

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1995

# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work around the world

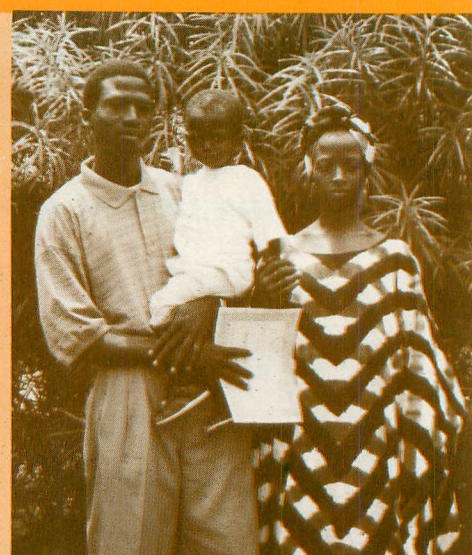


A NEW ERA IN  
Côte d'Ivoire





*The 10 graduates from the Bible institute in 1995 display their diplomas on graduation day in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire.*



*Felix and his wife found God to be faithful on life's road.*

# A NEW ERA IN Côte d'Ivoire

*by Mike Cousineau*

**I**n June 1990, eight eager young men, fresh out of the Bible institute in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire, were thrust into the harvest fields by God's Spirit. The Free Will Baptist churches in Côte d'Ivoire had something of which they could be proud. For the first time in the history of the Ivorian church, eight leaders were ready and equipped for the task that lay ahead of them.

During their year of internship, these young men had proven themselves effective for ministry. Yes—they were young. Yes—the church and the missionary staff were apprehensive. But a new day had dawned. As the day got brighter and brighter, we rejoiced.

When a day gets lighter, the temperature increases and causes atmospheric changes. The African church was witnessing many changes. These trained men assumed more and more leadership roles in the associations where they worked. Six young men were ordained to the ministry in August of 1995. Within three years of the first graduation, the entire leadership roles of the northern conference and most of the southern conference had become African with missionaries serving only in advisory or support roles.

The church began taking on a new image. But change is hard for everyone. It was difficult for the Ivorians as well as the missionaries. We want the

Ivorian church to remain true to the Scriptures and yet, we want it to be African. With the Ivorians leading the churches, the respective communities began to trust them.

Almost immediately, growth was evident. The church in the town of Tanda was averaging 25 in attendance when Amiezi Paul began serving. Within three years, he led the group to finish their new church building and grow to an average of between 80 and 100.

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**Six young men were ordained to the ministry in July of 1995.**

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Jerome returned to the Doropo church where he served before beginning his training at the institute. Doropo, site of the hospital, is an important hub for the northeast corner of Côte d'Ivoire. Besides the mother church, Jerome became responsible for seven other preaching points and churches.

The Bouna church developed a vision for the lost under the



leadership of Jean Francois. His burden for evangelization is unmatched. This Ivorian church also experienced phenomenal growth.

Although growth has been significant, the African church has experienced some dark nights. But just as the dawn comes after the night, these leaders have beamed forth God's victorious power.

In 1989 Pastor Jerome and the churches in the area of Flakiedougou were challenged to participate in a sacrifice to the "gods of the earth." The king of the area accused the Christians of working on a pagan sacred day. Failure to participate in this sacrifice would mean expulsion from the area for all the Christians.

Jerome was reminded of Proverbs 21:1, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." We prayed, and Jerome led the church to obey God and rest on His promises. This proved to the Christians that God has power and He does answer His people. This increased their faith! To this day, not another word has been heard from the king regarding this incident.

Twelve years ago, Pastor Kambou Ernest's father, a renowned fetishist in the area, pronounced a death curse on him simply because he had fallen in love with God. Although he was a teenager at the time, Ernest clung to his newfound faith and was willing to die for it.

Ernest is my son in the faith. He has grown to become my colleague in the ministry. His boldness and self-sacrifice for

Christ are unsurpassed. God has used him and his wife, Esther, to increase the number of churches in the Flakiedougou area from three to 10.

The new day keeps getting brighter. On June 24, 1995, 10 more newly trained students graduated after three years of resident studies and a one-year internship. This brings the number of trained leaders to 18. Just as the day gets more brilliant and the heat intensifies, many of our most recent graduates have been under heat or hardship.

Clint Morgan and I returned to Côte d'Ivoire in June for the institute graduation. I noticed several students had experienced significant weight loss, and I discovered the reason.

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***God has used Ernest and his wife, Esther, to increase the number of churches in the Flakiedougou area from three to 10.***

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Jean-Daniel, father of three children, said, "Itimar (his son) asked me if December 25 was really a holiday." "Why do you ask?" I responded. He said, "We don't have new clothes and we did not kill a chicken." The young father declared, "Even the children noticed we didn't have money. When they were sick, we didn't have money to help them. Yet God was true to His promises!"

Felix reflected on his year of internship: "Life is like a road. The professors at the Bible institute helped us to know the main road. However, along the way there are crossroads and

side roads that we must experience on our own. Some days we had very little to eat, other days nothing at all. But we had learned God's principles and promises. He had proven Himself faithful and we knew He would be faithful to us during these times as well."

Yes, the institute training program has paved the way for a stable, growing church. Overall, the 10 graduates ministered to 17 churches and groups, and led 50 people to follow "God's road" during the year of internship. It is estimated that during the past five years, 500 people have come to know Christ through the ministry of our students.

A complementary decentralized leadership training program is also equipping the laity for ministry on a local level. The Bible institute administrators are also officially responsible for overseeing this program. All pastoral candidates will be required to take nine foundational courses on the local level before attending the resident program in Bouna.

We are expecting 15-20 students for the third class at the Bible institute. Plans are underway to build single and married student housing to accommodate them. The construction of both dorms is estimated to cost \$53,000. We are excited as we anticipate what God has for us during the third training cycle.

As Paul said to the church at Colosse, "... the truth of the gospel ... bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you ..." (Colossians 1:5,6). The gospel truly is bearing fruit and growing in Côte d'Ivoire!

Mike Cousineau is director of the Ivory Coast Bible Institute in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire.



# Never Forget... Never Forgotten!

by Mark Stripling

**N**ever Forget . . . Never Forgotten!" That was the statement of veteran missionary Jim Sturgill. As we loaded the van on Tuesday morning, I looked at the seven teens who made the trip with

my wife, Debbie, and me. Many emotions ran through my mind.

We had left on Monday, July 24, 1995, and had flown all day, all night and part of the next day to get to Belo Horizonte, Brazil. This was the

first flight for some. What a way to get your wings! The experience of going through customs and a passport check in São Paulo was a wake-up call that we were no longer in the United States. No one spoke English! The airport signs were mainly in Portuguese. That was the first time we really felt like we were the foreigners.

Friendly faces met us at the airport in Belo Horizonte: Jim Sturgill and Dave Franks Sr. It was an exciting trip across the city. We saw few traffic lights, cows and horses in the street, children running to the car to beg for money and cars everywhere! This is a city of four million people.

At last we arrived at the church! What a sight to see! It was beautiful! The youth of Arkansas had raised \$40,000 to help build this church. I stood amazed and thanked God for allowing this group to experience this trip, and for allowing Arkansas to be a part of this world. As I walked through the sanctuary, I looked at the faces of the young people. Even though they were physically exhausted, joy and excitement streamed from their countenances.

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***We were allowed to go to one section of the city and pass out gospel tracts and invitations to church.***

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The following days were filled with travel, work and building friendships. We were privileged to be in services with Earnie and Jean Deeds on Wednesday

*The Arkansas group (top) displays the Norman Invasion T-shirts and (below) individuals participate in a time of witnessing in the street.*





night. The Deeds have a beautiful church in Lafaiete. The government had just given them some land beside the church. Now they need money to build classrooms.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday were days full of work. Our team of youth spent hours cleaning windows, painting and cleaning up the construction site. There is still much to do.

Perhaps the highlights of the trip were Saturday afternoon and Saturday night. We were allowed to go to one section of the city and pass out gospel tracts and invitations to church. I watched in amazement as our young people went out into the streets. We only knew how to say, "We invite you to church" in Portuguese. The people whom we met would sit down and read our information. They did not wad it up and throw it away. They were hungry for the truth.

At one point in our distribution, all of us met on a street corner. Two Brazilian boys were playing soccer in the street. Chris, Jason and Josh tried to impress them with their athletic talents. A crowd gathered to watch. I had a guitar with me and someone asked us to sing. There in the middle of the street, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, we had a street meeting. The only song we knew in Portuguese was "Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God." We sang it, but they wanted to hear English. For the next 15 minutes we sang. They even recorded us. That might be the only time they will ever hear the gospel.

Saturday evening, a special service was held at the church.

What a blessing to see the Brazilian people come. This is what it is all about! The team prayed before the service that God would use us. We sang and introduced ourselves. The people were very warm and friendly. Then one of our team, Josh Burton, preached.

A time of fellowship followed the service. The Brazilian young people fell in love with our youth. They didn't want to leave the church. It was amazing to see. No way to talk, but communication was everywhere. That's what God can do!

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***The Brazilian young people fell in love with our youth. They didn't want to leave the church.***

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Sunday morning we were privileged to visit Bobby and Sue Aycock in Barbacena. They have a well-established church. Our young people went to Sunday school and made many friends in a short time. We traveled back to Belo that afternoon and held another service that night. This time we listened to the Brazilian people sing and pray. It is something that we will never forget. We sang "Victory in Jesus." What a thrill! I was given the honor to speak in that service. My heart was humbled at the responsibility.

Monday included some sight-seeing and mountain climbing. A mountain beside the church towers above the city of Belo. After we reached the top of the mountain and looked over the

city, we were overwhelmed with emotion. Millions are out there within our sight. And they are lost! How will we reach them? I wondered, "Am I doing what God wants me to do?" Brother Dave Franks Sr. led us in prayer and asked God to challenge each one of us to listen to God and His will for our life.

Tuesday brought the chore of packing and saying "good-bye." Some stopped by to wish us well and ask when we were coming back. We were saddened as we left the church. We were leaving friends and a part of our lives in Brazil. Would any of this group return one day as missionaries?

Wednesday brought tears of joy as we arrived home. All of us were tired. The trip had been an adventure we would never forget. The NORMAN INVASION was now complete . . . or was it just a beginning? I believe it is just beginning! Nine people will either be missionaries or life-long supporters of missions. They will never forget . . . nor will they be forgotten!

Mark Stripling is State Youth Board Chairman for Arkansas. He and his wife, Debbie, accompanied the seven young people on this trip which was funded through the Norman Invasion campaign in Arkansas.

## HEARTBEAT

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# MEMORIES & MIRACLES

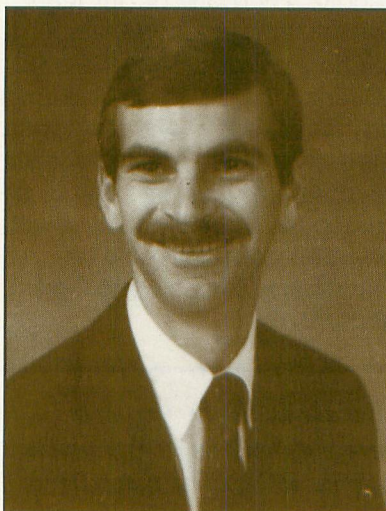
by Neil Gilliland

I have captured a few moments in time and locked them in my memory so I would not miss any portion of the experience. I wanted to etch those moments in my mind so I could retrieve them from my memory bank and relive all the feelings and emotions.

I stored moments like those of walking down the railroad tracks with my dad after a morning of fishing from a creek bank. I hid memories of returning from school to my childhood home on a fall day and savoring the smell of homemade vegetable soup. I recognized it was not just the smell of soup that made it precious, but the realization that Mom loved me and really cared.

The first time I saw my future wife on stage during a drama production at Free Will Baptist Bible College remains securely locked in my memory. And how could I ever forget carrying my precious Hannah from the delivery room to the nursery? Yes, we all have a myriad of memories that time will never erase.

During the last week of April this year I had an incredible week which also has been forever locked in my memory. I returned to the International Christian Academy, a boarding school for missionary kids, in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire. My wife, Sheila, and I had ministered there for five years. I was the guest speaker for their Spiritual Emphasis Week.



Robert and Judy Bryan drove me from Abidjan to Bouaké. As we drove onto the campus, I felt like a pilgrim who was coming home. Temperatures and humidity were both high. My clothing screamed for a bit of dryness. But buckets of perspiration could not dampen the joy of being in the place and among the people I loved more than frail words could ever express.

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***I began preaching on Sunday evening and by the time I laid my head on my pillow Thursday night I had preached 17 times.***

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As guest speaker, I went there to preach. And I did! I began preaching on Sunday evening and by the time I laid my head on my pillow Thursday night I had preached 17 times. Interspersed between preaching sessions were counseling appointments and fellowship.

The presence of the Lord was evident in each meeting whether I was counseling one-on-one with a student or staff member, or in our group meetings. The Father spoke in far clearer tones than my muddled voice could ever utter.

The passing of time will never erase the memory of those young people singing with all their hearts and voices. Nothing will crowd the memory of the



little second grader who rushed to the chapel every night so he could sit next to me during the song service.

Written with a permanent marker in my memory was the sight of one-third to one-half of the student body as they came forward on that final night to die to themselves. They came forward with staff members and fellow students to commit themselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. That is so significant since new studies reveal that 17 percent of all MKs return to serve as missionaries themselves. Only the Father knows which ones in the number praying that night will be the future ambassadors of Christ to the peoples of the world.

Friday and Saturday marked a series of miracle memories to store away. About 60 ICA students and staff members drove four hours southwest to the city of Divo, where we were to participate in an evangelism weekend among the Baoule and Bete people.

We were to have two open-air meetings. Each night we would sing (in four languages), an African evangelist would preach and a gifted missionary would tell an African story with an evangelistic application. Then, we would show a gospel film. We also planned to meet with the local high school English club to speak English with them. And, we had a team of high school students trained in Evangelism Explosion. They would go to the open-air market on Saturday afternoon.

The memories of these events are tied to some miracles of God's grace.

**Miracle No. 1.** In packing for the trip, I had one large duffel bag filled with an array of things missionaries had requested. But, that bag did not arrive with me. Miraculously, everything for the missionaries was in that bag except two small items which were critically needed for the crusade: a part for a keyboard and the film. Luck you say? NO! God directed my packing.

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***The majority of the students wanted to know more about Jesus.***

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**Miracle No. 2.** It was rainy season and Divo is in the rain forest area. As we started toward the field where we were to have the crusade, ominous clouds engulfed the city. Thunder rattled and lightning flashed across the sky as we gathered. So, we prayed that God would close up the heavens for His glory. God answered, and before the evening had passed, the stars winked God's blessing on our meeting. The next night it rained until five minutes before service time. Again, we prayed; and again, God answered.

**Miracle No. 3.** When we went to the public high school English club, we were paired off with two students and simply let them practice their English. They were told to talk about anything. The young lady who was my conversation partner asked, "Could you tell me about Jesus?" The majority of the students did not want to know more about the U.S. or Canada. They wanted to know more

about Jesus. Several came to the crusade and made decisions.

**Miracle No. 4.** When our Evangelism Explosion team went to the open-air market it was pouring down rain. The rain slowed down the commerce. This gave our students more time to share the Good News with the people in the market. Nine people made decisions for Christ that afternoon. Praise the Lord!

**Miracle No. 5.** We conservatively estimated that 4,000 people attended the crusade services. Combining those who had prayed with our EE team, and those responding during the crusade, a total of 263 adults made decisions for Christ. Their transformed lives are the best miracle of all.

On Sunday morning we worshiped with a Baoule church. For three and one-half hours we sat on backless benches and gloried in the presence of the Lord. We returned to campus that evening rejoicing over what had transpired during the Spiritual Emphasis Week and the Evangelism Weekend. On Monday, I packed my things and returned to the U.S. Among the things I packed were memories and miracles that time shall never erase.

Neil Gilliland, former missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, is currently teaching at FWB Bible College in Nashville.

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**N**orthwest flight 50 descended gently through the Gaelic cloud cover and touched down firmly on French soil. Twelve members of the Central Free Will Baptist Church of Royal Oak, Mich., deplaned and cautiously snaked their way through the labyrinth that is the Charles deGaulle Airport in Paris. After missing several turns and passing a few unheeded (and unintelligible) signs, they stumbled upon their waiting missionary guide.

The 10-day April adventure of the Daring Dozen from Detroit had begun!

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***The group's major purpose was more than just sightseeing.***

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This Missions Awareness Trip (MAT) was born in my imagination one day. I reflected on the unusual likelihood that three couples from Central Church should be serving as missionaries on the same field at the same time: Steve and Becky Riggs, Mark and Kathy Paschall and Patty and I. This had to be a first. It seemed to be perfect timing for interested missions supporters from this missions-minded church to visit their missionaries and experience missions firsthand.

The trip was to serve a three-fold purpose. It would be a learning experience for some concerned lay people, an encouragement to battle weary missionaries and a reminder to French believers that they were a part of something bigger than their modest evangelical community.




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## A DARING DOZEN'S MISSIONS AWARENESS TRIP!

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*by Tom McCullough*

*The "Daring Dozen" (above with Tom and Patty McCullough) from Royal Oak, Mich., returned from France aware of language difficulties and the need for more missionaries to take the message of Christ abroad.*

Planning for the trip took several months. Planes, trains, buses, hotels and restaurants had to be reserved and meetings coordinated.

The missions awareness group joyfully participated as the St. Nazaire church celebrated its anniversary on Easter Sunday. The following day they joined believers from three churches in an informal potluck/picnic at a retreat rented for the occasion.

At midweek, the MAT group traveled to Albertville in the

French Alps. They enjoyed the scenery and renewed acquaintances with Mark and Kathy Paschall who were in language study preparing for their ministry in Côte d'Ivoire. The team actually sat through an introductory language learning course. They returned to the Brittany area of France and spent the second weekend with Steve and Becky Riggs in Nantes.

The group's major purpose was more than just sightseeing. They participated through music



and testimony in each of the church services, spent time with French believers in a relaxed format and listened to missionaries give historical and cultural overviews of their respective works. Oh yes, they did shop a little, too!

Was the trip worthwhile? Did it live up to expectations? Were the major objectives achieved?

The Daring Dozen will speak for themselves!

Surprisingly, when asked about their trip, they spoke very little about the cultural differences they experienced.

One lady, however, amazed at the circular traffic intersections, expressed appreciation that "there is a country which actually invites you to drive in circles, when I've been doing it by accident all my life!"

Several grew in their awareness of difficulties faced by the missionaries.

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***Mildred remarked how great it was "to see firsthand how a church is started; how much work, time, patience and total dependence on God [is needed]."***

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Mildred remarked how great it was "to see first-hand how a church is started; how much work, time, patience and total dependence on God [is needed]." JoAnne noted, "Our missionaries face circumstances that are difficult beyond my imagination: language barriers, weather conditions that negatively affect physical as well as mental health, the stress of filling multiple roles and the

pressure of helping their children adjust to a culture that they didn't ask to be brought to."

Tim remembered "how high the cost of living is in France. EVERYTHING is more expensive."

As group members struggled through an hour of language school, they realized learning a language is more difficult with age. They saw the need to speed the deputation process so missionaries could begin language study at a younger age.

Others noted the challenges faced by the French Christians and the lessons they learned as a result. More than one person recalled the joy and gratitude to the Lord shown by a young widow raising four boys. It encouraged them to focus "on the wonderful blessings God has given instead of griping about what we lack."

Janice realized, "The French Christians are very friendly, warm people who love to sing, testify and pray." The group observed the extended corporate prayer time on Sunday morning: "Instead of asking the Lord for something, they were thanking Him for something."

A shy participant observed, "There is something for everyone to do, even me. It surprised me to realize that even I could be used of God to pray for someone. God challenged me to pray for a French lady whose husband is out of work, and I've tried to pray daily for them since coming home."

The group recognized the need for American Free Will Baptists to pray. Janice

reflected, "Much more work is needed to reach French people for Christ. We need to pray that God will call missionaries."

Tim added, "As parents, grandparents, friends and Sunday school teachers, we can encourage those whom we influence. We can talk about missions."

As for encouraging the missionary, the warm tears coursing down the cheeks of Steve Riggs as he bid the group good-bye spoke volumes. Were the French believers encouraged? One bright young preacher-boy testified that the group's presence confirmed to him they were not just sending their money, but they were giving a part of themselves so the French people could hear the gospel.

Was the trip worth the time, money and effort? Without a doubt! The Daring Dozen will never be the same. Hopefully, their enthusiasm and insight will spread to others in the church. The missionary vision is no more contagious than when it is caught from direct contact.

"For as long as I live, I will never forget the spiritual blessing of sitting with French believers and singing 'Amazing Grace' in our different languages at the same time," one of the group declared. "As we held hands and prayed, I thanked God for the privilege of visiting France to learn more about our mission program. And I humbly asked God to keep my new-found awareness alive when I returned home."

Tom McCullough is currently serving as associate pastor at Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Mich. He and his wife, Patty, served 15 years in St. Nazaire, France.



# News Update



Participants in the family seminar at Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire, are shown with Jerry Pinkerton (top, left) and Alice Smith (right).

## Family Seminar Held in September at Bondoukou

*Côte d'Ivoire*—Twelve church leaders from the area of Bondoukou met September 11-16 in the youth/training center in Bondoukou for a family seminar. This was part of the leadership-training program being directed by missionary Jerry Pinkerton.

According to Jerry, Alice Smith taught a two-hour class on health and hygiene while Ernest and Elaine Holland each had a two-hour class on male/female problems and joys. Jerry, N'Guétia Silas and Robert Bryan taught the remaining classes which all dealt with various aspects of family life.

## Three New Churches Dedicated in India

*India*—Missionaries Carlisle and Marie Hanna, who returned to India on October 19 after being in the United States from mid-August, expressed joy as they reported the completion and dedication of three church buildings in India this year.

"We dedicated the last one on August 5," says Carlisle. "Pray that we will be able to build several more during the coming months." He also urged people to pray that they will be able to purchase land and get government permission to build churches.

The Hannas reported at least 50,000 people viewed the film, "Ocean of Mercy," which was shown from April to the end of June by two young preachers along with one

pastor. The film was shown in many villages and several hundred New Testaments and gospel packets were sold. Thousands of gospel tracts were also distributed.

"We know there are many secret believers besides the ones who have openly accepted Christ as Savior," Carlisle concluded. "More people are turning to Christ all over India at this time than ever before."

## Agnibilékrou Church Welcomes African Pastor

*Côte d'Ivoire*—On Sunday, September 17, the Agnibilékrou Free Will Baptist Church in Côte d'Ivoire welcomed its first African pastor, Jerome Kambou.

According to Alice Smith, the children and teens presented special singing and Christophe Palenfou gave a welcoming speech. He also expressed praise and thankfulness for Norman and Bessie Richards who founded the church.

Darrel Nichols conducted a "Pastor Installation Ceremony." Jerome had been pastoring the church in Doropo.

## Brazil Children's Home Opens Second House

*Brazil*—The New Life Children's Home in Araras, Brazil, recently rented a second house to shelter 10 other children along with a couple to oversee them. The first house still has 17 children in addition to the couple in charge.

According to missionary Shirley

Combs, five new children recently entered the home: Philipe, four months old; Vinicius, nine months old; David, one year old; Suellen, two years old; and young Marcos, who was found by the police tied to a propane tank.

"Our 'miracle scroll' of answered prayers continues to grow with God's many provisions as we receive more and more children," writes Shirley. "Pray for the salvation of all our children!"

The home is still looking for an opportunity to build on donated land, but funds are still inadequate.

## Holland Says Eight Saved in Children's Church

*Côte d'Ivoire*—According to a report from Ernest and Elaine Holland, eight children were saved recently in the children's church of the Bondoukou Free Will Baptist Church in Côte d'Ivoire. The children's church leaders are Elaine Holland and Madame Yeboua.

The Hollands noted that six of their major youth leaders were scheduled to leave Bondoukou this year to continue their education at the university in Abidjan. Ernest and Elaine are concerned about finding others to fill the important leadership roles in the church occupied by those leaving.

Ernest is currently working on translating a 50-day Bible study on fear to be presented to all the youth groups.

Elaine just finished a four-week course on soul winning in her ladies' Bible class.

The Hollands are due to arrive in the United States on December 9 to begin their furlough.

## General Director Waddell Has Bypass Surgery

*Nashville, Tenn.*—R. Eugene Waddell, general director of foreign missions, had open-heart surgery on September 6 at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville. Doctors performed a quadruple bypass.

Surgery went well and Mr. Waddell was released from the hospital on September 11. He started experiencing some problems and was readmitted to the hospital on September 19 with pneumonia. He remained hospitalized for three days



before returning home.

In mid-October the general director was continuing to improve but he had not returned to his office. Christians were urged to pray for his complete recovery.

## Gentuso Reports Fetish Burning; Leper Converted

*Côte d'Ivoire*—Dr. Paul Gentuso, who is in charge of the medical station in Doropo in the absence of Dr. Eagleton, recently preached a message against idolatry and a man responded by coming to burn his fetishes (idols).

Dr. Paul also indicated a woman with leprosy, who had lost all her fingers and was blind, accepted Christ following a stay at the hospital.

The Gentusos requested prayer as they carry on the work with only the Robert West family to help on the station. Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschall are scheduled to arrive in Ivory Coast in January. Christians have been urged to pray for their safe arrival in Doropo and for their acclimation to the work.

## Weekend Services Yield Decisions for Christ

*Brazil*—Pastor Jeancarlo of Jabo-ticabal, Brazil, preached three services at Belo Horizonte on August 19 and 20. At the end of the Sunday evening service, four people responded to the invitation to receive Christ.

According to missionary Jim Sturgill, one convert was the school vice-principal, Dona Maria do Carmo.

Jim says this makes 10 people who have gone forward in recent weeks.

## Martens Opens New SS Classes in Two Villages

*Côte d'Ivoire*—According to a recent report from missionary Jalayn Martens in Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire, she has begun teaching Sunday school in two small villages just south of Bondoukou—Assima and Afouavame. The villages are close and the groups are so small that they alternate church services from one week to the next.

"The leaders had told Ernest Holland they would like to start hav-



The choir of Central FWB Church in Rivera, Uruguay, sings during the dedication service for the new church sanctuary.

ing Sunday school," writes Jalayn. "I went out to meet the leaders and tell them I would be glad to help them. They informed me that I would only have seven children who would be coming each Sunday. I was disappointed, but decided those seven were as good as having 100."

The first Sunday, Jalayn took enough material for 20 children just in case the leaders were wrong. "When I arrived at the church in Afouavame, I noticed there were about a dozen children standing outside the church," she declared. "But when it was time for classes to separate, there were 44 children waiting to begin Sunday school."

The next Sunday, in the village of Assima, over 40 children attended.

## Dedication Service Held for Uruguay Church

*Uruguay*—The dedication service was held on September 10 in Rivera, Uruguay, for the new building of the Central Free Will Baptist Church. The service, which lasted from about 2:30 p.m. to nearly 5:30 p.m., had over 170 people on hand.

People came from every Free Will Baptist church in Uruguay as well as from two local churches of other denominations. One church from the Brazil side of the border was also represented.

According to missionary Dave Franks Jr., pastor Mário da Conceição set the stone. This was followed by the cutting of the ribbon and the program of the afternoon.

Missionary Walter Ellison gave a summary of the work and greetings were given by representatives of the Nueva Vida church, the Santa Teresa church, the Malvin Norte church and the work in Melo.

Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart, executive director of Women Nationally Active for Christ, was on hand for the special ceremony. She extended greetings on behalf of those in the United States who contributed to the work and the building.

Dave Franks Jr. preached the dedication message and missionary Dennis Owen led in the dedication prayer.

## Sturgill Reports 54 at July Youth Camp

*Brazil*—According to missionary Jim Sturgill, 54 people were on hand for a combined youth camp for the churches in Belo Horizonte, Barbacena and Conselheiro Lafaiete. Jim noted that 11 campers and staff members from the Belo church participated.

Earnie Deeds directed the camp using the theme, "Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost."

Sturgill reported that several young people made decisions for Christ during the week and many others rededicated their lives to the Lord.

## Plunketts Have 20 Boys from Six Countries

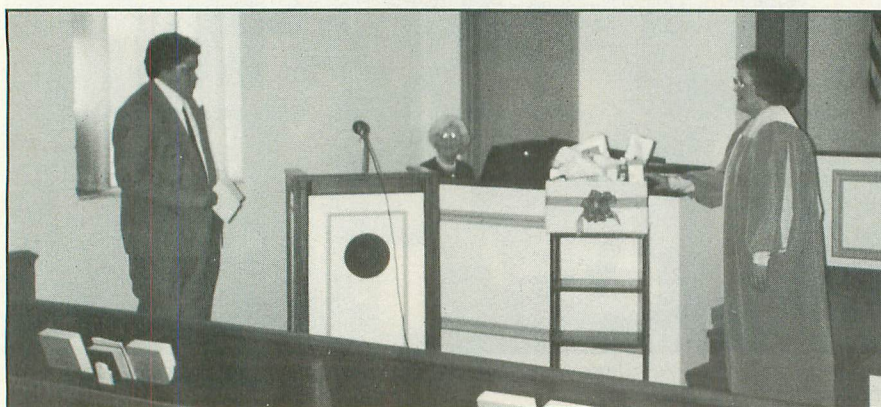
*Côte d'Ivoire*—Missionary dorm parents Lloyd and Betty Plunkett reported having 20 boys in their dormitory at International Christian Academy in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, to begin the fall semester.

According to Lloyd, these boys come from six African countries: Guinea, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Gabon and the Congo. They also have three different "home" countries: the United States, Can-

Continued on page 12 —>



# News Update



Benjamin Plunkett (left) listens as Ruth Ann Hall of East Nashville FWB Church honors him by presenting a Fannie L. Polston Scholarship check for \$300 and a box of personal items.

—Continued from page 11  
ada and Holland.

The Plunketts noted that enrollment is up this year with 232 students in school. Two Free Will Baptist boys are in the Plunketts' dorm: their son, Daniel, and Joseph Bryan, son of Robert and Judy Bryan.

In addition to dorm responsibilities this year, Lloyd is teaching ninth grade Bible (Old Testament Survey). He also serves as chairman of the Christian Education committee.

## Ben Plunkett Receives Polston Scholarship

*Nashville, Tenn.*—Benjamin Plunkett, son of missionaries Lloyd and Betty Plunkett of Côte d'Ivoire, was presented the \$300 Fanny L. Polston Scholarship on August 20 in the East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church.

The woman's auxiliary of East Nashville established the student scholarship fund in August of 1980 in memory of Mrs. Fanny L. Polston who was the first president of the East Nashville FWB Woman's Auxiliary. The scholarship fund was designed to give assistance to children of Free Will Baptist missionaries.

The first recipient of the scholarship was MK Terry Eagleton whose parents were missionaries to Brazil.

Ben Plunkett, now a junior at Free Will Baptist Bible College, is from Seattle, Wash. His parents, Lloyd and Betty, are dorm parents at International Christian Academy in Bouaké, a school for missionary children.

## Two Converted, Prayer Answered in Lafaiete

*Brazil*—According to a report from missionaries Earnie and Jean Deeds in Conselheiro Lafaiete, Brazil, two young boys made professions of faith in Christ during Sunday school recently. They are the sons of Tulio, one of the church's most faithful members.

The Deeds also reported answered prayer as a long-awaited cornea transplant finally became a reality for Madson in August. Earnie and Jean had requested prayer for this need on several occasions. Now, they urge people to pray that the transplant will be successful and that Madson will be able to overcome serious problems in his life.

The Deeds also had requested prayer that a plot of land next to the church might be donated to the church to replace property taken by the city to build a school. They just received word that the property request was granted with the stipulation that they must not build a residence, but they must construct a building within two years.

## Riggs Request Prayer for Special Family Needs

*France*—Missionaries Steve and Becky Riggs in Nantes, France, have requested prayer for their family and their ministry in light of a recent diagnosis that their three-year-old daughter, Laura, is autistic. The diagnosis was confirmed in August by doctors in Michigan and a team of specialists at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

"We knew something was wrong,



Terry and JaNelda Walker will be teaching English in Mongolia with ELIC.

but never in our wildest dreams did we think it was anything like autism," writes Steve. "It is a hard thing to accept when the doctor tells you your child is actually suffering from a mysterious disorder, the origin of which is unknown and for which there is no known cure."

The Riggs requested special prayer for their family and their ministry during this time. They urged people to pray that the Lord would guide them in determining what would be the best educational help for Laura.

## Walkers Approved to Teach in Mongolia

*Antioch, Tenn.*—Terry and JaNelda Walker, of Springfield, Tenn., have been officially approved to work with English Language Institute of China. They actually will be going to Mongolia in August of 1996.

Terry will be teaching English to Mongolian students while JaNelda will be home schooling their two older daughters and working with Mongolian women as the opportunity arises.

## Bondoukou Pastor Begins Bible Institute Study

*Côte d'Ivoire*—N'Guétia Silas, who has been serving as pastor of the Bondoukou church, has moved to Yamoussoukro, the political capital of Côte d'Ivoire, to attend a Bible institute. He will be enrolled in a three-year program. Although the institute is not a Free Will Baptist school, Silas did not want to wait another 16 months for the Bouna institute to open.

Missionaries have urged people to pray that Silas will be able to start a Free Will Baptist church in that city.



## St. Sebastien Building Acquired; Backing Sought

*France*—The building which houses the Free Will Baptist church in St. Sebastien, France, was purchased on September 30. This building will provide an apartment for missionary Cathy Crawford as well as space for the church and Sunday school.

A total of \$210,000 was involved in the purchase. Money for the loan was channeled through the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The note for the loan is being paid by the housing account of Cathy Crawford and the rental allowance for meeting space which normally comes from the accounts of Dennis and Carol Teague and Cathy.

Those interested in lending money in multiples of \$500 are encouraged to contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation or the foreign missions office at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tenn. 37011-5002. Information will be mailed upon request. According to Bill Evans of the FWB Foundation, interest rates on these funds range from 6.125 percent to 9.5 percent.

## FWB Teachers Begin New Year in China

*China*—Free Will Baptist teachers assigned to teach English in universities and colleges in China began their new school year in September.

Working under the auspices of English Language Institute/China, one couple and four single teachers are sharing their lives and language with students in various parts of the People's Republic of China.

Paul and Tanya Dean and their daughter, Suzanne, have returned to



*This building, which houses the St. Sebastien FWB Church in St. Sebastien, France, was recently purchased.*

Anhui Normal University in Wuhu, Anhui.

Sarah Malone is teaching at the Beijing Information Technology Institute in Beijing in addition to traveling as a supervisor in Shandong Province.

Mark King is teaching at Jiangxi Normal University in Nanchang, Jiangxi.

Kevin Stacey has gone to Xinjiang Normal University in Urumqi, Xinjiang.

Monica White is instructing at Ningxia University in Yinchuan, Ningxia.

## Mini Reports from Around the Globe

*France*—"We praise the Lord for the purchase of the parcel of land adjoining the church," writes missionary Patsy Vanhook from St. Nazaire, France. "Through the gracious help of two U.S. churches and a generous gift from a man in the St.

Nazaire church, the loan has been reduced to only about a third of the purchase price. God is good!"

*Antioch, Tenn.*—Marvis Eagleton, veteran missionary to Brazil, underwent eye surgery on September 22 to remove a cataract. She is recovering well and has expressed appreciation for the prayers of Christian friends.

*Springdale, Ark.*—Missionary appointees Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman have announced the birth of their first child, Alyssa Chela, on September 17 in Arkansas. The baby weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces.

*Côte d'Ivoire*—Tanya Hart, missionary teacher to International Christian Academy in Côte d'Ivoire, returned to the United States on October 21 due to medical needs. Doctors in Ivory Coast felt she needed medical attention not available in Côte d'Ivoire. Tanya has requested prayer that she might have a speedy recovery and be able to return to Africa on December 30 as planned.

*Nashville, Tenn.*—Missionary appointees Nathan and Linda Snow have a new baby girl, Megan Ruth, born on September 3 in Nashville. She weighed seven pounds, four ounces. She is the Snows' second child.

*France*—Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschall recently moved to Marseille, France, so Mark could take a tropical medicine course. They have requested prayer for the family's ad-

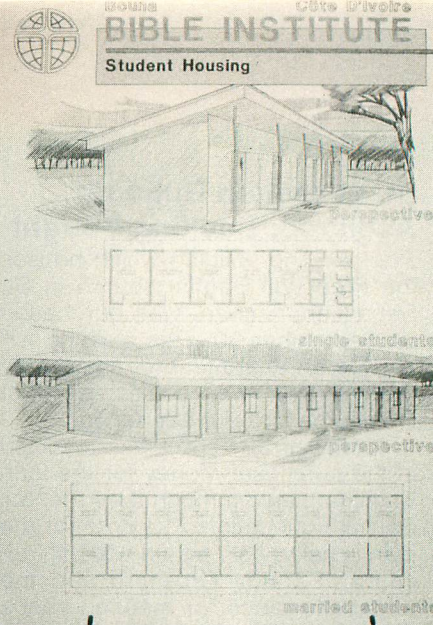
*Continued on page 14—>*

*FWB teachers with English Language Institute of China met at ELIC headquarters in San Dimas, Calif.: (left to right, back row) Paul Dean; (second row) Mark King and Monica White; (front row) Kevin Stacy, Tanya Dean and Sarah Malone.*





# News Update



This drawing shows the basic design of the proposed dormitories for single and married students of the Bible institute in Ivory Coast.

→ *Continued from page 13*  
justment to the new area. Kathy will begin home schooling. She will be reviewing the children's work and strengthening the areas which were not covered in the French school.

**Wilson, N.C.**—Rena H. Waddell, 85-year-old mother of R. Eugene Wad-

dell, general director of foreign missions, died on October 13, in Wilson, N.C. The cause of death was not certain at press time; however, it was suspected she died of a heart attack. She had been in a nursing home for the last six years with Alzheimer's disease. Funeral services were held on October 15 in Kenly, N.C.

**Brazil**—Julia Marita Combs de Aquino was born August 8 to Jose Augusto and Cindy Combs de Aquino. The baby weighed six pounds, four and one-half ounces. She is the granddaughter of missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs.

**Japan**—According to recent correspondence from Japan, Mr. Yabe, the young man Donnie McDonald baptized on Easter Sunday prior to furlough, is continuing in the faith and recently served as an active counselor in the August Bible camp.

**Winona Lake, Ind.**—Missionary Dennis Owen received an M.Div. from Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, Ind., on May 13. Dennis completed 97 hours of study and graduated with honors (cum laude). He and his family returned to Uruguay in late July.

**Knightdale, N.C.**—Mrs. Annie Williams, mother of missionary Linda Callaway, died on Friday, September 8, after suffering a massive heart attack. She was 84 years of age.

**Spain**—Miss Lynn Midgett, who returned to Spain in May, has decided to move from the area of Móstoles to the city of Villalba. She had been working with Ron and Linda Callaway who have requested a transfer to serve the Lord in the Bible institute ministry in Panama and Cuba. Lynn will be working with the Villalba church as determined by the church council.

**Antioch, Tenn.**—The annual Don and Billie Sexton Walk-a-thon for Tennessee foreign missionaries was held on September 9 all over the state. A few churches had to change their date to walk due to conflicts in their schedules, while others participated by rocking in rocking chairs, etc. Monies received from the Walk-a-thon through October 25 totaled \$82,609. The goal for the event was \$125,000.

## Special Gifts

These individuals gave special gifts in August and September in memory or in honor of friends or loved ones:

Donor	In Memory of
Arthur S. Norris Nashville, Tenn.	Florence Norris
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson Knightdale, N.C.	Helen Sanders
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Phenicie White Bluff, Tenn.	Minnie Holtsclaw
Deep Creek FWB Church Midville, Ga.	Kenneth Faison
Mr. and Mrs. Don Sexton Elizabethon, Tenn.	Rev. J. Reford Wilson
Joe D. Allen Clarksville, Tenn.	Paul H. Evans

### The following gave special gifts in memory of Arthur Norris:

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Johnson Macomb, Mich.	Mae Sullivan Thompsonville, Ill.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Picirilli Nashville, Tenn.	Stella Greenwood Mulkeytown, Ill.
The Lloyd Vaughn Family Thompsonville, Ill.	The Gary Sullivan Family Thompsonville, Ill.
The Charles Vaughn Family Thompsonville, Ill.	Ruby Henderson Mulkeytown, Ill.
The Bible Class of Coker's Chapel FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.	Combs Flock Calvary Fellowship Church Fenton, Mo.

### The following gave special gifts in memory of Annie Williams:

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lindley Knightdale, N.C.	Mr. and Mrs. Art Pate Loveland, Oh.
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson Knightdale, N.C.	Mr. and Mrs. James Vester Knightdale, N.C.
Deacons and their wives at Coker's Chapel FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.	Rachel Stikeleather Raleigh, N.C.

### The following gave special gifts in memory of Rev. Sterling A. Tucker, Sr.:

Melba Burch Rock Hill, Mo.	Glenn Underwood Hemet, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Scott Park Hills, Mo.	

Donor	In Honor of
Gleaners Sunday School Class Coker's Chapel FWB Church Nashville, Tenn.	R. Eugene Waddell

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## Special Gifts

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## New Dormitories to Be Built for Bible Institute

**Côte d'Ivoire**—According to a recent report from missionary Mike Cousineau, plans have been drawn and approved for the construction of two dormitory units at Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire. These buildings will house both single and married students of the Bible institute. Latest reports from Ivory Coast indicated some preliminary work was being done to speed up the process when funds are available.

The Board of Foreign Missions approved the project during the 1995 foreign missions retreat in Nashville. The construction is projected to cost around \$53,000 (see article on pages 2 and 3).



## Aldridge, Lytles and Dunbar Visit Russia

*Antioch, Tenn.*—Four representatives of the Department of Foreign Missions left the United States on September 18 for Russia to lay groundwork for future ministries there.

Overseas Secretary Jimmy Aldridge, missionaries Steve and Judy Lytle, and Galen Dunbar, secretary of the board, traveled to Moscow, Chelyabinsk and Yekaterinburg. They surveyed the areas and made contact with Baptist leaders and others who will help in preparing for a pastors' conference in April and a witnessing team in June of 1996.

Galen left the group in Russia on September 29 and returned to his South Carolina pastorate. The others left Russia on September 30 and arrived in the United States on October 1.

Aldridge, who made the trip in the place of General Director R. Eugene Waddell who had open-heart surgery on September 6, finalized and signed agreements outlining Free Will Baptist partnership with Russian Baptists.

## Côte d'Ivoire Said to Be Facing Greatest Crisis

*Côte d'Ivoire*—According to a report in *World Pulse*, Côte d'Ivoire is facing what some observers call its worst political and economical crisis since independence in 1960.

The crisis comes from what has been done by President Henry Konan Bédié, who assumed office after the death of national founder Félix Houphouët-Boigny. Bédié passed a law requiring candidates to have Ivorian parents and five consecutive years of residency. His political opponent for the presidential election held in October is a Muslim and has neither. This eliminated him from running even though he was popular with many.

Although the election was held with no political opponent to Bédié, several incidents of violence, rioting and demonstrations were reported around the country. A number of deaths were attributed to the incidents in some areas. With state and local elections yet to be held, unrest could prevail through the end of the year.

## Financial Summary Through September 30

### \$ubstance

Total income for August .....	\$ 333,532.27
Total income for September .....	377,966.07
Total income through September .....	3,010,123.55
Total expenditures through September .....	3,419,257.70
Projected income through September .....	3,453,880.50
Total 1995 Budget (including VISION projections) .....	\$ 4,605,174.00
VISION gifts through September .....	\$ 5,068.26

### \$hortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey .....	\$ 320.27	Holland, E. ....	\$ 6,429.62
Barker .....	66.93	Lytte .....	8,698.08
Cowart .....	17,638.39	McLain .....	4,010.77
Crawford .....	3,475.71	Morgan .....	8,134.83
Crosby .....	3,971.75	Richards .....	407.42
Crowson .....	9,395.56	Robinson .....	5,611.62
Eagleton Sr .....	14,024.72	Sturgill .....	2,910.76
Ellison .....	3,276.98	Teague .....	7,578.99
Griffin .....	8,797.98	Turnbough .....	16,366.42
Hanna .....	16,980.87	Willey .....	8,954.20
Hersey .....	2,429.36	Wilson .....	340.15
Holland, C .....	3,598.61	Special Committee .....	18,882.34
Total .....			\$ 172,302.33

### \$inking

The following account is in the black but in serious need:

Callaway .....	\$ 448.54
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## State Goals—1995

State	1995 Goal	Goal Through September	Contributions Through September
Alabama .....	\$ 174,000.00	\$ 130,500.00	\$ 166,114.88
Arizona .....	6,400.00	4,800.00	5,644.87
Arkansas .....	305,000.00	228,750.00	125,778.41
California .....	81,000.00	60,750.00	61,293.24
Colorado .....	8,500.00	6,375.00	4,256.07
Florida .....	79,000.00	59,250.00	66,812.31
Georgia .....	154,000.00	115,500.00	131,915.37
Hawaii .....	2,700.00	2,025.00	0.00
Idaho .....	3,000.00	2,250.00	802.60
Illinois .....	111,000.00	83,250.00	106,840.18
Indiana .....	35,000.00	26,250.00	27,855.74
Iowa .....	3,200.00	2,400.00	2,470.00
Kansas .....	14,000.00	10,500.00	5,606.44
Kentucky .....	82,000.00	61,500.00	42,515.95
Louisiana .....	1,700.00	1,275.00	2,226.52
Maryland .....	13,000.00	9,750.00	22,113.09
Michigan .....	205,000.00	153,750.00	102,546.73
Mississippi .....	76,000.00	57,000.00	49,791.61
Missouri .....	347,000.00	260,250.00	205,975.94
Montana .....	1,700.00	1,275.00	2,017.50
Nebraska .....	1,000.00	750.00	263.00
New Mexico .....	2,100.00	1,575.00	1,095.16
* Northeast Association .....	2,500.00	1,875.00	2,291.00
** Northwest Association .....	13,000.00	9,750.00	4,511.44
North Carolina .....	569,000.00	426,750.00	417,146.76
Ohio .....	133,000.00	99,750.00	99,493.90
Oklahoma .....	410,000.00	307,500.00	298,964.91
Pennsylvania .....	1,300.00	975.00	571.25
South Carolina .....	254,000.00	190,500.00	180,276.58
Tennessee .....	685,000.00	513,750.00	407,322.59
Texas .....	100,000.00	75,000.00	76,243.01
Virginia .....	121,000.00	90,750.00	85,324.16
Virgin Islands .....	2,400.00	1,800.00	2,839.50
West Virginia .....	110,000.00	82,500.00	77,937.86
WNAC .....	150,000.00	112,500.00	146,342.36
Miscellaneous .....	86,250.00	64,687.50	10,820.04
Totals .....	4,343,750.00	3,257,812.50	2,944,020.97

\* 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

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Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002

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**Administrative Staff:** R. Eugene Waddell, general  
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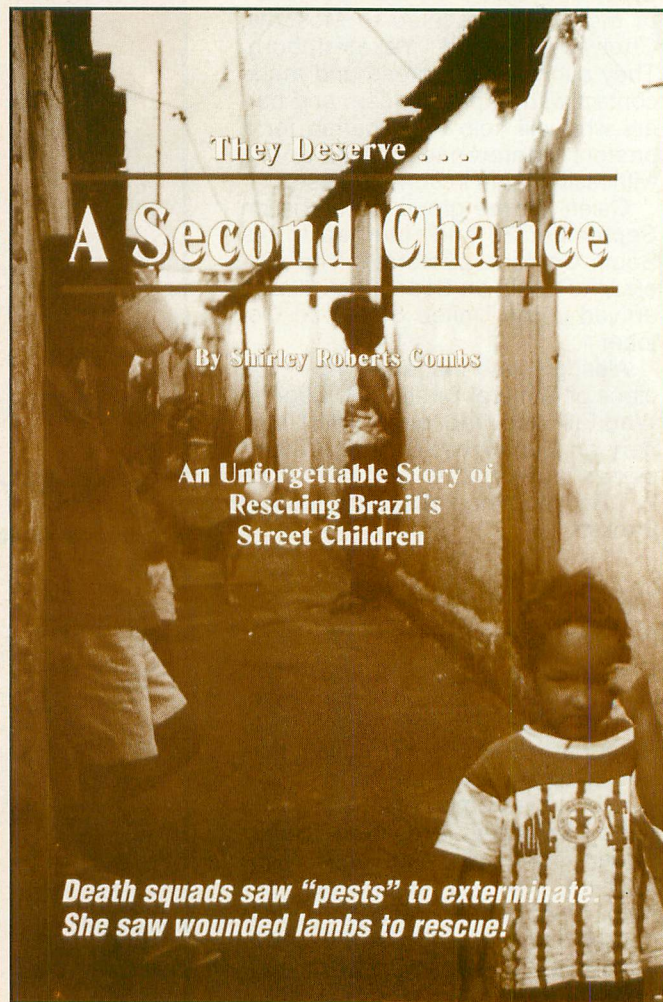
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