

DECEMBER 1989

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work through Free Will Baptists around the world

Joy to the World!



*May the quiet peace
of Christmas
fill your
heart and home.*



Dwain and Debbie Crosby stand with General Director R. Eugene Waddell who holds a copy of their commissioning papers.

Churches to Be Honored for Per Capita Giving

Nashville, Tenn.—“We would like to honor the top 10 or 20 churches on a per capita giving basis,” said General Director R. Eugene Waddell as he recently reflected on giving for the past year. “Smaller churches often give more than large ones when evaluated on this basis. We want to recognize their faithfulness.”

The foreign missions office has requested churches across the denomination to cooperate by sending their attendance average for Sunday school in the months of August, September, and October 1989.

A report form will be included with receipt letters. Churches were urged to fill these out and return them immediately so this record might be compiled in January or February.

Cousineau, Pagans Agree: Church on Sacred Ground

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—In a recent report from missionary Mike Cousineau, he indicated pagans were declaring the Flakiedougou church's losses were due to its location on “sacred ground.” Since 1986 the church has lost its roof three times due to winds.

Regarding the “sacred ground” statement Mike declared, “We agree! It's God's ground and we will continue to persevere.”

In practical terms Cousineau said, “Last February we went down to give the people a hand and some technical advice. We straightened

up the bent-up tin, patched holes, and nailed it back on. We also tied down and secured the runners. The tropical rains have come and the roof has stayed secure.”

The church averages around 100 adults in attendance.

Crosbys Commissioned, Plan December Departure

Waco, Tex.—Appointees Dwain and Debbie Crosby finally reached their victory goal and were officially commissioned to missionary service on October 28 at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Waco, Tex. They tentatively plan to depart for Spain on December 15.

R. Eugene Waddell, general director for foreign missions, was on hand in Waco to deliver the charge to Dwain and Debbie. Roy Bingham, pastor of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Mannford, Okla., delivered the message.

Bill Jones, chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, gave the invocation, and David Sutton, chairman of the Texas State Mission Board, was on hand to extend a welcome. Dwain's father, M. L. Crosby, a retired Free Will Baptist minister, led the prayer of dedication.

Gibbs Baptizes Six in St. Nazaire, France

France—Missionary Jerry Gibbs baptized six people from the St. Nazaire work on September 17 in a special service at La Baule.

“We rented the indoor swimming

pool in La Baule for an hour at lunch,” writes Jerry. “We baptized Claude from le Croisic, the Briquets, a lady Claude brought to church, Mme. Cocard, and Joel and Ryan (the Gibbs' sons).”

Morgan Urges Prayer to Reunite Divided Church

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—After a time of division among the African churches, Clint Morgan in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire, has requested special prayer “that complete unity will return and the attacks of Satan will be thwarted.”

Clint expressed praise as he wrote, “It appears that reconciliation is coming and our churches may soon be united in a renewed effort to share Christ with the lost of our country.”

Panama's Tension Slows but Attendance Affected

Panama—According to news from Steve and Judy Lytle in Panama, the tension of recent weeks has slowed but many people seem depressed and concerned. A marriage seminar, sponsored by the Betania church October 6-8, was considered effective but “the attendance was lower than expected,” the Lyles reported.

Judy says, “The uncertainty of the situation is what bothers everyone. Those working for the government really have to toe the line.”

Steve and Judy expressed gratitude that they had not been without water for the nine days prior to their correspondence. They had previously reported being without water several days a week.

Alice Smith Reports Four VBS Efforts in Africa

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Four vacation Bible schools were held in Côte d'Ivoire during August and September under the leadership of missionary Alice Smith. Sharon Ferguson and the Christian ladies from the Tanda Free Will Baptist Church assisted in VBS efforts at Tanda, Tangamouro, and Abokouman.

“Our highest attendance for Tanda was 76, for Tangamouro 162, and for Abokouman 137,” says Alice. The latter two are bush villages.

“Our theme for these three

villages was 'Children of the Bible'—stories based on Cain and Abel, Joseph, Naaman's little servant girl, Rhoda, and Samuel."

The VBS held at Agnibilekrou was conducted largely by 14 young people who helped Alice. "Our theme was 'Moses, Man of Faith,' based on Hebrews 11 and Exodus 1-20," says Smith. "Our highest attendance was 97."

16 Baptized in Ribeirão Preto on September 17

Brazil—Missionary Bobby Poole reported baptizing 16 people on September 17 in the baptistry of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.

According to Bobby, 85 people from the three churches in the area came together for the joint baptismal service. Seven people from the First Church, six from the Second Church, and three from the Ipiranga work were baptized.



Ledge and Sharon Ferguson are home after submitting their resignation from missionary service in Ivory Coast.

Fergusons Resign after 12 Years as Missionaries

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson have submitted their resignation from missionary service in Côte d'Ivoire after 12 years with the Department of Foreign Missions.

The Fergusons served in Goumre, Agnibilekrou, and Tanda. They returned to the United States at the end of September. Their resignation becomes effective December 31, 1989.



Missionary Steve Lytle presides during an open house ceremony of the Bible institute in Panama City, Panama.

In their statement of resignation Ledgel and Sharon expressed overall satisfaction with their years of service.

"During the last eight or nine months we have not been at ease," the couple stated. "We have not had the peace that comes from being where the Lord wants you. We have experienced an abiding conviction that we should leave and return to the States."

The Fergusons requested prayer for God's direction as they seek to do His will. They encouraged supporters to consider shifting their support to co-workers Darrel and Lila Nichols who are urgently needed back in Ivory Coast.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Royal Oak, Mich.—Missionary Tom McCullough underwent an emergency appendectomy on October 21 in Michigan. "We are so thankful to have been home when this happened," said Patty McCullough.

Brazil—Kemper Combs, son of missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs, was involved in an automobile accident in Brazil on Tuesday, October 24. A truck ran into his car. Kemper was shaken up but not seriously injured. Jim and Shirley are in the United States for furlough.

Panama—The Bible institute in Panama held an open house on September 26 with approximately 50 people attending. Special certi-

ficates and awards were made to several students on the occasion.

Kirkville, Mo.—MK Don McLain and his wife Brenda have a new baby girl, Anna Pearl, born on October 17 in Kirkville, Mo. The baby weighed seven pounds 13 ounces. She is the granddaughter of missionaries Jim and Olena McLain in Japan. Don and Brenda also have a boy one year of age.

Tifton, Ga.—Mr. and Mrs. Keiichi Hiraga of northern Japan visited Dale and Sandra Bishop in Tifton, Ga., during November. The Hiragas are providing the house for the Bishops rent-free while they are on furlough. Kenjii, a young Japanese friend, has accompanied the Bishops during their furlough.

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Financial Summary Through October 31

Substance

Total income for October	\$ 277,451.19
Total income through October	2,846,863.07
Total disbursements through October	2,681,774.06
Projected income through October	2,701,920.00
Total 1989 Budget	\$3,279,414.00
ADVANCE gifts through October	\$ 99,693.08
1989 ADVANCE Budget	\$ 150,000.00

Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:			
Bailey	\$ 275.89	Sparks	\$ 180.52
Combs	1,905.62	Turnbough	2,719.07
Eagleton, Sr.	14,034.30	West	3,270.01
Murray	2,404.98	Cuba	1,994.79
Reeves	7,385.90	Spec. Com.	19,187.87
Smith	99.68		
Total			\$53,458.63

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Collinsville, Okla.—Mr. Robert Wode of Collinsville, Okla., was taken by ambulance to St. Johns Hospital in Tulsa, Okla., on October 22 with fluid on his lungs. Mr. Wode is the father of Ivory Coast missionary Arilla Wode who is currently in the United States on medical furlough. Latest reports were inconclusive about the cause of Mr. Wode's condition.

Smithfield, N.C.—Madeleine West, mother of missionary Robert West, was recently diagnosed as having large cell lymphoma in both lungs. She has started a six-week cycle of chemotherapy and doctors indicated an 80 percent cure rate. Christians were urged to pray for her complete recovery. The Wests are in the United States for furlough.

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—"We're actually in Doropo in our house," write Jalayn Martens and Glenda Leatherbury from Ivory Coast. "It took us a long time to get here, but we know we got here in God's time, not ours." Martens and Leatherbury arrived in Côte d'Ivoire in August after completing language study in Europe.

France—Missionary Steve Riggs

has been elected pastor of the church in Nantes, France, to succeed John Murray. Steve and Becky had made plans to start a new work in another section of Nantes.

Brazil—According to missionary Ken Eagleton, the first meeting of national workers in Brazil was held in October with 23 people registered for the event.

Judy Smith Winding down for January Furlough

Japan—"I am trying to wrap up my last lessons with all my English classes at church," writes Judy Smith from Japan. "Since I'll be leaving for furlough after the first of the year, I'm having to make arrangements for my responsibilities here at Kita Hiroshima church." Judy plans to leave Japan on January 8.

Jerry Banks will be teaching some of the classes in Judy's absence. A few of the classes for children and teens will be phased out due to a shortage of personnel.

Public School Ministry Fruitful for Alice Smith

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Missionary Alice Smith has had a fruitful ministry among children in the public schools in Côte d'Ivoire. She reports having held Bible classes regularly and has presented the gospel to 150-200 students ranging in age from eight to 15 years. "At least one-third of these students received Christ as Savior during the year," writes Alice.

Miss Smith, who is scheduled for furlough in mid-December, also has

had the responsibility of overseeing the Sunday school at Agnibilekrou. "We have five classes with a total average attendance of 90," says Alice.



E. N. "Nelse" Roberts is pushed in his wheelchair by his daughter during the Tennessee Walk-a-thon.

Cancer Victim Takes Part in Missions Walk-a-thon

Greeneville, Tenn.—E. N. "Nelse" Roberts, a member of Pine Grove Free Will Baptist Church near Greeneville, Tenn., was determined to raise money for foreign missions "if it was the last thing he did." The victim of terminal cancer, Roberts got involved in the September Walk-a-thon for foreign missions in Tennessee, and his daughter, Shirley Thorp, pushed him in the event.

Mr. Roberts died on October 30 in the emergency room of the Holston Valley Hospital and Medical Center. He was a farmer and retired school bus driver.

Call
Missions Hotline
Just dial
615/361-5005

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