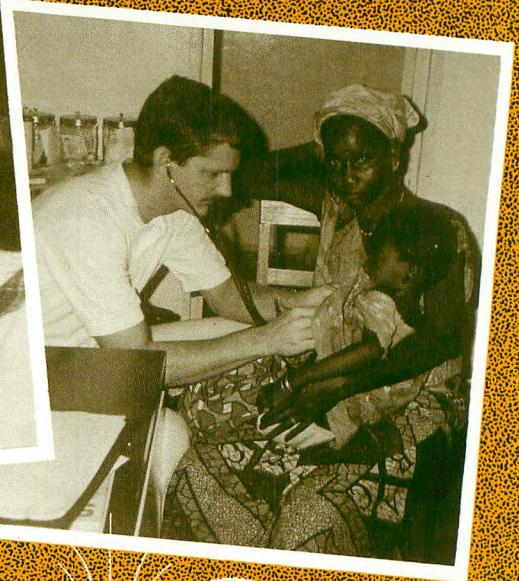


NOVEMBER 1989

HEARTBEAT

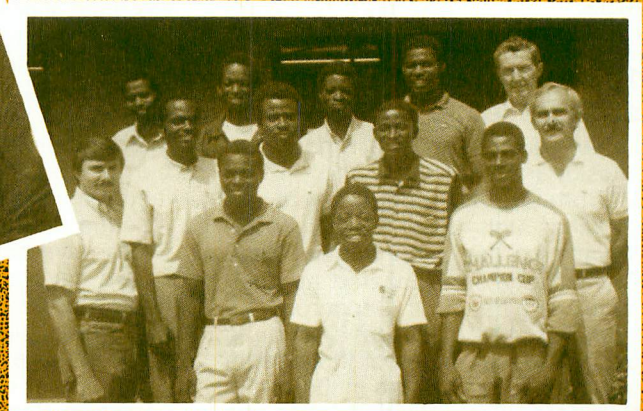
of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

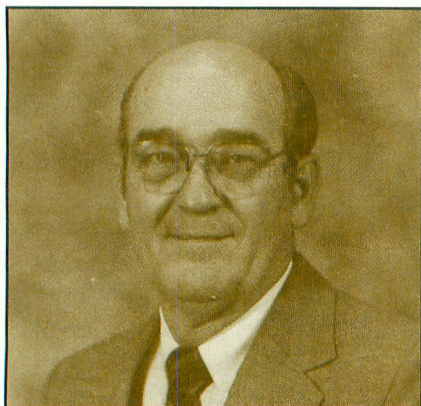
Showing God at work through Free Will Baptists around the world



THANKSGIVING

*Thank God for what He is doing
around the world.*





Norwood Gibson, vice chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, left for India on October 2 to visit the Carlisle Hannas and the work in India.

Board Member Gibson Visits Work in India

Florence, S.C.—Norwood Gibson, vice chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions and promotional director for South Carolina Free Will Baptists, departed from the United States on October 2 en route to India. Gibson was to be accompanied by missionary Sherwood Lee but Lee's visa had not been issued by departure time.

Carlisle Hanna was scheduled to meet Norwood on his arrival in Calcutta and take him to the field in North India. Gibson planned to return to the United States on November 1.

A recent report from Hanna indicated monsoon rains and floods had hit the area in the months of August and September. The foreign missions staff expressed hope that the rains would subside to allow Gibson to visit much of the work while in India.

120 Attend Bible Camp at Tobetsu, Japan

Japan—According to a report from missionaries Don and Ruth McDonald, 120 people from six churches met August 1-3 in Tobetsu, Japan, for the sixth annual Bible Camp. Tobetsu is located approximately one hour from Sapporo.

McDonald noted that 90 young people from the ages of three years to 17 years participated in the camp. Campers were divided into two groups: grade school and junior

high/high school. These met simultaneously for classes and services. Several campers made first-time decisions for Christ during the outing.

Besides the McDonalds, missionaries Judy Smith and Jerry Banks and student missionary Vicky Christy helped in the camp.

Brazil Bible College Has Four Full-timers

Brazil—Although the total student enrollment is down at the central Bible college in Jaboticabal, Brazil, four of these are full-time dormitory students.

Missionaries Ken and Marvis Eagleton indicated that Silvestre Pinto Neto, the new director of the college, is encouraged in spite of the lower enrollment.

Eagleton is teaching eight classes this semester. Each class meets once each week for one and one-half hours.

By faith, one student, Gilberto, quit a good job at the bank and enrolled in the college to study for the ministry. His wife is also studying. They have three small children.

Panama Christians Hit Hard by Economic Crunch

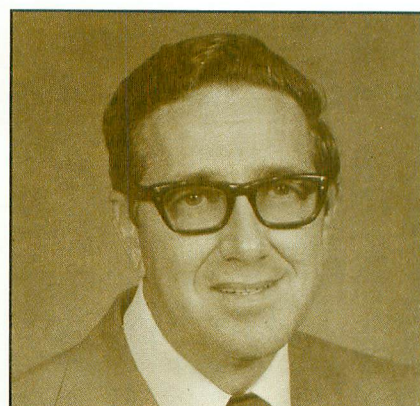
Panama—In a recent report from Panama missionary Steve Lytle indicated several Christian families are suffering due to the economic crunch in the midst of political turmoil.

Steve noted, "Several families from the church in Agua Buena and from the San Juan mission are not getting enough food. Several families have almost no income."

Lytle expressed concern and pleaded for some emergency funds to help these needy Free Will Baptist families.

The church in Betania has been burglarized three times within the last year and medicines are being rationed due to a short supply. The Lytles have been without water four to five days a week during daylight hours due to broken equipment at the water plant and not enough funds to make adequate repairs.

In spite of everything that is happening in Panama, church services continue to be blessed by God.



Former missionary Eddie Payne has assumed the role of instructor at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn.

Steve reported three young boys were saved on Sunday night, September 3.

Those interested in helping Panamanian Christians may send their gifts to "Emergency Relief," in care of Foreign Missions, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

Eddie Payne Joins FWBBC Teaching Staff

Nashville, Tenn.—Veteran missionary to Cote d'Ivoire Eddie Payne has joined the teaching staff at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. Payne, who served as a missionary to Ivory Coast from October of 1962 until December of 1987, assumed his new role as instructor beginning with the fall semester.

Eddie, who helped to start the Bible institute in Ivory Coast, is teaching Bible Doctrines, Missions Principles, Local Church and World Missions, and History of Missions. Two other former members of the Ivory Coast field council also serve on the college faculty or staff: Dr. LaVerne Miley and Neil Gilliland.

Construction Proceeds on Campinas Church Building

Brazil—Construction on the First Free Will Baptist Church in Campinas, Brazil, is "rapidly moving along" according to missionary Jim Sturgill. He noted delays had occurred due to a late start by a bricklayer, etc. The building has been under construction since 1980 but has only proceeded as man-



Workers seek to hurry completion of the new church building under construction by the First Free Will Baptist Church in Campinas, Brazil.

power, finances, and direction were available. The Sturgills, who returned to Brazil from furlough in July, have reorganized the building effort.

Jim reported the recent death of a 93-year-old woman who had been saved about 25 years ago after hearing Free Will Baptist missionaries preach the gospel. "Dona Maria was unable to read but her faith was simple and childlike," writes Vicki Sturgill. "She had been such a friend and example to the youth of our churches that almost 100 young people attended her funeral."

Murrays Resign During Third Term in France

Nashville, Tenn.—John and Pansy Murray recently submitted their resignation from foreign missions service after serving as missionaries to France since January of 1978. They were serving their third term.

"We need a time of rest," the Murrays expressed in their written resignation. John plans to finish his Master's program and take some counseling courses as they await God's direction for their future. "We count it a privilege to have been able to serve the Lord with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions and missionaries," stated the Murrays. "We would especially like to express our love and esteem for every member of the French field council."

The Murrays are expected to arrive in the United States shortly after Thanksgiving. Their resignation

becomes effective on December 27. They were in charge of the church at Nantes.

Bryan Urges Prayer as CPE Faces Lawsuit

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Robert Bryan writes from Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire: "We are being accused of 'abusively firing a man.' We fired him 18 months ago because of immorality. Now he accuses us of violating his rights by firing him."

Bryan declares the man is suing the Evangelical Publishing Center (CPE) for approximately \$136,000 (40 million francs). Robert urged Christians to pray that God will change the heart of the man who is suing, that He will give wisdom in the case, will lead the directors to a lawyer who appreciates Christian

John and Pansy Murray have submitted their resignation from missionary service in France.



convictions, and will keep Robert from becoming bitter over the situation. He also asked them to pray that God would uphold the center in court and vindicate the Christian commitment to Him.



Paul Sparks

MK Paul Sparks Struck by Acute Leukemia

Indianapolis, Ind.—Paul Sparks, son of missionaries Lonnie and Anita Sparks of Spain, has been hospitalized in Indianapolis and diagnosed as having acute leukemia. Paul, who was married to Miss Jill Prater in the summer of 1988, is being monitored in complete isolation.

Anita Sparks arrived in the United States on October 10 to be near her son and daughter-in-law. Paul has undergone extensive chemotherapy treatments in an effort to kill the cancer cells. At press time he was in very serious condition and was having violent reactions to the treatment. Christians were urged to pray for him and the family during this time of difficulty.

Church Relinquishes Building in Mostoles

Spain—The church in Mostoles, Spain, recently relinquished its meeting place by selling its lease on the building. Missionary Ron Callaway indicated it is unusual to be able to sell a lease due to the economic condition of the neighborhood, but this act enabled the group to accumulate some money which will later be used to purchase property.

According to Ron, the Spanish Christians were reluctant to contribute adequately to maintain the rented building. Since relinquishing the building they have been meeting in the Callaway home. The group is currently talking with the Mostoles

City Hall about use of a room in a cultural center.

An outreach campaign was started in September as a special team prepared and distributed evangelistic materials in the community. Ron urged Christians to pray that these materials will prove effective in their outreach.

Robirds' Daughter and Grandsons Slain in Home

Nashville, Tenn.—October 1 made a terrible blot on the calendar for the family of Don Robirds, director of communications for foreign missions: Daughter Judith Lynn Smith, age 34, and her two sons, Chad (16) and Jason (13) were brutally shot and stabbed to death in their Nashville home.

The bodies were discovered on Monday afternoon, October 2, by Robirds' seven-year-old grandson, Michael, as he returned from school. The boy phoned his mother, Terri—Judy's sister—to come to the home where she also discovered the terrible truth.

The slain mother of four had been going through divorce proceedings against her husband, Oscar Frank Smith, whom she had charged twice with aggravated assault. He was free on \$7,500 bond while awaiting the court action. The couple had twin sons, Christopher and Casey, aged two and one-half. The youngsters were with the father at the time of the tragedy, but the Department of Human Services has placed them in a temporary foster home pending further investigation concerning their safety.

Funeral services for the three were held on Friday, October 6, at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery. Approximately 500 people attended the service at the church and many of those accompanied the bodies to the cemetery for graveside services.

Pastor Robert Morgan gave a clear evangelistic message to the large crowd which included many youth and Waffle House employees, friends of the victims. Reports were received that several salvation decisions were made in the week following the funeral.

Hundreds of friends, neighbors, and fellow Free Will Baptists across



Judith Lynn Robirds Smith (top) and her two sons, Chad and Jason (bottom), were found slain on October 2 in their Nashville home.

the nation and around the world responded with prayers, letters, cards, and gifts.

The Donelson Church established a Robirds Family Trust for funds to cover funeral and family expenses stemming from the triple fatality. Anyone desiring to help may send gifts to Robirds Family Trust, Donelson FWB Church, 2909 Knobdale Road, Nashville, TN 37214.

Don Robirds declared, "My family and I have been overwhelmed by the love and concern showered upon us by the community and our Christian family around the globe. God's sustaining grace has definitely enabled us to bear this burden. I could never express adequately to God or my Christian friends the gratitude and appreciation for the comfort and encouragement we have received. The deep

hurt has definitely been eased, though not eliminated."

At press time no arrest had been made in the case. Christians were urged to pray that concrete evidence might be uncovered to link the killer with the crime so that justice might prevail.

Eight African Leaders Supported by Churches

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—"For the first time in Cote d'Ivoire history, eight leaders (under training) are being fully supported by the Free Will Baptist African church," writes missionary Mike Cousineau from Bouna, Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. These eight leaders are Bible institute students who are fulfilling a ten-month internship program under the close supervision of the Bible institute faculty.

Mike continued, "One group of Lobi churches south of Bouna even brought their resources together and purchased a used moped for their student to use for transportation to the three churches he is responsible for."

Cousineau indicated the students would continue to follow courses of study at the institute one week every two months.

Judy Smith Performs at Ventriloquist Confab

Japan—Miss Judy Smith, missionary to Japan, was recently asked to do a short ventriloquist performance before 200 people from all over Japan. This was to be a part of the All-Japan Ventriloquist Association meeting.

Judy is a member of the association and has been studying with Miyako-sensei who lives in the Sapporo area.

"Read-a-Long" Program Reaches Buddhists

Burma—According to *The Church Around the World*, a unique radio program in Burma called the "Bible Read-a-Long" invites listeners not only to listen to the Scriptures being read but to read along from their own copy.

Burmese Buddhists consider it offensive to read the sacred books

Continued—>

→ *Continued*

of another religion unless one is invited to do so. Far Eastern Broadcasting Company's Burmese director decided to offer listeners a copy of a Bible portion and invite them to read along with the radio program.

The response, almost all from Buddhists, has averaged more than 3,000 letters a month.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Japan—The Ai No Sato Free Will Baptist Church in northern Japan celebrated its first anniversary on June 16 with a mini-concert. Over 50 people attended. Several people from the community came to the church for the first time.

Brazil—Missionary Geneva Poole recently reported a five-day vacation Bible school in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, averaged 61 people in attendance each day as they studied the life of Paul. Several of the children attended VBS for the first time.

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Missionary Mike Cousineau urged peo-

ple to pray for God's protection on his daughter, Kristina, who had a rabid dog jump on her about a month earlier. Mike says, "Since he didn't bite or scratch her, Dr. Eagleton felt Kristina didn't need the series of shots."

Japan—Missionary Ken Bailey writes from the Tokyo area of Japan: "We have had some disappointments in recent months. Some people we thought we could depend on have failed us. But on the other hand, we have had some surprises with people who didn't seem committed. They have really come through for us and the work here."

France—Allan and LaRue Crowson and their children departed for France on September 27 after several months of delay due to an inability to get visas. They will be working in Nantes.

Corning, Ark.—Dave Jr. and Becky Franks became parents for the second time on September 19 as Nathan Robert was born. The boy weighed eight pounds ten ounces. He is the second grandchild of missionaries Dave and Pat Franks in Brazil.

Spain—According to missionary Jeff Turnbough, the Villalba Free Will Baptist Church in Spain recently presented paper work to the town council requesting land for the church. They are hoping the city will provide the land so they can build a church.

France—"The church continues to progress and the work is going on here at St. Nazaire," writes Patsy Vanhook. "On Sunday, September 24, Mr. Leuridon and Mrs. Coquard were baptized." Both of these were former Jehovah's Witnesses.

Uruguay—Rick Bowling recently reported the church in Malvin Norte, a suburb of Montevideo, was in fairly good shape when they returned from furlough in September. "We had about 45 in the first service to welcome us back," says Rick.

Nashville, Tenn.—Reports show that missionary volunteers who serve on short-term assignments are turning to career missionary service. Recent studies indicate 25 percent of such volunteers become full-time missionaries.

Clip and Mail

Darrel and Lila Nichols Needed in Cote d'Ivoire



The leaders of the church in Goumère, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), recently asked another missionary, "When will our pastor return?" Yes, Darrel Nichols is needed in the church-planting and development efforts in West Africa. He and Lila were scheduled to return to Cote d'Ivoire in August of 1989, but their support base was not adequate.

The Nichols need **\$1,000** in monthly support and **\$14,000** in cash to be able to depart. Would you want to be without a pastor for a year and a half or longer? Of course not! Neither does the Goumère church. Won't you help Darrel and Lila get back to Cote d'Ivoire by the end of December? Send your response now.

____ Yes, I want to help the Nichols get back to their ministry in Cote d'Ivoire. Count on me to give, as God provides, the following amount of money:

() \$20 () \$50 () \$10 () \$100 () Other

____ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Church _____

I will send my monthly gift (check one) () through the church () direct.

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

Tennessee Walk-a-thon Reaches \$58,000 Mark

Nashville, Tenn.—According to Don Sexton, chairman of the Tennessee Board of Foreign Missions, over \$58,000 had been raised by October 23 for Tennessee foreign missionaries through the annual statewide walk-a-thon. The event was held on September 10, 1989, in most areas. Other funds were

Continued on last page →

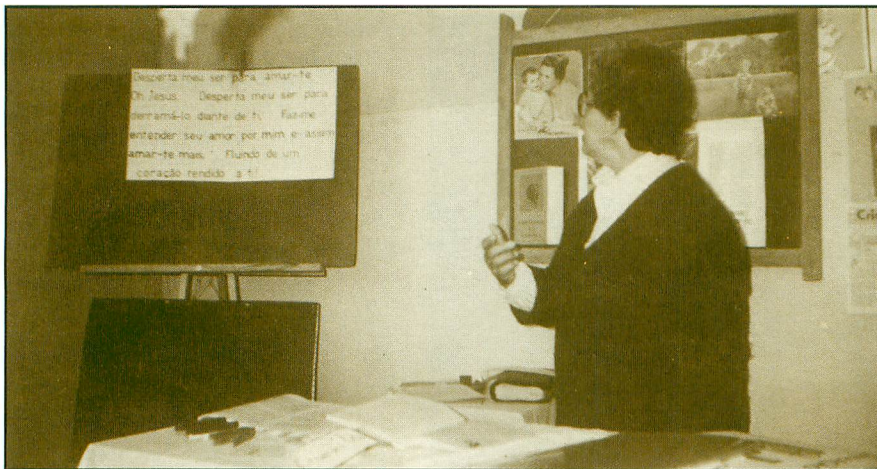
Financial Summary Through September 30

Substance

Total income for September.....	\$ 299,306.79
Total income through September.....	2,570,175.28
Total disbursements through September.....	2,463,846.98
Projected income through September.....	2,459,560.50
Total 1989 Budget.....	\$3,279,414.00
ADVANCE gifts through September.....	\$ 87,632.13
1989 ADVANCE Budget.....	\$ 150,000.00

Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:			
Bailey.....	\$ 367.86	Sparks.....	\$ 1,265.84
Combs.....	3,961.86	Teague, J.....	253.56
Creech.....	1,792.86	Turnbough.....	3,854.02
Eagleton, Sr.....	17,512.66	West.....	3,894.23
Murray.....	845.15	Cuba.....	1,994.79
Reeves.....	6,494.12	Spec. Com.....	19,187.87
Smith, J.....	1,156.16		
Total.....			\$62,580.98



Aparecida of the Pauliceia congregation in Campinas, Brazil, introduced Child Evangelism materials in a seminar during a special meeting on Brazil's Independence Day.

→ *Continued*

expected to come in before mid-November.

Participants in the walk-a-thon received a walk-a-thon cap or a walk-a-thon T-shirt or both.

Campinas Churches Meet on Independence Day

Brazil—Forty-five Free Will Baptists from the three congregations in Campinas, Brazil, met at the First Free Will Baptist Church on September 7—Brazil's Independence Day—to think about the freedom that comes by knowing Christ as Savior. Missionary Ken Eagleton brought the morning message on the hope we have in Christ.

Two periods were given during the day for study and seminars. According to Vicki Sturgill, the most

popular seminar seemed to be one on How to Reach Families for Christ. Other seminars included Visuals for Sunday School Teachers, Music in the Church, Teaching Beginners, Helps for Superintendents of Sunday School, and Cults.

Time was set aside for singing, sharing, and praying together. Leaders of the congregations met with Jim Sturgill during the day to discuss their individual works and to present specific needs in each congregation.

Albania Is Worst Offender of Religious Freedom

Albania—According to researchers, Albania, in eastern Europe, is the worst abuser of religious liberty in the world. A strictly communist

nation, Albania allows absolutely no public expression of faith of any kind.

Researchers with The Puebla Institute, a private monitoring group of human rights around the world, indicated people are encouraged to spy on one another in an attempt to enforce the complete ban on religious expression in homes.

Vietnamese Refugees Respond to Gospel

Kampuchea—Missionaries in Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) report that one-to-one evangelism to refugees fleeing from Vietnam has begun to reap great results.

According to a report in *The Church Around the World*, more than 1,000 people have come to know Christ personally over the last year as a result of personal contact and a large influx of Bibles.

The International Bible Society has provided 180,000 leaflets with scriptural messages to the refugees. The Society is also planning to publish 10,000 copies of a 13-volume picture Bible that has been translated into Khmer.

**Missionary victories are won
on our knees.**

PRAY!

Call

Missions Hotline

Dial

615/361-5005

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Vol. 29, No. 9

November 1989

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 missionary-church relations; 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, Joe Grizzle, Dean Dobbs, Archie Mayhew, Bill Reagan.

Please clip and send this label with all correspondence.