

SEPTEMBER 1989

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work through Free Will Baptists around the world

***Hundreds Hear
"Mom" Willey,
Visit with
Missionaries
in Tampa***





Missionaries are shown seated during the Wednesday night service at the National Association in Tampa, Fla.

\$3.5 Million Missions Budget Adopted for 1990

Tampa, Fla.—The National Association of Free Will Baptists convened in Tampa, Fla., July 16-20. Among other action they adopted a 1990 foreign missions budget of \$3,527,152.

More than 5700 people registered for this fifty-third annual convention and the Wednesday night crowd contributed a record \$23,501.76 to missions outreach.

In other missions-related action the body voted to invite to the 1992 convention national leaders from each of the countries where Free Will Baptists work. Executive Secretary Dr. Melvin Worthington expressed hope that eventually an International Fellowship or Association of Free Will Baptists might become a reality.

As R. Eugene Waddell, general director of foreign missions, gave his report, he expressed praise that missionary account deficits had been reduced to around \$40,000 at the time of the convention. He also rejoiced that the 1988 foreign missions receipts surpassed the budget for the first time since 1981.

The pastors of 36 churches which gave over \$10,000 to foreign missions for the year were recognized publicly during Waddell's report.

For the Wednesday evening service a choir made up of Hispanics from four Miami Free Will Baptist churches presented several musical numbers. Former missionary Tom Willey Jr. directed the choir. Several songs were accompanied by brass instrumentalists from the Hispanic churches.

Foreign and home missionaries were then introduced by Mr. Waddell and Home Missions General Director Roy Thomas as the audience expressed appreciation for their commitments. Twenty-seven foreign missionaries and 62 home missionaries were on hand for this year's convention.

Pastor Milburn Wilson of El Sobrante, Calif., delivered the missions challenge from Matthew 28:18-20. Many responded to the invitation.

Robinson Reports New Uruguay Preaching Point

Uruguay—Missionary Paul Robinson expressed praise recently when he reported the launching of a new preaching point about 150 miles from Rivera in the city of Melo.

"One of our Christians, Danubio Sousa, won his 79-year-old father to the Lord while visiting there (in Melo)," writes Paul. "He was able to witness and there were several professions of faith as a result.

Since that time a team of two workers goes every 15 days and holds weekend services."

Paul indicated 12 people had been saved there thus far. He urged people to pray that this will develop into a regular work.

Second Church Building Dedicated in Uberlandia

Brazil—The second Free Will Baptist church in the city of Uberlandia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, was dedicated on July 15 in Garden of the Palms (Jardim das Palmeiras) with 98 people present. According to Nancy Hughes, a good number of those on hand were from the First church.

"Our singing group (from First church) presented special music and those who will be teaching and preaching there gave their testimonies," says Nancy.

Tom and Nancy Hughes have begun this work since they returned to Brazil from furlough. The new building follows the basic style of the first building of the First church.

On the Sunday morning following the dedication 43 attended Sunday school and 38 were at the evening service. One teenager was saved in the evening service.

Riggs, Crowson, Tallent to Start New Work in Nantes

France—The French field council unanimously voted recently to move workers out of Lorient to begin a new ministry in a suburb of Nantes, France.

Missionaries Steve and Becky Riggs, Allan and LaRue Crowson, and Miss Charolette Tallent have labored in Lorient for several years. They were preceded by the Lynn Mileys and the Jerry Webbs. Don and Billie Sexton started the work. Miss Dawn Sweeney also worked in Lorient for a short time.

"I'm sure you can understand that the decision was not an easy one for me," writes Charolette Tallent. "Yet I am convinced it is the right one."

Two basic reasons were given for this decision: The present church family, except two, have all made plans to move from Lorient. Second, a shortage of missionary personnel made it impossible to maintain the Lorient work during furloughs due to distance, etc. The goal of the France mission team is to establish a self-supporting church.

Nantes is the largest city in Brittany with a population of around 600,000 people. It also has a university with a student population of 30,000. John and Pansy Murray are in the Free Will Baptist church in the center of town while Dennis and Carol Teague and Cathy Crawford have begun an outreach in St. Sebastien, a southern suburb of Nantes. Tallent, Riggs, and Crowson will be working in a northern suburb of the city.

Neto Chosen to Direct Brazil Bible College

Brazil—The Brazilian Free Will Baptist Board of Education met recently and selected Silvestre Pinto Neto as the new director of the central Bible college located in Jaboticabal, Brazil. Jim Combs had held the position until his furlough in early July.

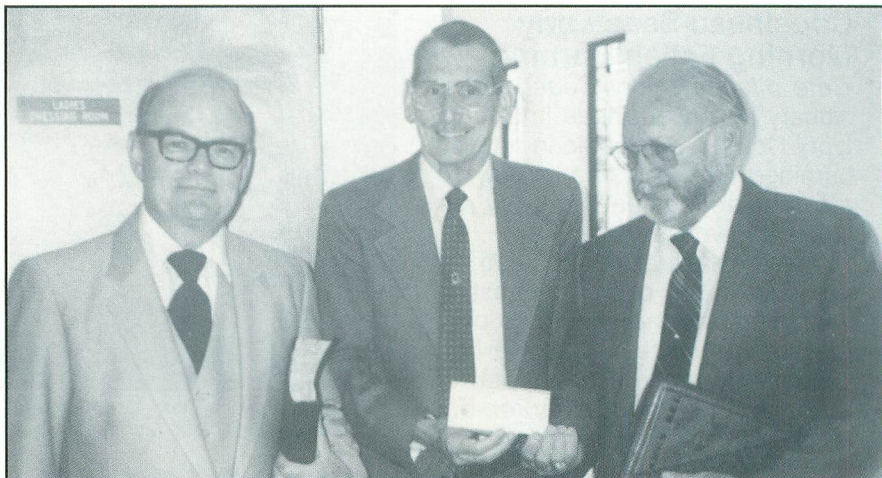
Neto is currently living in the city of Bebedouro where he has launched a new ministry for Free Will Baptists.

Classes were to begin July 31. Ken and Marvis Eagleton departed for Brazil on August 3, and Ken was to begin teaching as soon as they arrived.

E. Texas Churches Raise Eagleton Plane Fare

Henderson, Tex.—The East Texas District Association of Free Will Baptists recently cooperated to raise \$1,600 in less than two months to purchase plane tickets for Ken and Marvis Eagleton to return to Brazil.

A check was presented to Ken and Marvis on Sunday morning, June 4, 1989, at the First Free Will



Pastor Don Ellis (left) of First FWB Church of Henderson, Tex., stands with missionary Ken Eagleton (center) as James Kee presents Ken a check for \$1,600. Kee is chairman of the mission board of East Texas District Association.

Baptist Church in Henderson. According to the Eagletons, the churches raised the money solely by contributions.

The Henderson church is the home church of the Eagletons as well as missionary Judy Smith. It was among the 36 churches that contributed over \$10,000 to missions in 1988. Don Ellis is the pastor.

McDonalds Start New Ministry to Students

Japan—Don and Ruth McDonald have begun a new ministry to reach college students at the university located near the Ai No Sato church on the northern island of Hokkaido, Japan.

"Every Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. we are having an English Bible study along with games and coffee time at the church," write the McDonalds.

Two freshman girls attended the first meeting and promised to invite friends. "Pray with us that the number will increase and that God will use this outreach, our first open door with college students," Don and Ruth concluded.

Rie Abe, a high school girl who received Christ in April, was baptized on May 7 at Ai No Sato. According to Don, "She was our most reluctant student. We began targeting our prayers on her. Now

she is devouring her Bible, memorizing verses, carrying her Bible to school, and sharing Christ with her unsaved friends!"

S. Brazil-Uruguay Has Critical Water Shortage

Uruguay—According to missionaries in Uruguay, the south Brazil-Uruguay area is experiencing a critical water shortage. Paul Robinson wrote recently, "Our electricity is now being shut off from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in certain zones. The dam is completely dry here in Rivera."

The water department in Rivera has been digging deep wells, but reports indicate wells are dry in most villages.

"If it doesn't rain soon to replenish the water in the river for the hydroelectric current," says Paul, "the entire country will be without electricity."

N. India Church Needs Property or Must Leave

India—Missionary Carlisle Hanna reported recently that one of the church ministries in North India may be forced to close unless they can purchase land. "No land owner is willing to rent to us," says Carlisle. "We have only five more months."

Hanna noted that the second

new church building under construction in northern India was almost complete. They were hoping to finish it and dedicate it in mid-July.

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—The youth at Agnibilekrou and Bondoukou in Cote d'Ivoire have memorized the book of Ephesians to be used in Tic-Tac-Toe competition. The championship was held recently with Agnibilekrou winning two out of three games.

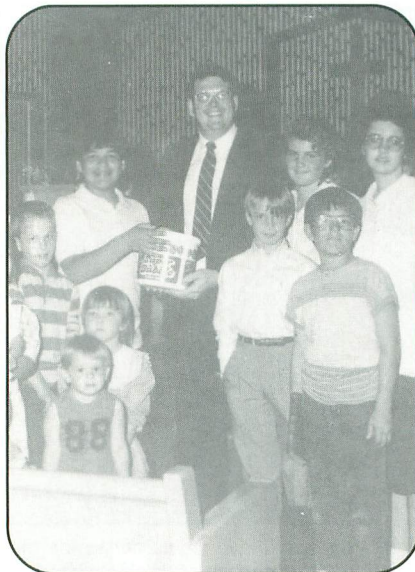
Nashville, Tenn.—Missionary Evelyn Hersey underwent surgery on July 13 for removal of recurring cancer cells. Latest reports indicated she was doing well and would not need further chemotherapy.

Brazil—Andrew Francoi Poole was born to John and Renata Poole in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, on June 29. The baby weighed five pounds seven ounces. This is the first grandchild of missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole.

Columbia, Mo.—Six-year-old Alicia Bunch, daughter of missionaries Stan and Brenda Bunch, underwent extensive foot surgery on July 31. A team of doctors worked on the bone and plastic surgeons did skin grafting. Alicia's previous surgery this summer did not succeed and the wound remained open. This surgery was considered successful.

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Rejane Eagleton, wife of Dr. Kenneth Eagleton at the hospital in Doropo, Cote d'Ivoire, fell recently and hurt her leg. At first the doctor thought the knee was broken, but later determined she must have pulled a ligament. Rejane wore a cast for two weeks and at latest report was wearing a splint.

Tulsa, Okla.—"Nickels for the Nichols" was the theme used as the youth of New Home Free Will



Missionary Darrel Nichols (center) receives \$208.75 in nickels from the children of the New Home FWB Church in Tulsa, Okla.

Baptist children's church in Tulsa, Okla., raised money for Darrel and Lila Nichols' account. On April 30 the children's church presented Darrel with their missions offering of \$208.75 in nickels.

Brazil—Nineteen children and four adults attended the first children's meeting at the newly organized Second Free Will Baptist Church of Ribeirao Preto. The meeting was held July 1 in the basement of Bobby and Geneva Poole's home.

Collinsville, Okla.—Missionary Arilla Wode has been recuperating from a special strain of tuberculosis. Doctors have told her she is fortunate that medication is available today. She will be remaining in the United States for several months to regain her health and strength.

Japan—Ken Bailey reported that two faithful Christians had recently stopped attending the Iriso church in a suburb of Tokyo, Japan. He urged people to pray for them. Ken recently spent many hours putting tracts in mailboxes in the area around the church. Shortly thereafter a young man began attending services because he found the tract "interesting."

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Student missionaries Joel and Hope Nason have been helping at the medical station in Doropo, Ivory Coast, this summer. Joel has worked in maintenance and Hope has been teaching David Eagleton third grade.

Cote d'Ivoire Suffers Due to Extreme Cocoa Losses

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Farmers in Cote d'Ivoire are hurting due to low market prices for cocoa. These prices have cost them two billion dollars over the past three years. It is costing them more to produce the cocoa than they are receiving for it.

Cote d'Ivoire produces 720,000 tons of cocoa a year, one-third of the world's total.

Approximately 500 missionaries serve in Ivory Coast where approximately 500,000 Protestants have enjoyed a quarter of a century of prosperity. Today, Cote d'Ivoire's Christians face an uncertain economic future. Some feel this will force them to face some uncomfortable choices.

Still, others think this could serve to purify the church.

Sturgills Readjusting, Seek Ministry Direction

Brazil—Jim and Vicki Sturgill and their family arrived safely in Brazil on June 23 to resume their min-

Continued on back page →

Financial Summary Through July 31

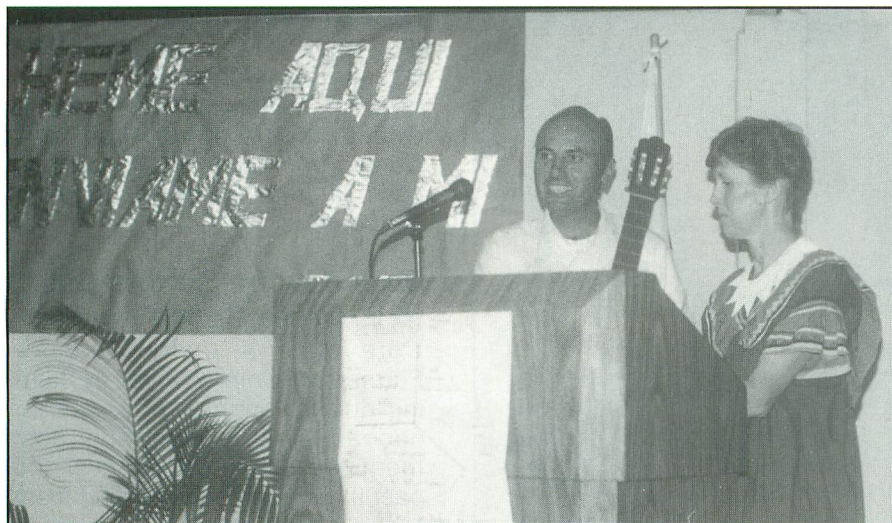
Substance

Total income for June	\$ 321,903.63
Total income for July	272,808.90
Total income through July	1,981,808.75
Total disbursements through July	1,893,390.41
Projected income through July	1,912,991.50
Total 1989 Budget	\$3,279,414.00
ADVANCE gifts through July	\$ 68,562.85
1989 ADVANCE Budget	\$ 150,000.00

Shortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:			
Bailey	\$ 2,218.12	Smith, J.	\$ 2,848.79
Combs	2,364.90	Teague, J.	1,701.99
Creech	527.79	Turnbough	3,575.84
Eagleton, Sr.	19,394.81	West	4,704.77
Heath (Ger.)	41.24	Wiley	1,276.28
Reeves	4,534.21	Spec. Com.	19,187.87
TOTAL			\$66,157.68

PRAYER REQUESTS...



Missionaries Don and Pat Barger of New Tribes Mission, spoke two nights during the missionary conference at Betania FWB Church in Panama. Pat is a niece of WNAC secretary-treasurer Dr. Mary R. Wisehart. The group committed \$3,000 to missions for the next year.

→Continued from inside

istry and are now seeking to readjust to Brazilian customs and runaway inflation.

The Sturgills reported getting through Customs without paying any fees, although some equipment was confiscated for a short period of time and returned.

"Please pray for us as we try to adjust," write the Sturgills. "Also pray for us as we look over the needs of the church here in Campinas to see just what our ministry for the next year should include. The work here looks more encouraging than we had been told."

Missions Conference Held Amid Political Turmoil

Panama—The Free Will Baptist church of Betania in a suburb of Panama City, Panama, held its missionary conference during the week of April 25-30. "We had a wonderful week, the people were challenged, and everyone made renewals of their faith promises," writes missionary Judy Lytle.

In spite of the political and economic turmoil of Panama the group once again made faith-promise commitments. This year they totaled over \$3,000.

The Lytles indicated the Bible in-

stitute program has continued to function. Twenty-five students are studying one or two of the three courses that are being offered this term. Steve and national pastor Alex Mercado are teaching in the institute.

Lytle reported plans to ordain Nicolas Valdez, pastor of the Buenos Aires church. The ordination was set for August 12.

Basketball Tournament Held for Callaway Account

Clayton, N.C.—Tippett's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church of Clayton, N.C., sponsored a basketball tournament June 23-24 to help raise money for Ron and Linda Callaway, missionaries to Spain. The Callaways are members of Tippett's Chapel. The tournament coincided with Callaway Day which was held June 25.

The tournament was a single-elimination tournament with six teams participating. They were Corinth FWB and Fellowship FWB from Dunn, N.C., Unity FWB from Smithfield, N.C., Victory FWB from Goldsboro, N.C., Garner FWB from Garner, N.C., and the host, Tippett's Chapel. The championship game pitted Unity against Garner with Garner coming out on top.

Many positive comments were made regarding the concept and the success of the tournament. The results and participation were so great that the tournament will probably become an annual event.

Efforts from the tournament, VBS, and Callaway Day raised \$3,871.15. So far this year, the church has given more than \$19,000 to the Callaway account. Rev. Wade C. Parker is the pastor.

"Mom" Willey Speaks to WNAC Banquet Crowd

Tampa, Fla.—Pioneer missionary "Mom" Mabel Willey emotionally moved a packed house on Tuesday evening, July 18, during the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention Banquet at Tampa, Fla. The pioneer missionary shared experiences from her ministry in Cuba and Panama and challenged hearers to submit to God's will.

Missionary Tom McCullough spoke during the 11:00 a.m. service of the WNAC on Tuesday.

During the Tuesday afternoon session, the women honored foreign and home missionary women. Shirley Combs, Sandra Bishop, Pam West, and Lynn Midgett participated in a roving-reporter program of questions and answers. Home missionaries Rosa Lee Thomas and Mitzi Munsey also took part.

Eagleton Expresses Praise for Relief Fund Response

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—A good response by concerned Free Will Baptists on behalf of Christians in the village of Tehini in Ivory Coast brought a response of praise and gratitude from Dr. Kenneth Eagleton who has been ministering in the village for some time.

"The food we have given to the church members in Tehini has literally saved their lives," writes Kenneth. "The rains have finally been coming good since the end of May and so far the prospects are good for crops."

Cousineau Sees Early Morning Fetish Burning

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—Missionary Mike Cousineau in Bouna, Ivory Coast, participated in a fetish burning at about 6:30 a.m. July 10 after he led a man to pray for God's forgiveness.

"I was awakened at 4:00 a.m. by a couple in our church requesting that I come to their house to pray for a man," writes Mike. He had supposedly made a profession of faith about a month earlier but never got rid of his fetishes.

"I went and rounded up three of our institute students at 4:30 a.m. to go with me," Mike continued. "After talking and listening for a couple of hours, he (the man) prayed and asked God's forgiveness. He was really rejoicing for his deliverance."

Deeds Reports 85 for VBS, 32 for Youth Camp

Brazil—Vacation Bible school attendance at Conselheiro Lafaiete, Brazil, in early July registered an average attendance of 85 children according to a report from missionary Earnie Deeds. "The majority of the children know very little about the gospel and are from families that are not Christian," writes Deeds.

Earnie also stated that a youth camp was held by the church July 17-22 with 32 people present. Missionaries Norman and Laura McFall and Jim and Vicki Sturgill



Reverend and Mrs. Leon McBride (center) stand with missionaries Fred and Evelyn Hersey at the celebration of the McBrides' Golden Wedding Anniversary.

were on hand for the camp. Pastor Silvestre Pinto Neto preached and taught during the week

Eagleton Reports Two Recent Fetish Burnings

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—"We have had two large fetish burnings in the village of Varale on the road to Bouna about 20 minutes from Doropo," writes Dr. Kenneth Eagleton from Doropo, Cote d'Ivoire.

The first man to accept the Lord had six wives and 28 children, according to Kenneth. "When we piled up his fetishes to burn, they made a mound about three feet high," the doctor noted. "Four weeks later his brother accepted the Lord as well and we burned his fetishes yesterday (July 16). While he was gathering his fetishes to burn, a woman came up with hers to be burnt also."

McBrides' Children Mark 50th with Missions Gifts

Johnston City, Ill.—Long-time Free Will Baptist pastor Leon McBride and his wife, Carrie, were honored by their children on their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 1.

The invitation specified "no gifts" but then added, "a donation in their honor to the Foreign Missions Department would be appropriate."

The gathering was held at the Johnston City Free Will Baptist Church in Johnston City, Ill. Approximately 75 people attended the celebration and estimates indicated approximately \$200 had been given to foreign missions in honor of the couple.

Missionaries Fred and Evelyn Hersey were on hand and indicated the McBrides were the first people from the state of Illinois to send a check to their missions account years ago.

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Post Office Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Vol. 29, No. 7

September 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.