

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1988

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work through Free Will Baptists
around the world



iving
and
giving
again

In This Issue:

AIM for Uruguay - Thank You, Free Will Baptists - Board Report

Giving and Giving again

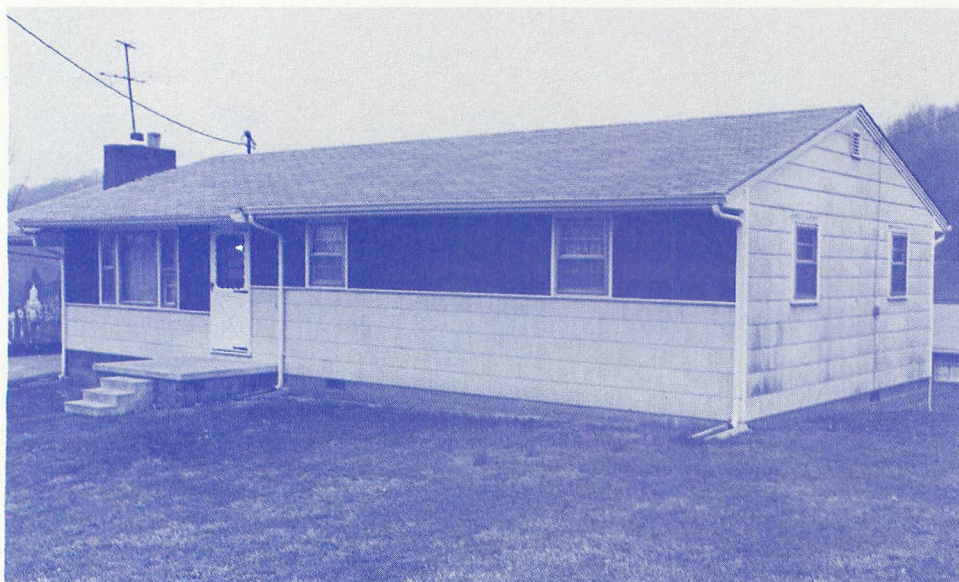
by John Murray

Some churches give more than money.

Missions is built on millions of wonderful stories. Every missions dollar has a story behind it. One is a story of sacrifice, sometimes such extreme sacrifice as was the widow's mite. Another is a story of loving kindness, given to someone for Jesus' sake.

We were treated like kings and queens. They even paid the electric and heating bills.

I would like to share one story. In doing so I risk offending others—many others—who have equally given, sacrificed, and loved without reserve. Therefore, if the reader feels this story should have been about him or her (or his or her church), please accept this as a picture of many churches. These churches make our ministry in France possible and our



This house (left) was furnished by Fellowship FWB Church in Kingsport, Tenn., for John and Pansy Murray (above) during their furlough. John (right) looks over a newsletter before mailing it.

deputational ministry in the States delightful.

The last time we were in the U.S. for furlough (five years ago), we lived in Newport News, Va. We were received royally, and we were with our family—parents and children (no grandchildren at that time). Deputational services took us far and wide, so we were not centralized in our area of ministry. I would leave home for several weeks and return to be with the family a few days before moving out for a few more weeks.

This time of separation and travel concerned us, so we began to pray for wisdom. We decided it would be better for us to be more centrally located. This would help us better serve the churches, and we could be together more as a family.

The very weekend following that decision I met Eugene Waddell, our general director, at a quarterly meeting. I asked him about the wisdom of such a move. He responded positively toward the idea. So, we were faced with a decision of where to go.

The answer was not long in coming! The Monday after that encounter, Mr. Waddell called me to say that Reverend Winston Sweeney of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tenn., had called the office. He told the office staff that the Kingsport congregation was buying a house near the church, and he wondered if a missionary couple might like to live in it. We wanted to!

Last year they gave over \$10,000 to further our ministry in France.

Waddell suggested I call Pastor Sweeney about the full details.

Since the church was in the process of closing the deal on the house, it would take a month for them to clean it up and get it ready for us.

A month later, when we moved in, we were surprised to find everything: washer, dryer, stove, living room furniture, bedroom furniture, television, etc.

The house had new carpet and was tastefully decorated. Nothing was lacking!

We were treated like kings and queens. The Sweeneys and the church people took us in as if we were their own children. They even paid the electric and heating bills. We paid only the telephone bill. We lived there until April 15, 1983, when we returned to France.

Over the last four years the Fellowship church has given monthly to our account. Last year they gave over \$10,000 to further our ministry in France. More than that, they asked us if we wanted the house again when we came home for furlough. Of course, we said yes.

We have been home since April 24, 1987, and we are again enjoying the hospitality of Fellowship FWB Church.

One day I was feeling a little guilty since we were away from home so much. We have no children living at home, so I told Pastor Sweeney it would probably be better for another missionary couple to take the house. I felt a family with children would be at home a little more than we are.

The pastor replied, "Listen, the house is yours until you go back. Don't worry about it." His reassurance helped tremendously.

We are grateful for this provision by God through the Fellowship church. Twenty years ago, when God called us, He reminded us of His promises to take care of us. He certainly has done that.

Pansy and I praise God for all that Fellowship church and Free Will Baptists, in general, have done to make our ministry in France possible.

John Murray and his wife, Pansy, serve as missionaries in Nantes, France.



Thank You Free Will Baptists

by Vivian Storey Ellison



Vivian Storey Ellison found Christ through Free Will Baptist efforts in Uruguay.

**At the Bible institute
Vivian gained assurance
of salvation.**

I was introduced to the Walter Ellisons in 1985 by their eldest son, Stephen. I started attending church with him, and at the age of 22 I heard the gospel for the first time.

After a few months, I accepted the Lord as my personal Savior, but I still had doubts and questions in my mind. Walter and Marcia taught me as much as they could in the time they had to offer.

I continued to grow closer to Jesus but had a hard battle at home, since I was trying to witness and live with my family who do not believe in God. They think the Bible is only a history book and that Jesus is a prophet.

During the next year I had the privilege of attending the





Vivian is shown with a kindergarten class which she taught in a private school in Montevideo.

Bible institute which had just started to function in Montevideo, Uruguay. Montevideo is a city of approximately two million people with very few fundamental, soul-winning churches.

At the institute I gained assurance of my salvation and learned how to apply the Lord's teachings to my life so that I could be an even better witness. One verse sums up what I learned in the institute: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). The Lord must be preeminent and in control of my life!

I consider myself to be privileged because my family could afford to give me a better education than the average Uruguayan receives. I also learned the English language when I was a child and attended a British school in Montevideo. Consequently, I speak English as fluently as I speak Spanish even though Spanish is the language of

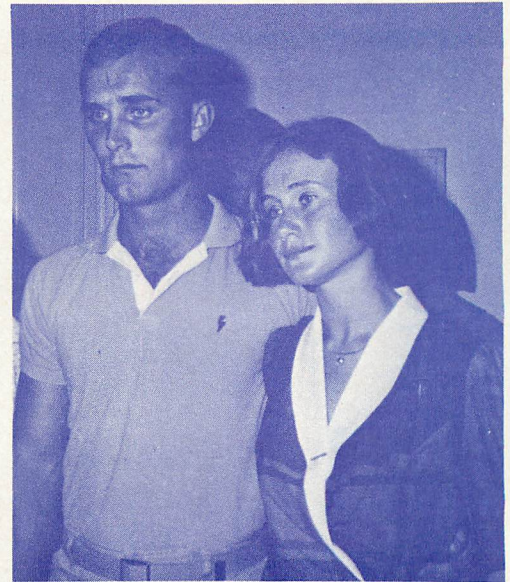
Uruguayans and most South Americans.

The Sower Bible Institute is proving to be a very important source of higher education for those who want to learn but are less fortunate than I. More importantly, these students are learning about our Lord Jesus Christ in order to effectively guide and teach others.

The only way for the gospel to be adequately proclaimed in Uruguay is for Uruguayans to be equipped to reach their own people.

The students of the Bible institute make great efforts to attend the classes and are very eager to learn. Their dedication served as a great source of inspiration to me when I was a student.

Missionaries know that Uruguayan Christians need to be prepared to work for our



Stephen Ellison and Vivian (Storey) recite marriage vows in their civil ceremony in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Lord. The only way for the gospel to be adequately proclaimed in Uruguay is for Uruguayans to be equipped to reach their own people. That is why the Bible institute is so important.

From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate the prayers and financial support of those who have given toward this vital ministry. Thank you, Free Will Baptists!

Vivian Storey Ellison is now married to Stephen Ellison, the eldest son of missionaries Walter and Marcia Ellison. She and Stephen reside at Parris Island, S.C., where Stephen serves with the U.S. Marine Corps.

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Vol. 28, No. 1 January/February 1988

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Heartbeat (USPS 239-020) 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.

Free Will Baptist Youth
Take

AIM for Uruguay!

by Jim Lauthern
Youth Division Director
Randall House Publications

Jim Lauthern (left) discusses with Walter "Dub" Ellison (right) the materials used to promote the AIM for Uruguay project.



To hit a target or reach a goal we must take **AIM!** And Free Will Baptists are taking AIM on a world without Christ. The Youth Division of Randall House Publications is challenging young people to be **Active in Missions**, as the acrostic of AIM suggests.

To launch this plan, the youth division has adopted "AIM for Uruguay." Cooperating with the Department of Foreign Missions, the youth have taken on this project designed to raise \$10,000 for The Sower Bible Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay.

This special young people's endeavor, introduced at the 1987 Youth Conference in Birmingham, Ala., features missions activities, involvement, and materials. Even a portion of the LifeQuest training curriculum will focus on this program.

Youth groups across the denomination are being challenged to set a goal for the amount they hope to raise for Uruguay in 1987-88. After the pledge amount has been set and reported, the youth will

have until the National Youth Conference in Kansas City, Mo., during July of 1988 to raise the funds.

By the middle of November 1987, groups of young Free Will Baptists had already rallied to the tune of \$5,225 in commitments. Some groups pledged \$100, \$200, and even \$500. Two have committed themselves for \$1,000 each.

Various methods are being employed to raise the money. The Friendship Free Will Baptist youth in Flint, Mich., have already raised \$880 through a bowl-a-thon. The youth of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Savannah, Ga., are raising their money through a walk-a-thon and a rock-a-thon. They are also providing babysitting services for the young adult families in their church.

Youth can relate to this project because young Uruguayan Christians are being trained through this ministry.

I am encouraging pastors and churches to let their children and teens plan their own projects for raising the money. Challenge them to give up their own extras such as soft drinks, candy, etc., and contribute that money to the project. In fact, I would challenge them to go beyond extras and be willing to give up some items they might consider to be necessities. Let them design and prepare their own promotional materials such as banners, posters, letters, etc.

As the enthusiasm builds, God will have an opportunity to work in young hearts. And we want the "AIM for Uruguay" project to be much more than

just a fund raiser! We want our young people to learn about the country of Uruguay, the city of Montevideo, our missionary work, the lives of the missionaries, and the Bible institute program. We have printed materials and video resources which we are making available to help youth in this life-changing project.

This special youth endeavor features missions activities, involvement, and materials.

Young people should be praying for the Bible institute. Youth can relate to this project because young Uruguayan Christians are being trained through this ministry. Perhaps a weekend retreat or an overnight lock-in might focus on this aspect of the missionary project.

The AIM for Uruguay project is designed to raise funds toward paying off the purchase price on this new building for The Sower Bible Institute.



Involvement is the key factor to the success of this program! Make sure the youth have all of the available facts about the mission work in Uruguay. As they get involved in praying for this ministry and raising support for the Bible institute, God might call some of the young people into missionary service.

In reality, \$40,000 is needed for the Bible institute in Uruguay. The \$10,000 goal should only be a starting point for our youth. I believe we can aim higher.

The goal is before us. The need is great, and our children and teenagers have the potential.

Ready, young people, take AIM! The rest is up to you. Your commitment/pledge should be mailed to AIM for Uruguay, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tenn. 37217.

Jim Lauthern has served with Randall House Publications since 1963. He is in charge of the youth division ministries.

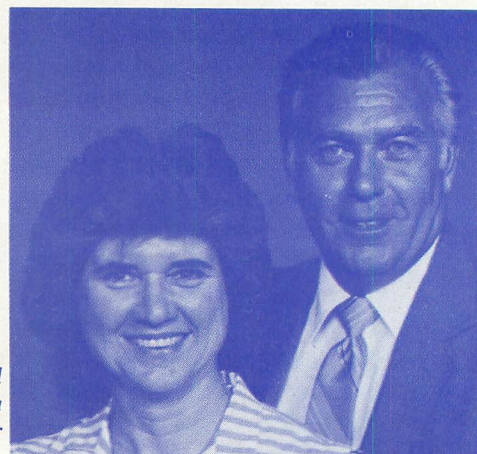
"THEY PAVED THE WAY"

✧ Missionary Who's Who ✧



*Dan and
Margaret
Merkh*

In this series, the Heartbeat staff is selecting and recognizing some of those who have made significant contributions to foreign missions ministries in the past.



*Bill and
Glenda
Fulcher*

BILL and GLENDA FULCHER first entered missionary service in 1960. Following language study in Costa Rica, the Fulchers and Paul and Amy Robinson went to Uruguay early in 1962.

Serving on the border between Uruguay and Brazil, Bill and Glenda saw God work in the hearts of many Uruguayans and three churches were established in the area within just a few years.

Missionaries Walter and Marcia Ellison joined the team in 1965 and Miss Molly Barker came on the scene in 1966. The team worked together effectively and God honored their efforts.

Due to some special family needs which could not be met in Uruguay, the Fulchers transferred to the field of Panama in May of 1970. Bill began working in the Agua Buena church, and as the

church grew, he led them in a building program. When the church was fairly well established, Bill left the work in the hands of a national preacher and moved to a suburb of Panama City where he and Glenda opened a new work. That beginning has flourished into Betania Free Will Baptist Church. Steve and Judy Lytle are in charge of that work today.

Three churches were established in the area within just a few years.

Due to increasing family needs which were able to be met only in the U.S., the Fulchers resigned in 1979 and returned to a pastorate in South

Roxana, Ill. They joined the home missions team in 1981 to work with hispanic ministries in the United States. Bill and Glenda spent approximately five years in Houston, Tex., developing a Spanish-speaking church and are currently anticipating the launching of a new Spanish work. The exact location of the proposed work was not yet determined at press time.

Fulcher served on the Board of Foreign Missions from July of 1980 to July of 1986.

Bill declared his greatest blessing to be his recent return visit to Uruguay to help organize the association of churches and to dedicate the new Bible institute building in downtown Montevideo.

"I was especially thrilled to see many young men, whom we helped to win, now preaching to their own people," Bill stated. "It

was also exciting to see many new people involved in God's work. These have been won since our departure."

When DAN and MARGARET MERKH arrived in Ivory Coast in 1958, no mission facilities were available. They faced the responsibility of constructing houses and other mission buildings.

Dan built the first missionary house at Goumere (for the Lonnie Sparks family), the first at Koun (for Bill and Joy Jones), and the first at Doropo (for the LaVerne Mileys). He also constructed the first unit of the dispensary on the medical station in Doropo.

God honored Dan and Margaret's ministry as they were able to launch two solid works during their two terms.

The Merkhs returned to the United States in 1962 and Dan resigned to assume the pastorate of First Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, S.C.

In January of 1966 Dan resumed deputation to raise support to initiate a ministry in France. The family departed for France in September of that year to begin a language refresher course at Grenoble. They moved to Nantes in August of the following year.

God honored Dan and Margaret's ministry as they were able to launch two solid works during their two terms, one at Nantes and the other at Rennes. They also laid the groundwork for works in Lorient and St. Nazaire.

Due to difficulties with the education of their children and the needs of the family, the Merkhs resigned in 1975, following a fruitful nine years on the European continent.

Merkh assumed pastoral duties at First FWB Church in Richmond, Va., in August of 1975. He continues to serve the church and is actively supportive of the Free Will Baptist missions program.

Five children graced the Merkh home: Elizabeth and Daniel, who both reside in Norfolk, Va.; Timothy, who serves in the U.S. Air Force; Raymond, who lives in Chesapeake, Va.; and Jonathan, who resides in Nashville, Tenn.

In 1984 doctors diagnosed Dan to have lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. He has suffered the loss of sight in one eye as a result, but continues to pastor in spite of the pain and

extreme discomfort at times.

Dan and Margaret had the opportunity to visit the mission fields of France and Spain in September of 1987. Dan says, "We were able to visit all of the works except Rennes. We were extremely pleased with the progress made and with the faithfulness of the missionaries working there."

Merkh said he was excited to learn that Patrice LeGuern, a young man converted under his ministry, had been chosen as Director of Mission '87, the largest youth movement in Europe. Approximately 10,000 youth met in Utrecht, Holland, December 27, 1986-January 1, 1987, for the fourth missionary congress for European youth. LeGuern was the leader.

Roger LeGuern, who had been in charge of the Nantes FWB Church until recently, is Patrice's father.

PLAN AHEAD!

April is Foreign Missions Month!

Plan to make one Sunday during the month "Foreign Missions Sunday."

Order special "April Quarters" coin folders now and get everyone in your church involved this year. Consider using a videotape from the mission field. Or plan to have a missionary in your church on Foreign Missions Sunday.

You might consider reporting the results of your efforts on Call-a-thon Sunday, April 24. But whatever you do, please remember the needs of those who are lost around the globe. They need a gospel witness. HELP THEM THIS APRIL!

For further information or materials write to

Informational Services

**P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202
or call 615/361-1010.**

Special Gifts to Missions

These individuals gave special gifts in August, September, October, and November in memory or in honor of friends or loved ones:

Donor	In Memory of
Rev. and Mrs. William Morris Statesboro, Ga.	Agnes Smith
Brenda Carr Canton, Mich.	William Carr
Dell or Martha Grose St. Peters, Mo.	Agnes Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Jarman Goodman Chapmansboro, Tenn.	Mrs. Lula Hunter
First FWB Church Albany, Ga.	Agnes Smith
Jewell Sexton Ashland City, Tenn.	Mrs. Lula Hunter
Bloss Memorial FWB Church Arlington, Va.	Oma Ramey
Second FWB Church Woman's Aux. Ashland, Ky.	Mrs. Elaine Perkins
Locust Grove FWB Woman's Aux. Locust Grove, Okla.	Ann Shipp
Mrs. Latrell Potts Doe Run, Ga.	Mrs. Courtney Morey
Weldon and Nancy Holland Comanche, Tex.	Angela Faust Ira Livingston
Rev. and Mrs. James Earl Raper Greenville, Tenn.	Nelle Woolsey
William and Mildred Daniel Murfreesboro, Tenn.	Tom Smotherman
Hubert and Alma Black Sandra and David Popiel Linda and Mark Sanders S. Miami, Fla.	Agnes Smith
Harris Memorial FWB Church Greenville, Tenn.	Nelle Woolsey
Donor	In Honor of
Carolyn M. Smith Timmons, S.C.	R. E. Waddell

These individuals and groups gave in memory of Mrs. Joyce Ray:

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Rhodes Tulsa, Okla.	Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Johnson Tulsa, Okla.
Mr. and Mrs. James Thames Tulsa, Okla.	Mr. and Mrs. Truman Devine Tulsa, Okla.
Mr. and Mrs. James Partin Tulsa, Okla.	West Tulsa FWB Softball Team Tulsa, Okla.
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Campbell Tulsa, Okla.	Mr. and Mrs. Everett Melton Tulsa, Okla.
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Armstrong Tulsa, Okla.	Mr. and Mrs. Don Hamby Tulsa, Okla.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Filkins Moore, Okla.	Mr. and Mrs. Harold McCullough Tulsa, Okla.
Childrens Enterprises Tulsa, Okla.	Preston and Dana Davis Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. Mary Turvey Tulsa, Okla.	Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Schooly Jenks, Okla.
Mr. and Mrs. Amos Cunningham Tulsa, Okla.	Calvary FWB Church Norman, Okla.

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 _____

HEARTLINE

Do Free Will Baptists Measure Up?

For a long time, it seems to me, Free Will Baptists have suffered from a poor self-image. Perhaps the rural southern background of so many of us has contributed to this. Our disputes and divisions certainly have hurt us. Some may have looked to independents and other denominations for models, and perhaps they have felt ashamed of our own programs.

Consequently, some Free Will Baptists support other ministries in preference to our own. Some young people have been discouraged from working with the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions due to a distrust stemming from misinformation.

Foreign Missions Merits Support

I believe our foreign missions program merits the enthusiastic involvement of our youth and the support of all loyal Free Will Baptists for several reasons:

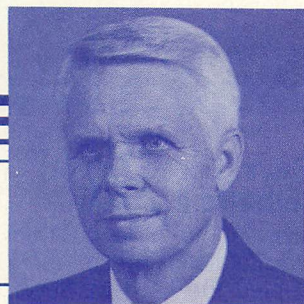
(1) **Our youth** who hold to the doctrines of our denomination **can serve** with us **without compromising** their position. More often than not, a Free Will Baptist would have to tolerate teachings which he doesn't believe to be scriptural in order to serve under an independent board.

(2) **Foreign missionaries** keenly feel the **need for Christian fellowship**. They frequently fight against loneliness. On every field except India (where only the Hannas are allowed to serve), our missionaries meet several times a year for worship and fellowship. An independent missionary, isolated from other Free Will Baptists, misses out on these blessings.

(3) **New converts** surrounded by a pagan society **urgently need to identify** with a larger Christian community. As a matter of strategic planning, our missionaries work in areas where clusters of newly organized congregations can fellowship with those of like precious faith.

Missionaries Avoid Isolation

This is why our missionaries try to avoid establishing isolated Free Will Baptist congregations. From the outset, converts realize that their new church is a sister church to others



R. Eugene Waddell
General Director

in the area as well as to those around the world.

I believe the same reasons which justify a church in the U.S. belonging to the Free Will Baptist denomination mandate churches on the foreign field to establish the same ties.

(4) **Pastors and missions supporters have an influential voice** and vote on the policies and personnel of the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions. The board members are elected in a free and open meeting.

Congregations which support parachurch organizations and independent missionaries have little or no influence upon them.

(5) **We are accountable.** Our audit, prepared by an independent certified public accountant, is presented to the National Association Convention each July. On the other hand, an independent missionary may not give an account to anyone.

In conclusion, I want to repeat the appeal I made during our convention last July. "Because of the potential for disagreement and division, we appeal to churches which are members of the National Association not to send missionaries into countries where missionaries serving under the auspices of the National Association are already working."

More importantly, the board, the missionaries, and I want to urge every Free Will Baptist to join heart and hands with us to spread the gospel of Christ. And we call on each one to help us establish a worldwide network of churches which are faithful to our Free Will Baptist heritage.

PRAYER REQUESTS...

Just dial—

MISSIONS HOTLINE
615-361-5005

Financial Summary

Through November 30

\$ Substance

Total income for November	\$ 239,398.64
Total income through November	2,585,358.67
Total disbursements through November	2,725,006.35
Projected income through November	3,078,991.63
Total 1987 Budget	\$3,358,900.00
Advance receipts through November	\$ 154,575.48
1987 ADVANCE Budget	\$ 160,000.00

\$ Shortage

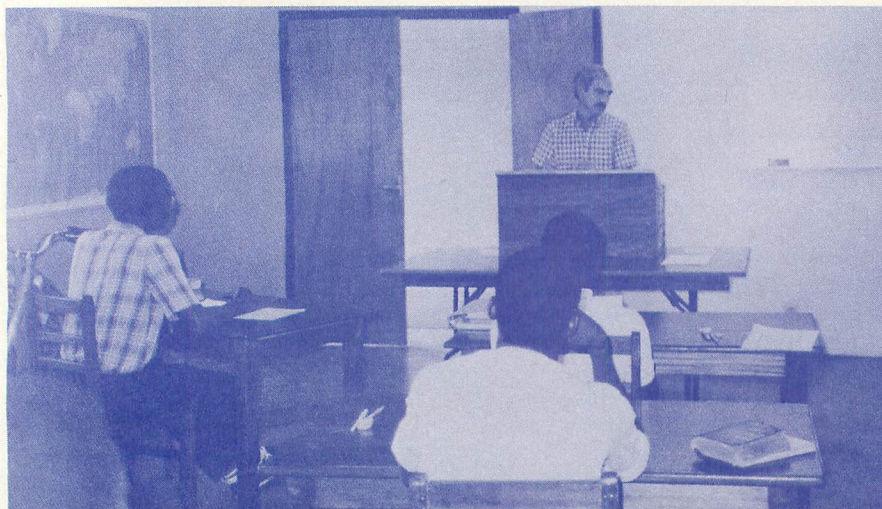
All of the following accounts are in the deficit:	
Banks	\$ 414.33
Barnard	300.00
Bishop	4,135.20
Bryan	2,868.10
Combs	3,289.89
Cowart	190.92
Crosby	10,463.20
Crowson	6,753.38
Ellison	8,729.23
Filkins	4,174.44
Franks	1,440.76
Gilliland	3,227.95
Hanna	9,470.62
Hersey	6,767.67
Total	\$138,675.28
McCullough	\$ 6,428.15
Morgan	2,310.08
Murray	1,294.40
Nichols	7,059.03
Owen	7,001.71
Payne	5,446.84
Richards	3,166.19
Smith, J.	7,162.65
Sparks	4,591.97
Sturgill	15,458.88
Willey	3,402.12
Wilson	204.00
General Fund	12,923.57

State Goals—1987

State	Goal 1987	Goal Through November	Contributions Through November
Alabama	\$ 205,000	\$ 187,917	\$ 117,172.59
Arizona	5,000	4,583	2,406.67
Arkansas	175,000	160,417	128,799.35
California	57,000	52,250	41,426.66
Colorado	3,000	2,750	2,860.40
Florida	105,000	96,250	55,783.92
Georgia	120,000	110,000	124,321.47
Hawaii	2,500	2,292	2,365.95
Idaho	1,100	1,008	690.82
Illinois	105,000	96,250	74,069.28
Indiana	36,000	33,000	29,275.80
Iowa	2,000	1,833	1,322.08
Kansas	14,000	12,833	12,373.96
Kentucky	91,000	83,417	70,442.74
Louisiana	600	550	5.00
Maryland	17,000	15,583	9,592.56
Michigan	140,000	128,333	102,756.25
Mississippi	72,000	66,000	40,016.29
Missouri	210,000	192,500	212,244.19
Montana	1,200	1,100	425.00
Nevada	1,200	1,100	875.00
New Mexico	600	550	115.74
*Northeast Assn.	7,500	6,875	2,792.00
**Northwest Assn.	6,000	5,500	3,342.81
North Carolina	400,000	366,667	333,947.35
Ohio	135,000	123,750	95,641.93
Oklahoma	395,000	362,083	294,176.53
Pennsylvania	2,500	2,292	766.00
South Carolina	225,000	206,250	146,903.89
Tennessee	450,000	412,500	383,849.73
Texas	95,000	87,083	80,252.27
Virginia	115,000	105,417	96,055.91
Virgin Islands	3,500	3,208	1,125.92
West Virginia	80,000	73,333	56,004.56
Miscellaneous	80,200	73,517	67,047.40
Totals	\$3,358,900	\$3,078,991	\$2,591,248.02

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

**Northwest Association
Alaska, Oregon, and Washington



Clint Morgan teaches a class at the Bible institute in Bouna, Ivory Coast. Ten students are enrolled.

Eight Pray in First Four Weeks of Bible Institute

Ivory Coast—Missionary Clint Morgan reported in early November that eight conversions had been recorded in the first four weeks of outreach ministry from the Bible institute in Bouna, Ivory Coast.

"Our students have given counsel to over 20 different people, have preached 13 messages, and have conducted 11 teaching sessions," writes Clint. "We say praise the Lord!"

Tom and Nancy Hughes Return to Brazil

Brazil—Tom and Nancy Hughes were scheduled to depart for Uberlandia, Brazil, on December 27. They planned to resume their ministry in the church but in a different role.

"Hopefully our relationship with the church will be different," writes Nancy. "They grew up and are ready to be on their own. Pray that this transition will be smooth. We hope to start a second work in Uberlandia."

Tom and Nancy will help the present church until Celio, the young man who pastored during their absence, is ordained. They will also continue to work in the Bible institute ministry connected with the church.

Estates Provide Needed Funds for Missions

Nashville, Tenn.—The estates of two deceased Free Will Baptists became the source for much needed foreign missions funds in December. Mr. and

Mrs. L. C. Webber of Oklahoma and Mary Lou Ennis of Tennessee provided a total of \$15,500 for missionary outreach through their wills.

According to the executor of the Webber estate, both foreign and home missions shared equally as beneficiaries with funds to be used as needed. More money will be forthcoming from this estate.

The will of Mrs. Ennis called for \$5,000 to be given to a couple from Free Will Baptist Bible College who are planning to go to the foreign field. Ron and Linda Moore, appointees to Ivory Coast, were selected. General Director R. Eugene Waddell presented the \$5,000 check to Linda on December 10 during chapel service at the college.

Bishop Claims Two More Converts; Several Near

Japan—In an early November report missionary Dale Bishop indicated two adults had been saved and others were "close to making a public profession of faith."

"On October 10 and 11 Mr. Hirabuki, a member of our church, and I went to Abashiri for a two-day evangelistic meeting," Dale stated. "Mrs. Funaki, a lady in her mid-to-late thirties, accepted the Lord as her Savior. On the same day back in Sapporo, Mr. Hiraga, a man who has been attending our church regularly for some time, accepted the Lord."

Bishop requested prayer for Mr. Masaki, a 22-year-old college student, Masaki's mother, and Miss Noriko Asanuma. These appear close to making decisions for Christ.

Deeds Says Three Saved in Conselheiro Lafaiete

Brazil—According to a report from Conselheiro Lafaiete, Brazil, three adults accepted the Lord as Savior there recently.

Earnie Deeds declared these were saved in October and November: Efigenia, a married lady who came to church after hearing the radio broadcast; Ademir, a married man; and Lucia, a young woman. Efigenia's husband has put pressure on her to keep her from coming to church. The other two have been faithful in church attendance since their conversion.

Deeds requested prayer for solutions to problems of believers in the area, for growth and steadfastness of new converts, for God to call Brazilian men to preach the gospel, and for God's guidance in decisions which are to be made in the upcoming field council meeting in January.

Aldridge Assumes Lead of Bondoukou Church

Ivory Coast—At the request of the Bondoukou Free Will Baptist Church in Ivory Coast, Jimmy and Janie Aldridge have assumed leadership of the congregation. According to Aldridge, the church requested his help after Pastor Victor had resigned and left the area.

In a November letter, Jimmy reported the church had gone through a tremendous struggle and attendance had dropped very low. "But God is working," he added. "The last two Sundays we had over 140 present in morning services." On December 6 they had 150.

Aldridge expressed praise that two people were converted on November 3 and two more were saved during the next week.

"So far I have been able to visit and preach in eight different village churches," Jimmy concluded.

The Aldridges are helping out in Ivory Coast temporarily at the request of the Ivory Coast field council.

South Indian Pastor Suffers Heart Attack

India—South Indian pastor Samuel Devanesan suffered a serious heart attack on October 8 and was placed in the intensive care unit of the hospital in Coimbatore, India.

Carlisle Hanna visited the pastor while he was still hospitalized and found him extremely weak. Hanna

requested prayer on his behalf.

In other news regarding South India, Carlisle reported the ordination of Pastor Frolick and declared things to be going very well at the Kotagiri Free Will Baptist Church.

First Free Will Baptist Olympics Attract 165

Brazil—Approximately 165 people were registered for the first Free Will Baptist olympics held October 31-November 2, 1987, at Evangelandia in Jaboticabal, Brazil. The three days, sponsored by the Brazil Association of Free Will Baptist churches, were packed with sporting events, worship services, Sunday school, and other activities.

The churches of Campinas, Ribeirao Preto, Jaboticabal, and Araras participated from the state of Sao Paulo and the church at Uberlandia was on hand from the state of Minas Gerais.

Uberlandia took first place, Jaboticabal placed second, and Araras took third place in the competition. Pastor Jeancarlo Ache of Jaboticabal was director of the olympics.

Board Appoints Five, Hears Committee Report

Nashville, Tenn.—The Board of Foreign Missions convened in its semiannual session December 2-4, 1987, in Nashville, Tenn.

Earlier in the week board members participated in the annual Leadership Conference held November 30 and December 1. All members of the board were present to act on the business at hand.

Five candidates were appointed to service overseas: one associate missionary and four student missionaries.

Noel Sparks, son of missionaries Lonnie and Anita Sparks, was given approval for a one-year term as associate missionary in order to meet specific needs in Spain.

Four student missionaries were approved: Michael Gragg, Barbara Warner, Joan Warner, and Lovenia Childress. These three will serve in Ivory Coast: Michael Gragg will help the Mike Cousineaus in Bouna, Barbara Warner will work with the Clint Morgans in Bouna, and Joan Warner will serve with Norman and Bessie Richards in Agnibilekrou.

Lovenia Childress is scheduled to



Eddie and Sandra Payne have resigned after 25 years of service as missionaries to Ivory Coast.

help Steve and Judy Lytle in Panama.

The board received and "reluctantly" accepted the resignation of veteran missionaries Eddie and Sandra Payne of Ivory Coast. The men extended high commendations to the Paynes for their years of service. Eddie expressed regret over the resignation but indicated their persistent health problems had to be faced. After much prayer, he and Sandra reached the conclusion they should submit their resignation. Their plans were indefinite.

The special investigative committee dealing with accusations of former missionary Lonnie Palmer presented its preliminary findings to the group. Further action of the committee is pending.

Miss Vivian Waller, associate missionary to Japan, was granted permission to solicit funds on behalf of missionary children in Japan to help them with their education. The money is to be divided equally between all elementary and secondary school children and is to be expended in Japan.

Picirilli Book Being Printed in Portuguese

Brazil—According to missionary Bobby Poole, the book "Perseverance" by Dr. Robert Picirilli is in the process of being published in Portuguese.

Reporting in November, Poole declared that two other articles from the publication "Dimension" from Free Will Baptist Bible College are also being included in the book. They are entitled "The Possibility of Apostasy" and "Arminius and the Calvinists."

India Hit by Worst Drought in Decades

India—According to a recent report in *Pulse*, a publication of Evangelical Missions Information Service, the harshest drought in decades has devastated India's crops and slowed economic growth in the country. Annual monsoon rains have failed to come in most areas.

One observer said the drought was the worst he had seen in 60 years. To avert famine, the government planned to release buffer stocks of grain, but if the drought continues, consequences next year could be severe.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Japan—Watanabe San, a young woman for whom Fred Hersey had requested prayer in a recent newsletter, has stated she "believes and has faith in Christ." Hersey requested people to continue to pray for her since she lacks much understanding.

Brazil—Jeancarlo Ache, pastor of the Jaboticabal Free Will Baptist Church in Brazil, was officially ordained to the gospel ministry on November 29. His story will be told in an upcoming issue of *Heartbeat*.

Japan—Missionaries Don and Ruth McDonald report that the grind in language school has seemed to turn up a notch this year. "I feel like I'm trying to build Rome sometimes," writes Don. "We sure appreciate all of the prayers on our behalf."

Ivory Coast—Missionaries Darrel and Lila Nichols became parents of their third child, Gabriel Everitt, born on November 18 at the Conservative Baptist Hospital in Ferkessedougou, Ivory Coast. Gabriel weighed 12 pounds five ounces.

France—Miss Cathy Crawford reported suffering another attack from multiple sclerosis in late October. The attack affected her vision but latest reports indicate this has almost returned to normal. She requested prayer as she is taking three cortisone pills a day and this affects her concentration, etc.

Greeneville, Tenn.—Harris Memorial Free Will Baptist Church in Greeneville, Tenn., recently sent \$750 for the North India film ministry in

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memory of Mrs. Nelle Woolsey who died in December of 1986. Mrs. Woolsey and her husband, Paul, served one term in India. She was a member at Harris Memorial church.

Ivory Coast—"I had one of the worst cases of malaria recently that I have ever experienced," writes Norman Richards from Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast. "It took about three days before my fever broke. Then it was several days before my strength really returned." Norman revealed he has been seeking to find a lot on which to build a church and requested people to pray that God would open a door to find property in town.

Brazil—On October 31 Dave Franks wrote, "Three weeks ago I had the privilege of baptizing six converts. Tuesday night God opened the heart of a man in his home and I was able to lead him into salvation. He prayed and cried as he was born into the kingdom." Franks labors in Barbacena, Brazil.

Japan—The Higashi Tsukisamu church on the island of Hokkaido, Japan, is constructing a new building for its branch kindergarten on Mt. Moiwa. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy in January.

Brazil—The opening of the new Free Will Baptist college at Jaboticabal, Brazil, is scheduled for February 29. Those scheduled to teach in the new college are Miss Cecilia Virdes, Pastor Jeancarlo Ache, Dr. Cesar Moura, Ken Eagleton, and Jim and Shirley Combs.

Japan—Evelyn Hersey, wife of missionary Fred Hersey, underwent surgery on Thursday, November 10, for the removal of a polyp from the intestine. It was found to be benign and at last report Evelyn was doing well.

Ivory Coast—According to missionary Sherwood Lee, the Ivory Coast government has agreed to train two Free Will Baptist young men in their laboratory at Bouna. "This is a real answer to prayer," says Sherwood. "Pray for Emmanuel Da and Etienne Sib."

Port Huron, Mich.—Joyce Walker, wife of foreign missions board member Jim Walker, underwent surgery for "revision" of her hip on November 9 at the Port Huron Hospital. Latest reports indicated she was recovering well.



Director of Christian Education James Venable (left) and Sunday school secretary Barb Brown (right) count the money raised during a bike-a-thon at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Flint, Mich. Pastor Roy Lee Lester (center) looks on. The church gave \$1,500 in memory of Jeff Forrest (inset) who was killed in an automobile accident.

Callaway Says Young Man Saved in Mostoles

Spain—Missionary Ron Callaway reported the conversion of Jorge, a young man for whom he had requested prayer earlier. Jorge was saved on a Saturday early in November.

Ron also informed the foreign missions office that approximately 22 or 23 people from Mostoles attended the third anniversary meeting at Villalba on November 15.

Bike-a-thon for Missions Memorializes Flint Youth

Flint, Mich.—The youth of Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Flint, Mich., participated in a bike-a-thon to raise money for the building fund of the St. Nazaire Free Will Baptist Church in France. The \$1,500 ultimately collected was given as a memorial on behalf of 16-year-old Jeff Forrest who was killed in an automobile accident near his home in Davison, Mich., on September 29.

Jeff had ridden 34 miles in the September 19 bike-a-thon to lead the entire group of 25 riders ranging in age from three years to about 40. Devonna Brown raised the most money through sponsors and was presented a check for \$25 which she immediately returned

to the fund in Jeff's memory.

According to Pastor Roy Lee Lester, Jeff was assistant song leader/choir director, frequent soloist, an excellent student, a model son, and a pastor's good friend. His death "left a stunned and grieving church family," Lester concluded.

Costs in Japan Soar as Dollar Loses Value

Japan—Responding to a request from the foreign missions office, missionary Fred Hersey reported in late November that he and Evelyn had lost \$18,377.40 in spending power over the last 27 months due to the loss of exchange from the dollar against the Japanese yen. That is a loss of over \$680 per month. House rent in August of 1985 was \$206 while in November of 1987 it stood at \$369, although costing the same amount in yen.

Fred stated that the \$680 per month loss in spending power came in spite of an average cost-of-living increase of \$122 per month over the same 27-month period. Two pounds of sugar which cost 95 cents in 1985 is now costing \$1.70. Gasoline which was 50 cents per liter in 1985 is costing 89 cents today. A liter of milk was 74 cents in 1985 and now costs \$1.33.

Christians are urged to pray that

God will intervene on behalf of missionaries serving in Japan. Not only have their accounts suffered, but they have been faced with great personal losses as well.

Over 30 People Saved in New Village Near Doropo

Ivory Coast—"The Lord has opened up a new village in our area and there have been over 30 people accept Christ as Savior," writes Sherwood Lee from Doropo, Ivory Coast. "This group is hoping to get a shelter up in which to have services during the dry season. Jeremie, one of our nurses, works with this group."

Lee declared that someone had been saved every week in the villages through the outreach ministries of the Bible institute since it started. A school teacher by the name of Goze Henry was saved in a village just north of Doropo.

On October 25 Sherwood and Jerome, the student-pastor of Doropo, went to the village of Tehini to hold a communion service, the first for the people there. Jerome preached and another student from the Bible institute assisted in the service.

"The message dealt with the sacrificial death of our Lord," writes Lee. "The bread was broken and the meaning of the Lord's Supper explained. The people were then told the meaning of feet washing. The evangelist and I washed each other's feet to show them how it was done. Then the men and women divided into groups and washed each other's feet. It was a precious service."

Sherwood is involved in a teacher's training class in Doropo. Approximately 20 students are studying the book of Romans.

Villalba Celebrates Third Anniversary November 15

Spain—Between 85 and 95 people gathered at Villalba, Spain, on November 15, 1987, to celebrate the Free Will Baptist church's third anniversary. According to missionary Jeff Turnbough, attendance has been higher in past celebrations but this crowd contained the largest number of people from Villalba to attend the church.

Jeff preached a short message on New Life in Christ and showed a special slide presentation. He featured people in the church who had been saved during the past year and told of the

changes in their lives.

One woman made a profession of faith but Turnbough said he wants to be sure of her understanding and commitment.

Jeff baptized a young woman named Fatima on a Sunday during October and performed her wedding to Senor Jose the next Saturday. This was the first wedding in the Villalba church.

Jim Teague Asked to Lead a Koulango Work

Ivory Coast—Missionary Jim Teague from Bouake, Ivory Coast, wrote near the end of October: "Yesterday after church we had visitors from the local Koulango congregation with the news that I was to take Neil Gilliland's place and be their pastor. We had been praying for an avenue of service but that was not what I had in mind," Jim added. "We did tell them I would visit and everything would have to be interpreted by one of the students."

Jim is planning to begin French study with an African who speaks some English and wants to learn more. "I have given him a New Testament in English," says Jim, "so that God can begin a work of grace in his heart."

Eagletons Leave France After Finishing Studies

France—Dr. Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton completed French language study in France in November. Dr. Eagleton also took a tropical medicine course in Marseille before their departure for Ivory Coast, West Africa, in late December.

The Eagletons requested special prayer for two of their sons, Daniel and Paul, who will be studying at the Ivory Coast Academy in Bouake. This will be a big adjustment for them as well as for the family.

The couple will be working at the hospital and clinic at Doropo.

150 Churches Burned in Nigerian Muslim Riots

Nigeria—Recent reports from Nigeria indicated that more than 150 churches were destroyed during Muslim riots in northern Nigeria during the summer. The report also indicated more than 60 Christians were killed during the five days of rioting.

A report in "Partners Update," a publication of Christian Nationals

Evangelism Commission, Inc., indicated a missionary with Evangelical Missions Society was miraculously protected during the episode:

"The missionary's wife and children were away from the station . . . Inside the missionary knelt and prayed . . . Suddenly it seemed as though God was telling him simply to walk out of the house to safety. As the raucous crowd began igniting the house, he walked through the jeering mob unnoticed and unharmed."

Reeves Reports on New Classes at University

Spain—Writing in October, Steve Reeves declared, "We have finished four weeks at the university now and are fairly well into the routine again. It looks like there won't be as many opportunities for conversation as there were at Mangold, however."

The Reeves are attending services at Mostoles where Ron and Linda Calaway are ministering.

Regarding their future ministry, Steve writes, "We are still not sure where we will go. We want to have an active part in planting a church. Please pray with us about this."

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