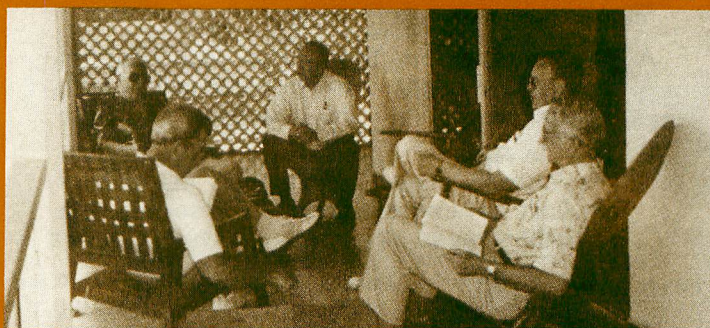
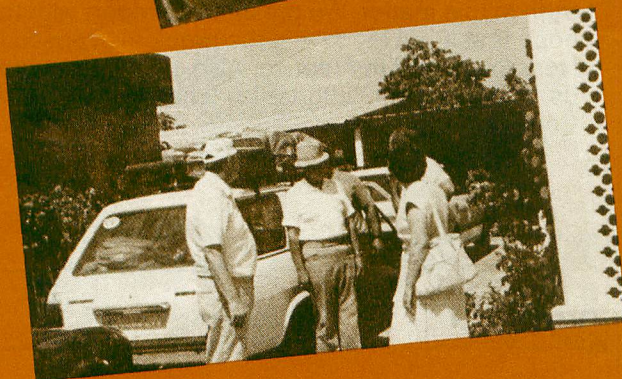
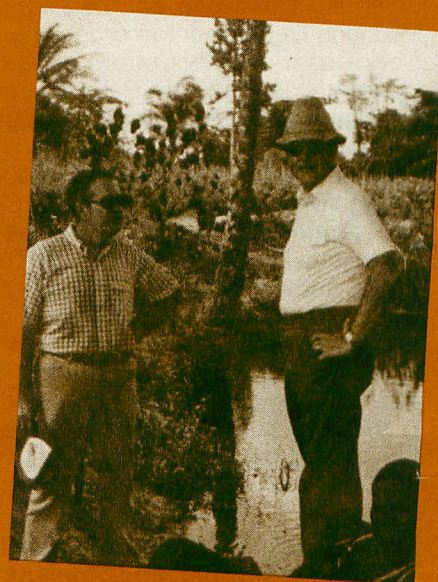
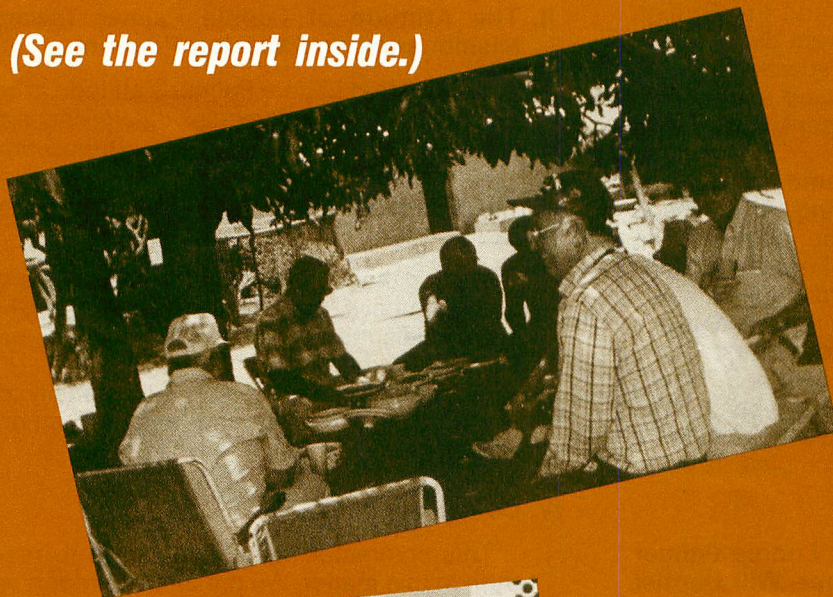


Showing God at work through Free Will Baptists around the world

## *Special Committee Returns from Ivory Coast*

*(See the report inside.)*



*These scenes show some activities of a five-man special investigative committee which traveled to Ivory Coast in April to complete the investigation into accusations levied by former missionary Lonnie Palmer. The probe was launched in July of 1987.*

*The committee, chaired by Melvin Worthington of Nashville, Tenn., included Dean Dobbs of North Carolina, Earl Hendrix of South Carolina, Jack Richey of Oklahoma, and Clarence Burton of Missouri. The group was accompanied by Worthington's wife, Anne, and Dobbs' wife, Rubenia.*

*Overseas Secretary Jimmy Aldridge stated, "The ladies were especially helpful in preparation of meals and in keeping up with laundry. The entire group made good travelers." The delegation, accompanied by Aldridge, returned to the United States on April 26.*



## Final Report of the Foreign Missions Study Committee to the Foreign Missions Board

### Introduction

Ivory Coast problems which surfaced in 1971 came to a head in 1977 and resulted in the Foreign Missions Board recalling Lonnie Palmer's commission during the national convention in Detroit, Michigan.

However, problems continued to exist until 1984, at which time Lonnie Palmer announced plans to return to the Ivory Coast. Attempts during the 1984 national convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, to reconcile differences between Lonnie Palmer and the Foreign Missions Department in order to prevent disruption in Ivory Coast upon his return were unsuccessful.

In early 1987 Lonnie Palmer circulated a letter with accusations against former and present Ivory Coast missionaries.

Some concerned pastors appeared before the Foreign Missions Board during its Spring 1987 meeting and requested that a committee be appointed to investigate Ivory Coast problems. The Foreign Missions Board authorized a five-member committee to study Lonnie Palmer's accusations, the attitude he displays and the effects of his presence in Ivory Coast.

The committee met July 7-9, 1987; October 5-7, 1987; and with the Foreign Missions Board December 2, 1987. The Foreign Missions Board authorized the committee's April 3-26, 1988, trip to Ivory Coast to complete its work.

These are our findings:

### I. The Accusations Presented by Lonnie Palmer Against Former and Present Free Will Baptist Missionaries.

- A. The accusation that Free Will Baptist missionaries baptized and received polygamists into the fellowship of the church is false.
- B. The accusation that Free Will Baptist missionaries used or condoned the use of alcoholic beverages in communion service or in any other way is false.
- C. The accusation regarding nudity and improper dress—We find that Free Will Baptist missionaries have conducted themselves honorably. We did find that three male missionaries have, on occasion, worn shorts. We suggest that the Foreign Missions Board deal with this matter.

D. The accusations by African pastors and evangelists Djingus Anany Victor, Adou Koffi David, Kowakou Kowadio Jacques and Diatte Ettienne that Free Will Baptist missionaries baptized and received polygamists into the fellowship of the church were based on hearsay and are false.

### II. The Attitude of Lonnie Palmer Toward Our Missionaries and Mission Program.

We find that Lonnie Palmer's attitude is combative, condemning, judgmental, unforgiving, arrogant, coercive, unchristian and totally unacceptable.

### III. The Effect of Lonnie Palmer's Presence in Ivory Coast.

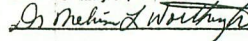
We find that Lonnie Palmer's presence is divisive and disruptive, has created chaos and brought discord, disunity and disorder among the brethren and in the churches.

His continued presence will intensify discord among the brethren and disorder among the churches.

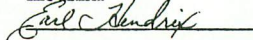
### IV. Conclusion

This committee faithfully labored to reach the truth in this matter. We present this report with the hope that it will lay to rest the problems caused in Ivory Coast and in America. Also, that it will enable us to unite our efforts in fulfilling the Great Commission.

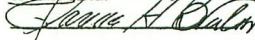
Malvin Worthington, Chairman



Earl Hendrix



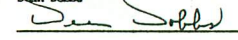
Clarence Burton



Jack Richey



Dean Dobbs



## Board of Foreign Missions Response to Report of Special Committee

Upon hearing the final report of the special Foreign Missions Study Committee on May 2, 1988, the Board of Foreign Missions voted to receive the report, authorize its public release, and commend the committee for their diligent work.

In response to the suggestion of the committee regarding the wearing of shorts by three male missionaries, the board commended the administrative staff for having already handled the matter. Shorts will not be worn by male missionaries.





Some of the youth from Mostoles FWB Church in Madrid, Spain, spend some quiet time during a camping trip to a national park in Spain. Montse, the girl to the right outside the tent, was converted on the outing.

## Mostoles Youth Take Three-Day Camping Trip

*Spain*—Missionary Ron Callaway reported a special camping trip by the youth of the Mostoles Free Will Baptist Church March 28-April 3. A group of 12 people traveled approximately 50 miles northwest of Mostoles to a national park during the Catholics' holy week.

"On Friday we did two Bible studies," writes Ron. "Antonio, the young man from Alcala who comes each weekend to work with us, led one of the teenage girls to the Lord. Montse has been coming for quite a while. Her youngest brother was saved several months ago."

The group returned to Mostoles on Saturday afternoon after visiting a castle near the campsite.

## Panama Missionaries Do Well but Money Scarce

*Panama*—"Spiritually speaking, 'due to the present crisis,' people are more conscious of their great need of God," writes Judy Lytle from Panama. "We are seeing revival in our churches! People are desperate and hurting. Sunday morning, March 20, we had 92 for Sunday school in Betania."

Although the political situation has been very unstable, the missionaries have been reported doing well. "The immediate problem is lack of money," says Judy. "This means a lack of food and means hunger for many families. At church we are all working together

to provide food for families in need within our Free Will Baptist congregations."

The Lytles also reported the Bible institute program to be in session with classes being held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Ten students are enrolled.

## Hanna Reports Good Response to Film Showings

*India*—In early April missionary Carlisle Hanna reported the Lord's blessings on the film ministry. "We went out night after night with the film," says Carlisle. "We had beautiful moonlight and crowds of a thousand plus quietly watching. Many grown men who have another holy book were weeping openly. Believers were saying 'Yes' again to their Savior."

Hanna especially related the challenge of the film "River of Mercy" which has caused many to make definite decisions. "We do thank our Lord for this tool to use for Him here," Carlisle concluded.

A total of 1,403 were reported in Indian Free Will Baptist churches on March 27.

## FM Board Adopts 1989 Budget of \$3,279,414

*Nashville, Tenn.*—Meeting in its annual session May 2-4 in Nashville, the Board of Foreign Missions adopted a budget of \$3,279,414 for 1989.

Among other action, the board received the report of the special

investigative committee for Ivory Coast and authorized its release (see the report in this issue).

The board approved Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley to serve three months in Ivory Coast from September 15 to December 15 of this year.

Two candidate couples were interviewed.

At a special dinner meeting with the board and staff, board chairman Bill Jones presented certificates of recognition and appreciation to nine people who helped in construction projects. Jim Vallance, James Orr, and board members Bob Trimble and Galen Dunbar went to Japan to work on the Ai No Sato church. Tommy Sanders, Dan Harmon, Dan Farber, and Fred and Gladys Haney went to France to finish the St. Nazaire church.

Board officers elected for this coming year include Bill Jones, chairman; Norwood Gibson, vice chairman; and Galen Dunbar, secretary.

## Ten Respond During Evangelistic Campaign

*Uruguay*—A special evangelistic campaign was held in early April at the Malvin Norte work in a suburb of Montevideo, Uruguay. The special campaign marked the first anniversary of the work. Ten people responded to the invitation to receive Christ as their Savior.

According to Rick and Linda Bowling, a film was shown on the final night and a crowd stood outside the building to watch. "Some of the young people who would never dare come in the church received a message," writes Linda.

The Bowlings noted the church was filled each night of the meeting and at least a hundred people viewed the film on the last night.

The Bowlings were scheduled to arrive in the United States on May 30 to begin furlough.

## Hollands Return to U.S. Before I.C.; Need Funds

*Bixby, Okla.*—Ernest and Elaine Holland arrived in the United States on April 26 following language study in France. The Hollands were requested to return to the States to raise \$1,600 in monthly support and \$15,000 in cash before proceeding to Ivory Coast.

According to R. Eugene Waddell, general director of foreign missions,



"The Holland account was being drained at the rate of \$1,000 per month above income. At that rate they would have been deeply in the red shortly after arriving in the Ivory Coast. This might have necessitated an interruption in their ministry shortly after beginning. We regret having to ask Ernest and Elaine to do this, but we are depending on our Free Will Baptist people to help them get to the Ivory Coast very soon."

Ernest and Elaine's son, Joshua, had chicken pox when they left France. They were almost quarantined in New York but finally were given permission to leave.

## South Georgia Reports \$38,221 in Commitments

Glennville, Ga.—A late report from the South Georgia Mission Board following their annual missionary conference indicated that \$38,221 had been raised or committed for missions over the next year. Offerings during the missionary conference totaled \$13,945.

Four missions accounts received a portion of the offerings: Jim McLain, Neil Gilliland, Walter Ellison, and the general fund on behalf of Fred Warner.

## Bunch Baptizes Six at Parita Work in Panama

Panama—According to an April report from Stan and Brenda Bunch, they recently had the first Christian baptismal service ever held in the 400-year-old city of Parita. Six Christians testified of their faith by following the Lord in baptism.

Bunch noted that several Christians had recently finished an eight-week discipleship course. The Parita Free Will Baptist Church is the only group of Christians in this city. The population runs between 2,000 and 3,000 people.

Stan began a series of Bible studies in homes recently. He has also been training two men for leadership.

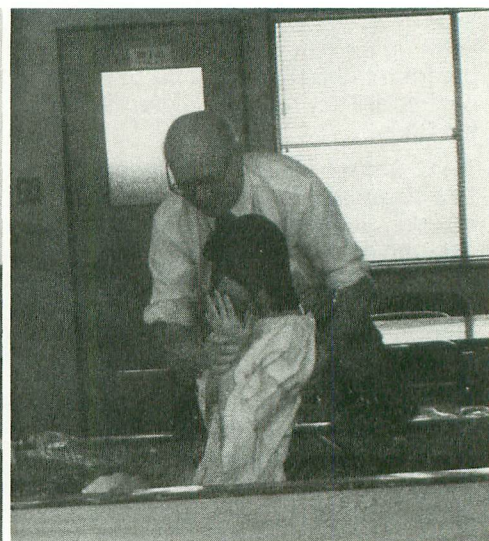
## Hersey Baptizes One on Easter Sunday at Iriso

Japan—Missionary Fred Hersey reported having baptized Yoko Watanabe, a 19-year-old convert, during the services at Iriso Free Will Baptist Church on Easter Sunday, April 3.

Hersey translated part of the tes-



Miss Yoko Watanabe (left) gives her testimony at Iriso FWB Church in Japan just before being baptized by Fred Hersey (right).



timony Miss Watanabe gave before her baptism: "I was very lonely. . . and wondered many times if life was worth living.

"Last October I saw a handbill advertising special meetings of the Iriso FWB Church. . . I read the handbill carefully and the words of Matthew 11:28 spoke to me: 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

"Within a few weeks I attended the Iriso church. . . and was surprised that people were so friendly to me. Soon I learned of God's wonderful love and message of salvation. I asked Jesus to come into my heart and life and save me. He saved me and I want to live the Christian life."

Yoko ended her testimony by saying, "Thank You, God."

## Special Notice

In May of 1987 when the special investigative committee was created to look into the accusations, attitude, and actions of Lonnie Palmer in the Ivory Coast, the Board of Foreign Missions determined not to deficit the fund for the investigation.

Later, the board reversed that decision and asked that the standing of that fund be shown in the financial report. It is included in this month's financial summary.

## Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Ivory Coast—Missionary Robert West has been busy building cabinets, knocking out walls, and redoing a nurses' station at the hospital in Doropo. Robert continues to have a ministry of preaching and teaching in Doropo and villages in the area.

Panama—The associate pastor of the Betania Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City led open-air services in Los Andes on Saturday night, March 26, and Tuesday night, March 29,

Continued on back →

## Financial Summary

Through April 30

### Substance

Total income for April	\$ 284,631.18
Total income through April	971,417.51
Total disbursements through April	969,626.00
Projected income for April	1,062,008.00
Total 1988 Budget	\$3,186,036.00
ADVANCE gifts through April	\$ 53,347.06
1988 ADVANCE Budget	\$ 150,000.00

### Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:			
Bishop	\$ 6,384.66	McCullough	\$ 9,766.78
Bowling	2,788.64	Midgett	1,604.42
Bryan	2,094.79	Morgan	1,155.59
Combs	3,147.37	Nichols	8,394.69
Crosby	10,138.89	Owen	7,277.53
Crowson	4,114.98	Payne	4,286.52
Eagleton, Sr.	1,432.82	Richards	6,664.48
Filkins	1,751.04	Smith, J.	4,140.25
Franks	6,548.23	Sparks	7,206.42
Gilliland	34.75	Sturgill	12,297.09
Hanna	9,889.26	Turnbough	6,776.02
Hersey	8,197.92	Wiley	2,896.45
Holland	1,056.77	Spec. Com.	16,800.04
Lee	2,135.20	General Fund	4,202.85
Total			\$153,184.45



—>Continued from inside

showing the film "Jesus." Young people from the Betania church passed out tracts. They reported 20 decisions for Christ.

**Ivory Coast**—Missionary Sherwood Lee started teaching nursing classes in April at Doropo. The shortage of personnel at the hospital and clinic have made these classes essential. Sherwood is also teaching a course on health and hygiene each Friday at the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in Bouna.

**India**—According to Carlisle Hanna, 38 boys are being housed in the new hostel which was built in Sonapurhat, India. The building was dedicated on August 29 of last year. The hostel was planned for 30 boys.

**Brazil**—Missionary Tom Hughes reported an attendance of 135 for Sunday school on Easter Sunday at Uberlandia, Brazil. They had approximately 100 people present for a special Easter cantata. The Sunday school attendance has averaged 108 for the year.

**Nashville, Tenn.**—John and Pansy Murray left the United States on May 12 to return to their ministry in Nantes, France. They had been home since April of last year.

**Ivory Coast**—"Our Sunday school continues to grow and we need more tables and benches," writes mission-

ary Alice Smith from Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast. "I'm teaching the teen girls."

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Picirilli left on May 12 for Ivory Coast for a visit with the missionaries. Dr. Picirilli conducted a seminar for the missionaries while there. They were scheduled to return to the U.S. on May 31.

### **Junior Class Sponsors "Egg in Basket" Project**

**Catlettsburg, Ky.**—The junior Sunday school class of the New Buckley Road Free Will Baptist Church in Catlettsburg, Ky., sponsored a special project for Easter and raised \$189 for missions.

The special project, "Put All Your Eggs in One Basket—Give a Special Gift for Missions," was a special means of getting the children involved in missions. According to church missions chairman Mary Moore, the church gives ten percent of all its income to missions in addition to the special offerings and penny marches by the children each Sunday.

### **Sherwood Lee Performs Two Weddings at Tehini**

**Ivory Coast**—Sherwood Lee, accompanied by evangelist Jerome and missionary Robert West, traveled to Tehini on Easter Sunday to perform two marriage ceremonies during the morning service.

"This church is 27 miles away but it takes one and one-half hours to drive due to the conditions of the road," writes Sherwood.

"We decided to have the two weddings before the Easter message," Lee continued. "Since Jerome is in Bible school and is not ordained, he read the vows and I did the closing ceremony and pronounced each couple husband and wife."

Following the Easter message by Jerome the group celebrated communion.

### **Missions Conference Held Amid Panama Turmoil**

**Panama**—"We just finished our first full-fledged missionary conference," writes missionary Judy Lytle regarding the Betania Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City, Panama. The conference was held April 19-24.

Approximately 75 percent of the congregation was present during the six nights. Other churches in the Panama City area cooperated and added to the attendance. On the final night, four sister churches were represented.

The conference climaxed on Foreign Missions Sunday, April 24, with a total offering of \$407.97. This came in the middle of a financial hardship for all who are living in Panama. In addition to the offering, faith promises totaled \$5,000 for the coming year. "It was definitely 'a faith promise' because at the present time no one has a guarantee of a job tomorrow," Judy noted.

Six Panamanians responded to the invitation on Sunday night and announced their calling to serve as missionaries. The church also decided to put the conference into practice and "be missionaries" by starting a new mission in a low income, heavily populated area about 20 minutes from Panama City. Teams from the church went daily on door-to-door visitation, passing out tracts, having services, Bible studies, etc.

### **Doors Continue to Open for New Ribeirao Work**

**Brazil**—"At the request of a lady who lives about a block from the church, I have started a Tuesday night Bible study group in her home," writes Bobby Poole from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil. The Pooles expressed gratitude for

Continued —>

*The new Woolsey Memorial Hostel in Sonapurhat, India, named in memory of Nelle Woolsey and in honor of Paul Woolsey, was dedicated last August. It currently houses 38 boys.*







Pastor Tommy Street (center) of Adwolfe FWB Church in Marion, Va., presents John and Pansy Murray a check for \$1,207.79 to help them get back to France. John and Pansy left for the field in May.

→Continued

this new contact as an outreach of the new work they started in the Sumare area of Ribeirao.

Bobby said that several other people have indicated they will be attending services.

### FM Sunday Marked by \$1,207 Gift to Murrays

Marion, Va.—In a special effort on Foreign Missions Sunday, April 24, the Adwolfe Free Will Baptist Church in Marion, Va., raised \$1,207.79 for the John and Pansy Murray account.

John and Pansy were on hand for the special services and were presented with a check at the end of the service. The church also voted to give two percent of the budget to the Murray account.

### Missouri Church Seeks to Set Missions Example

Norwood, Mo.—According to Fred Warner, director of church ministries for foreign missions, the Rock Chapel Free Will Baptist Church of Norwood, Mo., recently took a giant step toward helping regionalized support for missions.

Stanley E. Jones, pastor of the church, challenged the congregation to give their "fair share" of the total needed to support all Missouri missionaries.

"The amount per Missouri Free Will Baptist, which totals \$20 annually, was multiplied by Rock Chapel's 1987 average church attendance," says Pastor Jones. "The church arrived at their share of \$1,680. They voted to include this amount in the annual

church budget."

The pastor noted the church is hoping every church in Missouri will follow a similar method of support so all Missouri missionaries might receive the needed funds on a regular, systematic basis.

### Local Institutes Enroll at Least 88 Students

Brazil—Missionaries in Brazil have reported students enrolled in Bible institutes held in the local churches have totaled at least 88 to date. This is in addition to the 10 students reportedly enrolled in the new central Bible college in Jaboticabal.

The Bible Institute and Seminary in Ribeirao Preto has 41 students enrolled with 15 of these taking over 12 hours of study. Seven teachers are working in the school during the first semester. In Conselheiro Lafaiete Earnie Deeds reports 16 students enrolled and in Uberlandia Tom and Nancy Hughes report 31 students taking classes.

### Beaver Creek Women Set \$12,000 Goal for Moores

Spartanburg, S.C.—The annual convention of the Beaver Creek District Auxiliary met at the North Spartanburg Free Will Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., on March 4. During the session the ladies approved a project to raise \$12,000 for the Ron and Linda Moore account so the couple can leave for Africa later this year.

Ron was on hand for the meeting and "leaped from the pew with a shout."

## HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Post Office Box 1088  
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Vol. 28, No. 5 June 1988

Editor: Don Robirds  
Editorial Assistant: Carole Ragan

*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.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: R. Eugene Waddell, general director; Fred Warner, director of church ministries; Don Robirds, director of communications; Earl Larson, treasurer-administrative assistant; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary-advance coordinator.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS: Bill Jones, chairman; Norwood Gibson, vice-chairman; Galen Dunbar, secretary; Dan Cronk, Bob Trimble, Jim Walker, Joe Grizzle, Dean Dobbs, Archie Mayhew.

Please clip and send this label with all correspondence.