

HEARTBEAT

OCTOBER 1986

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions
Showing God at work through Free Will Baptists around the world



Confronting HELL'S GATES

Pray for Revival
in Cuba



Confronting HELL'S GATES

by Mike Cousineau

That Wednesday started out like most days normally start. Then, shortly after noon, a messenger from Natadou arrived at our house to announce the death of one of our Christian men.

Antoine, a man around 35 years of age, had served the Lord for probably two years. He had fallen ill suddenly on Saturday. Normally, I would have seen him on Sunday. But due to heavy rains and a washed-out bridge, I had been unable to make it to Natadou

that Sunday.

Antoine died early the following Wednesday morning. When word reached me that afternoon, I immediately prepared to go to the village. Accompanied by a young preacher boy, I got there around 3:00 p.m.

On arrival, we realized the pagans had overruled the Christians' request for a Christian funeral. We were greeted with the usual death wail that seems to ring continually in our area. The

Christians had been told, "The gospel will not be preached at this funeral." It was quite evident that the large number of pagans had taken over, and they were dominating the small group of Christians in the village.

Antoine's body was positioned in a chair, against a tree. The women encircled him wailing, dancing, and directing questions to him. Several old women sat next to him to keep the flies away from the body. Christians from a nearby village had already arrived and were

helping to dig the grave.

I quickly asked who was in charge of Antoine's body. His brother Matthew, who was a believer, was responsible. He told me that the relatives refused to allow a Christian funeral. His father had already told the relatives they could hold the customary funeral. I asked to see and speak with his father, who was an invalid. Inside his dark, smoke-filled hut, I talked at length about his son and the God he had chosen to follow. After the discussion, the father agreed to allow us to perform a Christian funeral. There was much opposition and because the man was an invalid, the agreement fell through.

Nevertheless, with the courage and strength that only the Lord can give, we gathered (all the Christians) around the body and sang the truth of the gospel for about 30 minutes. During this time we confronted the gates of hell. It was as if we were in battle. And indeed we were—a spiritual battle!

The young man with me didn't think we would be able to leave without our blood being shed. Our lives were in great danger. But God heard my prayer.

I felt like I imagine Joshua might have felt when he went to fight against the enemy. The assurance of the Lord was a calming factor when He said, "Fear them not. . . there shall not a man of them stand before thee" (Joshua 10:8). The assurance of 1 John 4:4 was my reinforcing strength, ". . . greater is he that is in you

than he that is in the world." Even though the Christians were outnumbered by a ratio of five to one, I had assurance that the victory was ours.

Several demon-possessed men kept circling us. The man playing the balafon persisted, defying our efforts of love.

As we sang, the confrontation continued. Several demon-possessed men kept circling us. The man playing the balafon persisted, defying our efforts of love. I prayed for the power of the Lord to come down. I pleaded that the power of the blood of Christ would shut up the demon-possessed men. And I asked God for calmness so that I could present the message of truth.

From a distance of about 20 feet, the war waged between a devil-filled man and a man filled with the Holy Spirit. As we eyed each other, I prayed in French and English that God would overpower him. The crowd was quite unruly. I didn't understand it until later, but the man was heard telling the people to take my body and bury it. Although the government has now outlawed the presence of bows and poison arrows at funerals, the young man with me didn't think we would be able to leave without our blood being shed. Our lives were in great danger! But God heard my prayer and won the battle that day.

As 2 Corinthians 12:9 indicates, His grace was sufficient and the power of Christ rested upon me. After the

singing, there was a calmness that was truly an answer to prayer.

The scene reminded me of what it might have been like during the feeding of the five thousand. All of the women just sat on the ground. I was given the liberty to preach the gospel to several hundred people as God bound the power of Satan. This was probably the first time that most had ever heard the gospel. It took the death of Antoine, a Christian, for the message of salvation to be presented. The seed was planted!

After the message, the wailing and dancing started up again. We wanted to bury the body of Antoine but were met by a hostile refusal. In spite of the refusal, we left the village of Natadou rejoicing that the gospel had been preached in His name among all the people that were present. We also rejoiced that God had protected us from the enemy, and had spared our lives.

We reveled in God's promise: ". . . I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Mike Cousineau has served two terms as a missionary in Bouna, Ivory Coast. He and his family are currently in the United States on furlough.

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Editor: Don Robirds
Editorial Assistant: Carole Ragan
Artist: Jim Johnson

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FROM MUHAMMED TO CHRIST IN JAPAN

by Janice Banks



**Chikako Sasaki
(above, right)
receives Bible-
teacher training at
Kita Hiroshima.**

"Hello. My name is Chikako Sasaki," said the young woman. "My son goes to kindergarten with your daughter, and I saw you there the other day. I am wondering if you could teach me English conversation."

Chikako, a pleasant young lady, already had a pretty good command of the English language. Since we held conversation classes at our church, we were glad to invite her to join us.

Soon Mrs. Sasaki became one of our most conscientious students and a dear friend. But she wasn't open to the gospel message. She listened to our Bible messages with doubt and questioned us, hoping to find contradictions in our religion. She believed in only one God. But she followed the teaching of Islam from the Koran. She was a Muslim!

Early in life Chikako had



**Chikako (center)
sings in a choral
group.**

encountered Christianity through many activities: a church-sponsored kindergarten, Sunday school, English conversation classes, and piano lessons. Later, as a junior high and high school student she lived with relatives who were Christians.

When Chikako entered a Christian college in Tokyo, doubt and rebellion began to get a grip on her young heart. During that time she met an Egyptian who taught her about the Islamic religion. She felt compelled to become a Muslim and to dedicate herself to Muhammed's teachings in the Koran.

A roommate followed Chikako's lead and also became a Muslim. Together they diligently studied the peoples and cultures of the Islamic world. They did everything they could to prove themselves worthy of their spiritual enlightenment. Chikako assisted an elderly Muslim in the task of translating the Koran into Japanese.

Chikako's enthusiasm for this new religion worried her parents but they couldn't seem to get through to her. They hoped college graduation and her move back to Abashiri would help to calm her down, but it didn't work. They tried the Japanese custom of arranging marriage, but Chikako wasn't interested in the young men of their choosing. Later on, having heard from her brother that a young doctor cared about her, she turned her interests toward him and eventually the two were married.

Dr. Tetsuo Sasaki took a position on the hospital staff at Hokkaido University and Chikako took her place by his side, bearing their four children

and making a delightful home for them. She faithfully followed the Koran's instructions to be a good wife, because "one's husband is the master of the home."

Along with her quest for deeper understanding of her religion, Chikako continued to pursue her interest in English conversation. God used that interest to lead her to the ministries of Kita Hiroshima Chapel. We began to teach her English and at the same time began a slow, continual process of Christian witness.

Jerry said, "Either Jesus Christ is God, as He claimed, or He was the biggest liar that ever lived." Chikako was stunned.

In time, God's Word began to penetrate Mrs. Sasaki's heart. She had long rejected Jesus Christ, but no longer could she be sure He was just a man and not God as He claimed. She had always termed Him a good prophet.

One day Jerry, my husband, made a shocking statement that Chikako will never forget. He said, "Either Jesus Christ is God, as He claimed, or He was the biggest liar that ever lived." Chikako was stunned by such a sharp statement, but those words wouldn't leave her. She struggled against the conviction that was eating away her doubts.

Finally, the confused Muslim follower gave up the struggle and accepted Jesus Christ as God and Savior. She wrote to her Muslim friend and explained

her new faith. Then she came to me. We talked and prayed together, and what a change came over my friend! The troubling conviction was lifted and relief was clearly visible. She went home and called several Christian friends to share the good news and to thank them for praying. The next day she called missionary Judy Smith, who was on furlough in the United States: "Judy, I have some good news to tell you. For many years we've been friends, but now we are sisters."

Since Chikako's conversion, three of her children have accepted Christ, and she dreams of the day her husband and eldest son will follow their example.

Chikako claims Jeremiah 29:11-13 as very special verses: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

During the ten years of our friendship prior to Chikako's salvation we challenged her to seek the Lord with all her heart. Now she knows His promises are true, for she sought Him and found Him.

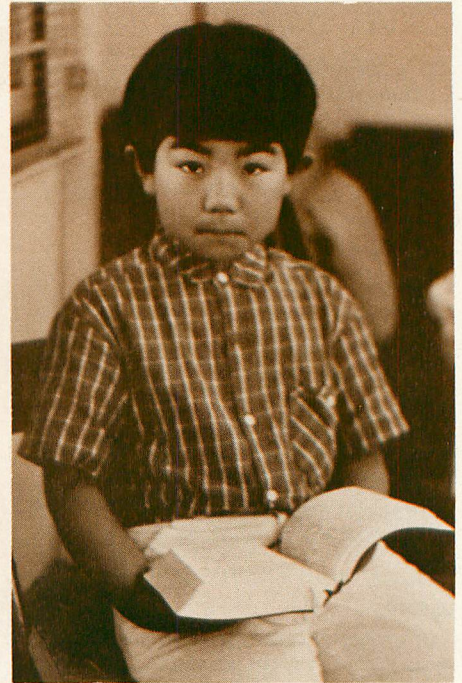
Janice Banks and her husband, Jerry, are serving in Japan. They are presently ministering in the Kita Hiroshima church in Sapporo.



*Toyohito Murooka has begun
reading the Bible daily.*



*Women of the Iriso and Adachi Free Will Baptist churches
meet for fellowship.*



After 30 Years in Japan

by Fred Hersey

*Youth from the Iriso church visit Mrs. Mochizuki (now
deceased) in the hospital.*



*This man was the first convert
from the Herseys' ministry in
Japan.*

Everything looked so dirty, everyone spoke in such a strange-sounding language, and from my perspective at over six feet tall, the people looked half grown! That's the way I saw it 30 years ago when we first

landed in Japan.

I remember many thoughts passing through my mind when we sailed beneath the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge on April 9, 1956. As we strained to get our last glimpse of the California

coastline, we wondered just what awaited us. What was the country of Japan really like?

After spending one enjoyable day sightseeing in Honolulu, Hawaii, we finally set foot on Japanese soil on April 23. The smells of Japan in those days were so foreign to us that they would almost make us faint or quit breathing altogether. We soon learned to hold our breath for long periods of time.

Foods all looked and tasted strange, too. Even the eggs and bacon seemed to taste fishy.

But over the years we have become accustomed to the sights, smells, sounds, and tastes. Japan has been our home for most of these past 30 years.

Shortly after our arrival we discovered what was to be our greatest problem: learning to effectively communicate the gospel in the Japanese language. We also learned just how much the people needed the message of Christ, for they were indeed a people "wholly given to idolatry."

We learned just how much the people needed the message of Christ, for they were indeed a people "wholly given to idolatry."

Today the average Japanese will declare he has no religion. And to the new missionary this would appear to leave the evangelistic door open wide. But one soon realizes that just about all of the customs in Japan stem from some idolatrous background or influence.

Japanese people are extremely superstitious. Most

homes have a god-shelf where the family worships the spirits of ancestors. Nearly all weddings are performed by a Shinto priest. And most funerals are Buddhist.

During one week in June of 1986 we had two funerals at Iriso where we are working. We refuse to hold a funeral if there is any trace of heathen practices or anything that would not honor God. With this understanding, we were able to effectively share the gospel with more people than we have preached to in a long time. Many unsaved people remarked to Christians that they had understood the message very well. They also indicated seeing "real meaning" in a Christian funeral.

Over the years God has blessed our efforts and has given us some of His choice gems. But not all who have professed Christ have been able to stand against the many obstacles and pressures of this society. Our hearts ache when one of these returns to the ways of the heathen world.

Recently Mrs. Murooka expressed how happy she was that her son, Toyohito, was reading his Bible. The boy is in the fourth grade but has genuine assurance of salvation in Christ. I had encouraged him to read his Bible every day and he was doing it.

Mrs. Murooka was saved just before our last furlough. Now,

Toyohito and the older daughter, Chieko, are also Christians. The mother has thanked Evelyn a number of times for our coming to Japan so she and her family might be saved. Mr. Murooka has also shown interest in salvation but as yet has not received Christ.

"Thanks for leaving your country and coming to Japan with the gospel. If you hadn't come, the chances are we wouldn't be saved today."

We are thankful that God enabled us to come to Japan. And we are glad we have stuck it out when we entertained thoughts of leaving. Many people here have said to us through the years, "Thanks for leaving your country and coming to Japan with the gospel. If you hadn't come, the chances are we wouldn't be saved today."

Yes, Free Will Baptists can be thankful that God has used them as He has to build His church in Japan. In spite of the high cost of land and building materials today, the Christians in Iriso are in the process of building a new church building. Other Free Will Baptist churches in Japan are also erecting their own buildings. They have indeed "turned to God from idols."

We are truly grateful that we have been permitted to see the church in Japan develop during these past 30 years. And we expect this growth and development to continue until our Lord returns for His bride.

Fred Hersey and his wife, Evelyn, are veteran missionaries working in a suburb of Tokyo, Japan.





"Feed My Sheep"

by Vicki Sturgill



Some doors opened. Others closed! God was working in the heart of Silvestre da Silveira Pinto Neto. During the last months of 1981, Neto felt the call of God to "feed the sheep of God."

In that same year God was already preparing for Neto's practical training. A new work sprang up in the Parque Bandeirantes section of

Campinas, Brazil. An outreach of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Campinas where we were working, this new group soon built a small house to serve temporarily as the church and eventually as the parsonage.

During youth camp, the Lord spoke to Neto about full-time Christian service.

As the program developed in the main church, my husband, Jim, and I also felt it was ready for a full-time national pastor. This would free us to start a new congregation in another

area of the city.

After visiting the two Campinas works, Neto was impressed by God to respond to the need in Bandeirantes. He began studying at the Baptist Theological College at Campinas in August of 1982. Subsequently, he worked in Bandeirantes for several years without pay while holding down a full-time job and studying at night.

Neto first came in contact with the gospel in Ribeirao Preto where he was living. His mother approached missionary Bobby Poole in 1977 with questions about the Bible. Soon she, Neto, and his brother were attending the Ribeirao Preto

Free Will Baptist Church. Neto remembers attending services, but he had no real desire to follow Christ. His mother, Salete, and his brother, Carlos Roberto, were both saved shortly thereafter. But Neto rebelled!

Later, during a youth camp at Evangelandia, the Free Will Baptist camp in Jaboticabal, God spoke to the young man's heart. A few days after that, during a missions conference, Neto accepted Christ as Savior.

Regarding that experience, Neto revealed, "It was as though I was walking on clouds as I left the church that night."

Prior to attending the Bible college in Campinas, Silvestre had taken a few courses at the Bible institute at Ribeirao Preto. "What helped me grow much in the Lord were the Bible verses that I learned in the evangelism course," he explained.

During another youth camp, the Lord spoke to Neto about full-time Christian service. So he began studies to prepare for mechanical engineering, hoping to work with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. But God closed that door and led him to prepare for a pastoral ministry.

Neto first came in contact with the gospel after his mother approached missionary Bobby Poole in 1977 with questions about the Bible.

The young man from Ribeirao Preto spent much time seeking the Lord's will regarding where he should study. In Campinas he found both a Bible college and a place of employment which he needed in order to

pay for his studies. He also located a Christian boarding house.

"I have no doubt that God prepared the way and led me to Campinas to prepare for the ministry," Neto declares.

"It was as though I was walking on clouds as I left the church that night."

In February of 1984 Silvestre married Cidneia Esteves Rodrigues, a graduate of Baptist Theological College. She joined her husband in the ministry at Bandeirantes, helping in whatever capacity she was needed. In 1985 the Lord gave them a son, Lucas.

Having felt led to leave the Campinas church early in 1985, Jim and I sought the Lord for guidance in replacing us. God

had already prepared Neto and his wife to assume the pastorate.

In December of 1985 Silvestre da Silveira Pinto Neto was elected pastor and on February 23, 1986, he was ordained and officially installed as shepherd of the Campinas flock. In June of this year he finished his course of study and graduated from college.

Although 12 people, including our family, left the church to start the new work in Pauliceia, the latest reports indicate the church has recovered that number and more. We are sure God is at work in the lives of Neto and Cidneia, but they need the prayers of Christians in Brazil and the United States so they can withstand Satan's efforts to hinder them.

Vicki Sturgill and her husband, Jim, have been serving in Brazil since 1972. They have worked in Campinas, Sao Paulo, since 1978.

Clip and mail

**THEIR ACCOUNT IS SINKING FAST!
They Need \$700 More Monthly!**

KEN and JUDY BAILEY have just started their ministry in Japan but their missionary account has been going consistently deeper in the red. The loss of the dollar exchange against the yen and the loss of some regular support have contributed to this deficit. The Baileys need an additional \$700 in monthly support and \$10,150 in extra cash to get them in the black. Will you help them now?



Yes, I want to help Ken and Judy Bailey get out of the red and stay in Japan. Count on me to give the following amount monthly:
(check one)

() \$20 () \$30 () \$40 () \$50 () \$_____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ to help out right now.

Name _____

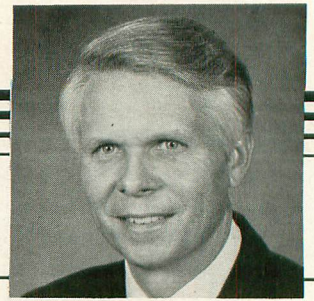
Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Church _____

I will send this (Check one) () through the church () direct.

Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202

HEARTLINE



Pray for Revival in Cuba

Have you ever received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord?" I asked the 26-year-old Cuban when I learned he could speak a little English.

"No, I haven't," he replied.

I immediately got Steve Lytle to follow up the conversation in Spanish. Soon, Jose (not his real name) was praying to receive the Lord!

That was the high point of my visit to Cuba in August. The conversion occurred one night after I had preached to the senior high campers and older young people.

Before leaving Miami, Steve and I had wondered what we would find and how we would be received in Cuba. Since I had spent a

week there during the summer of 1954, I remembered a few of the people and places.

We were overwhelmed by the reception which we were given. Someone even guided us through customs without delay.

The Cuban Convention of Free Will Baptists hosted us during our stay. We enjoyed being a part of the summer camp which was being held at the "Cedars of Lebanon Seminary" property. The luscious green valley resounded day and night with a hundred happy voices praising God.

God has given us strong spiritual leaders. The men who lead the Cuban FWB convention have proven themselves true to Christ through times of severe testing. They are devoted to the Lord and faithful to the doctrinal position of Free Will Baptists. They remember what missionary Thomas H. "Pop" Willey taught them, and they made it clear that they want no part of the modern ecumenical movement.

The alligator-shaped map of Cuba is dotted with 19 locations where Free Will Baptists have churches or missions. They list a total of 899 Christians, led by five ordained pastors, three licensed preachers, and some 80 lay preachers.

Right now Cuban churches have unusual opportunities. Our Free Will Baptists have three or four revivals each year. Individual Christians are permitted to invite their neighbors and acquaintances. Many are successfully witnessing through this method.

As Steve gave the invitation for those who felt God leading them into His service, 10 young people responded.

It appears that the churches can now get permission to make improvements to church property, including the parsonages. I saw a Baptist church in a suburb of Havana that is building a large educational addition with an apartment for the pastor's family.

I am optimistic about the future of our churches in Cuba because of their vibrant youth program. A pastor told us, "More and more young people are becoming Christians." That is exciting in this

Special Gifts

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

Donor	In Memory of
Hurricane Chapel FWB McEwen, Tenn.	Johnnie Little
Antioch FWB Auxiliary Pikeville, N.C.	Bobbie Edwards
Mr. Phil Sandusky Walnut Ridge, Ark.	Aubrey A. Russell
Ronald Callaway Nashville, Tenn.	John Midgett
Jewell Sexton Chapmansboro, Tenn.	Aritha Trotter
Mrs. Lucille Reed Ashland City, Tenn.	Rev. Luther Reed
Mrs. Owen Thomas Four Oaks, N.C.	Mr. Thurman West
Hilda J. Boyd Greenville, N.C.	Stephen Forlines
Sue Green Greenville, N.C.	Stephen Forlines
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Case St. Ann, Mo.	Virgil Wisehart
Arthur S. Norris Benton, Ill.	Florence Norris

Clip and Mail Coupon

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 _____

R. Eugene Waddell
General Director

land where being a Christian is so unpopular.

The 70 senior high and college-age young people at camp sang with great enthusiasm. They listened very attentively to the Word as we preached. They also sought opportunities to talk with Steve and me between every service.

On Wednesday morning after the service, a young lady talked to Steve about her life. Steve shared God's plan of redemption. She was saved!

I was impressed by the talent of these young people. They led the services. It was thrilling to hear soloists, duets, trios, and choirs. Three or four different pianists accompanied various groups. A duet of trumpets sounded praises over the countryside.

The luscious green valley resounded day and night with a hundred happy voices praising God.

The island-wide program which is making the greatest impact is the "Layman's Institute." Thirty-one are enrolled. One weekend a month these students go to great lengths to get to Cedars of Lebanon where the different pastors teach the Word. They also give lessons on the church and Christian service.

Between these weekends, each student has a program of self-study to prepare for the next lecture.

The Executive Committee of the convention told me they hope to reopen Cedars of Lebanon for full-time students. This training is desperately needed to prepare those who will replace the pastors who will soon be retiring.

God is already moving to provide this need. Steve Lytle gave an invitation for those who definitely felt God was calling them into His service. Ten young people responded. Four of these young men told Steve they felt God was calling them to preach!

I left Cuba with the overwhelming burden to call upon you to pray for revival. I believe this is a unique time in the history of Cuban Free Will Baptists. Will you join me now in praying for revival in Cuba?

Financial Summary

Through August 31

\$ Substance

Total income for August	\$ 201,744.73
Total income through August	1,807,521.15
Total disbursements through August	2,046,060.07
Projected income through August	1,984,589.36
Total 1986 Budget	\$2,976,884.00
1986 ADVANCE Budget	\$ 201,526.00

\$ Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey	\$10,135.45	McCullough	\$ 1,845.74
Callaway	13,377.95	Miley	5,250.84
Ellison	318.48	Murray	5,558.28
Gibbs	1,206.53	Nichols	4,818.50
Inscoe	3,180.77	Owen	325.85
Leatherbury	1,303.50	Sparks	1,299.28
Lytle	4,252.52	Willey	680.83
Martens	158.75	General Fund	14,007.52
Total			\$68,932.61

State Quotas—1986

State	Quota 1986	Quota Through August	Contributions Through August
Alabama	\$ 169,000	\$ 112,667	\$ 99,152.82
Arizona	5,000	3,333	1,178.07
Arkansas	152,000	101,333	89,410.62
California	50,000	33,333	33,346.49
Colorado	3,000	2,000	3,230.00
Florida	90,000	60,000	53,536.82
Georgia	106,000	70,667	82,269.15
Hawaii	1,000	667	1,367.05
Idaho	1,000	667	356.08
Illinois	87,000	58,000	59,916.40
Indiana	31,000	20,667	18,015.67
Iowa	1,500	1,000	822.72
Kansas	14,000	9,333	8,033.24
Kentucky	84,000	56,000	43,454.92
Louisiana	500	333	.00
Maryland	16,000	10,667	6,560.92
Michigan	132,000	88,000	84,656.31
Mississippi	55,000	36,667	39,325.23
Missouri	179,000	119,333	138,226.49
Montana	1,000	667	470.00
Nevada	1,000	667	675.00
New Mexico	500	333	28.68
*Northeast Assn.	7,000	4,667	3,836.61
**Northwest Assn.	6,000	4,000	1,581.54
North Carolina	367,000	244,667	222,125.40
Ohio	116,000	77,333	57,715.34
Oklahoma	362,000	241,333	237,588.02
Pennsylvania	2,500	1,667	574.00
South Carolina	197,000	131,333	93,730.21
Tennessee	402,000	268,000	224,237.63
Texas	83,000	55,333	57,721.15
Virginia	99,000	66,000	59,435.62
Virgin Islands	3,000	2,000	697.90
West Virginia	80,000	53,333	30,134.88
Miscellaneous	72,884	48,589	54,110.17
Totals	\$2,976,884	\$1,984,589	\$1,807,521.15

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

**Northwest Association
Alaska, Oregon, and Washington



Lonnie Sparks baptizes one of five converts during a special service on July 20 at Alcala de Henares, Spain.

Sparks Reports Revival, Baptizes Five Converts

Spain—Missionary Lonnie Sparks reported recently that a revival meeting was held in June at the Alcala de Henares Free Will Baptist Church in Spain. A Spanish preacher from Barcelona, Reverend Martin Valcarcel, was the evangelist.

On July 20, Lonnie baptized five new converts.

Several decisions for Christ were recorded during the daily vacation Bible school held by the church during the first two weeks of July. The youth did most of the work and attendance averaged 64 with a record day of 79 people on hand.

Lonnie and Anita left Spain on August 17 to begin furlough, so Jose Manuel Parron has assumed responsibility for the preaching and leadership in the church. The Sparks requested prayer for Jose and his wife, Carmen, as they lead the group. Missionary Dennis Owen is scheduled to preach at the church each Sunday evening.

Doctor Reaps in Brazil, Arrives in France

France—Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, who has been serving in the Ivory Coast for the past year, has finally arrived in France where he and his wife, Rejane, will begin French language study. The Eagletons arrived on August 25 and are living in Marseilles.

The Eagleton family spent part of July and August in Brazil renewing visas, visiting family and friends, and speaking in churches.

"I have had 12 speaking engagements in seven different churches since we have been here," writes Dr. Eagleton from Brazil. "The Lord has blessed with four salvation decisions and eight people who have publicly answered the call to missions. Our involvement with missions and reports on what the Lord is doing in the Ivory Coast seem to have had an impact on the churches we visited."

The Eagletons hope to return to the Ivory Coast sometime in 1988.

FWBBC Conference Is Set for November 3-5

Nashville, Tenn.—The biennial Foreign Missions Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., is scheduled for November 3-5.

According to Rolla Smith, who is temporarily scheduling missionary services, speakers for the conference this year will include Lonnie Sparks, missionary to Spain; Steve Lytle, missionary to Panama; Eugene Waddell, general director; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary; and himself. The actual schedule for speakers was unknown at press time.

Other missionaries and missionary wives are expected to be on hand during the week to participate in Missionary Prayer Band on campus.

Mayhews Report More Converts in Tanda Area

Ivory Coast—After several delays, Archie and Sarah Mayhew finally made it to the Ivory Coast in July. "A young man came the second day we were here to ask about the 'things of

life,'" writes Sarah. "Mark Daniel had witnessed to him while they were here. He came back prepared by the Holy Spirit to accept the Lord."

The Mayhews related that the church had grown in number and in maturity since they had left in 1980. "We cried when we saw the many women and young girls at the conference," says Sarah. "A few years back, young men had to lead a girl to the Lord to have a Christian wife."

"Last night a young man wandered in off the street and sat down to listen," the Mayhews continued. "After the Bible study, we began to talk to him and found out that he wanted to follow Christ. He accepted the Lord."

Nine other people made decisions in and around the area of Tanda in early August, according to Archie. Five were saved in the village of Amanvi which had been opened by high school students who had been saved at Tanda.

11 MKs Enroll in U.S. Colleges During Fall

Nashville, Tenn.—According to the latest information received in the missions office, 11 MKs have enrolled for the fall semester in various colleges around the United States.

Attending Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville are Suzanne Franks and Vicki Lynne Sturgill of Brazil, Patricia Murray of France, Malinda Ellison of Uruguay, and Gene Richards of Ivory Coast.

Enrolled at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Oklahoma are Kemper and Cindy Combs and James Deeds, all of Brazil. Lori Hughes of Brazil is attending Laurinburg College in Laurinburg, N.C.

Paul Hersey of Japan is a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and Paul Sparks is enrolled in the graduate school at Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, Ind.

Nichols Reports Five Saved in Goumère Area

Ivory Coast—According to an August report from missionary Darrel Nichols, five people have been saved in the Goumère area since his and Lila's arrival in the Ivory Coast. Most of those were saved as a result of personal witnessing by the Christians. But Darrel noted, "One responded to my first sermon preached in the Ivory Coast."



Gainer Returns to Japan, Requests Prayer

Florence, S.C.—After spending approximately six months in the United States, Miss Mirial Gainer, associate missionary to Japan, returned to the northern island of Hokkaido on September 3. She was scheduled to begin an orientation program for American students who are beginning the new school semester at Hokusei University where she teaches.

Gainer requested prayer for her ministry among the students, for the problem with currency exchange rates in Japan, for her continuing language study, and for her witness in the neighborhood of Hokusei.

Gainer had been involved in an intensive study program at Florence-Darlington Technical College during recent months.

Banks Deficit Clears as Donors Respond

Nashville, Tenn.—The foreign missions staff has joined Jerry and Janice Banks in praising God for donors who have turned the financial picture around on the Banks' account from May through July.

According to the finance department in the foreign missions office, the financial statement at the end of May showed the Banks \$10,446.60 in the deficit. By the end of August this had changed to a total of \$9,725 in the black.

"We thank the Lord for concerned Free Will Baptists who have seen the importance of keeping the Jerry Banks family on the field at this crucial time," stated R. Eugene Waddell, general director. "They are enjoying the greatest fruit of their ministry since arriving in Japan."

Besides all the regular and individual increased giving, these significant gifts (over \$300 in one month) were noted from June 1 through August 31: Scioto Dale FFWB Church in Portsmouth, Oh., \$768; Blue Bell FFWB in Sapulpa, Okla., \$855 in June and \$847 in July; Charles Hingst of Nash-



(Top) R. Eugene Waddell, general director (wearing his cap), treks toward the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary facilities in Cuba for the summer camp of the Cuban Convention of Free Will Baptists. (Bottom) A youth choir sings during a service at the summer camp as Waddell awaits his turn to preach. (See Heartline on page 10.)

ville, Tenn., \$750; Sunnyside FFWB in Del City, Okla., \$410; Victory FFWB in Goldsboro, N.C., \$358 in June and \$579 in August; WNAC, Nashville, Tenn., \$425.

First FFWB Church in Sylacauga, Ala., \$326; Mr. W. T. Henry of Damascus, Ga., \$440; Mine La Motte FFWB in Fredericktown, Mo., \$500; Bellview FFWB in Colquitt, Ga., \$1,000; Oliver Springs FFWB in Van Buren, Ark., \$307; Hyde Park FFWB in Norfolk, Va., \$1,140; Trinity FFWB in Greenville, N.C., \$377 in July and \$5,725 in August; Friendship FFWB in Flint, Mich., \$1,000 in July and \$1,555 in August; Liberty FFWB in Mannford, Okla., \$1,000.

Sherwood Forest FFWB Church of New Bern, N.C., \$1,000; Virginia Beach FFWB in Virginia Beach, Va.,

\$830; and Harmony Association in Arkansas, \$330.

The youth group of the Sylacauga, Ala., church sponsored a rock-a-thon on July 18 to raise their money for the Banks. According to Douglas Carey, assistant pastor, this was the first effort of this type to be attempted by the group on behalf of a missionary.

Richards Praises African Leaders During Furlough

Ivory Coast—After arriving in the Ivory Coast during the summer following their year of furlough, Norman and Bessie Richards expressed joy and praise over what they saw in the African church at Agnibilekrou.

"Our feet were hardly touching the

Continued on page 14 →

Cuban Brethren Send Greetings

We want to relate our eternal thanks and gratitude to the Free Will Baptist Christians in the United States. We are fruit of your efforts and sacrifices. Thank you for bringing us the transforming, regenerating gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We also extend our thanks to the Board of Foreign Missions for allowing Eugene Waddell and Steve Lytle to be with us. We want Christians in America to know there are Christians here who are willing to see that the work of our God is carried on and expanded. Christians here are willing to defend the doctrines that they have learned.

Our commitment is only to our Lord and Savior, no one else. You have known our work, its aims and needs. You are familiar with our history. We ask you then to pray for our work here in Cuba.

We extend to you a greeting from all of our Christians and churches because they are the ones who have sustained and promoted our work here in Cuba. In their name please receive a symbolic embrace, uniting Cuban Christians and the American Christians.

May God bless your ministries.

Gilberto Dias Triana
President of the Free Will Baptist
Convention in Cuba

→Continued from page 13

ground as we witnessed the Africans teaching the Sunday school classes (76 were present)," writes Norman. "When Christophe, one of the church leaders, preached a moving message to the 92 present, our cup of joy was overflowing!"

Although the church went through some problems during the year, the leaders seemed to seek God's direction and deal with the situation wisely, according to Richards. "The church and its leaders are stronger spiritually as a result," he concluded.

"Our role this term will be in further leadership training, evangelism, teaching, and expanding the work in other villages," Norman continued. "The African Christians will continue to assume the major leadership roles."

Baileys Report Answered Prayer, Request More

Japan—Having requested prayer for the Yamada family in Japan, Ken Bailey writes, "Mr. Yamada became a Christian a few months ago, and since our last newsletter, Mrs. Yamada has also accepted Christ! Praise the Lord!"

Ken also reported that the Yamadas' 14-year-old son is a faithful member of the English Bible study class and has expressed an interest in the gospel.

French Couple Testifies in Stateside Churches

Nashville, Tenn.—Denis and Claudine Gras of Lorient, France, visited the United States August 7-27 and gave their testimonies in several Free Will Baptist churches. Miss Charolette Tallent, missionary to Lorient, served as interpreter for the couple who spent most of their time visiting with Charolette and her parents in St. Louis, Mo.

On August 20 Denis and Claudine attended an international missions banquet in the First FWB Church in Russellville, Ark. They gave their testimonies at Donelson and Cross Timbers FWB churches in Nashville, Tenn., on August 24. They also shared their testimonies in Missouri at Southside FWB in St. Louis and Bethel FWB in Festus, as well as at Bethel FWB in South Roxana, Ill.

According to Charolette, the couple was really impressed with the vast



Overseas Secretary Jimmy Aldridge greets Claudine and Denis Gras (center) of Lorient, France. Charolette Tallent (right) translated for them in various churches where they gave their testimonies while visiting the U.S.

availability of evangelical, Bible-teaching churches in the U.S. They expressed having felt a warm welcome by American Christians.

Denis is a French seaman stationed at the naval base in Lorient.

Youth Camp Focuses on Being Christian Example

Ivory Coast—Rallying around the theme "Be An Example," more than 140 Ivory Coast Free Will Baptist young people met July 18-20 for the annual youth camp. The young people, composed mostly of Koulangos and Lobis, met in the village of Kpanan.

Two young men, Bini Francis and Atta Kouakou, headed up the camp with the assistance of several other young people. Main speakers for the event were Mr. Dara, a former agriculturalist, and Mr. Guelkodjingar, a former teacher. Both men are leaders in the Bondoukou church.

Subjects dealt with in the three-day session included how a young person is to be an example, the history of Free Will Baptists, and the life of Joseph.

Filkins Family Moves to Nantes, Continues Study

France—After completing their language studies at Albertville, France, Dave and Sharon Filkins have moved to Nantes where they will be working for a period of time with the Nantes church. They are currently living in the

house recently vacated by Darrel and Lila Nichols who went on to Ivory Coast.

"One of the toughest things at Albertville was a situation with another student," writes Dave. "He faced tormenting demon spirits for six months before we discovered a hidden sin that he had been unwilling to deal with. Praise the Lord for all that He taught us during that time. We are really thankful for how God used this to teach us how to better work together as husband and wife."

Dave and Sharon will continue their language study which will most likely consist of a mixture of university and private courses.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

France—Rejane Eagleton, wife of associate missionary Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, has requested prayer for her father whom she left "bedridden, blind, and feeble" as she departed from Brazil in August. The Eagletons are in France for language study. They spent part of July and August in Brazil following a year in Ivory Coast at the medical station in Doropo.

Nashville, Tenn.—Lynn and Ramona Miley were scheduled to arrive in the United States from France on September 25. After exploring every possible means of education for their children, the couple felt compelled to return to the U.S. They had encoun-



Walter Ellison inspects the remodeling work being done on the building recently purchased for the Bible institute in Montevideo, Uruguay. The building will house some students as well as provide church and classroom facilities.

tered insurmountable problems in the French school system. The Mileys' future ministry will be decided upon their arrival stateside.

Ivory Coast—Missionary Jerry Pinkerton baptized 18 people from the village of Appimadom on a weekend in mid-July. The group included a widow and 17 young people in their upper teens. Pinkerton spent the weekend in the village teaching "anxious, eager students." When Jerry announced a 15-minute break, they groaned and said, "Oh, just five minutes, Pastor."

Nashville, Tenn.—Recent furlough expenses have contributed to the plunge of the Ron and Linda Callaway and Steve and Judy Lytle mission accounts, according to the foreign missions finance department. At the end of August the Callaway account had a deficit of \$13,378 and the Lytle account was \$4,252 in the red.

Japan—Twenty-seven people from the Kita Hiroshima church took part in a Bible camp for youth held July 28-30 in the Sapporo area on the northern island of Hokkaido, Japan. "There were lots of decisions for Christ made in our classes," writes Judy Smith. "One girl in my high school class prayed to receive Christ."

Ivory Coast—In July missionaries Mark and Donna Daniel moved from Goumère to Nassian, Ivory Coast.

They will work with the Nassian church and study the Koulango language. The mission station at Nassian was without electricity for a few days in August but missionary Jerry Pinkerton temporarily remedied the situation with a generator from Tanda. It saved the food in the Daniels' refrigerator and freezer.

Bowlings Get Ministry Chance; Rick Has Mishap

Uruguay—Although Rick and Linda Bowling indicate their ministry is progressing slowly in Uruguay, they have expressed praise that a door has opened to use puppets in the area where they hope to have a church.

"We have also found a couple who will allow us to have a Bible study in their home once a week," writes Linda.

The Bowlings also informed the mission office that Rick had been involved in an auto accident in July. No one was hurt and it was apparently the fault of the other driver.

Reeves Commissioned, Depart for Spain

Monett, Mo.—Missionary appointees Steve and Linda Reeves were officially commissioned on July 19 to missionary service in Spain. The special commissioning service was held in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Monett, Mo., with Reverend Lavelle Reeves, Steve's father,

preaching the message. R. Eugene Waddell, general director of foreign missions, gave the charge.

The Reeves left for Spain on August 11 and started studying the Spanish language at Mangold in Madrid on September 29. They had a tutor helping them from August 22 until they started at Mangold.

First Service Held in New Iriso Building

Japan—A September report from Fred Hersey indicated the new church building at Iriso was up, and the first services were held in the building on September 7. The apartment and the interior of the building were incomplete, so Fred and Evelyn were still waiting to move their belongings into the apartment.

The construction on the new building started on July 14 with the signing of the construction contract.

Hersey stated that overall costs would be approximately \$250,000.

Anti-missionary Policy Expanded by India

India—According to a recent report in *The Church Around the World*, India has expanded its policy against Christian missionaries. K. V. Thomas, a member of India's ruling Congress party and a Catholic, said the government has decided to eventually expel all foreign missionaries. He discussed the government policy with prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, asking him to extend government permits to missionaries, but the request was denied.

World Population Hits Five Billion Figure

Washington, D.C.—According to the Population Institute in Washington, D.C., world population reached five billion on July 7 of this year. (Some experts note that the milestone may have been reached earlier. Others say it won't be reached until next spring.)

Experts do agree that the earth's population has more than tripled in the last century and continues expanding rapidly. A million people are added every four or five days, 85 million each year.

The United Nations expects the total population to reach six billion by 1999, seven billion by 2010, and eight billion by 2022.

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P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202
Phone: 615/361-1010

HEARTBEAT

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Nashville, Tennessee 37202

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