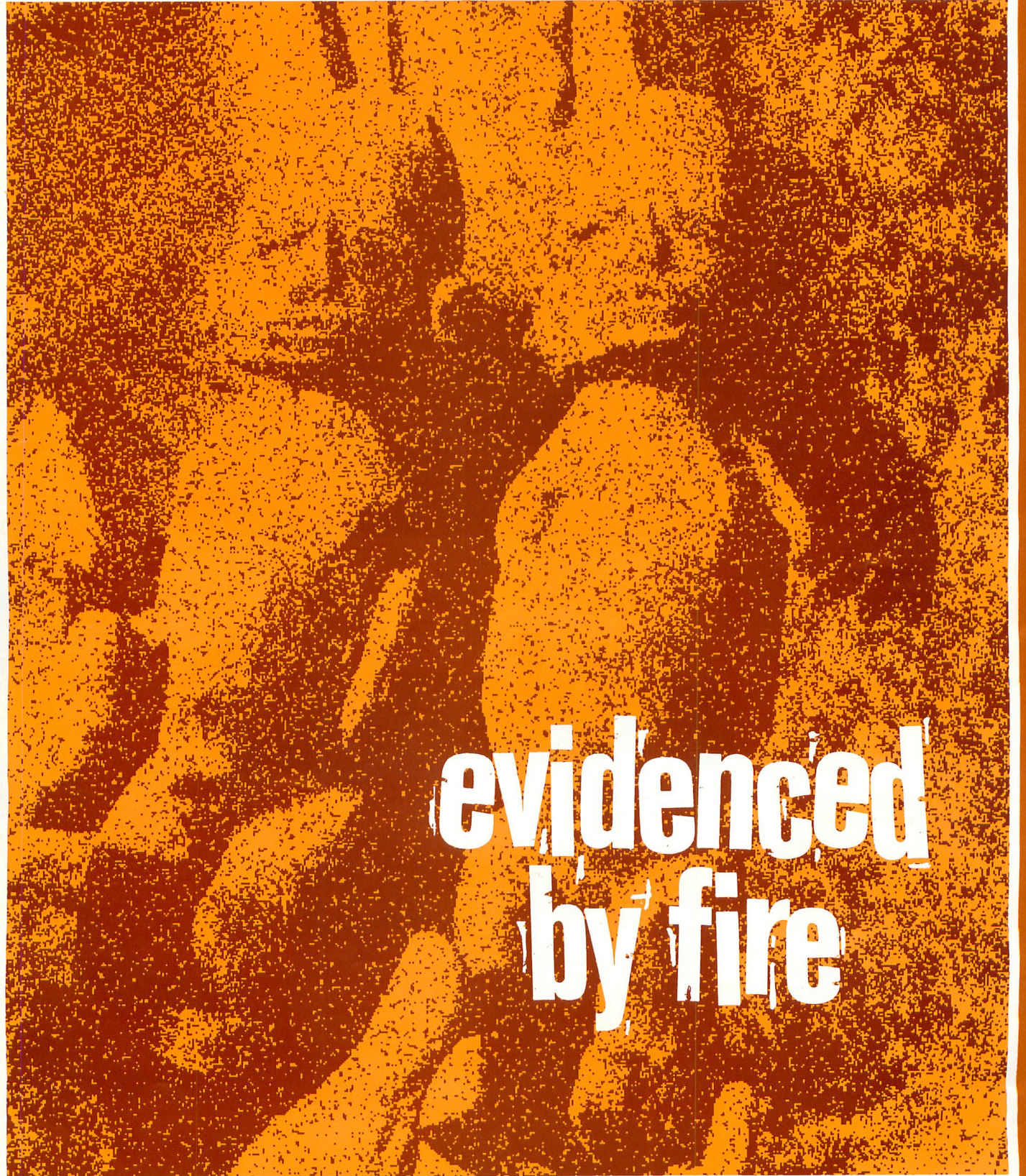


JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997

# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work around the world



evidenced  
by fire





# evidenced by fire

*by Fred Warner*



**T**he awareness group—Jim Cox, David Joslin, Jakie Creech and I—arrived in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on Tuesday night, September 24. Working our way up-country with visits to Yamoussoukro and Bouake, we arrived at Doropo on Friday evening, September 27, about 7:30.

The time of our arrival was providential! We had no sooner unloaded our bags than we were told we would be going to a fetish burning the next day in a village about 25 kilometers from Doropo. Pastor Ernest at Doropo had prayed with an old man in the village who accepted Christ as his Savior. The man (a fetish priest or fetisher) wanted to publicly renounce the fetish and declare his faith in Christ. Commonly, this is done through the burning of all fetishes.

Our missionaries—Clint Morgan, Dr. Kenneth Eagleton and Dr. Mark Paschall—along with the leaders in the church at Doropo had been asked to go to the village for the special occasion. The man had family members who were Christians in the church at Doropo. They also would attend.

After traveling the main road from Doropo toward Bouna, we took a side road to the village. The village was back in the bush so we drove down a path, barely visible due to the vegetation, until we could go no farther. Then we walked the rest of the way.

When we finally arrived, everyone gathered under a big tree near the village courtyard. Greetings were exchanged and we were welcomed and seated in a circle—in the best chairs. Then the old man himself made his public declaration to his

family and members of the village that he was breaking with the fetish and worship of spirits.

Christians from the church and the hospital at Doropo had come to help, to witness and to encourage the man. They offered up several prayers. Then, as the man had directed, his family went to the courtyard, his hut and his field to dig up all his idols so they could be burned.

I had only seen pictures of fetish burnings. I was about to observe the event firsthand. I was told this only happens about eight or ten times a year. Dr. Mark Paschall had been at Doropo since February (eight months) and this was his first opportunity to observe it firsthand. It was just as I had seen in pictures, only more graphic because I was there.

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***Truly, the Word of God being proclaimed by our missionaries and national pastors has the power to turn people "from idols to serve the true and living God."***

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Clint noted the man was really into fetish worship. This was evident from the numerous fetishes he had and especially from the wooden idols he possessed. His fetishes included the wooden idols, skulls and horns of animals, pieces of metal, cowrie shells (used as currency among the Lobis) and even money that had been offered to the fetish.

All the idols were gathered up. Then the altar, where he poured the sacrificial blood

offered to the fetish, was completely destroyed by a man using a short-handled hoe which the Lobis call a "daba."

Dried brush was laid on the ground first and then the man's fetishes (idols) were put on the brush. Believe me, it was hot that Saturday afternoon. The sun was boiling down. That only made the heat from the fire feel hotter. We had to back away into the shade of a tree nearby. The Christians gathered around the burning fetishes and began to sing a Lobi chorus they had written before the service. It went something like, "Demons and fetishes, we don't need you anymore. Leave us and be gone!" Clapping their hands and rejoicing as they sang, they celebrated the deliverance of the old man from the worship of idols.

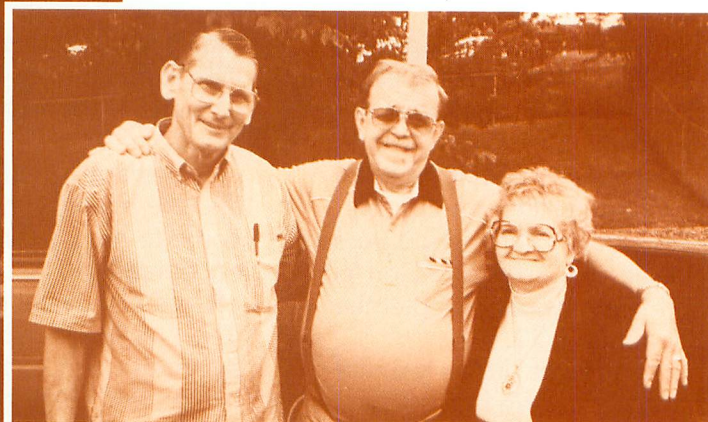
Once the fetishes were burned, we gathered under the big tree once again for a short service with scripture reading, a devotional and a message by Pastor Ernest. The service was closed with three men praying.

We had the rare opportunity of witnessing the dramatic results of conversion to Christ among those who had worshiped the fetish. Truly, the Word of God being proclaimed by our missionaries and national pastors has the power to turn people "from idols to serve the true and living God."

I can think of no better way for a man to break with the fetish and to proclaim his faith in Christ than to literally burn the fetishes he has worshiped. He has been in bondage to them for many years. At last he is free!

Fred Warner is director of missionary-church relations for the Department of Foreign Missions.





*Lucille Steward (at the left) thumbs through her book of letters from missionaries. Veteran missionary Ken Eagleton Sr. (above, left) enjoys fellowship with Wendell and Lucille, friends for many years.*

**"Mrs. Foreign Missions!"** That's what some call her. She is a chunky little live-wire named Lucille Steward, a Michigan firebrand of missions promotion. She loves missionaries and is totally dedicated to spreading the gospel to the regions beyond.

Few people have faced the obstacles Lucille has faced over the years and even fewer have made the kind of impact for world missions she has made. Suffering from cancer since 1980, this gutsy, outspoken missions advocate refuses to

throw in the towel and puts most healthy people to shame with her efforts for missions at home and abroad.

Mrs. Steward, a member of Central Free Will Baptist Church in Royal Oak, Mich., has shuffled in and out of the hospital so many times she says, "I just told them at Beaumont (Detroit hospital) recently that one of those wings should be named after me. I think I have been there for every kind of scan there is. But I'm there every week."

Lucille not only battles her

malignancy, which has spread through much of her body, she also contends with diabetes and arthritis—two physical enemies which have stopped cold many a victim.

"My strength comes from the Lord," declares the stubborn resister of an illness which was diagnosed as terminal many years ago. Often she has clarified with certainty that God won't take her until He gets ready. "I'd be scared to get out of bed if I didn't know the Lord," she concludes.

Many a woman's auxiliary has been challenged by this committed supplier of missionary needs, financial support and intercessory prayer. Churches also know her as one who will not take "no" for an answer and a person who will not let people treat missionaries as second rate.

# MRS. FOREIGN MISSIONS by Don Robirds



Yes, this determined lady from Motor City stays on the go to churches, associations and auxiliaries all over Michigan. She declared, "I don't just attend one district meeting. I attend all the association meetings and all the district meetings. I go to their retreats in the spring, and I get closer. It helps me in mission work. I always talk to them about missions."

Lucille has actively promoted and organized woman's auxiliaries for many years. After working a ten-hour shift, she would get cleaned up and call on her husband, Wendell, to drive her to a church. Mrs. Steward didn't have a driver's license. Wendell would sit in the car for about two hours while she organized an auxiliary. Later, her daughter drove her to the meetings.

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***Few people have faced the obstacles Lucille has faced over the years and even fewer have made the kind of impact for world missions she has made.***

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Missionaries are well acquainted with the Stewards both from personal encounters and from Lucille's extensive correspondence with them. "Back in the spring, we got 17 letters in one day—missions matters," she recalls. "I keep up with missionaries. Over the years I know where they are and how many children they have. I know the kids' needs, and that's important."

At one point the feisty little lady noted that she had sent over 500 packages at

Christmas. "Places like drugstores where I could get empty cigar boxes knew me as the 'Cigar Lady.' They knew I didn't smoke, but they knew I had a reason. Always little items were going into them. I always sewed the little packages up in muslin, and I'd use two or three yards of muslin because the missionaries would use the material for curtains."

Although Wendell is not such an out-front person as Lucille, he has been equally committed and has gone the extra mile even when times were difficult. "How many men would take a week off work every year, rent a trailer or truck and drive to Nashville?" asks Lucille. "We have gathered a total of \$336,000 worth of items for the 'Provision Closet' over the last 15 years. For 1996 we took \$23,350 worth of household items to Nashville."

In July of this year Mrs. Steward almost lost her life in an unsuspected electrical fire which started in their basement. As she opened the door to the fuse box, it exploded. "The heat buildup and combustion threw me about 10 feet across the room. It must have knocked me out," she declares. "My hair was singed pretty bad. My arthritis is so bad I can't get up when I fall, so I crawled across the basement and up the back stairs. Everything was jet black smoke."

Lucille spent most of that night in the hospital due to smoke inhalation. The fire marshall told her she was about three inches from being blown up. If the fuse box door had been closed instead of ajar about six inches, the explosion would have killed her. The

house was damaged severely from the fire, and the Stewards had to move to a motel for several months while repairs were being made. Even during this time they continued to give their all to world missions.

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***"We have gathered a total of \$336,000 worth of items for the 'Provision Closet' over the last 15 years."***

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What was the most significant loss from the fire? Lucille confirms it was the loss of personal gifts and mementos from missionaries around the world. "I was heartbroken when I discovered all my Christmas ornaments gone," she lamented. "I had them from all over the world. Missionaries had brought them to us over the years. There was even one from Pop Willey in Cuba. That was the hardest thing for me to accept."

Quite a number of missionaries have taken the time to go to the Steward home over the years. "One time they gave a banquet for me," says Mrs. Steward. "It was a surprise. A hundred people

*Continued on page 6* →

## HEARTBEAT

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were there, and it included board members and missionaries. Eighty of that 100 had previously been in our home."

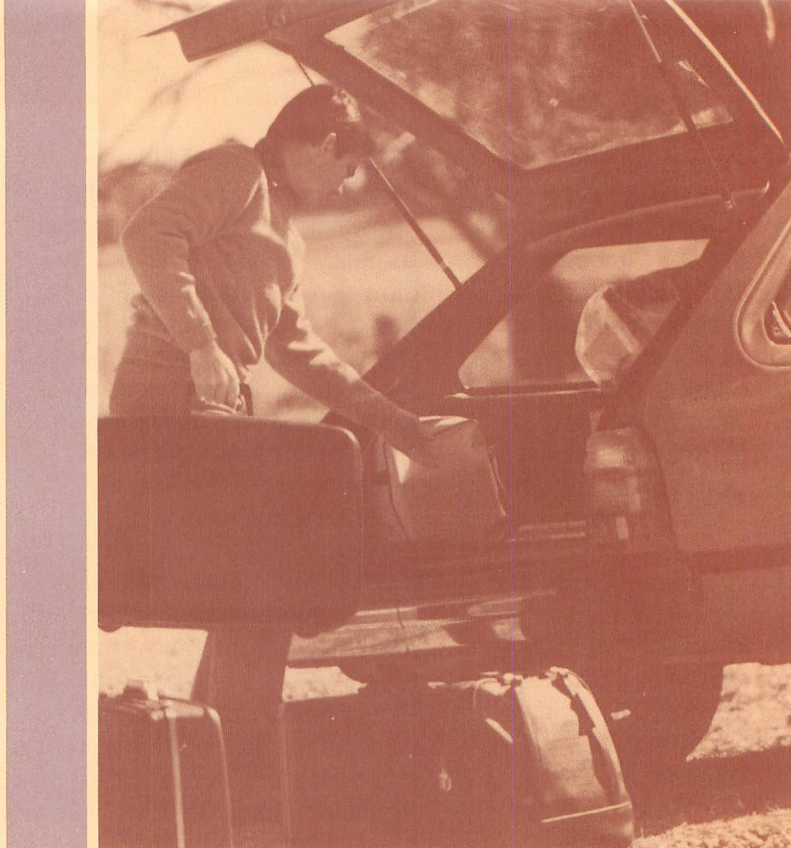
Distressed over the lack of concern for missions in the churches, Lucille says to pastors, "The more you give to the Lord the richer your church will be. I don't think a church can survive without doing exactly what the Lord says."

Although in constant pain, "Mrs. Foreign Missions" confesses, "The Lord has sustained me in every way. Some days it is really hard, but the Lord gives me the strength to get it done." Facing microscopic brain surgery in December of 1996, she urged people to pray for her and then be active in their own churches and auxiliaries. She explained, "When I'm involved with something like that (mission work), I don't have time for pain."

Facing the fact that one day, at God's bidding, she will wind things up on earth to take her heavenly flight, Lucille has been seeking to train others to take up the mantle. She says, "There's so much work to be done. There's enough work for everyone. I've really been praying for the Lord to send the right one."

Well, the foreign missions family would be pleased if the Lord were to leave this fine, dedicated lover of missions and missionaries to serve for many years to come. Just to know about her is a privilege. To know her personally is an immeasurable blessing.

Don Robirds is director of communications for Foreign Missions and is the editor of *Heartbeat*.



# DEPUTATION: more than meets the eye

by Steve Lytle

**F**urlough. A misnomer? Is it just a device designed to disarm the missionary leaving his field of service so a new task can begin under the guise of being a mini-vacation? Is it really furlough or is it actually deputation? And if it is really deputation, why?

Deputation happens to be the missionary's stateside ministry. And this ministry is vital to making the task on the field fruitful.

Often a missionary comes home from his country of service with his account in the deficit. After a few weeks of rest, visits with family, and a period of debriefing and orientation with the foreign missions staff, he begins

deputation.

The deputational ministry starts with phone calls to pastors in order to arrange services. Fred Warner, director of missionary/church relations, also sometimes schedules the missionary in conferences in various parts of the country. Usually the entire year is spent visiting 100 churches or more and preaching, teaching or sharing the ministry needs two hundred times or more, while driving over 40,000 miles. It is tiring and can be discouraging, but it normally proves to be a tremendous blessing.

Personally, I enjoy deputation! It's a thrill to fellowship with so many of God's dear people across our



denomination. I appreciate the opportunity to minister to the congregations I visit, and I see my task as threefold: I must **present the world, preach the Word and promote the work.**

In presenting the world, I seek to broaden the church's vision, deepen its burden and heighten its involvement in world evangelization. I want to expose the congregation to the world of people for whom Christ died—different nations, ethnic groups, cultures and languages.

I also endeavor to preach the Word, expounding pertinent scriptures regarding missions theology and the church's responsibility. I want believers' minds and hearts to encounter the eternal truths of God's Word and the Holy Spirit to bring about the necessary response.

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### ***Deputation happens to be the missionary's stateside ministry.***

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Of course, I also promote my own particular work. The country where I'm assigned—Panama—hopefully receives adequate and enthusiastic coverage during the service. I want people to know what God is doing there and be motivated to pray and give so we can minister effectively and fruitfully.

But, aside from what the missionary tries to do on deputation, a successful deputational ministry will come about only through the cooperation and involvement of churches. Yes, deputation is definitely a team effort involving missionary, pastor, local church

and the foreign missions department. I want to make a few suggestions for enhancing this cooperation.

The pastor must promote missions and particularly the special services or conference when missionaries come to his church. He is definitely the key. If his heart beats for missions, the church will almost always follow his lead.

The church must prioritize missions. When having a special missionary speaker, for example, organization is important. The missionary needs sufficient time during the service (even the Sunday school hour, when feasible) to present his ministry and tell what God is doing. Attention must be given to details such as banners, literature, available tables for display, etc. The pastor should create an environment in which people can be involved and challenged.

Churches need to look for fresh, creative approaches. Where the faith-promise method is no longer effective, they might consider putting a missionary in the budget. Or they might make a commitment through the Global Link program. They also might take on a specific project (a building, an evangelistic crusade, a radio program, etc.) so people can see where their money is going.

In some areas, such as the Coastal Association of Eastern North Carolina, the traditional area-wide round robin conference has fairly good attendance and continues to generate strong financial response. But other churches have tried new approaches with good success. Two instances during our 1995-96

deputational year come to mind.

In the Twin Oak Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, Mo., we participated in a missionary conference which started on Friday night and concluded on Sunday. Ample time was given to have both formal preaching services and in-depth teaching on missions. They also allowed for informal times of sharing, slides and questions and answers. We got to know the people, and real bonding took place. It was really refreshing!

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### ***Yes, deputation is definitely a team effort involving missionary, pastor, local church and the foreign missions department.***

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The second new approach involved a conference in Westerville, Ohio. The pastor and his congregation had invited a home missionary and me for a Sunday through Wednesday night conference. The church had been preparing for months for that week in November. They utilized both missionaries in preaching and informal sharing times. The church was decorated to emphasize missions, special activities were held during the week, and the event was climaxed with a banquet honoring the missionaries. During that special gathering the church presented us the money they had raised for the conference. It was an awesome experience!

The two conferences I've mentioned were certainly

*Continued on page 8→*



→ Continued from page 7  
 highlights and illustrate what careful planning, praying and preparing can do. But I am thankful for all the deputational experiences I've had, even when expectations were seemingly low. One time I drove over 500 miles round trip to a small church where the crowd numbered less than 30 on a Wednesday night. I didn't even put out any faith-promise cards with the other literature I'd brought. Nevertheless, the Spirit of God moved in the service, and afterward no less than four people asked how they could support our ministry. I had to go to the car and get some faith-promise cards!

We all—foreign missions staff, missionaries and pastors—must continue to educate and challenge those in our churches to view deputation as an essential part of the sending and sharing process of the Great Commission. Churches send missionaries and missionaries share with churches. This is not just as a matter of obligation, denominational procedure or routine, but it is a vital New Testament concept. We see the example of the Antioch church sending Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13 and 14. The church SENT them (13:1-4a), the two missionaries SERVED the Lord (Acts 13-14), then they came home and SHARED (KJV “rehearsed”) what the Lord had done (Acts 14:27,28).

Deputational ministry is that time of “rehearsing” what God is doing on the field. Without it, people may be left wondering if their participation is valid or not.

Steve Lytle and his wife, Judy, have served as missionaries to Panama since 1975. They have labored in the Panama City area.



## Simple Commitment

by Don Price

**Y**ou won't find an elaborate building when you visit Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church in Monett, Mo. No flashy sign or meticulously manicured landscape will catch your eye. And no grand piano will greet parishioners as they are seated for worship. In fact, visitors will find none of these or other exterior features generally sought for in a “successful” modern church.

Folks at this small country church in rural Missouri don't have much desire for the elaborate. Rather, they devote their efforts to more important matters. Among these is a commitment to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

While serving as a beacon for the lost in their own community, Macedonia has assumed a vital role in global missions through prayer and financial partnership. Though not seeking special recognition, the church's efforts certainly can serve as a model for other churches.

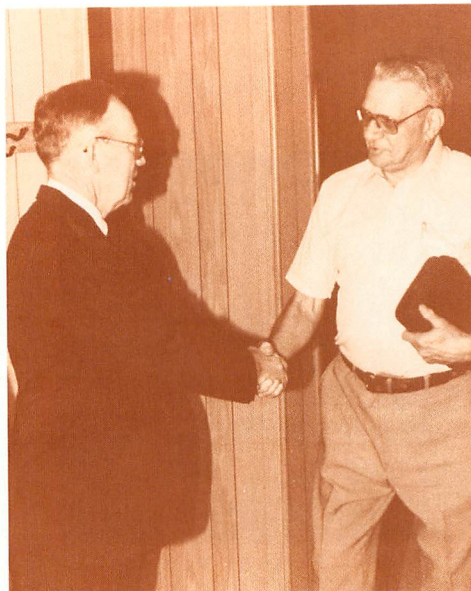
Macedonia's financial efforts on behalf of missions are particularly noteworthy. Over the last six years, Macedonia has contributed more than

\$182,000 to foreign missions—a respectable sum for a small rural church. More striking is the fact that the church gave 56 percent of its total budget to missions in the last fiscal year. “Our people feel privileged to have heard the gospel,” said pastor Lee Neill. “They want to help spread the gospel to those who haven't had the opportunities given them. When they see a need, they respond.”

Contributions from the church, which averages just over 100 people in Sunday morning services, begin with a budgeted 20 percent of total offerings. The pastor noted that this figure was 10 percent initially. Subsequently, it was raised to 15 percent before reaching the current level. In addition, the church has a monthly missions offering.

Beyond these efforts, Neill noted that “it seems our people feel like the church should not have money when it can be used in the Lord's work. Different ones in the church have suggested we ought to send in an extra offering to a missionary that needs it. We're just getting into a habit of doing that.”





*From left to right, Pastor Lee Neill and his wife, Darline, greet people following a Sunday morning service, Neill stands in front of Macedonia church and he greets one of the men in his church.*

The pastor hastened to say, "We don't have any rich people. They are working people, but when they see a need, they just want to give. They're generous, concerned and sincere, and the Lord has really blessed them for it."

The church has not always had such a penchant for giving, according to Neill. He recalled a Sunday morning several years ago when the treasury didn't have enough money to pay the light bill.

"I remember the treasurer made a special appeal that morning to all who were able to give an extra offering so the bill could be paid," recalled Neill.

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***Over the last six years, Macedonia has contributed more than \$182,000 to foreign missions.***

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A change in giving was evident later when the church body decided they needed to construct an addition to the church. According to the pastor, the church borrowed \$40,000 to complete the project.

Though plans called for payment of the loan over several years, church members paid the note within two years. They also continued normal giving to missions during this time.

Since that building project, the church also has added an education wing, refurbished the basement for additional Sunday school rooms and refurnished the sanctuary.

"From that time on, we haven't had money problems," said Neill. "The Lord has just blessed. The people have wanted to give to missionaries, to people whose homes have burned and to people who have had medical emergencies and high medical bills. It seems like the more we give, the more the Lord gives."

Neill, who owns and operates a small dairy farm in addition to pastoring the church, began his career as a high school Spanish teacher and counselor. He has also worked in chamber of commerce management and radio/television news writing.

The 57-year-old leader has been a dairy farmer for about 25 years, and most recently began raising ostriches at the

urging of his wife, Darline. The Neills have five children.

Pastor Neill has led the Macedonia congregation for more than 19 years. He says he assumed leadership on an interim basis after the former pastor resigned. This occurred shortly after Neill, then a deacon, felt the call to preach.

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***"It seems like the more we give, the more the Lord gives."***

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"The church asked me to fill in while they looked for a pastor," Neill said. "I guess they are still looking."

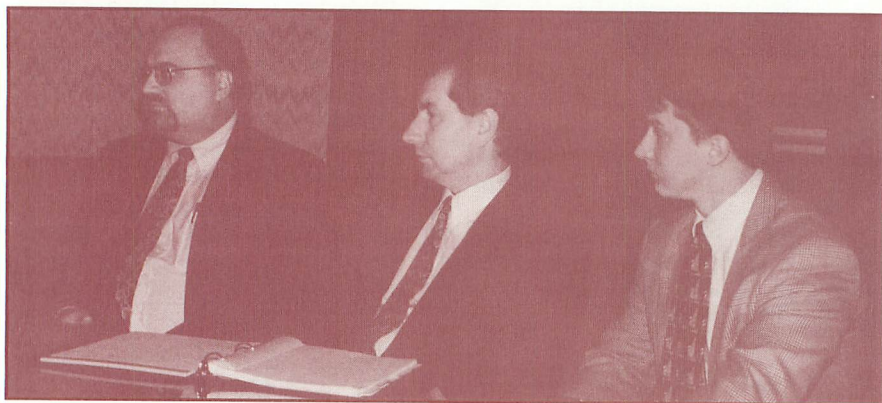
Brother Lee feels a personal burden for missions, particularly since two trips he made to Mexico. While there, he was able to observe that other people don't have the same access to the gospel that Americans have.

The pastor exclaimed, "We just don't realize that a lot of people in the world do not have the privilege of hearing the gospel! They don't have the same opportunities we do. I think if we realized this, there would be a deeper commitment to missions, because this is the only hope these people have."

Don Price, from southern Illinois, is editorial assistant for *Heartbeat* and is a senior at FWB Bible College in Nashville, Tenn.



# News Update



Mike Corley (left) translates for Peter Konovalchik (center) as he speaks to the Board of Foreign Missions. Gary Brossaline (right), a student from Russia, looks on.

## New Church Organizes at Candida in Araras

**Brazil**—According to a recent report from missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras, Brazil, the congregation in Candida has grown rapidly and is moving into a larger meeting area. The Combs indicated the group planned to organize as a church on November 30.

Jim and Shirley were excited that 78 people were present for Sunday night services on November 3. They urged people to pray that God would continue to bless the group and that many people would be saved through this witness.

The Combs also requested prayer regarding the children's home in Araras. Two former workers have filed suit against the home, claiming they were not registered properly with the authorities and therefore they did not receive the benefits they were entitled to. Although these people were not fired, they are suing for a house belonging to the home. They are asking that the house or the proceeds be awarded to them.

## Russian Leader Speaks to Board and Leaders

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Peter Konovalchik, president of the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptists of Russia, spoke to those attending the Leadership Conference in Nashville on December 2 and 3, and met with the Board of Foreign Missions on December 5. The Russian leader has been a principal agent for enabling Free Will Baptists to work cooperatively with the Baptists of Russia.

Speaking to the state and national

leaders, Pastor Konovalchik expressed gratitude for the participation of Free Will Baptists in helping Russian missionaries reach out in church-planting and discipleship. He thanked those who helped translate and publish the book, "Biblical Systematics," by F. Leroy Forlines. He also thanked the Forlines for their teaching ministry in Russia and Ukraine.

As he looked toward the future, the Russian leader urged broader cooperation and participation by Free Will Baptists and encouraged some of those present to go to Russia to help in specialized ministries, such as theological education.

Konovalchik was in the Nashville area from December 1-8, speaking at Horton Heights, Cofer's Chapel, Woodbine, Donelson and New Hope Free Will Baptist churches. He also spoke in chapel at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

## Seven Respond During Evangelistic Meeting

**Japan**—A special evangelistic meeting was held September 17 at the Koinonia church in Noppo, Ebetsu-Shi, Japan. The guest speaker was Pastor Tanaka from Kobi. About 70 people attended the service and seven people responded to an invitation for salvation.

Missionary Dale Bishop also expressed praise to the Lord for the salvation of Mr. Matsubori, a government worker in his mid-20s. Dale indicated the man had been attending regularly for a number of months but recently made his decision for Christ. He is the only Christian in a strong Buddhist family.

On December 4 a young mother was saved in the Bishops' living room. Dale says, "She (Maki) has been attending services off and on for a little over four years. She is telling everyone who will listen that she is now a Christian. Her baptism is scheduled for December 22 during the morning worship."

## Gibbs Expresses Praise for Answered Prayer

**France**—Missionary Jerry Gibbs in St. Nazaire, France, recently expressed praise for the salvation of a young woman named Olivia. Jerry had requested prayer for Olivia and it had been on Missions Hotline. On Sunday, December 1, Olivia gave her heart to the Lord. The missionaries have urged people to pray for her as she grows in faith and knowledge of Christ.

Jerry and Barbara noted that Olivia seemed "dazed" during their recent missions month at the St. Nazaire church. "When I asked her what she was thinking about," says Jerry, "she replied 'Everything, just everything—I heard so much this morning that I never knew before.'"

## Board Appoints Two New Career Missionaries

**Antioch, Tenn.**—The Board of Foreign Missions met at the National Offices building in Antioch, Tenn., December 4 and 5 after attending the Leadership Conference on December 2 and 3.

The board appointed Miss Ginger Harrison and Miss Traci Epps as career missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire. Ginger, a registered nurse, will be working at the hospital in Doropo, and Traci will serve as a career teacher at International Christian Academy in Bouake. Traci had planned to go as a short-term teacher but God changed her mind.

The candidate committee met with several candidates and the board approved the preliminary applications of all those with whom they met.

Appointed to serve as apprentices (the new term adopted to replace student missionary) were Rachel Callaway of Spain to serve with the Alcala Church in Madrid; Traci Clinger of Wheelersburg, Ohio, to serve with Alice Smith in Agni-





Ginger Harrison (left) and Traci Epps have been appointed as career missionaries to work in Côte d'Ivoire.

bilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire; Brian Cooksey of Seffner, Fla., to serve with Steve and Judy Lytle in Panama City, Panama; and David Laws of Dallas, N.C., to work with Jim and Shirley Combs in Araras, Brazil.

Approved to serve with the Go and Be Team for 1997 were Alyssa Hampton of Nashville, Tenn.; Christy Douglas of St. Anne, Ill.; Aaron Baker of Madison, Tenn.; Deanna Nicholson of Ashland City, Tenn.; Heather Rock of Flint, Mich.; Charae Jones of Florence, Ala.; Liz Razar and K.C. Kohn of Decatur, Ill.; Wendy Skelley of Oakley, Ill.; Joe Picklesimer II of Wabash, Ind.; Matthew Price of Belmont, N.C.; and Carla Huff of Republic, Mo. These will go to Ivory Coast for five weeks during the summer of 1997.

The board also worked on revising portions of the Foreign Missions Handbook and set the 1997 retreat for August 11-14. Mark McPeak of Nashville met with the board to review information gathered from a recent survey from a random sampling of *Heartbeat* readers.

The Foreign Missions staff presented the board with a preliminary view of a 10-year strategic plan which is being developed for the department.

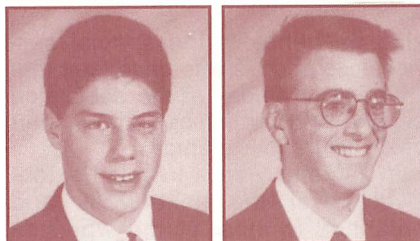
## Deeds Reports 100 People at Children's Program

**Brazil**—"On October 12, we had a special program for children at church with over 100 people present," writes missionary Earnie Deeds from Conselheiro Lafaiete, Brazil. "New people were contacted and we hope some will eventually begin attending regular services," Deeds concluded.

On November 3, the Lafaiete church people surprised Earnie by



Go and Be Team members going to Côte d'Ivoire in the summer are (left to right, back row) K. C. Kohn, Deanna Nicholson, Charae Jones and Liz Razar; (middle row) Matthew Price, Heather Rock, Carla Huff and Joe Picklesimer II; (front row) Aaron Baker, Alyssa Hampton, Wendy Skelley and Christy Douglas.



Serving an apprentice role overseas this summer are (top, left to right) Rachel Callaway, Traci Clinger, (bottom) David Laws and Brian Cooksey.

asking if they could take over the service for his birthday. Deeds noted, "They had an interesting program planned and then afterwards we all had birthday cake together."

Following requests, Jean Deeds began teaching a woman's Bible study on November 7. The study gives orientation for women based on biblical principles.

## Russia, Panama/Cuba TEAMS Planned for 1997

**Antioch, Tenn.**—Ken Eagleton Sr., coordinator for the TEAM ministries with Foreign Missions, announced recently that two groups of high school teens will be selected to travel to Russia and Panama/Cuba in the summer of 1997.

Ken, son Terry and daughter-in-law Jamie will travel with TEAM Russia '97. Marvis Eagleton will not be going this year. Terry and Jamie will serve as TEAM directors.

TEAM Panama/Cuba '97 will work in Panama and Cuba for three weeks and will be led by Mark and Sandra McPeak.

## McDonalds Hold First Services in New Work

**Japan**—Donnie and Ruth McDonald announced plans to have their first service on the evening of December 23 for the new work in Miharashidai, a suburb of Sapporo, Japan.

In announcing the plans, Donnie declared, "We will highlight the Christmas story in special song and testimony, have a short Bible message focusing on the birth of Christ, sing carols by candlelight, and enjoy a time of fellowship, coffee and cookies."

McDonald noted, "The Christmas season gives us a natural bridge for the start of the church, which we have christened 'Miharashidai Chapel.' After our initial evening Christmas service, we will follow up with regular Sunday morning worship and Sunday school."

In late November, the McDonalds began English classes in the area and have gathered some 16 students including adults and children.

## Turnboughs Settle in Majadahonda Area

**Spain**—Jeff and Susan Turnbough, who returned to Spain on November 25, have decided to locate in the Las Rozas/Majadahonda area to begin their new work. The Turnboughs had been in the United States since June of 1995.

The Majadahonda area had been targeted by former missionaries Doc and Norma Caton and Dwain and Debbie Crosby, but circumstances led to the abandonment of the area.

*Continued on page 12* ➔





Anita and Estenio Garcia stand with Tom Willey Jr. in Panama as they reminisce about their years of service in Panama in the 1960s. They were in Panama to dedicate the new building and celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the First FWB Church of Panama City.

—> Continued from page 11

This suburb of Madrid has 75,000 people but has no established churches. The Turnboughs have several contacts in the area: one couple whom they had baptized during their last term and a lady with whom they had studied the gospel.

Sam and June McVay, new appointees, traveled to Spain during December at their own expense to work with Jeff and Susan in determining the location for their new ministry as a missionary team.

## Willey, Garcia Return for Panama Celebration

**Panama**—Former missionaries Tom Willey Jr. and Estenio Garcia returned to Panama in November to help the First Free Will Baptist Church of Panama City celebrate two significant events: the dedication of their new building on November 8 and recognition of their 25th anniversary on November 9.

According to missionary Steve Lytle, the building was packed each night with a total combined attendance of around 300 people.

Tom Willey spoke on Saturday night, recalling the early years of his ministry in Panama and shared many experiences with the audience. He expressed satisfaction at seeing many young men and women who were only children when he began his ministry in 1962.

Estenio Garcia and his wife, Anita, who served in Panama with the Willeys for around four years, were

also on hand for the special services. He and his wife gave their testimonies on Friday at the dedication service and reminisced about their involvement in Panama.

Willey and Garcia traveled extensively over the next week and preached in most of the works in Panama.

Tom Willey was accompanied to Panama by his daughter, Kathy. "Mom" Mabel Willey had planned to accompany her son and granddaughter but was unable due to a fall which left her with some cracked ribs. The four visitors were honored by the Panamanian Association with a special service and meal on Thursday, November 14, at the Betania church.

## Evangelistic Campaign Held in Kurgan, Russia

**Russia**—Christians from the old established church in Kurgan, Russia, conducted an evangelistic campaign in the city during the first part of November 1996. Some 30 people made professions of faith and about 20 people are attending the Bible study services organized out of that meeting.

The musicians and speakers came from the existing church and Nickolay Novikov and his father did most of the preaching.

This effort served to launch a new church ministry in Kurgan. Reports indicate several people are attending the Sunday services and some have already requested water bap-

tism. Leaders are planning Bible doctrine classes for those who are interested.

Free Will Baptists are subsidizing a worker for this new ministry.

## Walkers Adapting to Mongolian Culture

**Mongolia**—Affiliates Terry and Janelda Walker, who are in Mongolia to teach English, have indicated they are getting adjusted to the Mongolian culture.

"We are beginning to visit students' homes for meals—always Boodz (little dumplings steamed with mutton and onion in them)," says Terry. "One week we ate them three times!"

The Walkers indicated that their three children were fitting in very nicely in the culture and making friends.

## Marberry to Teach in Ukraine in March

**Moore, Okla.**—Dr. Thomas L. Marberry of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Oklahoma and his wife, Wilma, will travel to Ukraine of the former Soviet Union. They leave about March 11 and return around April 1.



Dr. Thomas L. Marberry

Dr. Marberry is to fill a short-term teaching assignment in a Bible institute and will be preaching in several churches while there. He will be dealing with subjects such as missions strategy, cults, and the differences between Arminian and Calvinistic theology.

This special teaching assignment is part of the efforts of the National Association of Free Will Baptists to assist the Baptist churches in the former Soviet Union in their growth and development.

## Bailey Grateful for New People at Iriso

**Japan**—"We are thankful for the new people who are attending services," writes Ken Bailey from Iriso church in the Tokyo area of Japan. "One new English class member, Mrs.



Mari Suzuki, has asked us to buy her a Bible. Because this is about a \$40 investment, it tells us she is serious. Please pray for her salvation."

The Baileys also requested prayer for Mrs. Hareyama and her two children, ages 11 and 6. They have recently attended services at Iriso. Mrs. Tochikura, who became a Christian in March, has started bringing her two young daughters, Saki and Naho, to Sunday school even though her husband disapproves.

## Dr. Miley Visits Cuba, Meets with Medical People

**Cuba**—Dr. LaVerne Miley, retired pioneer medical missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, traveled to Cuba on December 6 to meet and minister to those in the Cuban Christian Medical Fellowship. Missionary Stan Bunch of Panama met Miley in Cuba and acted as interpreter.

Dr. Miley addressed the group on the subject of medical ethics from a Christian perspective. He returned to the States on December 13.

## Missions Month Held at St. Nazaire Church

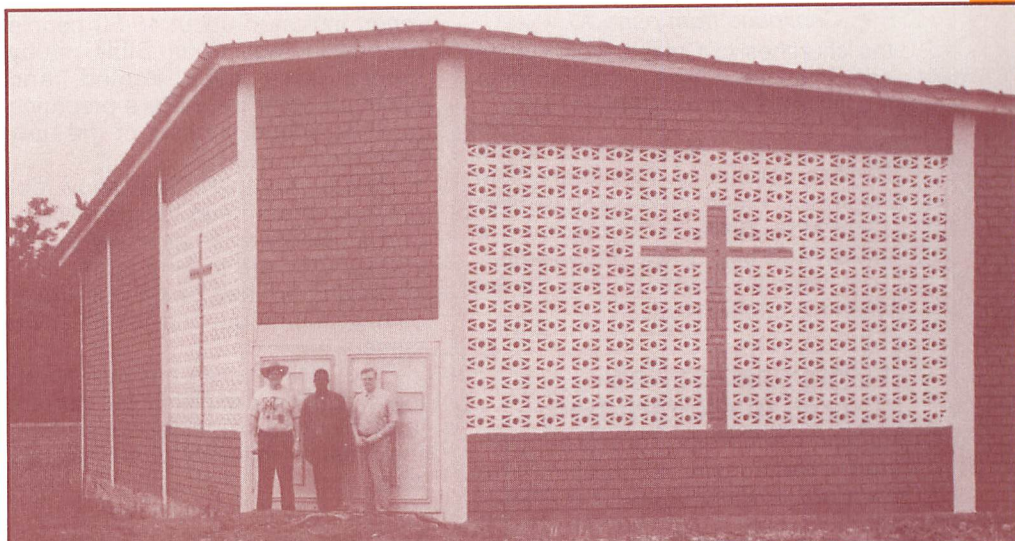
**France**—The Free Will Baptist church in St. Nazaire, France, held its annual missions emphasis during the month of October. The theme for the month-long emphasis was, "I Will Go and Speak."

The second Sunday of the month was under the direction of the teens in the church and related missions to the needs of youth. One of the teens from the church, Enrique, preached his first sermon that day.

The third week in the month focused on Brittany, the region where St. Nazaire is located. A layman presented needs and gave a powerful personal testimony of how God had delivered him from an occultic background.

The final Sunday featured the children carrying flags of the countries where Free Will Baptists work and of countries where ministries are supported by people in the church.

"It was really gratifying to see more lay people involved than ever before in missions month," writes missionary Jerry Gibbs. "Each one is seeing his own responsibility both at church and in the world."



Darrel Nichols, Pastor Jerome Kambou and David Joslin (left to right) stand in front of the new church building in Angibilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire. Dave represents Arkansas Free Will Baptists who raised \$25,000 for the building through the Norman Invasion campaign.

## First Service Held in New Church Building

**Côte d'Ivoire**—"We had our first service in our new church building on Sunday morning, November 3, 1996," writes missionary Alice Smith from Agnibilekrou, Côte d'Ivoire. "Our attendance was 171, a record according to my files!"

Alice noted that they had not yet officially dedicated the building but are hoping they can do so in early January.

"In preparation for our first service, everyone has worked very hard with cleanup, the building of pews, etc." says Alice. "There is still much to be done."

## Mini Reports from Around the Globe

**Panama**—When Steve and Judy Lytle left for Panama in November, two of their sons, Michael and Phillip, remained at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. They urged people to pray for them and for their third son, David, as he gets back into school in Panama.

**Dothan, Ala.**—Missionaries Dave Jr. and Becky Franks recently announced the birth of their third child, Celeste Grace, born on November 14 in Dothan. The baby girl weighed eight pounds, six ounces.

**Côte d'Ivoire**—Missionaries at the medical station in Doropo were in

hopes of having electricity and telephones by the end of 1996. Until now the only electricity came from a generator for a few hours in the evening unless an emergency occurred at the hospital. The nearest telephone is approximately 45 miles away in Bouna.

**Abbeville, Ala.**—Mrs. Pearl Goode, mother of missionary June Hersey, died on Friday, November 8, in Abbeville, Ala. Mrs. Goode had been in declining health for several months. June had spent time with her mother in September, so she did not return from Japan for the funeral.

**Cuba**—At least 86 Protestant house churches have been shut down in Cuba's Camaguey province since late May, according to *News Network International*. The Cuban Ministry of Justice has notified house church leaders across the country to close their "illegal" and "illicit" meetings.

**Seattle, Wash.**—According to recent news from missionaries Ken and Judy Bailey, their daughter, Tracey, is scheduled to be married on March 8 to Mr. Jeremy Delamarter who attends Seattle Pacific University.

**Ina, Ill.**—David Shores, a member of the Board of Foreign Missions, and his wife, Pat, of Ina, Ill., were scheduled to go to Cuba on December 19 for a short visit. The Shores were in

Continued on page 14—▶



# News Update

→ Continued from page 13

the churches of Cuba several years ago. They are scheduled to return to the United States on January 4.

**New Bern, N.C.**—Mrs. Oleta Hughes, mother of missionary Tom Hughes in Brazil, died on November 13 in New Bern, N.C., following a massive stroke a few days earlier. Tom was en route to the States when his mother died.

## 11 Baptized at New Church in Ekaterinberg

**Russia**—According to a recent report from Russia, 11 people were baptized in Ekaterinberg on August 3, 1996—the first baptism of the newly formed "Good News Baptist Church."

The church is meeting in the house of culture and a movie house on different days of the week. The

report indicated about 45-50 people are attending. Four Bible study groups have been formed, and about 10 other people are preparing for the second baptism of the new church.

Pastor Anatoly Cherkasov expressed a real need for prayer support so God would call many to salvation. They are looking to the Lord to provide so they can acquire their own accommodations for the new church.

Free Will Baptists are collaborating in this new ministry, but current laws do not allow missionaries from the west to minister openly in this area.

## Hersey Reports Another Witness Opportunity

**Japan**—According to Fred Hersey, on the evening of November 23 he accompanied two men from the Bihoro Free Will Baptist Church to the Miura home in Tsubetsu for a special service. Mrs. Miura, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sato, an elderly Christian couple who died within a few months of each other during the past year, requested the service. She is not a Christian.

"We told them that Christians do not have the custom like Buddhists, who have a memorial service a year later," writes Hersey.

The two men from the Bihoro church prayed and Fred gave a short message about the Christian view of death and the hope of the resurrection. About 13 relatives were there.

On Sunday afternoon, nine family members walked in the church door and sat right up front. Fred preached a gospel message from Job 22:21-30 with a call for repentance.

"Mr. Sato, the son, is really interested in Christianity," writes Fred. "He had a lot of respect for his dad."

## Two Couples Depart for Fields in January

**Antioch, Tenn.**—Two couples are scheduled to depart on January 6 for their ministries overseas.

Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman of Arkansas are scheduled to leave for Costa Rica on January 6 to begin Spanish language study. This will be their first term on the field, and they plan to work with the Cuna Indians



Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman (top) and Verlin and Deborah Anderson will leave in January for their fields of service.

in Panama.

The Bowermans were commissioned to missionary service on November 17 at Pea Ridge FWB Church in Pea Ridge, Ark.

Verlin and Deborah Anderson of Nashville, Tenn., have been approved for a short term of service at the medical center in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire. They will be returning to the United States on February 16. Deborah is an MK, the daughter of former missionaries Eddie and Sandra Payne. Verlin is a registered nurse.

## Bryans, Pinkertons to Develop Abidjan Work

**Côte d'Ivoire**—According to recent reports from Robert and Judy Bryan and Jerry and Carol Pinkerton in Côte d'Ivoire, they will be working with an African pastor to develop the new ministry in Abidjan, a city of approximately three million people. The team will be working with a group of Christians who have moved to the capital city from some of the Free Will Baptist works in other parts of Ivory Coast.

The Bryans, who have been working with the Evangelical Publishing Center in Abidjan, will shift their efforts to evangelism and church planting. Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, who have been working with the leadership training program in Bondoukou, will now mainly be involved with this group in Abidjan.

## 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
Bethlehem FWB Church Ashland City, Tenn.	Mable Bradley
Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Waddell Nashville, Tenn.	Don Vanhook Lindell Hovis Mrs. Hattie Aldridge Mrs. Lola Filkins Mrs. Beatrice Thomas Mrs. Helen Granger
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Martin Columbia, Ala.	Mrs. Grace Edwards

These individuals gave gifts in memory of Mrs. Oleta Hughes:

Mr. and Mrs. Livingston Jones Ernul, N.C.	Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wetherington New Bern, N.C.
Mr. and Mrs. William H. White New Bern, N.C.	Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCotter New Bern, N.C.

Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson  
Ernul, N.C.

Donor	In Honor of
Orel and Betty Creech Tulsa, Okla.	Inabelle Hamilton

Clip and Mail Coupon

## Special Gifts

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send memorial/honorary card to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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





Veteran missionary Eddie Payne will work on video production and seek to develop the Global Link program.

Kouame Robert is taking over the responsibilities for the leadership training program in Boundoukou. Both missionaries also will be helping in the development of materials for the training classes. The Pinkertons will work with the Abidjan group until April, when they are scheduled for a six-month stateside ministry.

## Payne Takes on Video, Global Link Tasks

Antioch, Tenn.—Former missionary Eddie Payne joined the Foreign Missions staff in December to work in the areas of video production and development of the Global Link program of missionary support.

Payne, who served in Côte d'Ivoire from 1962 to 1988 and taught missions at Free Will Baptist Bible College from the fall of 1989 to spring of 1995, also will be working with the staff in developing a 10-year missions strategy. He assumed the role in video production after Doug Kite decided to accept employment in Kinston, N.C., in October.

Kite had worked for Foreign Missions since 1990, at first in video production and later adding to his responsibilities the development and maintenance of the computer system.

Mrs. Cheri Ham, an active Free Will Baptist who has worked many years as a computer programmer, has joined the department on a part-time basis. She handles computer maintenance and training as well as clerical work for the Global Link program.



Cheri Ham

## Financial Summary Through November 30

### \$ubstance

Total income for October .....	\$ 420,033.23
Total income for November .....	399,704.05
Total income through November .....	3,940,235.00
Projected income through November .....	4,797,150.24
Total expenses through November .....	4,147,885.96
<b>Total 1996 Budget</b> (including VISION projections) .....	<b>\$ 5,229,982.15</b>
<b>Total 1997 Budget</b> (including VISION projections) .....	<b>\$ 4,945,615.88</b>

### \$hortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey .....	\$ 617.56	Midgett .....	\$ 2,224.82
Crosby .....	11,246.77	*Kurgan Missionary .....	2,326.00
Eagleton Sr. ....	14,598.29	Owen .....	10,508.40
*Ekaterinberg Missionary .....	5,237.90	Plunkett .....	6,234.00
Franks Sr. ....	2,834.22	Robinson .....	4,796.64
Griffin .....	2,817.31	Sturgill .....	13,233.54
Hanna .....	2,483.97	Tallent .....	4,172.94
Hersey .....	2,263.92	Willey .....	8,846.96
Holland, C. ....	2,670.11	Wilson .....	619.50
*Kopeysk Missionary .....	291.89	Special Committee .....	18,882.34
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 116,907.08</b>		

\*Russian Baptist missionaries

### \$inking

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

Poole .....	\$ 1,928.07
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## State Goals—1996/97

State	Goal 1996	Goal Through November	Contributions Through November	Goal 1997
Alabama .....	\$ 183,624.80	\$ 168,322.73	\$ 181,752.95	\$ 195,000.00
Arkansas .....	316,612.43	290,228.06	280,637.46	6,500.00
Arizona .....	6,643.67	6,090.03	6,730.08	300,000.00
California .....	84,083.96	77,076.96	61,130.33	83,000.00
Canada .....			4,683.49	10,000.00
Colorado .....	8,823.63	8,088.32	4,908.41	8,000.00
Florida .....	82,007.81	75,173.83	67,145.84	85,000.00
FWB Foundation .....				23,000.00
Georgia .....	159,863.33	146,541.38	173,539.19	200,000.00
Hawaii .....	2,802.80	2,569.23		1,000.00
Idaho .....	3,114.22	2,854.70	1,630.21	1,000.00
Iowa .....	3,321.84	3,045.02	2,437.50	3,000.00
Illinois .....	117,226.16	107,457.31	123,193.29	150,000.00
Indiana .....	36,332.57	33,304.86	50,797.59	40,000.00
Kansas .....	14,533.03	13,321.94	7,686.03	9,000.00
Kentucky .....	85,122.03	78,028.53	57,938.98	80,000.00
Louisiana .....	1,764.73	1,617.66	1,947.04	2,000.00
Maryland .....	13,494.96	12,370.38	31,012.86	29,000.00
Michigan .....	207,805.08	190,487.99	127,918.59	200,000.00
Missouri .....	369,211.52	338,443.89	290,286.81	325,000.00
Mississippi .....	78,893.59	72,319.12	56,765.31	75,000.00
Montana .....	1,764.73	1,617.66	1,945.00	2,500.00
North Carolina .....	575,663.85	527,691.86	560,240.18	570,000.00
Nebraska .....	1,038.07	951.57	2,206.00	1,000.00
New Mexico .....	2,179.95	1,998.29	5,361.31	2,000.00
*Northeast Association .....	2,595.18	2,378.92	3,452.16	2,400.00
**Northwest Association .....	12,494.96	11,453.71	6,314.68	10,000.00
Ohio .....	138,063.78	126,558.47	147,420.34	135,000.00
Oklahoma .....	430,610.16	394,725.98	363,829.87	420,000.00
Pennsylvania .....	1,349.50	1,237.04	914.54	1,000.00
South Carolina .....	263,670.68	241,698.13	219,535.52	255,000.00
Tennessee .....	721,080.38	660,990.35	663,692.56	715,000.00
Texas .....	103,807.36	95,156.74	78,824.10	100,000.00
Virginia .....	125,606.90	115,139.66	94,542.11	110,000.00
Virgin Islands .....	2,491.38	2,283.76	1,725.00	3,000.00
West Virginia .....	115,188.09	105,589.08	101,930.56	110,000.00
WNAC .....	155,711.03	142,735.11	164,976.23	170,000.00
Miscellaneous .....	80,533.85	73,822.70	14,994.79	19,365.88
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>\$ 4,509,132.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,133,371.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,964,046.91</b>	<b>\$ 4,451,765.88</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

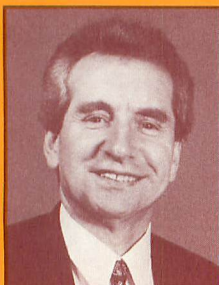
**Board of Foreign Missions:** Joe Grizzle, chairman; Dean Dobbs, vice-chairman; David Shores, secretary; Bill Reagan, Bill Jones, Milton Worthington, James Forlines, David Williford, Bill Van Winkle.

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

*Please clip and mail this label with all correspondence.*

## Free Will Baptists are making an impact on Russia!

Just read about it on pages 10, 12 and 14 of this *Heartbeat*.



**Peter Konovalchik**, president  
of the Russian Christian Baptists, says,

*"Thank you, Free Will Baptists, for your help in supporting Russian Baptist missionaries as they reach out in church planting and discipleship."*

### NEEDED: PARTNERS FOR RUSSIA

Would you or your church like to sponsor the ministry of a Russian missionary to his own people? He can reach them now since he already has the language and understands their culture. But the Russian economy makes outside help essential and Free Will Baptists are helping.

**These current ministry accounts sponsored by Free Will Baptists are in the deficit:**

Ekaterinberg, Kopeysk and Kurgan

Other areas are to be entered soon. They also need supporters or sponsors.

Clip and mail

### PARTNERS FOR RUSSIA

Yes, (I, we) want to partner with Russian missionaries to reach Russians with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- ☐ Please send information on specific ministries we might sponsor totally.
- ☐ Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward the Russian ministry deficits.
- ☐ Please note my monthly commitment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward Russian ministries.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Send your request, gift and/or  
commitment to:

**FOREIGN MISSIONS**

P.O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

