

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1995

# HEARTBEAT<sup>®</sup>

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work around the world



## BALSEROS ON THE HIGH SEA





# BALSEROS ON THE HIGH SEA

by Steve Lytle

Steve Lytle (left) stands with the Rodriguez\* group which was rescued from a raft in the Gulf of Mexico.



**S**alvador Rodriguez\* (not his real name) was a military officer in Fidel Castro's army. He resigned (or deserted) in order to flee Cuba and seek a new home in the United States. Salvador left everything behind. He fled Cuba with his wife, a daughter and son-in-law, a son and a grandson.

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***The refugees or "balseros" (rafters) have been granted permission to remain on Panamanian soil for six months.***

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Regardless of what the Clinton administration determines for Salvador and over 9,000 other Cubans who are presently in Panama, this refugee says he will never return to Cuba. He is sure he would be killed and would prefer to throw himself into the ocean.

We became aware of the Rodriguez family when Salvador's niece from Miami called us. She attends a Free Will Baptist church in Miami and had learned of her relatives' flight from Cuba. She realized they would probably be taken to Panama. At her request, and due to our love for the Cuban people, we located Salvador and his family and started visiting them on a weekly basis.

The Cuban refugees in Panama are kept in four camps of up to 2,500 people each. These are located on a U.S. military post adjacent to the Panama Canal. The refugees, or "balseros" (rafters) as they're called here, have been granted permission to remain on Panamanian soil for six months.



However, they are not allowed to leave their camp except when someone arranges a visit with them. These visits take place in a huge military bubble tent under strict control and security. They abide under strict confinement.

Life is not easy in the camps. Food is plentiful, and basic medical attention is given, but refugees have nothing to do except read and perhaps watch television. Military cots serve as bed, chair, and table. It's hard to get outside much, since Panama is in the middle of rainy season.

Men outnumber women in the camps by nearly five to one, and several ugly incidents have taken place. You see, Castro also released some criminals among the many decent people who left Cuba on the rafts.

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***"I had abandoned my religious faith many years before, due to the system under which I lived."***

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Various evangelical groups are making an effort to give the gospel to the refugees. Special programs such as concerts, puppet or clown programs and films are welcome under the category of "entertainment." However, proselytizing and widespread tract distribution are strictly prohibited. Only recently have regular church services been organized for the 11 percent of refugees who call themselves evangelicals. As of this writing we are still waiting for an opportunity to have services or Bible studies at one or more of the camps.

While we wait, we are meeting weekly with Salvador

and his family. For the most part, they have been receptive to our witness. Their hearts have been deeply touched by their harrowing experience and by our kindness to them. We hope to see them come to Christ very soon. They have already come a long way from the atheism most of them previously professed. But I'll let Salvador tell his story. He related this to me on October 14, 1994:

*My name is Salvador Rodriguez: 53 years old. My family and I went out to sea on August 16, 1994. We had a difficult crossing, primarily due to three fierce storms that practically destroyed the raft in which we were traveling—11 people fleeing from the government of Fidel Castro.*

*On the third day, due to the bad weather, we lost most of our food and water. We continued navigating during the following week in highly confusing and dangerous circumstances. Among the 11 people on board the raft was my seven-year-old grandson. We didn't have any water, even for him. The only food available was a can of Spam, which we gave him in spoon-size bites.*

*My wife and I asked the Lord to have mercy on us, because of our situation, but especially for the life of our grandson. I must honestly say that even though I had abandoned my religious faith many years before, due to the system under which I lived, I rediscovered it in the worst moments of our trip. I know that God helped us when our raft was practically destroyed and we were without food or*

*water.*

*During the pre-dawn darkness on the morning of August 25, as a storm raged on the ocean, all those on board the raft had somehow thrown themselves down and had gone to sleep. They were resigned to the fact that we were not going to be rescued. My wife and I stayed awake. I was in the stern of the raft with my feet in the water.*

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***"I am convinced it was God's grace which enabled us to survive the trip and be rescued as we were."***

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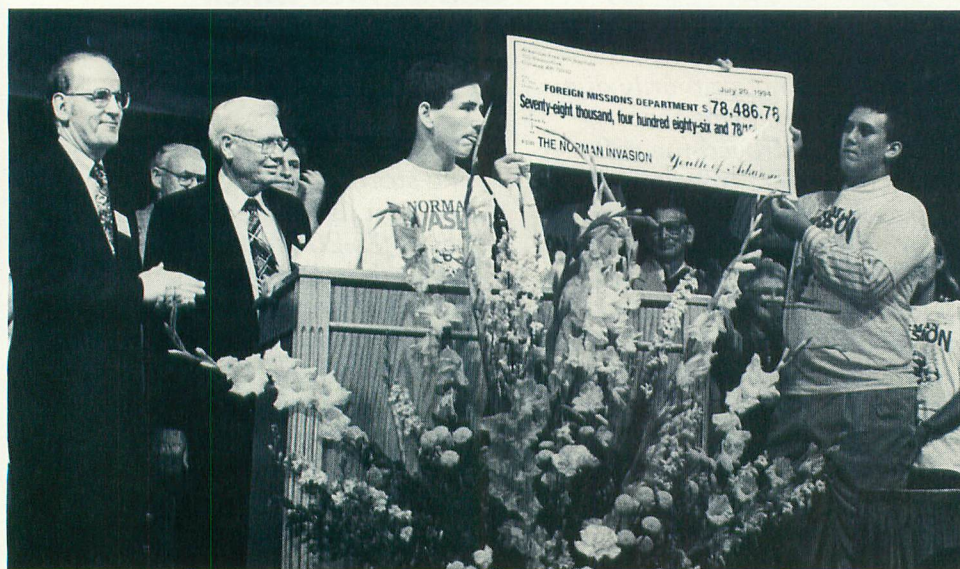
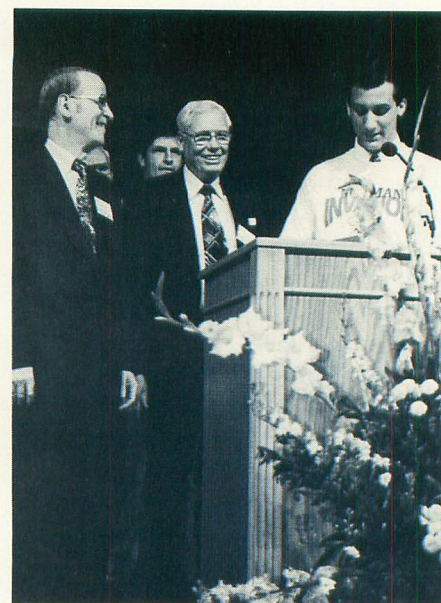
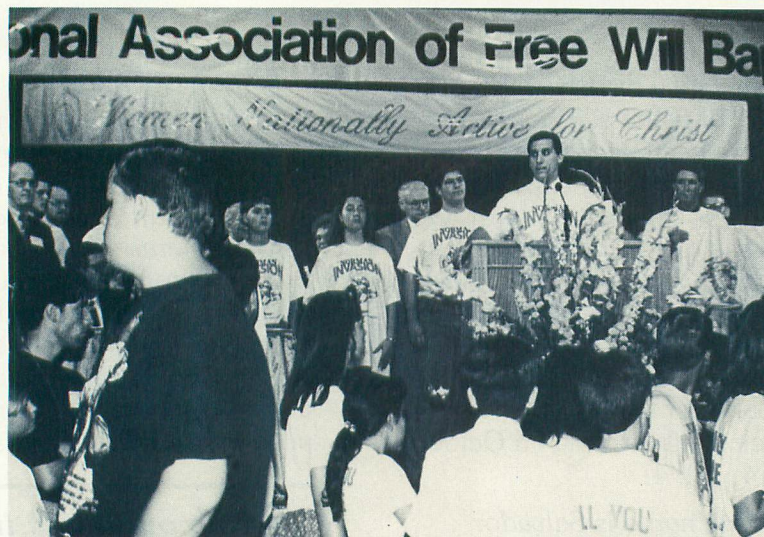
*The storm continued to increase in its intensity, with waves of 15-20 feet breaking all around and driving the boat with incredible force and speed. I am convinced that only a miracle from God could account for the storm driving us at such a speed, in such a fragile craft, toward some lights that I could barely see some five or six miles in the distance.*

*My wife and I were convinced that those lights on the night horizon were from a Coast Guard boat.*

*It was an incredible experience to be carried along by those waves, and yet not a single one hit our raft full force. That would have sunk us, especially with the raft almost in pieces. About three hours later, with the storm still unabated, we drew close to the lights. During that time we felt no fear. We were confident God was helping us and carrying our boat along with*

*Continued on page 9→*





#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION IN LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—

Arkansas youth gather (top, left) and display their Norman Invasion T-shirts during the Wednesday evening service. Norman Richards and Dave Franks Sr. (above) stand by Brent Hutsell as he prepares to present the Norman Invasion offering. The young people display a giant check (left) in the amount of \$78,486.78.

# The NORMAN INVASION

by Jackie Brown

4/HEARTBEAT/JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1995

**P**eople with dreams! Youth with a vision! Just call it The Norman Invasion!

Joel says, "Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions," and the writer of Proverbs says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Our younger generation finds it hard to dream or see visions

for the future. In spite of that, our youth can catch a vision. Arkansas young people proved it!

In the spring of 1993, a group of Arkansas teenagers met in Russellville to talk about the future for Arkansas youth. Teens from 12 of our 15 associations were present. Allen

Pointer, youth minister at First Free Will Baptist Church of Russellville, challenged our youth to become more involved in doing things for God.

Ideas were given, seeds were planted and a vision for the foreign mission field was born. The vision seemed simple enough, at least to the teens.



They wanted to help build two churches on the mission field. For \$25,000 a church could be built in Agnibilékrou, Côte d'Ivoire. Also, a church could be finished in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, for \$40,000. That totaled \$65,000. The adult leaders were gasping! However, that wasn't all. The youth said, "Why stop at \$65,000? Let's shoot for \$100,000!" Their plan called for everything over the cost of the two churches to be used to send some Arkansas teens to visit one or both of the mission churches.

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***"Why stop at \$65,000?  
Let's shoot for  
\$100,000!"***

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As the meeting concluded, laughter, excitement and questions permeated the meeting place. Some adults showed disbelief. But the teens and leaders had a feeling of confidence. A vision had been born, and God was going to bless in a tremendous way! After all, couldn't 225 Free Will Baptists churches and 4,000 young people in those churches easily raise \$100,000 to build two Free Will Baptist churches on the mission field? In the words of Pastor James Forlines, "That's radical!"

By summer, the vision had given birth to a name: THE NORMAN INVASION. The name honors two missionaries with Arkansas connections: Norman and Bessie Richards in Agnibilékrou, Côte d'Ivoire, and Norman and Laura McFall in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

August 1993 marked Phase I of the project as it was

introduced at the Arkansas State Meeting. Young people were challenged to raise \$25,000 by October 25 by collecting 25 pounds of quarters (25 cents). This phase was actually called 25-25-25-25.

On Sunday, October 24, a call-a-thon was conducted for the youth groups to report their efforts. It was an overwhelming success!

Pastor Ben Scott of the First Free Will Baptist Church of North Little Rock emptied a 25-pound bucket of quarters seven times. That totaled more than \$3,700. Brother Scott was ecstatic!

By the time every church had reported, over \$37,000 had been raised during Phase I!

Phase II was instituted during December and January. The youth were challenged to "build a church in 40 days." Many innovative and exciting things such as spaghetti suppers, work days, going without McDonalds hamburgers for a week, giving up the cost of a Coke a day, filling baby food jars with quarters and selling pizzas brought in funds.

The youth from Daisy Free Will Baptist Church in Kirby and from First Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas each raised over \$500 by making and delivering pizzas.

By the time the final count was in on Phase II, the total had grown to over \$48,000!

Phase III developed just in time for the Arkansas State Youth Retreat. The theme was "Victory Celebration." Every youth group was challenged to bring a special offering toward the third-phase goal of \$65,000. Teens from all across the state gathered in

anticipation of going over the top.

One by one, youth members from each church paraded across the stage and delivered their offerings. As the numbers climbed, hoorays and clapping filled the auditorium at Camp Beaverfork. Once again, the goal was topped as over \$66,000 was displayed on the board. The vision was rapidly becoming reality.

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***A check in the amount  
of \$78,486.78 was  
presented to the  
missions department  
from the youth of  
Arkansas.***

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The young people planned to present a \$100,000 check to the Department of Foreign Missions at the National Convention at Little Rock in July. But more funds were needed to reach the goal. Pleas went forth across the state as Phase IV was launched. Funds began to trickle in. Car washes, walk-a-thons, bowl-a-thons, bake sales, vacation Bible school offerings, fireworks sales

*Continued on page 6—▶*

## HEARTBEAT

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→Continued from page 5  
and the sale of Norman  
Invasion T-shirts all kept the  
money coming in.

As Wednesday night of the  
National Convention arrived,  
nearly 300 teens and youth  
leaders assembled in Little Rock  
to deliver a check to Norman  
Richards and Dave Franks Sr.  
The presentation was to be  
made in the adult service, as  
well as the youth service.

To the tune of "Onward  
Christian Soldiers," Arkansas  
teens marched to the platform  
two by two. The Norman  
Invasion declared victory that  
night. As Brent Hutsell, Chad  
Burton, Brian Kesterson and  
the youth of Arkansas gathered  
around the platform, a check in  
the amount of \$78,486.78 was  
presented to the missions  
department from the youth of  
Arkansas. Their purpose  
remained: build two Free Will  
Baptist churches overseas! And  
since the July meeting, the total  
has risen to over \$80,000.  
Radical!

Some might say the youth  
failed to reach their goal.  
Financially, they are right.  
However, the goal included  
more than money. And they  
couldn't do it by themselves.  
They had to depend on God.  
They worked hard, and God  
rewarded their efforts.

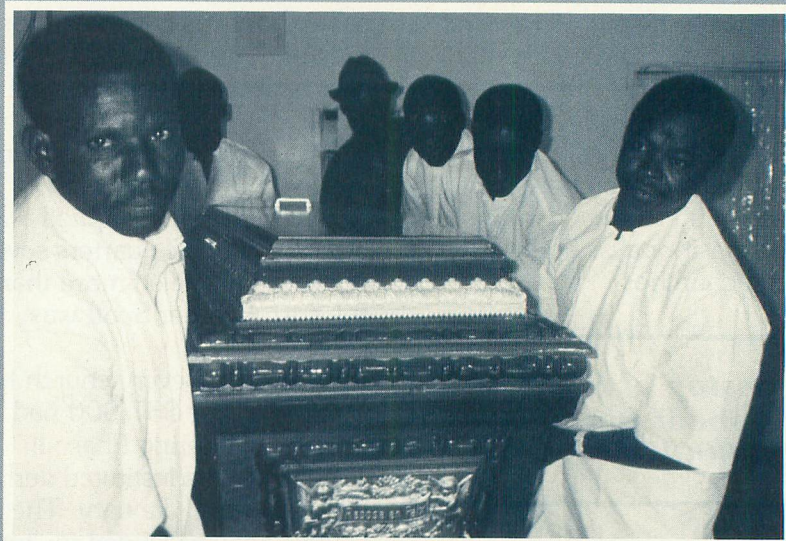
Many are reaping the  
blessings and benefits of The  
Norman Invasion. Two mission  
church buildings have been  
provided and 225 churches  
here in Arkansas have been  
blessed. Who knows, some  
future missionaries might come  
as a result of being involved in  
this project.

"Your young men shall see  
visions." Praise the Lord!

Jackie Brown is state CTS director in Arkansas.

# A MISSIONARY DIED LAST NIGHT

by Robert T. Bryan



*Glennnda's friends and workers from the hospital act as pallbearers.*



*A large crowd gathered for the funeral services on the grounds of the medical center in Doropo.*

**A** missionary died last night.  
Glennnda hadn't been sick  
and, until the day she died,  
hadn't shown any alarming  
symptoms which would have  
warned of danger. She suffered

very little pain through the five  
cardiac arrests and had no  
recollection of the doctors'  
administering CPR. She never  
showed any fear, though she  
recognized something was



wrong. She didn't realize she would soon be leaving the bumpy, dusty roads of Doropo for streets of gold.

***And I wonder: Who will be willing to dirty their feet on these dusty roads so others can walk on golden streets?***

A missionary died last night. Six weeks earlier, I had spent over two hours with Glennnda, talking about her ministry at Doropo. "The thing that brings me the most joy right now is the Sunday school outreach at Tchantifidouo," she stated. She and her long-time co-worker, Jalayn Martens, had begun working with the young people in that village during their previous term. Now they were starting up the ministry again and were thrilled with the interest. In the previous three Sundays, first 17, then 27, then 42 children had crowded into the class. Glennnda and Jalayn were getting concerned: They had brought only 50 sets of lesson leaflets!

After having experienced three heart attacks, Glennnda lay on the hospital bed. It was to be her last day on earth but her concern was for her Sunday school class. "Rosalie," she said to the nurse's aide at her side, "it looks like I won't be able to teach my class tomorrow, so you'll have to find someone to take my place."

***And I wonder: Who will teach those children now?***

A missionary died last night. Glennnda and Jalayn had just begun their second term of service. Their first term had been tough. Within a few months after their arrival, the only doctor at the clinic had to

leave. His replacement wasn't able to come, so Glennnda, who had been trained as a bedside nurse, became the director of the whole medical program. "I felt overwhelmed," she told me. In order to continue the ministry she had no choice but to assume responsibilities for which she had no training. She stepped into the situation and did what she could, maintaining the ministry until the doctor returned.

***And I wonder: Who will come to minister here, knowing that it won't be easy and definitely won't be romantic?***

A missionary died last night. She had just begun to develop and organize a program of teaching and supervision for the African nursing staff at the hospital. "Things were falling into place," Dr. Kenneth Eagleton says. "She was beginning to make a significant contribution to the clinic ministry."

***And I wonder: Who will train and supervise the nurses now?***

A missionary died last night. She never claimed to be great. In fact, she was very conscious of her weaknesses, quite willing to admit that she wasn't perfect. "I don't know if I can do it," she told me, referring to her new responsibilities in heading up the nursing program. But she was willing to try.

***And I wonder: Who's going to pray for missionaries, not once or twice, but without ceasing, when they realize missionaries have weaknesses, don't know all the answers and are quite capable of failing?***

A missionary died last night. She wasn't particularly well-known in the denomination outside her home area. I'm sure some people, when they heard of her death, said, "Glennnda who?" But she wasn't the kind to attract attention or to excite controversy. She was just the kind to exhibit obedience. She wouldn't have stood out in a crowd; she was just standing in the gap, filling a need.

***And I wonder: Who will now stand in that gap?***

A missionary died last night. She wasn't flamboyant. She didn't really like speaking in deputational services, or any others for that matter. She and Jalayn had struggled to raise their support. Some churches didn't want women missionaries. Other people wanted to support only extrovert evangelists; an introvert nurse didn't fit their description of "missionary."

***And I wonder: Who's going to financially support world-wide evangelism because it's God's plan?***

A missionary died last night. We cried with legitimate grief while heaven welcomed a faithful servant. We look at the empty slot and wonder how to fill it. Our Lord already has His plans made and is only looking for obedient people through whom He will accomplish them. We see the loss, while God sees the victory.

I pray: "Lord, send out laborers into your harvest."

***And I wonder: Are you one of those He's wanting to send?***

Robert Bryan and his wife, Judy, serve at the Evangelical Publications Center in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Robert is missionary field chairman. This article was written in the days immediately following Glennnda Leatherbury's death.





# To Die is Gain!

## A Tribute to Glennnda Leatherbury

by Linda Moore

**I**t wasn't until we went to language school together in Albertville, France, that I came to know Glennnda. Little did we know then what the next few years would bring. Certainly none of us thought that death would rob us of a friendship that was still in its infancy.

Because she and Jalayn (Martens) lived in the dorm on campus, Ron and I gave them a standing invitation to come to our apartment anytime they needed to get away. When they came, Glennnda would almost always cook, often making her specialty, homemade noodles and chicken.

We were in classes six hours a day and at times it could be very frustrating. Though we were adults, we were all starting

out on the level of a small child when it came to our grasp of the French language. Glennnda's sense of humor helped us to laugh at ourselves and not take ourselves too seriously. We studied, traveled, prayed and laughed together. When we left France, Ron, Glennnda, Jalayn and I knew a lot more about each other and, in spite of that, were still friends. In fact, with all the experiences we had been through together, our relationship had become more like family.

Glennnda enjoyed doing things for other people. During our first Field Council meeting at Doropo, Glennnda made cinnamon rolls for breakfast. Her cinnamon rolls tasted fresh from the bakery. They were

absolutely delicious. Her years of work in her Dad's bakery had not been wasted! She was also very considerate of others. When traveling, it was not unusual for her to arrive at our home with a big pot of homemade soup. Since there was no way for her to let us know that she was coming, she didn't want to just drop in at lunch time.

Glennnda's generosity extended to Africans and missionaries alike. Whether it was dipping into her personal funds to help a needy family or fixing a meal for missionary kids so Mom and Dad could have a little time to themselves, she enjoyed doing things for others. When my microwave bit the dust, she and Jalayn gave me theirs, saying they only had electricity in the evenings and they could use their counter space. I learned it was impossible to outgive Glennnda.

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### ***Glennnda enjoyed doing things for other people.***

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Glennnda's first term was a very difficult one. For a period of time she was in charge of the hospital at Doropo, a very trying time for her as a woman in a male-dominated culture. I had to admire her for hanging in there when the going got tough. Some missionaries wondered if she would return to the field after furlough; but she did! Her commitment to the Lord and the task He had given her was greater than the frustrations she had experienced.

Upon her return to Côte d'Ivoire, she and Jalayn were anxious to get their house set



up and get back to work. Glennnda's role in the hospital had changed from administrator to nursing supervisor. It made all the difference in the world. The frustrations of her first term were fading from memory as she "found her nitch" and began living out her dream and calling from the Lord.

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***Glennnda was also very excited about the work with children in the village.***

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Glennnda was also very excited about the work with children in the village of Tchantifidouo. Her Sunday school class had over 40 children. It was especially touching to see how many of these children, and their parents, valued Glennnda's ministry among them. The children had saved their Sunday school papers for over two years. Parents and children from this village came to Doropo to attend the funeral. They sang together as an expression of their appreciation and gratitude for the gospel witness given by Glennnda and Jalayn.

Glennnda's death was a shock to everyone. One day she was busy working and the next day she was gone. Who would have ever imagined that she would leave us so suddenly and so permanently! Yet, I wonder if somehow Glennnda didn't know. The verse she had printed on her prayer card was Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." She will be missed by us all. Her gain is our loss.

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Linda Moore and her husband, Ron, live and work in Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire.

## BALSEROS ON THE HIGH SEA

→ Continued from page 3

His strength. The other eight adults and our grandson all remained asleep during this time. Only my wife and I were awake to see what God was doing. Amazingly, the force of the storm and the waves carried us right up to the Coast Guard craft which rescued us.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing that happened actually took place when we were being taken on board the boat. We were all thrown life preservers and then they dropped a ladder for us to climb. I was the last one to leave the raft. My family was watching as I began to climb on board. They said as soon as

I left the raft and began to ascend the ladder, our raft turned upside down and was carried away from the larger boat. I am convinced it was God's grace which enabled us to survive the trip and be rescued as we were.

We were taken first to the naval base on Guantanamo, and then on to Panama. We hope to eventually be reunited with our family in Miami. But I will say for myself, that I, who had abandoned my faith years ago, will not leave this new faith that I've found, that has been reborn in me. It was the Lord who saved us!

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Steve Lytle serves with his wife, Judy, in the Panama City area of Panama. They have labored in Panama since 1976. A late October report from Steve indicated some members of the Cuban family have professed faith in Christ (see the news item on page 10).

\*This name has been substituted to protect family members from possible prosecution.

## Reminder

*For those who want to continue  
receiving Heartbeat!*

If you have not returned the peel-off label from the back cover of the November-December *Heartbeat*, **do it now!**

Remember, place it on the postage-paid postcard from the center of the last issue and mail it. Or, if you lost your card, clip the label from the back of this issue and send it to us with the words, "I want *Heartbeat*." Those who fail to notify us will be dropped from our mailing list.



# News Update



Family, friends, and members of Eastside FWB Church in Dothan, Ala., (left) greet Dave Jr. and Becky Franks and their children at the Dothan airport. Pastor John Edwards (right) presents Dave and Becky a check for \$1,365.44 from the Eastside church.

## Becky Franks Undergoes Brain Surgery for Cyst

**Antioch, Tenn.**—Missionary Becky Franks of Montevideo, Uruguay, underwent brain surgery on November 4 in Cincinnati, Oh., for the removal of a colloid cyst. Surgery was considered successful and Becky has been recuperating at the home of her parents in Dothan, Ala.

The young missionary mother had been suffering with severe headaches for some time when neurologists discovered the cyst and indicated it had to be removed.

Dave, Becky and their two children arrived in Dothan, Ala., on October 25. On October 30 the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church in Dothan honored them with a check for \$1,365.44.

Since Becky has been doing so well, doctors have released her to return to Uruguay. The family planned to leave on January 4.

## Lytle Says Some Raft People Profess Christ

**Panama**—Missionaries Steve and Judy Lytle reported in November that they and some people from the Betania church in Panama City have been visiting the refugee center for the Cuban raft people (see cover story).

Some members of the family in the cover story have prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. On December 7, Steve also declared, "Today, three more Cubans prayed to receive Christ and five are doing Bible studies we've just given them."

The Lytles and the church people



are hoping to show the "Jesus" film at one center soon. They planned a Christmas party with some of the refugees for December 20.

## Five Young Men Answer Call to the Ministry

**Côte d'Ivoire**—According to a recent report from Côte d'Ivoire, five young men (ages 20-27) have answered God's call to the ministry. These have been in the local leadership training program in Bondoukou for the past three years.

Missionary Carol Pinkerton said more villages have been opened to the gospel in the area and five more Bible clubs for children have been started. They are led by African women.

## Two-Day Bible Club Held at Nantes, France

**France**—A two-day Bible club was held by women of the church in Nantes, France, during All Saints vacation break, November 3 and 4. Missionary Becky Riggs worked with three women in the church as they shared responsibilities of teaching Bible stories, songs and craft work.

Twelve children were enrolled for the club, the first to be held by the church.

## Board Approves 15 Student Missionaries

**Antioch, Tenn.**—The Board of Foreign Missions gathered in Nashville, Tenn., on December 5 for the National Leadership Conference. On Wednesday, December 7, all nine board members convened at the

National Offices building in Antioch, Tenn., for the semi-annual session. The meeting concluded on December 9 after they had approved 15 student missionaries, two affiliate missionaries and 21 TEAM '95 participants.

Out of the student missionaries approved, three are scheduled to go to Russia or the Commonwealth of Independent States during the summer of 1995: Stephen Beck from Norfolk, Va., to Moscow, and Ryan McDonald from Blountstown, Fla., and Craig Portell from Wood River, Ill., to some other part of Russia.

Jon Jr. and Cindy McNay, who are currently living in a suburb of Tokyo, Japan, were approved as missionary affiliates. The McNays are members of Southern Oaks Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., and are in Japan on an assignment at Yokota Air Base in Fussa, Japan. Jon is a communications contractor for the United States government. The McNays have been active in the Iriso FWB Church with the Ken Baileys since arriving in Japan in 1992.



Jon Jr. and Cindy McNay

These other student missionaries were approved: **Brazil**—Rachel Vandivort of Edgar Springs, Mo., to serve with Dave and Pat Franks in Belo Horizonte; Kathy Durden of Albany, Ga., and Rose Reed of Chandler, Ind., to work with Jim and Shirley Combs in São Paulo; and Linda King of Carbon Hill, Ala., to help Jim and Vicki Sturgill in Belo Horizonte.

**Côte d'Ivoire**—Stephanie Utley of Marion, Ill., to serve under Robert and Judy Bryan in Abidjan.

**Japan**—Sara Hutchinson of Huntington, W.Va.; Bethany Osborn of Russellville, Ark.; and Melissa Stewart of Sophia, W.Va., will serve in Ai No Sato with Debbie Griffin.

**France**—James Beck of Norfolk,





Allan and LaRue Crowson will be changing to a stateside ministry since they were not reappointed to France.



Trula and Dan Cronk stand in front of a display for the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, now known as the Trula Cronk Home for Children.

Va., and Nathan Weidner of Columbus, Oh., to serve with Dennis and Carol Teague in St. Sebastien.

**Panama**—Edwin Franks of Nashville, Tenn., and Joel Borden of Russellville, Ala., to work with Stan and Brenda Bunch in Parita.

The board reappointed Jim and Shirley Combs to service in Brazil and Jerry and Carol Pinkerton and Robert and Pam West to continue their ministries in Côte d'Ivoire.

After a lengthy meeting with Allan and LaRue Crowson, the board voted not to reappoint them to missionary service in France. The board unanimously concluded they did not express adequate agreement with the position of the National Association in the matter of total abstinence.

General Director R. Eugene Waddell declared, "We regret the loss of the Crowsons from our missionary staff. They have served faithfully in the Ivory Coast and France. The decision of the board does not call into question Allan and LaRue's integrity. None of us question the personal adherence of the Crowsons to the Free Will Baptist position of total abstinence. However, Allan and LaRue didn't feel they could make bringing French believers to total abstinence an ultimate goal and the board considered this unacceptable."

The resignations of Ivory Coast missionaries Norman and Bessie Richards and Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson were accepted with regret but with understanding. Both couples were unable to continue due to medical problems (see news item in this issue).

These teams were approved to serve with Teams Equipped and Active in Missions (TEAM '95)

scheduled to go to France and Mexico in the summer of 1995:

**TEAM France '95**—Adam Davis of Xenia, Ill.; Rebecca Hale of Taylor Ridge, Ill.; Karen Hood of Blue Springs, Mo.; Stephanie McVay of Joelton, Tenn.; Matt Mertz of O'Fallon, Mo.; Kari Ann Milburn of Marion, Ill.; Kreszena Monday of Vernon, Ala.; Amy Pate of Nashville, Tenn.; Susannah Patton of Pleasant View, Tenn.; Natalie Kay Summers of Thompsonville, Ill.; and Derek Yarborough of Turbeville, S.C. Alternates are Jennifer Lynn Dycus of Bonnie, Ill.; and Jennifer Erin Harter of Nashville, Tenn.

**TEAM Mexico '95**—Brad Decicco of Decatur, Ill.; Tim Ferguson of Waltonville, Ill.; Donna Jo Grubbs of New Bern, N.C.; Kelly Guyton of Green Rock, Ill.; Joni Pettis of Ozark, Ala.; Autumn Ramey of Joelton, Tenn.; Angela Stockton of Harrah, Okla.; Michelle Lynn Thompson of Huntington, W.Va.; Stephanie Trimble of North Little Rock, Ark.; and Danyel Zummer of McAlester, Okla. Alternates include Abbey Lee Starnes of Wise, Va.; Kathy Britton of Nolensville, Tenn.; and Bethany Crowson of Nashville, Tenn.

The board also interviewed two couples who had filed their preliminary applications and asked them to file their final applications for review in April.

## Children's Home Named After Trula Cronk

**Greeneville, Tenn.**—Former missionary to India, Trula Cronk, was honored at a homecoming celebration of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greeneville, Tenn., on October 22, 1994. The board of directors changed the home's name to "Trula Cronk Home

for Children." Trula was one of the first children to be reared in the home.

In a release from Jack Taylor, chairman of the board, he noted plans to change the charter to "Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Inc." Under this umbrella name, they plan to serve children and families in four separate divisions: (1) Trula Cronk Home for Children, (2) P.A.T.H. (a shelter program, **Protecting Adolescents and Teaching Hope**), (3) Foster Care/Adoption, and (4) Family Conference Center.

The program was approved by the Tennessee State Association in November.

## One Student Graduates from Uruguay Institute

**Uruguay**—A graduation service was held December 1 at the Sower Bible Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay. One student, Andrea Adriana Olivera, graduated from this year's program.

Paul and Amy Robinson, former missionaries to Uruguay, were on hand for the special event. Paul, who was responsible for Andrea's salvation, preached the graduation message.

## Children Raise \$700 in Hallelujah Night

**Pleasant View, Tenn.**—Children's ministries of Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Pleasant View, Tenn., just outside Nashville, held its first annual Hallelujah Night on October 29. The emphasis of the event was on missions and over \$700 was raised for the Steve Riggs family in France.

The event gave the children something to do other than Trick-or-

Continued on page 12 ➔



# News Update



Members of the new TEAM Alumni Association participate in a concert of prayer during their organizational meeting on November 19.

→Continued from page 11

Treat on Halloween night. According to Steve Parks, Children's Church Director, "The evening brought a lot of fun with games to play and food to eat. We had a great turnout with some of our sister churches taking part in the festivities."

The Christian education board of the church was responsible for organizing the event for the children.

## Alumni Association Is Formed by TEAM Members

*Nashville, Tenn.*—Nineteen TEAM members gathered in Kingston Springs, Tenn., just outside of Nashville, on November 19, 1994, at the home of the Terry Eagletons. They met to organize a TEAM Alumni Association. Those present represented each of the five TEAMS that have been sent out since the program's inception.

The association hopes to promote TEAM ministries in youth rallies, camps and special programs among Free Will Baptist churches. They want to challenge youth and help raise funds for the program.

They organized the association, adopted a constitution and bylaws, then elected Brian Kesterson of Arkansas as president, Angel Mertz of Missouri as vice president and Melissa Larson of Tennessee as secretary/treasurer.

Ken and Marvis Eagleton and Terry and Jamie Eagleton helped to coordinate the event. A concert of prayer followed the business session and pioneer missionary Dan Cronk led the group in devotions before everyone enjoyed a cookout.

## Koinonia Church Buys Adjoining Property

*Japan*—According to a report from missionary Dale Bishop, the Koinonia church in Noppo, Japan, has purchased the property next door to their current building.

Dale, who is in the United States for furlough, reports on a telephone conversation with Mr. Hiraga: "Mr. Hiraga told us our church was able to borrow the money to purchase the property next door. This house and lot came available when the elderly couple who lived there passed away. The man had attended a Bible study at Mr. Hiraga's home but never had made a profession of faith."

## Crosbys Select New Location for Ministry

*Spain*—Following the recent resignation of Steve and Linda Reeves, missionaries Dwain and Debbie Crosby decided to relocate from the city of Majadahonda to the city of Galapagar. They moved at the end of November in an effort to concentrate the Free Will Baptist ministries into a focused area just outside Madrid.

Galapagar is located on the outer edge of the previously targeted Majadahonda area. This city has grown more than 52 percent in the past five years and is one of the leading cities in the area. It is one of

nine prominent cities in the Madrid province with no evangelical witness.

The city is located close enough to Villalba, where the Jeff Turnboughs are ministering, that the two couples can cooperate and fellowship in their ministry.

## Several Missionaries to Depart for Their Fields

*Antioch, Tenn.*—Three couples and one single missionary have returned or are scheduled to return soon to their fields of service following furlough.

Miss Mirial Gainer, associate missionary, returned to Japan on November 19. She plans to work in the area of Bihoro.

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton left for Côte d'Ivoire on December 29 after a short furlough. They are ministering in Bondoukou with the Ron Moores and the Ernest Hollands.

Dave Sr. and Pat Franks are scheduled to return to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in early February. Dave has received good reports on his medical tests following surgery for cancer over a year ago.

Paul and Rhoda Creech left shortly after Christmas for Canada and French language study. They will proceed to Côte d'Ivoire next summer.

In addition to the furloughing missionaries, Jimmy and Janie Aldridge were scheduled to leave January 3 for St. Nazaire, France, where they will take their second shot at filling in for Jerry and Barbara Gibbs, who are home on furlough. The Aldridges expect to return to the United States on March 28.

Leaving for their fields are (top) Paul and Rhoda Creech, (bottom, left to right) Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, Dave Sr. and Pat Franks, and Mirial Gainer.





## Two Women Profess Faith in Christ, Want Baptism

*Japan*—A November report from missionaries Jim and Olena McLain in Higashi Tsukisamu, Japan, indicated two kindergarten mothers have professed faith in Christ and have asked for baptism.

Olena said three young mothers from the kindergarten have been studying in Bible class and two of these have made professions of faith. The other one has read the Bible through and seems to believe but she faces pressure from her family.

The husbands of the three ladies have attended church with them at times and have also shown some interest. The McLains have urged people to pray that the Lord will save all three couples and that they might become part of the church.

## Two Students Graduate from Panama Institute

*Panama*—Missionary Steve Lytle recently reported the graduation of two young men, Carlos Cerrud and Miguel Maldonado, from the Bible institute in Panama on October 28.

Steve urged Christians to pray for these young men as they enter a ministry in Panama.

## Turnbough Begins Study with Released Prisoner

*Spain*—Jeff and Susan Turnbough reported recently that they had begun a new evangelistic home Bible study with a 24-year-old single man named Soliman who was just released from Spanish federal prison.

In an effort to reach the man for Christ, Jeff and Susan are attempting to be a friend and look for the opportunity to introduce him to Christ. Soliman is a Palestinian, born in Jerusalem from a Jewish mother and a Muslim father.

## Mini Reports from Around the Globe

*Antioch, Tenn.*—Gladys Gragg of Nashville joined the bookkeeping department of foreign missions at the first of December. She is assuming the role of accounting clerk. She has worked for the past 15 years at

South Central Bell in Nashville. Gladys is the wife of Walter E. (Ed) Gragg, a Free Will Baptist minister and graduate of FWBBC.

*Cuba*—Missionary Ron Callaway traveled to Cuba during the last week of November with evangelist Rick Amato. He reported 30 people had been saved at the La Lisa Church during October.

*France*—Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschall are currently studying the French language at Albertville, France. "We became as little children once again," writes Mark. "After one day of French kindergarten Ethan could say, 'My name is Ethan.' Great! After Emmy's first day of second grade she could say, 'My name is Emily.' Wonderful! At the end of Kathy's first day of school, she too could say, 'My name is Kathy.' What?"

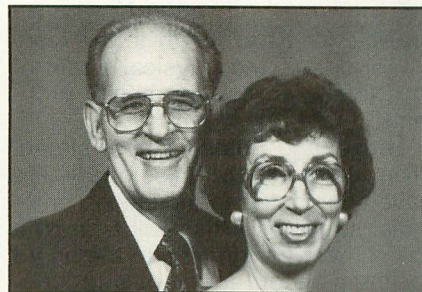
*France*—Missionary Charolette Tallent was admitted to the hospital in Nantes, France, on October 29 suffering from abdominal pain. She underwent an appendectomy on October 30. Recent reports indicate she has recovered well.

*Atlanta, Ga.*—Robert and Cheri Poole presented Brazil missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole with a new granddaughter on October 26. Anna Katherine weighed in at eight pounds, seven ounces and measured 20 inches in length. She is Robert and Cheri's third child.

*Royal Oak, Mich.*—Tom and Patty McCullough returned to the United States from France on December 13 after spending several weeks overseeing the work in St. Nazaire. Tom reported the conversion of Jerome, a young man, and baptized him just before they left France. He said 97 people were present for the church service that day.

*France*—Charolette Tallent has requested prayer for a woman named Marie Elisabeth Moreau. She was hospitalized at the same time Charolette underwent an appendectomy. The mother of three children asked the missionary to visit her, so Charolette has urged Christians to pray that her witness will make an impact on the woman for Christ.

*Hutchinson, Kan.*—Jalayn Martens,



*Norman and Bessie Richards (top) and Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson (bottom) have resigned from missionary service.*

who has been in the United States due to the loss of her father and her coworker, Glennnda Leatherbury, is scheduled to return to her ministry in Côte d'Ivoire on January 13, 1995.

## Two Couples Resign Due to Health Needs

*Antioch, Tenn.*—Two missionary couples from Ivory Coast submitted their resignation from missionary service in December: Norman and Bessie Richards and Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson.

The Richards have established a good church in Agnibilekrou and were getting ready to construct a church building when they had to leave the field.

In a written resignation to the board, Norman Richards stated, "Due to my health problems, we feel we must heed doctors' counsel against future ministry in the disease-ridden tropics."

Norman continued, "We count it the highest honor to have served our Lord and the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Côte d'Ivoire since our appointment in March of 1966."

Norman and Bessie have been approved by the Home Missions Board and plan to start a church in the area of New Orleans, La.

The Fergusons declared, "It is not

*Continued on page 14—*



# News Update

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feasible for us to return to the Ivory Coast due to the physical strain of the climate on existing health problems."

Ledgel and Sharon further stated, "The demands of missionary life have contributed to increasing emotional struggles which will take time to heal. We are grateful to the board for their encouragement and kindness through this difficult decision."

The board commended both couples for their years of service with



Darrel Nichols (left) receives a pie and throws a pie at Pastor Joe Wilson of First FWB Church in Tulsa, Okla.

the Department of Foreign Missions.

Although the Fergusons had requested consideration for a transfer to France, the board did not feel their language ability and gifts matched the needs in France.

## "County Fair Carnival" Gains \$1,600 for Nichols

**Tulsa, Okla.**—The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., held a "County Fair Carnival" on September 23 in support of the Darrel Nichols family, missionaries to the Ivory Coast.

According to Pastor Joe Wilson, many attractions were used during the fair: a dump tank, jail house, cake walk, dart game, ring-a-toss and "hit the pastor with a pie." More than \$1,600 was raised.

## Dean Teaching 100 Students in China

**China**—Affiliates Paul and Tanya Dean have settled in Wuhu, China, where Paul is teaching conversational English and a class titled "Sources of Western Literature" in the university. He is currently teaching approximately 100 students.

"We have met many wonderful Chinese who are open, warm and curious," writes Paul.

## New Work Begins in Alcalá de Henares, Spain

**Spain**—Ron and Linda Callaway recently announced they have decided to change the focus of their ministry from Móstoles to the area of Alcalá de Henares.

"We were spending over \$800 per month (church and mission) to rent a meeting place, and we were seeing

hardly anyone new come to the services," writes Ron.

Callaway indicated the Saturday evening group from the neighborhood young people had nearly stopped attending. "We feel that the parents of the younger ones stopped them from coming, and that the clear presentation of the gospel caused the group of teenage boys to stop altogether."

The new outreach in Alcalá will center around two couples from the Móstoles work who live there. The Callaways will be working with the full cooperation of the pastor and the people of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Alcalá. The city has a population of approximately 150,000 people.

"Our plan is to try to attract unsaved married couples and unsaved family members of the two couples who live in Alcalá," says Ron. "We will have weekly worship services and Bible studies in their homes."

## Combs Involved in Auto Accident in Kentucky

**Ashland, Ky.**—Missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs, who are on furlough from Brazil, were involved in a serious automobile accident on Tuesday evening, November 15, near Ashland, Ky. The Combs suffered bruises but no severe injuries.

Jim and Shirley were traveling for deputational ministries when a collision on the opposite side of the expressway knocked a car across the median. It hit them broadside, spinning their car around several times. The car flipped over, then landed right side up. It was demolished!

The foreign missions staff expressed praise for the Lord's protection in this accident. The fact that the Combs were not seriously injured became especially significant since Shirley had to make a special trip to Brazil three days later. She had to work out details on a piece of property the city of Araras is offering to the New Life Children's Home.

## Hannas Request Prayer for Indian Christians

**Charleston, S.C.**—"Letters from India keep us excited about what our Lord is doing in our work there," write Carlisle and Marie Hanna from Charleston, S.C. "Many are accept-

## Special Gifts

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

Donor	In Memory of
Marjorie Plumlee Salina, Ok.	Artis Parker
Richland FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.	Hugh Aycock
William Exell Joelton, Tenn.	Letha Puckett
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Walker Springfield, Tenn.	Golden Qualls

The following gave special gifts in memory of  
Glenda Leatherbury:

Mr. and Mrs. James Forlines Batesville, Ark.	Mr. and Mrs. Albert Carter Hutchinson, Kan.
Heritage Temple FWB Church Columbus, Oh.	Mr. and Mrs. H.F. Crotts Hutchinson, Kan.
Mr. and Mrs. Jim McLain Antioch, Tenn.	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cowart Antioch, Tenn.
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Walker Springfield, Tenn.	Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hughes Antioch, Tenn.
First Church of God Women Hutchinson, Kan.	Arkansas FWB, Inc. Conway, Ark.
Mr. and Mrs. Yvonne White Hutchinson, Kan.	Keith Wright Hutchinson, Kan.
Community Church of God Women Hutchinson, Kan.	Community Church of God Hutchinson, Kan.

The following gave special gifts in memory of  
Donald Paul Jones:

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Jones Bryceville, Fla.	Mona Chrisman Novinger, Mo.
Juanita Rackley Kirkville, Mo.	Lisa Gordon Kirkville, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Thompson Kirkville, Mo.	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baker Strafford, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Williams Fowler, Ill.	Kermit Hiatt Macon, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Chrisman Kirkville, Mo.	

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



ing Christ as Savior. At the same time, there is more opposition than ever before. Satan surely does not want to see men and women turn from darkness to light."

The Hannas requested people to pray for each pastor and the 30 men who are witnessing in 15 different locations. Also pray for the new converts who face tremendous opposition when they turn to Christ and for the 40 hostel boys on the compound in Sonapurhat.

Carlisle and Marie, who are home on furlough until the first of March, noted, "Almost 100 percent of our church leaders today have been in our hostel at one time."

## Holland Teaches Monthly Studies in Abidjan

*Côte d'Ivoire*—Since April, missionary Ernest Holland has been meeting once a month with a group in the capital city of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Ernest travels from Bondoukou to Abidjan in order to meet with many from Free Will Baptist churches who are there studying at the University in Abidjan.

"We are thankful for the faithfulness of these youth as they strive to serve God," says Ernest. "We are praying for a Free Will Baptist church in this city."

## Crosby Preaches at Villalba Church Retreat

*Spain*—The Free Will Baptist mission church in Villalba, Spain, held a special retreat October 29-31 at a Christian retreat center in Valdepenas, Spain (about 150 miles south of Madrid). Missionary Dwain Crosby was guest speaker for the event.

More than 25 people from the church family listened to a three-day series of studies based on Ephesians 4-6, "That Ye May Be Able to Withstand."

According to Dwain, "A tremendous moving of the Holy Spirit was evident in the services." The sermons were followed by lessons of practical application conducted by missionary Jeff Turnbough. Children's classes were conducted by Christians from the Villalba congregation.

Turnbough is presently in charge of this church.

## Financial Summary Through November 30

### \$ubstance

The November books had not been closed at press time due to the lack of a treasurer. This section on income and expenditures goes through October 31:

Total income for October .....	\$ 418,217.99
Total income through October .....	3,582,681.25
Total expenditures through October .....	3,519,729.71
Projected income through October .....	3,738,063.00
Total 1994 Budget .....	<b>\$ 4,485,676.00</b>
VISION gifts through October .....	\$ 72,138.98

### \$hortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey.....	\$ 9,138.84	Owen.....	\$ 13,492.05
Cowart.....	6,365.21	Reeves.....	2,281.50
Crosby.....	4,578.95	Robinson.....	6,514.71
Crowson.....	26,219.14	Snow.....	12,623.66
Eagleton Sr.....	10,504.63	Teague.....	4,307.58
Gibbs.....	16,505.55	Turnbough.....	6,917.41
Hanna.....	18,576.09	Willey.....	5,982.99
McDonald.....	3,965.26	Wilson.....	150.64
McLain.....	8,042.71	Spec. Committee.....	18,882.34
Morgan.....	13,386.27		
Total .....			<b>\$188,435.52</b>

### \$inking

All of the following accounts are in the black but in serious need:

Barker.....	\$ 1,404.87	Ellison.....	\$ 680.08
Cowart.....	1,431.44	Holland, E.....	477.16
Crawford.....	710.50		

## State Goals—1995

State	Goal 1994	Goal Through November	Contributions Through November
Alabama\$ .....	192,000	\$176,000.00	\$ 167,866.54
Arizona .....	9,300	8,525.00	25,711.12
Arkansas .....	225,000	233,750.00	232,721.66
California .....	95,000	87,080.04	66,673.44
Colorado .....	7,800	7,150.00	5,365.36
Florida .....	73,000	66,916.74	57,271.38
Georgia.....	160,000	146,667.40	130,209.47
Hawaii.....	2,800	2,566.74	750.00
Idaho.....	1,000	916.74	1,288.25
Illinois.....	114,000	104,500.00	102,857.61
Indiana.....	45,000	41,250.00	30,427.31
Iowa.....	2,500	2,291.74	2,930.00
Kansas.....	18,000	16,500.00	11,472.44
Kentucky.....	81,000	74,250.00	74,097.66
Louisiana.....	400	366.74	3,756.50
Maryland.....	20,000	18,333.37	26,833.21
Michigan.....	160,000	146,667.40	137,735.50
Mississippi.....	53,000	48,583.37	52,074.23
Missouri.....	353,000	323,583.34	324,757.81
Montana.....	1,500	1,375.00	1,012.50
Nebraska.....	800	733.37	671.00
New Mexico.....	1,000	916.74	1,369.51
*Northeast Assn.....	5,500	5,041.74	2,517.50
**Northwest Assn.....	8,500	7,791.74	7,580.65
North Carolina.....	553,000	506,916.74	484,568.22
Ohio.....	151,000	138,416.74	122,221.44
Oklahoma.....	437,000	400,583.37	365,693.68
Pennsylvania.....	400	366.74	1,312.15
South Carolina.....	237,000	217,250.00	222,773.76
Tennessee.....	683,000	626,083.37	702,025.65
Texas.....	97,000	88,916.74	94,416.36
Virginia.....	130,000	119,166.74	111,354.50
Virgin Islands.....	3,000	2,750.00	2,511.01
West Virginia.....	115,000	105,416.74	107,242.49
WNAC.....	120,000	110,000.00	197,124.93
Miscellaneous.....	299,176	274,244.74	28,963.83
Totals.....	<b>\$4,485,676</b>	<b>\$ 4,111,869.13</b>	<b>\$ 3,908,158.67</b>

\*Northeast Association

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

\*\*Northwest Association

Alaska, Oregon, and Washington



# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Post Office Box 5002  
Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002

**Board of Foreign Missions:** Joe Grizzle, chairman;  
Dean Dobbs, vice-chairman; Galen Dunbar, secretary;  
Archie Mayhew, Bill Reagan, David Shores, Bill  
Jones, Milton Worthington, James Forlines.

**Administrative Staff:** R. Eugene Waddell, general  
director; Fred Warner, director of missionary-church  
relations; Don Robirds, director of communications;  
Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary.

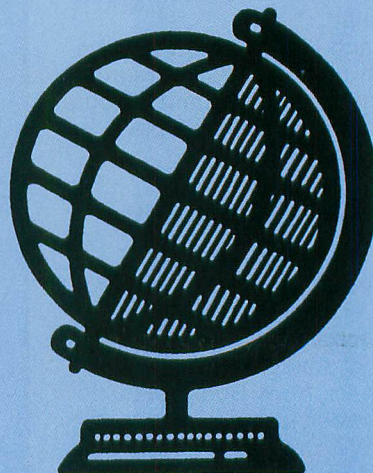
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