

SEPTEMBER 1985

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work through Free Will Baptists around the world

General Director Rolla D. Smith Announces Retirement Plans



Foreign missions board chairman Bill Jones presents a plaque to Rolla Smith, general director, during the Wednesday night service at the National Association. Smith announced his retirement for March of 1986. His wife, Agnes, received a presentation bouquet.



Former general director of foreign missions Raymond Riggs receives a Pioneer Missionary Award from current general director Rolla D. Smith. Laura Belle Barnard and "Mom" Mabel Willey were also honored with this special award.

General Director Smith to Retire in March

Nashville, Tenn.—During his report to the National Association on Wednesday morning, July 24, General Director Rolla D. Smith announced his proposed retirement in March of 1986.

"Something that happened on a farm six miles northwest of Mountain Grove, Mo., on December 29, 1920," stated Smith, "coupled with a statement in the foreign missions *Handbook*, has led me to ask the board to name my successor. I refer, of course, to the place and date of my birth and the retirement age of 65 set by the board some 25 years ago. The Lord willing, I expect to turn the helm over to my successor on April 1, 1986."

Concerning future plans, Rolla says, "As the Lord leads and health permits, I hope to be involved in some type of Christian ministry for a few more years."

Immediately following Smith's announced retirement, Bill Jones, chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, introduced R. Eugene Waddell as the general director designate. Waddell is currently serving as associate director of foreign missions.

Rolla and his wife, Agnes, were given special recognition during the Wednesday night service. Chairman Bill Jones presented Mr. Smith a plaque and a check for \$1,000 on behalf of the board. He gave Mrs. Smith a special presentation bouquet.

During his report on Wednesday morning, Rolla presented a Pioneer Missionary Award to former general director Raymond Riggs and former missionaries Laura Belle Barnard and "Mom" Mabel Willey.

Betania Church Organizes with 73 Charter Members

Panama—The Betania Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City, Panama, was officially organized on May 18 with 73 charter members. A total of over 200 people were on hand for the special anniversary and organizational meeting even though the building could only accommodate approximately 80 people. In one bedroom of the house being used for services, 44 children were listening over a speaker.

Gabriel Perez preached the anni-

versary message and Martin Plicet, president of the Panamanian Association of Free Will Baptists, presided over the organizational service. Steve Lytle led the charter members in a ceremony of dedication, then the names of all charter members were read and each one stood to his feet. Finally, the entire group stood to ratify the church covenant.

Lytle expressed praise for this special event but declared, "Right now our greatest need is an adequate building, because I fear we'll not be able to grow much beyond our present attendance unless we get more room."

Steve reported having baptized 19 people at Betania this year.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Panama—Missionary Steve Lytle reported baptizing 11 people from San Miguelito sometime near the end of May.

France—Steve and Becky Riggs wound up language study at Chambon, France, in June and moved to Rennes to continue their language studies at the university.

Ivory Coast—Gene Richards, son of missionaries Norman and Bessie Richards, had a major role in the program of his graduation on July 4 at Ivory Coast Academy in Bouake, Ivory Coast. He was president of his class and served as co-salutatorian.

Nashville, Tenn.—Missionaries Jerry and Carol Pinkerton returned to Ivory Coast on August 22 after spending a short furlough in the

Signing the charter of the newly organized Betania FWB Church in Panama is Fressia de Dias, president of the church's woman's auxiliary.





Jerry and Carol Pinkerton returned to Ivory Coast in August.

States. Jerry serves as field chairman in addition to working with the church at Tanda.

Panama—The Agua Buena Free Will Baptist Church in Panama recently elected Martin Plicet as their pastor. The church had gone four and one-half years without someone at the helm. Plicet is president of the Panamanian Association of Free Will Baptists.

Brazil—A Sunday school campaign at Conselheiro Lafaiete, Brazil, has yielded a 27 percent increase in average attendance during a two-month period.



Carlisle and Marie Hanna left for India on August 19.

Charleston, S.C.—Carlisle and Marie Hanna returned to India on August 19 after spending a painful and troubled short furlough in the States. They had to be back in India by August 21 in accord with their permit to leave and return. Christians have been requested to continue in prayer on behalf of Carlisle's knee. It was crushed during an auto accident as they were leaving India for furlough.

France—Student missionaries Suzanne Purser and Sue Horton have been busy in St. Nazaire, France, distributing literature, mowing grass, baby-sitting, updating mailing lists, typing labels, refinishing furniture, etc.

Brazil—Construction of the church building at Campinas, Brazil, is progressing. The side columns are in place and the bathroom structure is going up. Student missionaries

Mark McPherson, Donnie Foreman, and Mary and Curtis Holland are working with the Jim Sturgills on this project.

Nashville, Tenn.—Dr. Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton were commissioned on July 7 to serve as associate missionaries in the Ivory Coast of West Africa. The special service was held at Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn. The Eagletons left for Ivory Coast on July 27.

Ivory Coast—Out of 150 who originally enrolled in Bible classes at public school in Agnibilekrou, 68 continued to the end and 22 received French New Testaments for having recited all the required memory verses. During the year, 18 prayed to receive Christ as their Savior. Alice Smith was in charge of these classes.

Dothan, Ala.—Dave Franks, Jr., son of Brazil missionaries Dave and Pat Franks, was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Coxwell of Dothan, Ala., on August 18. The special ceremony was held in the Union Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Pansey, Ala. Dave Jr. is planning to continue his studies at the Free Will Baptist Bible College graduate school this fall.

France—Missionaries Mark and Donna Daniel have moved to Nantes, France, following their language school session in Chambon. They will continue their French language study in addition to helping in the Nantes work.

Spain—"I am still having problems with my neck and continuous headaches," writes Miss Lynn Midgett from Mostoles, Spain. A specialist has diagnosed the problem as a pinched nerve at the base of the skull. Lynn was injured last winter in a sledding accident while on an outing with the teens from the church in Mostoles.



Sam and June Wilkinson

Moore, Okla.—Former missionaries Sam and June Wilkinson have moved from Surrency, Ga., to Moore, Okla., where Sam has assumed the role as missions instructor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

Ivory Coast—"One lady prayed to receive Christ this week," wrote Arilla Wode on June 1 from Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast. "She is named Monique. She made her decision during Alice's Bible class."

Oklahoma City, Okla.—David and Sharon Filkins were officially commissioned to missionary service in the Ivory Coast on August 3 at

Fred and Evelyn Hersey receive a \$2,257 check from Jennifer Jones of the "Teens for Peace" group of Peace FWB Church in Wilson, N.C.





The biannual meeting of Hokkaido FWB churches was held in the Kita Hiroshima church (left). Pastor Matsumoto, with his wife, receives the ordination charge (right) from Mitsumu Bonde of the Iriso church in Tokyo.



Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla. They left for France on August 15 to enter language study.

Columbia, Mo.—Alicia Bunch, daughter of missionaries Stan and Brenda Bunch, underwent surgery on June 4 to correct a problem in the right hip and right foot. She was hospitalized at the University Hospital in Columbia, Mo., for one week. The cast was removed on July 24 and latest X rays were encouraging. The Bunches were scheduled to return to Rio Grande Bible Institute at Edinburg, Tex., for language study on August 10.

U. S. Medical Opinion Sought by Alice Smith

Ivory Coast—Miss Alice Smith, missionary to Ivory Coast, arrived in West Virginia on August 10 for the purpose of undergoing special medical examinations and a possible biopsy. According to Alice, the doctor in Ivory Coast recommended her trip to the States for this special diagnosis and treatment.

Alice requested prayer for herself and the doctors who will be treating her.

Bike-a-thon Pulls \$2,257 for Fred Hersey Account

Wilson, N.C.—An annual Bike-a-thon was held April 27 by the "Teens for Peace" youth group of Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, N.C. Through this effort they raised \$2,257 for the Fred Hersey account.

A total of 33 riders rode 45 miles and seven walkers walked 13 miles to help raise these missionary funds. Blaine Hughes, youth pastor of the church is sponsor of the group.

Fred and Evelyn Hersey were on hand for a youth camp sponsored by the Peace church during the week of June 24-29. The check was presented to Hersey on June 28 during a session at the camp.

Hughes stated, "The people at Peace are always ready to respond when we announce that it is time for the Bike-a-thon. They willingly pledge to the teens and it is always a great blessing to the entire church."

Gordon Sebastian is pastor of the church.

Limestone VBS Gives \$1,150.17 to Sextons

Limestone, Tenn.—Following the Sunday morning service on July 14 at Limestone Free Will Baptist Church, Limestone, Tenn., VBS director Debbie Mitchell presented Don and Billie Sexton with a check for \$1,150.17 for their missionary account.

The Sextons, missionary representatives who served in France, both taught Sunday school classes in the church that morning and Don preached the morning message. Reverend Alfred Cutshall is pastor of the church.

Don expressed praise to the Lord "for pastors and people such as these. We know the little children worked hard, as well as the helpers and teachers."

Hokkaido Churches Meet, Ordain National Pastor

Japan—The biannual meeting of the Free Will Baptist churches in Hokkaido, Japan, was held at Kita Hiroshima Chapel in June.

According to missionary Jerry Banks, Reverend Matsumoto, the new pastor of the Adachi church in Tokyo, was ordained during the two-day meeting.

WNAC/Foreign Missions Banquet a Sell-out

Nashville, Tenn.—In recognition of 50 years of cooperative efforts of the woman's auxiliary and foreign missions, a joint banquet was held on Tuesday, July 23, during the National Association in Nashville, Tenn. A capacity crowd of 930 people jammed into the Hyatt Regency Ballroom to dine and view the multi-media program, "From Victory Unto Victory."

As the meal concluded, WNAC President June Rolan acknowledged the new WNAC executive secretary, Mary Ruth Wisheart. She also honored Mrs. Cleo Purcell, retiring leader who has served for 22 years in the executive post. Mrs. Rolan commended the Tennessee women who decorated the tables and provided corsages for honored women. Then, she turned the program over to Rolla D. Smith, general director of foreign missions.

Smith recognized pioneer missionaries at the head table: Laura Belle Barnard, "Mom" Mabel Willey, Dan and Trula Cronk, Carlisle and Marie Hanna, and Miss

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Financial Summary Through July 1985

Substance

Total income for June	\$192,792.07
Total income for July	241,236.39
Total income through July	1,543,575.48
Total disbursements through July	1,461,017.49
Projected receipts through July	1,689,043.00
Total 1985 Budget	\$2,895,498.00

Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey	\$3,872.15	Owen	\$1,047.78
Callaway	1,905.42	Payne	5,014.32
Crowson	1,083.90	Reeves	365.57
Ellison	389.52	Robinson	4,088.16
Hanna	12,621.97	Turnbough	645.92
Inscoc	88.76	Smith, J.	6,963.72
Lyle	3,035.84	Sturgill	829.37
McCullough	4,077.02	General Fund	7,500.35
Total			\$53,529.77

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Volena Wilson. Also present for the banquet and recognized by standing was Mrs. Paul (Nelle) Woolsey, pioneer missionary to India.

Finally, Rolla introduced the program which had been prepared by Jonathan and Yvonne Thigpen and Don Robirds, director of communications.

The 37-minute presentation utilized six slide projectors with dissolve functions and two 16mm motion picture projectors in presenting some of the victories and blessings of the past 50 years. Then, the challenge for Advance during the years ahead turned the focus on the great opportunities which Free Will Baptists face today. And the program concluded by praising God for His faithfulness in these years of ministry on foreign fields and across the denomination.

Unfortunately, many people who sought tickets for the special praise celebration were too late. And larger facilities were not available to accommodate a larger group.

Comments of those attending were varied, but many stated, "The program should have been presented to the entire National Association."

St. Nazaire Church Honors Mothers, Sets Record

France—The Free Will Baptist church in St. Nazaire, France, honored mothers on Mother's Day

Mothers and their children gather on Mother's Day in front of the St. Nazaire Free Will Baptist Church in France.



Married at the Alcala Church in Spain on May 25 were two couples: (left to right) Mark Riggs tied the knot with Julia Cortes and Carmen Cortes espoused Jose Manuel Parron.

and set a new attendance record of 54.

"Jerry preached a powerful message on parental responsibility before God," writes Tom McCullough. "Several unsaved mothers were visibly moved."

Barbara Gibbs planned a special presentation of flowers for each mother present along with a homemade card containing a picture of the woman's own child.

Two Couples Married in Alcala FWB Church

Spain—Two couples were married in the Alcala Free Will Baptist Church in Spain on May 25 of this year.

Missionary Lonnie Sparks reported the joining of Jose Manuel Parron, a young preacher, to Miss Carmen Cortes. Short-term missionary Mark Riggs was also married the same day to Julia Cortes, younger sister of the other bride.

Lonnie Sparks conducted the first wedding. Reverend Eustace Riggs, pastor of Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Russellville, Ala., performed the ceremony for his son and new daughter-in-law. Lonnie translated the rites into Spanish.

Eustace, his wife, and another son, Tim, were in Spain for the weddings. Mark and Julia accompanied them to the States on their return.

The weddings were held on the front patio of the church with approximately 200 people watching from the gardens and upper patio.

According to Lonnie, "The wedding feast was unusual for most of those attending in that no wine or alcoholic beverage of any kind was served."

While he was in Spain, Reverend Riggs also served as the principal speaker for the Alcala family camp held June 5-9.

Kita Hiroshima Church Adds National Worker

Japan—"For years we have been praying for a man to help us disciple these new believers," writes Jerry Banks from Sapporo, Japan. "God has provided a man! His name is Mr. Kawasaki. He will work jointly with the missionaries for one year. After that time, if everyone feels it is God's will, our church will call him as pastor."

Jerry noted that in the last few weeks the Christians of Kita Hiroshima have united their efforts in evangelistic outreach. The church building that was purchased seven months ago is already too small for the Sunday school and they are talking about adding some rooms.

Pastor Kawasaki will be working





Larry Inscoe and his son look on as papers are signed to reestablish church property boundaries on Isla de Cana, Panama.

with Jerry in an area just north of Sapporo where they are trying to get a new church started. The Japanese pastor has already been conducting services for a few believers in that area.

Advance Celebration Training Sessions Set

Nashville, Tenn.—National Advance Coordinator Jimmy Aldridge has announced training sessions during August, September, and October for Advance leaders across the denomination.

The 50-year anniversary celebration of praise actually began in South Carolina. The first training session was held in Florence, S.C., August 27, 28 for Advance chairmen from the southeastern states. Norwood Gibson, the Advance chairman for South Carolina, arranged the first training session.

Celebration leaders from the western states will meet in Tulsa, Okla., on September 3 for their training. Ron Carner, pastor of

Southeast Free Will Baptist Church in Tulsa, scheduled the Advance session for Oklahoma.

The midwestern state leaders will gather on October 4 in Columbus, Ohio, for the training program in their area. Alton Loveless is the Ohio Advance host.

Plans are being laid for another training session for leaders in the southern states, but a date has not yet been finalized.

Leaders or interested individuals may contact Jimmy Aldridge at 615-361-1010 for further information.

15 Saved in Las Tablas; Island Work Reopened

Panama—According to a July report from missionary Larry Inscoe in Panama, 15 people made first-time decisions for Christ at Las Tablas during the month of June. "Of the 15, five were children and the rest were teens and adults," Larry noted.

A weekend revival, held June

21-23, yielded seven conversions and 20 rededications. Ruben Vilchez of Panama City was the evangelist.

Twenty-six converts are now awaiting baptism as they study in a new convert class.

The Sunday school and church attendance at Las Tablas has risen during the last quarter, averaging 41 in Sunday school and 55 for the Sunday evening services.

In other news, Larry rejoiced that the mission on Isla de Cana (Island of Cane) is scheduled to be reopened by request of the people. It has been at a stand-still for the past five years due to disinterest.

Nantes Church Building Finished, Holds 160

France—Remodeling of the new building for the Nantes Free Will Baptist Church in France has carried over most of the past year, according to missionary John Murray.

"We have spent about \$15,000 for material, and now we have a beautiful auditorium that will hold 120 people, two classrooms that will hold about 30 children and a nursery that will hold about five infants with their mothers," writes John. "So, the total capacity is about 160 people."

Murray noted that approximately 40-50 people attend services regularly even though some families have moved away. He indicated several had been saved over the past year in spite of the time spent in manual labor on the building.

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