time in Notadouo, just beyond the 15 kilometer bridge going toward Doropo," writes Eddie Payne. "They had already built their brush arbor. There were 35 people present, including 20 adults and 15 of those had already been saved. This was all a result of the witness of folks from Panzarani, eight kilometers on up the road."

Payne expressed praise that new villages continue to open as a result of the witness from other bush villages. "An openness as never before is evident," he stated, "and many old men and women are showing a genuine interest. What a change from earlier days when only the little kids came!" Many of those in Notadouo were "old grey heads who are tired of the old gods."

West's Commissioned to Missionary Service

Smithfield, N.C.—On March 3, 1985, Robert and Pam West were officially commissioned to service as associate missionaries in Ivory Coast, West Africa.

The special service was held at the Unity Free Will Baptist Church in Smithfield, N.C., the Wests' home church. Many people from the Garner FWB Church were present as they dismissed service especially for the occasion.

Dr. Malcolm C. Fry, pastor of Unity, brought the commissioning message while the charge was given by Rolla



Robert, Pam, and Marie West (right, center) kneel in prayer as the ordained men lay hands on them, officially commissioning them to missionary service in the Ivory Coast.

Smith, general director of foreign missions.

Robert and Pam will be studying French in Chambon, France, prior to their ministry at the medical station in Doropo, Ivory Coast. Robert is to serve as a maintenance missionary while Pam will be assisting with bookkeeping and other duties on the station. The Wests and their daughter, Marie, are scheduled to depart for France in April.

Indian Pastors Attend Retreat in Calcutta

India—Mark Hanna, son of missionaries Carlisle and Marie Hanna, recently reported that several Indian pastors attended a retreat in Calcutta during the month of January. Mark had just returned to the United States after a visit with his parents.

"The pastors came back with a real zeal," said Mark. "They were really challenged and have been praying more because of this retreat."

A converted Muslim, Dr. Greenrose, spoke to the group about reaching out to Muslims. He asked those present to trust the Spirit to deal with the difficulty in the Muslims' believing just as He deals with the Hindus.

Young Hanna noted that in his opinion, "the zeal of the pastors is higher today than it has been for a number of years."

McCulloughs Express Praise for Fruit

France—Missionaries Tom and Patty McCullough recently expressed praise for the fruit they have seen at St. Nazaire, France, over the past

year. "Five adults have made decisions for Christ since May of 1984," write the McCulloughs.

"Please pray for Philippe, Claude, Rosa, Jean-Louis, and Jean-Pierre," the McCulloughs continued. "The enemy has already been diligent in his attempt to undermine the Spirit's work in their lives."

Tom and Patty also expressed gratitude for seven new children in their Wednesday morning Bible classes. Some of these had come after a series of contacts that dated back as far as March of 1983. A few of these children and their parents attended the Christmas party and church services the following Sunday.

Call-a-thon Aims at Clearing All Deficits

Nashville, Tenn.—The 1985 Call-a-thon effort for foreign missions is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, and has been declared an effort to clear all deficit accounts. The goal for this year's Call-a-thon event is \$45,000.

Last year, Free Will Baptists across the nation sent in something over \$40,000 in April for the Call-a-thon project. The faithful response of Free Will Baptists over the past year has kept deficit accounts at their lowest in years, and the foreign missions staff expressed confidence that folks would want to wipe out deficits during this Call-a-thon event.

Churches have been urged to enlist various groups within the church to set goals and participate in this special event. Those cooperating are asked to make a special effort to call the Department of Foreign Missions between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, to report their gifts.



(Left to right) Walter Ellison, Pastor Oscar Baltetto, and Paul Robinson lay hands on Gerardo Azevedo during an ordination service in the Montevideo Free Will Baptist Church.

Meningitis Epidemic Hits Doropo, Ivory Coast Area

Ivory Coast—A death-dealing epidemic of meningitis spread through the Doropo area of northeastern Ivory Coast during February.

In telephone messages from Sherwood and Vada Lee, they reported that up to March 7 they had treated 177 cases at the hospital. Sixteen of these had died, and 23 of the 47 patients in the hospital at the time of the call were listed as critical. Since space and beds were limited, people were placed around on the floor or ground with IV's connected.

Clint Morgan reported at least one of those who had died was a FWB Christian. Joseph, another Christian, had such a high temperature that the thermometer actually went out the end. The Doropo church had a prayer meeting and God spared him.

Lee and the other workers in the clinic/hospital vaccinated at least 1,500 people before the serum was exhausted. Eight staff members have been working double shifts. Missionary personnel, whether trained in medicine or not, have been helping during the crisis. All missionaries and their families have been vaccinated and were reported to be fine but fatigued.

At the time of the latest report, costs of medicines and vaccines for the epidemic had already run over \$4,000 above what could be paid by those treated. Christians were urged to pray that God would supply emergency relief funds to meet this crisis. Those interested in contributing should send their gifts to Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. Contributions should be designated "RELIEF FUND."

Missionaries requested special prayer for their physical stamina during this time and for rain which would help to stop the epidemic. They estimated it would take at least three rains to bring a halt to the disease. Christians in the Doropo area were spending days in fasting and prayer for rain.

Uruguayan Ordained in Montevideo Service

Uruguay—Missionaries Walter "Dub" Ellison and Paul Robinson laid hands on Gerardo Azevedo, ordaining him to the ministry during a January service in the Montevideo church.

According to the Ellisons, Gerardo studied at the Calvary Temple Bible Institute in Montevideo and married Alba Pereira from the Rivera Free Will Baptist church. The couple is helping the Ellisons in the Montevideo work. Pastor Oscar Baltetto assisted in the ordination service.

Gerardo is scheduled to direct the family camp in Rivera later this year.

Barnard Book Scheduled for Release on May 1

Nashville, Tenn.—Latest reports from Tyndale House Publishers indicate Laura Belle Barnard's book, "Touching the Untouchables," is scheduled for release on May 1, 1985. In this classic, Laura Belle shares her moving story of early Free Will Baptist ministry in India.

Don Robirds, director of communications for foreign missions, expressed excitement over the prospective release. He urged people to take advantage of an introductory offer by the Department of Foreign

Missions. A special discount price of \$5.95 per book will be offered up through the National Association.

Robirds also encouraged Free Will Baptists to be on hand at the foreign missions booth at the National Association to purchase autographed copies. Information on how readers can get copies of the book prior to the National will be published in the May issue of *Heartbeat*.

Layman-Built Units at Doropo Nearly Finished

Ivory Coast—Clint Morgan reported in February on progress of the buildings constructed at Doropo by six laymen from the States: Although these are not yet complete, the surgical block is finished, one house is nearly complete and another has been enclosed.

Regarding the six men, Clint writes: "Believe me, they really worked, basically six days a week, 10 hours a day." Clint was kept busy traveling to Bouake, Bondoukou and Bouna to provide building supplies.

Morgan stated that four of the men accompanied him to the village of Tehini on February 3 to witness the baptism of eight converts.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

St. Louis, Mo.—Mrs. Lillie Tallent, mother of missionary Charolette Tallent of France, was hospitalized during the latter part of February with cardiac spasms. She was released after a few days of treatment, but further tests were to be run.

Elizabethton, Tenn.—Billie Sexton, deputational missionary, has been

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Financial Summary Through February 28

Substance

Contributions in February	\$ 193,595.49
Total contributions through February	399,102.76
Total disbursements through February	389,616.14
Projected receipts through February	482,581.00
Total 1985 Budget	\$2,895,498.00

Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey	\$1,415.22	McCullough	\$1,887.94
Callaway	376.05	Miley	1,418.08
Combs	6,669.04	Robinson	2,776.90
Hersey	465.17	Teague	5,752.34
Inscoe	1,555.91	Willey	29.47
Lee	5,753.42	General Fund	31,807.85
Lytle	2,525.06		
Total			\$62,432.45

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hospitalized twice during the past six months with kidney stones. The specialist told her new stones can form in a period of six months. She requested prayer that God would resolve this problem.

Ivory Coast—Over 150 young people met for four days of teaching and preaching at Bondoukou, Ivory Coast, recently. Another group of 22 adult men in Touadi received five hours of Bible teaching each day for a week, then at night they went to nearby villages to witness.

Brazil—Louis and Florine Coscia have indicated their arrival in the United States for furlough will be sometime during the second week of April.

Cuba—According to a report from Senor Adolfo, the current president of the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists, several of their young people are currently studying in Bible institutes and seminaries in Cuba. A total of 19 first-year students and 19 second-year students are studying in Bible institutes. Four young men are away in seminary and anticipate graduating in two years.

Ivory Coast—Missionaries Jerry and Carol Pinkerton arrived in the United States the first of March to begin furlough from Ivory Coast.

Knoxville, Tenn.—Karen Cowart and her three children finally were able to return to Brazil on February 19 after several delays due to health problems and airline connections.

Nashville, Tenn.—The Board of Foreign Missions is scheduled to meet April 22-25 in Nashville, Tenn., for its annual session.

France—Miss Dawn Sweeney writes from Albertville, France: "Would you pray for me and all other missionaries who are using a foreign tongue? Ask God to make us willing to dwell among, and immerse ourselves in the language and thought patterns of the peoples to whom we are sent."

Japan—Jim and Olena McLain report having been asked to move from their house which belongs to a Lutheran mission. The Lutherans need the house for their own missionaries.

Payne Says Institute Students Show Interest

Ivory Coast—"Bible institute classes in Bouna, Ivory Coast, are going well," writes missionary Eddie Payne. "We have seven regular students who seem to be soaking things up like a sponge. Mike Cousineau is now teaching one night per week."

Payne also noted that several teenagers recently came to know the Lord in the Youth Center ministry.

Uruguay Postal Strike Hinders Ellison Mail

Uruguay—A postal strike in Uruguay has hindered mail to and from the Walter Ellison family. The Ellisons requested prayer for the postal situation and asked people to be patient with them concerning correspon-

dence.

The work in Uruguay has continued to see growth with new faces appearing from time to time.

Fifteen people from the Montevideo work were scheduled to attend camp in the Rivera area during the third week of February.

Inscoe Son Experiences Frequent Headaches

Panama—According to a late February report from missionary Larry Inscoe, his son Mark was experiencing severe, constant headaches. Even after an eye examination, X rays, etc. the doctor was unable to diagnose the cause of the pain.

The Inscoes requested special prayer for Mark as this has hindered his studies. Plans were being made to take him to Panama City to see a specialist.

Larry and Priscilla noted that the work in Las Tablas is progressing well. "We are in the process of beginning a Master's Men, woman's auxiliary, and two new youth groups," writes Larry. "Our folks seem somewhat encouraged and now (with their summer vacation) will have more time to participate in these added activities."



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HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Post Office Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Vol. 25, No. 3 April 1985

Editor: Don Robirds
Assistant: Ruthann Hall

Heartbeat (USPS 239-202) is published monthly except bimonthly in January-February and July-August by the Board of Foreign Missions of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 1134 Murfreesboro Road, Nashville, Tenn. 37217. Second-class postage paid at Nashville, Tenn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Heartbeat*, Box 1088, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

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