

MAY-JUNE 1997

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

Showing God at work around the world

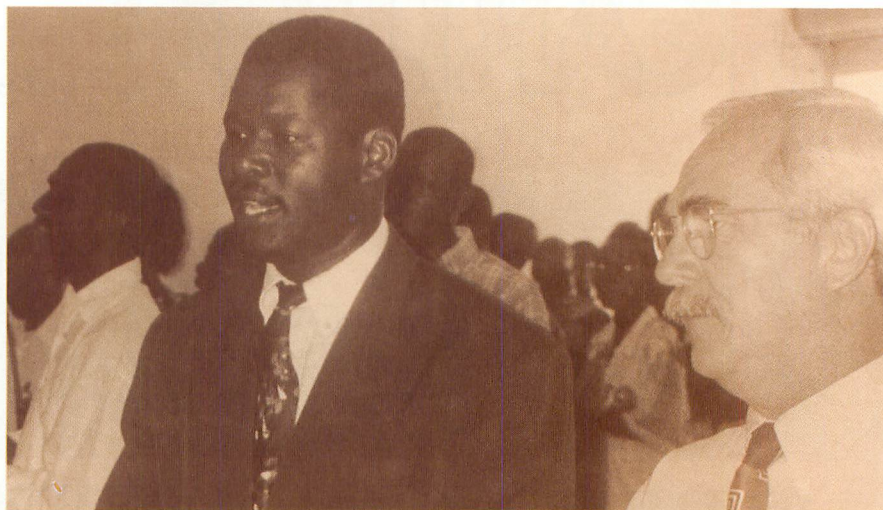
Changing the face of



ABIDJAN

Changing the face of ABIDJAN

by Robert T. Bryan



Jerome Kambou (top, center), president of the Côte d'Ivoire Association of Free Will Baptists, and Côte d'Ivoire Field Chairman Clint Morgan participate in the inauguration service of the church in Abidjan. The Abidjan skyline (middle photo) displays a modern city by anyone's standard. People linger outside the rented hall (bottom) after the inauguration service.

Abidjan. It's unbelievable! First-time visitors don't believe their eyes. They expect mud huts and dirt roads. Instead they find skyscrapers and six-lane auto routes. Looking for villages and a tropical paradise, they encounter more than three and a quarter million people

crowded into a city which endures the traffic jams of four rush hours every day. Instead of a slow pace, they find a bustling economic center with satellite dishes sprouting from buildings everywhere.

The capital city itself is a study in contrasts. Tar paper

shacks border four-lane boulevards. And just a hundred yards from a \$100-a-night four-star hotel, entire families crowd into one- and two-room apartments that rent for \$60 a month. For the price of the breakfast buffet at the luxury hotel, a student could be

nourished for more than two weeks at the local market. A minimum wage laborer may earn \$2.50 a day; if he were to see a doctor at a government hospital, it would take four days' salary to pay the bill. And though it may seem strange, proportionately, more Mercedes cars travel the streets of Abidjan than can be seen in Paris, France.

Ivorians are religious, and Abidjan reflects that. About a million inhabitants—roughly one-third of the city's population—are Roman Catholics. Over a million and a half people are Muslims, and the largest mosque in the country is presently being built in the heart of Abidjan's business district. Only five percent of the population identify themselves as evangelical Christians.

Proportionately, more Mercedes cars travel the streets of Abidjan than can be seen in Paris, France.

In reality, however, the predominant religion is animism. It permeates the lives of practically all Ivorians, including many who claim allegiance to another religion. It is a common sight to see in the middle of an intersection clay pots filled with corn or millet, topped with feathers or an egg—an offering to the gods of that territory for protection. Before exams students regularly "consult" fetish priests and readily buy the amulets or powders which the fetisher says will guarantee their success. It is not uncommon to see well-

dressed business people in air-conditioned offices wearing amulets, bracelets or rings to protect themselves from evil spirits.

Crime, particularly car theft, is a constant fear. Many foreigners flatly refuse to leave their homes after dark. Abandoned and neglected children haunt the streets offering to "guard" someone's car for a handout.

Though we Free Will Baptists have been in Côte d'Ivoire since 1958, we have established churches only in the northeastern section of the country. In 1994 a group of university students who had come out of our churches to the north began holding monthly fellowship meetings, assisted and encouraged by Ernest Holland. Later that year, when Judy and I returned from furlough or stateside assignment, we also began working with the group along with our ministry at the Evangelical Publishing Center. By mid-1996 we were averaging 25 in our twice-a-month meetings, and God had given the group a desire to begin a full-fledged church in the city.

After months of searching, we found a room to rent in Yopougon, the fastest growing section of town, and we began preparing it for use. Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, who had been in Bondoukou, joined us in January of 1997. Finally, on January 19 we held our first weekly service in the new room with 65 people attending. The official inauguration service was held on March 16 with about 95 adults present. That's twice our weekly average of about 45.

The church is off to a good

start due to the commitment of a core group of about 20 young people. All but three of them are unemployed students, who make ends meet as best they can. A few receive a small stipend, some tutor high school students and others depend on family. But what a commitment they have!

The official inauguration service was held on March 16 with about 95 adults present.

When we rented the room, which is a little larger than a two-car garage, we had to clean it, paint it, get electricity connected, install fans (it gets hot out here!), construct benches, build the stage, put down a floor covering and get a keyboard. We also had to pay an advance on the rent. It took us two full days just to scrape down the cement walls and ceiling! Occasionally we had as many as eight of the members working with us. When it came time to pay the bills, they already had more than \$1,800 in the bank for that purpose. That's more than 10 months' salary at minimum wage here, and it represents genuine sacrifice on their part.

While their commitment thrills us, we are certain of one thing—we're not interested in building just another church in Abidjan. If, by God's grace, we can't start a ministry here that will seriously impact this city, neither the Pinkertons nor Judy and I want to waste our time.

We want to CHANGE THE FACE OF ABIDJAN. This will mean finding new ways to reach

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ACTS 1:8

A well in the desert

by Eddie Bowerman

People in an African village— isolated in a hot, dry desert area—suffered greatly due to lack of water during dry season. Just a few shallow wells sustained them when the small streams dried up soon after the wet season ended. In spite of their meager water supply they shared it with other villages which had no wells. But when the opportunity to drill deep wells was presented, people were skeptical and resistant due to their long-standing custom of drawing water by hand. They doubted the validity of such wells with their pumps.

After much discussion and many disagreements, the chief of the village finally said, "Our problem is that we aren't willing to give up the little that we have to gain the great thing we all desperately need."

Like those Africans, I am a bearer of water from my village. I journey to a far away village which is dying of thirst. However, the people in the story and I are much different. Our village has a deep well. It was drilled by the people of Arkansas. We call it The ACTS 1:8 Plan.

ACTS 1:8—Arkansas
Committed to Total Support— started out much like the new well among the people in the African village. Much speculation was put forth as to whether or not something like this could be done. Many, many questions were followed by extensive discussions. Some doubted and some were hopeful. Finally, the people of Arkansas chose The ACTS 1:8 Plan over traditional support methods. They not only chose the program, they unanimously and wholeheartedly adopted it. Through that decision, the

people have changed the missions program in Arkansas, but not overnight. It came through lots of hard work and sacrifice.

I remember meeting some of those who pledged shares in the ACTS 1:8 program. Two little girls received barely \$10 a month in allowance, yet they gave five dollars of that each month. An elderly lady in southern Arkansas barely got by on her check, but never failed to give each month. Teenagers gave up cokes and candy to give. One college girl spent hours on crafts to sell them and give the proceeds to ACTS 1:8.

ACTS 1:8 developed a freedom between pastors and missionaries.

ACTS 1:8 provoked a subtle difference in the outlook of missions. It moved missions involvement from giving to a family or individual to that of giving to missions as a state. Support came from across the state. Not for a missionary. Not even for the ACTS 1:8 program itself. Rather, people gave to see the gospel shared among the nations.

Ideas about missions also changed with this new program. People began to think less in terms of "How much money do YOU need to get the gospel out?" and more on "What must WE do to get the gospel out?" Churches started focusing less on individuals and more on missions as a whole.

ACTS 1:8 developed a freedom between pastors and missionaries. Pastors began to feel at ease inviting missionaries

without the worry over how much support needed to be raised from their church. In talking with one pastor, he summed up this change:

"I am so glad you came to our church. It has been almost 20 years since we have had a missionary. We have been too embarrassed to ask a missionary to come since we were so isolated, and it would probably cost more to come here than what we could give in return. Now, thanks to ACTS 1:8, we don't have to worry about that any more."

Foremost in benefits offered by ACTS 1:8 is the relief from financial pressure that accompanies a missionary's deputational ministry. Unfortunately, when the average missionary goes to a church to share his or her ministry, he or she often feels a dread about financial issues. Sometimes a missionary's presence alone can cause some in the church to have the impulse to ask, "How much does he want this time?"

Prior to ACTS 1:8, some pastors felt financially responsible to see the missionary "get a good offering." And unfortunately,

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HEARTBEAT

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the missionary often felt he or she had to weigh the costs of traveling many miles across many states to participate in conferences or visit a church. The churches needed his challenge yet he knew the trip would cost him three times what he might expect to receive.

The ACTS 1:8 Plan shortened our deputational ministry.

The ACTS 1:8 program relieved those financial pressures for us and the Arkansas churches. It gave new freedom to both pastors and Arkansas missionaries. Pastors have now felt liberty to invite missionaries without having to worry about a large offering. Missionaries now can feel free to call pastors and schedule services regardless of the time of the year, the location of the church or the monetary prospects.

Before ACTS 1:8 I remember calling more than one pastor only to hear him explain that it would be impossible to have us come due to the various offerings his church had given over the past several weeks. I explained to one pastor that under the current program we did not need to solicit support because supporting The ACTS 1:8 Plan meant they were already supporting us. We were immediately asked to come and share our ministry with the church. Why the sudden change of heart? The financial pressure had been removed.

LaRhonda and I also have felt more freedom in sharing our ministry and what God has



ACTS 1:8

A well

in the desert

called us to do, and I believe people in the churches have felt more at ease listening to our future ministry plans.

In addition to easing financial pressures, this plan has SAVED money. Estimates indicate the average missionary spends one dollar to raise three. Most of this spending comes from the countless hours that missionaries travel seeking support. By localizing support to a statewide area or between two states, the plan actually saves money on missionary travel and time.

I know The ACTS 1:8 Plan

shortened our deputational ministry. Normally it takes between one and one-half to two years for missionaries to raise support to leave for their first term. When we were approved, our budget was totally underwritten by the ACTS 1:8 program without our having to go on deputation. We were able to go right on to language school not long after being approved, saving at least two years.

When missionaries return for stateside assignment, their time and costs are minimized, also. This time saved could add up to a full term of service on the field if a missionary were to serve 30 years. Imagine what an extra term on the field could mean to lost men and women around the world!

To the Cuna, the Indian tribe we are seeking to reach in Panama, years mean a lot. The average Cuna only lives to be about 40. To them a few years could mean the difference between life and death. And for a tribe that is still waiting to hear the gospel for the first time, a few years could be an eternity.

The ACTS 1:8 Plan is a wonderful vision of financial support, encouragement, love and prayer. Arkansas Free Will Baptists and the missionaries from that state have formed a true partnership to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord.

If ACTS 1:8 is a success, it is because the people of Arkansas have been willing to follow the CHIEF'S advice and give up their little in the present to gain something much greater in the end.

Eddie Bowerman and his wife, LaRhonda, are in language study in Costa Rica before going on to Panama.

ABIDJAN

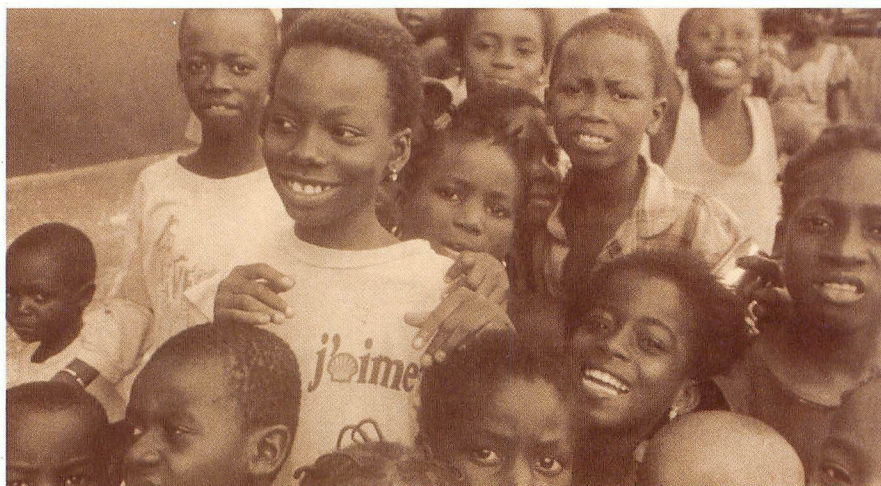
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cultural groups which have been closed to the gospel. It will mean showing in practical ways that the Bible really does have the answers to problems people face every day. It will mean living out in Christian community the "new" commandment Jesus gave us, that we love one another, in order to show that we are indeed his disciples.

Neighborhood outreach groups are primary in our strategy. Christians will meet weekly in homes to share how God has met their needs during the week and to encourage one another. By inviting friends to "come and see" how God is working in their lives, they hope to draw them to Christ. They will study God's Word and pray together to find answers to difficulties of their friends as well as their own.

As friends commit themselves to Christ, they will be taught basic Christian truths and introduced to the transformed life-style of the family of believers of which they have become members. From the beginning, they will be taught that EACH Christian has a ministry to perform.

In addition to the outreach groups, evangelistic teams will target specific clusters of people who might otherwise remain untouched. Street kids, Muslims, professional groups, members of cults, high school and university students and single mothers are just some of those we want to reach. As people are saved, they will be brought into their local outreach group.



Children bunch up around those who participated in the inauguration service of the new church in Abidjan.

By God's grace we intend to have at least three local churches in Abidjan, with at least 1,000 people in each one, within the next five years.

As the ministry expands, we envision youth centers attached to each church, with Christian literature and counseling available, along with sports activities. We might even develop a medical outreach to meet pressing needs, particularly among expectant mothers and young children.

Neighborhood outreach groups are primary in our strategy.

We're now looking for land which we hope to buy. We want to begin building the first worship center and pastor's residence by early 1998. By that summer, we hope to have doubled our numbers twice. We're asking our Ivorian Association of Free Will Baptist Churches to send us an African pastor-missionary by August of 1998, and we are praying for 1,000 members by mid-1999.

To accomplish our goals we must have great vision. Hudson Taylor said, "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." It will take persistent prayer that God will accomplish great things, for it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," the Lord says. And we urgently need unbridled commitment to allow God to work through us to accomplish these goals.

We also must have partners. Partners who will pray that God will break down the barriers of sin, unbelief and the occult. Partners who will bombard God's throne that Satan's power might be defeated in the lives of those whom we will contact. Partners who will pray for God's protection and for encouragement of missionary and African leaders. And it will require partners who will give generously, even sacrificially, so that Satan's bondage can be broken in the lives of people.

Won't you join us in this exciting ministry? Together we CAN change the face of Abidjan!

Robert Bryan and his wife, Judy, have served as missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire since 1968.

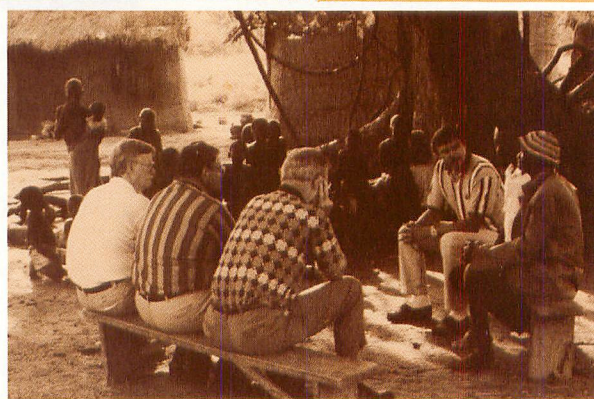


← Left to right—Fred Warner, Jim Cox, their African guide, David Joslin and J. M. Creech pause at the side of the road on the way up-country from Abidjan.

David Joslin, J. M. Creech and Fred Warner listen as missionary Mike Cousineau interprets for a village elder.

EXPOSURE TO AFRICA!

by J. M. Creech



Ivory Coast, West Africa! The first time I ever heard of that place was at the Missionary Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College in the fall of 1956. Director of Foreign Missions Raymond Riggs announced that Free Will Baptists had been assigned the Bondoukou Circle in Ivory Coast, West Africa, with the responsibility to evangelize. He pleaded for missionaries to go.

I remember when Lonnie and Anita Sparks went. Then Bill and Joy Jones and Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley. And I have known most of the missionaries who have been there for these past 40 years.

With little previous exposure to missions, a keen interest was born in my heart at Free Will

Baptist Bible College through daily Missionary Prayer Band and weekly Foreign Missions Fellowship. I told the Lord I was willing to go if He wanted me to, but I never felt "the call." However, for many years I have had a deep desire in my heart to visit the mission field to see first-hand what God was doing through our missionaries.

It is amazing what God has done through the dedication and sacrifice of our missionaries in the medical work and the church in Doropo.

That dream became a reality on September 23 of last year. Fred Warner, David Joslin, Dr.

Jim Cox and I met in Atlanta for our trip to Côte d'Ivoire. Clint Morgan and Robert West met us at the Abidjan airport and took us to the missions house for a good night of much-needed rest.

The missionaries had planned every aspect of our trip so that we could be exposed to as much as possible. From Abidjan we started up-country through Yamoussoukro and into Bouake where my nephew, Paul Creech, and his family serve as house parents at the school for missionary children and where Kim Zegelian teaches. After supper we met with the Free Will Baptist youth for a time of fellowship. Later the 20 boys who live in the Free Will Baptist dormitory came in for a time of

devotions and fellowship.

The next morning we started across country to Doropo. We were on the "dirt roads" for six or seven hours. Doropo is where Dr. Miley began the medical ministry nearly 40 years ago. He started under a tree until Dan Merkh could get the clinic built. Today three doctors—Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, Dr. Mark Paschall and Dr. Paul Gentuso—and the Robert Wests minister at the medical center. Doropo is a town of no electricity (although it is in development), no paved streets, and open-air markets. It is amazing what God has done through the dedication and sacrifice of our missionaries in the medical work and the church in Doropo. And it is all aimed at getting the gospel to the Lobi people.

We spent five days in Doropo in learning sessions. We were told about the African Culture and the problems faced in getting the gospel to these people steeped in animism (ancestor worship). We even got to witness a "fetish burning" a few miles out of Doropo.

Clint Morgan and Mike Cousineau head up the work of the Bible institute in Bouna. It was a blessing to see the quality of training received by the African pastors. Through the ministry of the institute, most of the strongest churches now have trained pastors. Certainly the Bible institute is vital to the continual success of the work in Côte d'Ivoire as the African people assume total leadership of the church.

On the way from Bouna to Bondoukou, we stopped for a short visit with the pastor of one of our churches. We soon

learned that the church folk had not gone to the fields that morning for they were expecting us to have a service with them. Over 100 people showed up for that "unscheduled, any time they get here" Friday morning service. This showed me the dedication of our African brothers and sisters in Christ.

Darrel Nichols met us in Bondoukou. We got to meet several of the women from the Bondoukou church who were having woman's auxiliary that afternoon. We also got to visit the Youth Center.

Then on to Tanda, by way of Sako, the sacred monkey village and the sacred catfish lake between Goumère and Tanda. On Friday we worshiped with the Goumère church, one of our oldest churches in Ivory Coast.

Over 100 people showed up for an "unscheduled, any time they get here" Friday morning service.

After the service, Darrel took us to Agnibilekrou where he had overseen the building of the new church that was constructed through money raised by the youth of Arkansas in the "Norman Invasion." This is the finest church building in Côte d'Ivoire at the present and a great congregation of Christians. We were there for their Saturday night and Sunday morning services.

Before Brother David Joslin preached on Sunday morning, the youth presented him a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for what the youth

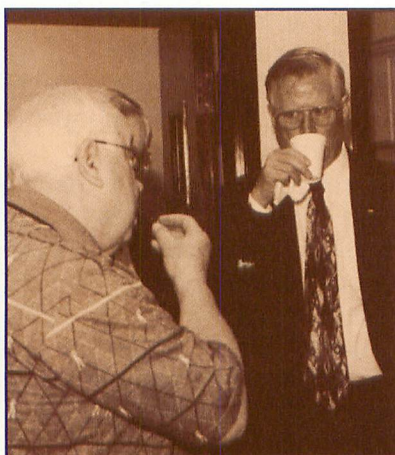
of Arkansas did to provide them a much-needed new church building. To me, this demonstrated the quality of our youth in Côte d'Ivoire. The "fellowship circle" at the close of the Sunday service was a great blessing to me as the people shook hands and formed a circle in the church yard.

Darrel got us back to Abidjan to spend some time with Robert and Judy Bryan. They had arranged a time of fellowship with the leaders of the Abidjan church. These are young adults who have been saved in the churches in the interior and have come to Abidjan to attend the university or to work. I have never met a finer group of Christian young adults in my life. It was such a blessing to be with them. They meet in a rented facility but have started a land fund. The Bryans and the Jerry Pinkertons are now attempting to develop this young church.

I have always loved, prayed for and supported our missionaries, but to be with them on the field and to meet the African Christians gives a person a whole new concept of missions. To see the missionaries' dedication to the task of world evangelization, to witness the sacrifices that they have made to get the job done, and to see the quality of the fruits of their labor makes me want to do more for them. I want to love them, pray for them and support them more so they can continue to win the lost to Christ. From what I have seen, I believe God is truly building His church in Côte d'Ivoire.

J. M. Creech is pastor of the Bellview FWB Church in Colquitt, Ga.

News Update



Nathan Ruble of Missouri (standing, left photo) speaks to those gathered for the special Missionary Support Forum held at the FWB National Offices April 24 and 25. (Right photo, left to right) Jack Richey of Oklahoma and David Joslin of Arkansas talk during fellowship time.

Missionary Support Forum Held at National Offices

Antioch, Tenn.—Leaders from 12 states gathered on April 24 and 25 for a Missionary Support Forum in the main conference room of the Free Will Baptist National Offices in Antioch, Tenn. They discussed various programs of missionary support being developed.

The forum was chaired by Joe Grizzle, chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions. The program was launched with a presentation of Arkansas' Acts 1:8 Plan by James Forlines, moderator of the Arkansas State Association and member of the Board of Foreign Missions. Doug Little of Russellville, Ark., chairman of the missions task force commissioned by the state to develop a program of support, shared the steps that led to adoption of the ACTS 1:8 Plan. Then David Joslin, promotional director for Arkansas Free Will Baptists, showed statistics indicating the success of the program.

Nathan Ruble, executive secretary of Missouri, and Cody Freeman, a Missouri pastor, shared information about their Show Me Plan which was patterned after the Acts 1:8 Plan but modified to fit Missouri's needs.

Ron Moore, promotional director of the State Association of South Carolina, presented The South Carolina Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Plan of Support which was adopted by their state in February and is just being implemented.

John Hollis, chairman of the

Illinois state mission board, explained the Illinois program adopted in March of this year: the Illinois Regional Support Plan.

An open discussion followed and key problem areas were addressed.

As the meeting drew to a close, the group requested a repeat forum for next year at the same time. Eugene Waddell, general director of Foreign Missions, agreed as did the chairman of the board.

Bunches Plan Special Local Fair Ministry

Panama—Missionaries Stan and Brenda Bunch in Panama reported plans to set up a booth at a local fair in Parita during April 25-May 2. They planned to give evangelistic presentations using skits, mime, clowns, magic, balloon sculpture, Bible stories and tract distribution.

The Bunches noted they had been wanting to do this for several years, but this year the Lord made it possible.

Paschall Ministers in Village of Gnamoin

Côte d'Ivoire—Dr. Mark Paschall reported recently that he has been traveling some 45 minutes from Doropo to the village of Gnamoin (pronounced *Nyamway*) to minister to a group of 18-20 believers who have been meeting for some time. The group is one of several village churches that have sprung up as off-spring of the Doropo church or as a result of the medical work. They

have never had a pastor or teacher speak to them on a regular basis.

After Mark's first service in the village, the people asked if he could return to teach more from the Bible. "That first Sunday we met under a tree in the hot sun," writes Dr. Paschall. "The next Sunday they had built a small structure with a thatched roof, and by the third Sunday a pulpit had been added. What a thrill it has been to watch them listening to and absorbing basic truths and stories from the Bible."

Mini Reports from Around the Globe

Brazil—Approximately 200 people from the three churches in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, and the church in Jaboticabal met at Evangelândia, the Free Will Baptist campground, on Good Friday. "The spirit of the services was excellent," writes missionary Bobby Poole.

Costa Rica—Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman in Costa Rica are proud parents of their second daughter, Brianna Nicole, who was born on April 10. The baby weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces.

Spain—Missionary Jeff Turnbough requests prayer for a new family in the Villalba church—a couple with two children—and two ladies who recently visited the church.

Lebanon, Mo.—The Show-Me committee from the state of Missouri has approved 70 percent of the budget of missionary appointee Ginger Harrison. Missouri's Show-Me Plan is similar to the Acts 1:8 Plan of Arkansas.

Côte d'Ivoire—Missionary Robert Bryan in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, requests prayer for Patricia Appo. Bryan noted that Patricia believes she has been under sorcery attacks for the last three years. Nothing she has tried has helped her. He urged people to pray that she will have the courage to confess her sins and receive Christ.

Norfolk, Va.—Former missionary Bill Fulcher underwent bypass surgery on April 23 in Norfolk, Va. He had six bypasses and latest reports indicated he was recovering normally.

Spain—Matthew Turnbough, 18-year-old son of Jeff and Susan Turnbough, is scheduled to return to the United States from Spain shortly after his graduation from high school on June 5. He plans to enter Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall.

Jackson, Tenn.—The Jackson Free Will Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., received a special offering on Easter Sunday, March 30, for Foreign Missions Month. The church designated the \$736.80 offering to the account of Carlisle and Marie Hanna in India. Terry Booker is pastor of the church.

China—English Language Institute/China was informed recently that their proposed McClellan Ministry Center has been finally approved. This building is to be constructed in Beijing.

France—According to missionary Jerry Gibbs, a home Bible study has been started in a town along the coast from St. Nazaire, France. An unsaved couple who were friends of a couple in the St. Nazaire church have begun attending those studies as well as the church services. Jerry says their interest is growing.

Kingsport, Tenn.—Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn., received \$7,667 in a special foreign missions offering on March 30, Easter Sunday. Pastor of the church is Winston Sweeney.

Côte d'Ivoire—Paul and Rhoda Creech, dorm parents at International Christian Academy in Bouake, have a new baby girl, Lydia Grace, born February 23 in Abidjan. The Creeches have two other children: Deborah, age five and Joseph, age three. Rhoda's parents, Chuck and Fleda Snow, were on hand for the birth of their granddaughter.

Bishop Baptizes One on Easter Sunday

Japan—Missionary Dale Bishop baptized Mrs. Naoko Okuyama at the Koinonia church in Nopporo, Japan, on March 30—Easter Sunday.

According to the Bishops, Mrs. Okuyama prayed to receive Christ on February 15, 1997—33 years after she first had contact with the gospel. For years Naoko said she



Missionary Dale Bishop baptizes Mrs. Naoko Okuyama (left), and Mrs. Okuyama gives her testimony (right) regarding her conversion. Many of her friends were present during the special baptismal service.



had watched people who were supposed to be Christians and compared herself to them. She started attending the Koinonia church a few months before she was converted.

"She brought 12 of her friends and family to church on the Sunday she was baptized," says Sandra Bishop. "Most were in church for the very first time."

The Bishops urged people to pray for Mrs. Okuyama's family to be saved. Her husband is a Mormon.

Norman Edwards, a Christian consultant, presented a program audit of the foreign missions department based on his studies and interviews with missionaries, pastors, staff members, board members, etc. He also presented a list of recom-

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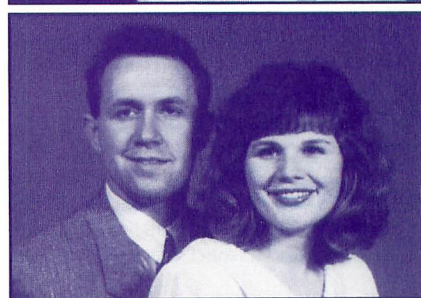
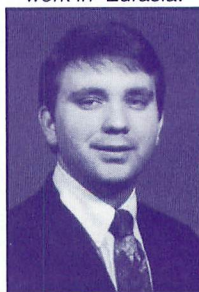
Career missionary appointees are (top to bottom) Verlin and Debbie Anderson to serve in Côte d'Ivoire; Anthony and Lea Edgmon and Tim and Kristi Johnson to labor in Spain.

Board Meets, Appoints Seven for Full Service

Antioch, Tenn.—The Board of Foreign Missions met at the National Offices in Antioch, Tenn., April 21-24 for its annual session.

Action taken included the appointment of seven people for overseas service—three couples and one single. Verlin and Debbie Anderson, currently living in Nashville, Tenn., were appointed as career missionaries to serve at the hospital in Côte d'Ivoire. Verlin is a registered nurse. Anthony and Lea Edgmon, currently of Hollywood, Fla., and Tim and Kristi Johnson, currently of Nashville, Tenn., were appointed as career missionaries to Spain. Kevin Stacy of Sulligent, Ala., was appointed and assigned as a worker in Eurasia.

Kevin Stacy is to work in Eurasia.





Christians in North India pack the church during the annual Free Will Baptist Conference in February. More than 1,500 people attended the gathering.

40-Day Fast for Europe to Begin on May 18

Europe—A 40-day fast is being called for among all European churches starting May 18, 1997. Every church participating will pray and fast for 40 days (six weeks) for six other European churches.

The fasting and re-evangelizing of the continent was the vision of Marcos Barros of Brazil. When he suggested a 40-day fast in England, 110 churches signed up in a very short period. Even now, during the preparation phase, many reports have cited conversions and physical healings.

Although the fast is to last 40 days, Barros explains, "This does not mean that every member of the church has to fast for 40 days, but rather that every person can take part."

54 Youth Attend Teen Camp in Panama

Panama—A teen camp was held March 21-23 in Panama with 54 youth attending—some from most of the Free Will Baptist churches and missions.

A special series of lessons, "True Love Waits," was taught by Stan and Brenda Bunch and Steve and Judy Lytle.

On Sunday, March 23, some 47 young people signed commitment cards to remain sexually pure.

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mentations for the board's consideration.

Field chairmen from seven of the eight fields which have career missionaries met with the board and administrative staff to discuss board policy and to gain insights for planning future strategy.

The board revised the 1997 India budget to include \$2,300 for 10 witnessing "partners." Each will be equipped with a bicycle and literature to contact every house in their area of North India.

Mirial Gainer, associate missionary in Japan, had her official status changed to that of general career missionary.

R. Eugene Waddell announced his intentions to retire as general director of the Department of Foreign Missions effective December 31, 1998. The board appointed a search committee to recommend someone as the next general director.

An MK Scholarship Trust Fund was established to be managed by the Free Will Baptist Foundation.

The board agreed to provide space for the establishment of an "MK Provision Closet."

A tentative Foreign Missions operating budget of \$4,948,000 was approved for 1998. An additional \$773,850 in Vision projects was approved to be raised.

The same board officers were retained for 1997-98: Joe Grizzle, chairman; Dean Dobbs, assistant chairman; and David Shores, secretary.

Hanna Expresses Praise for 1,500 at Conference

India—"Our cups were full as we worshipped Him with more than 1,500 of our believers here on our mission compound during our 1997 annual Free Will Baptist conference (in February)," writes missionary Carlisle Hanna from North India.

"Much hard work had been done by all of us involved," Carlisle continued. "Our three guest speakers were Sherwood Lee, Jimmy Aldridge and Gabriel Massey."

Sixty-eight people followed the Lord in baptism during the conference.

Young people at the teen camp in Panama listen as missionaries Steve and Judy Lytle teach a class on sexual purity entitled "True Love Waits."



The youth elected new officers for their group and chose Carlos Urbina Jr. of the First FWB Church in Panama City as president for next year.

Seven Converts Baptized at Bouna in February

Côte d'Ivoire—Seven converts were baptized at Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire, in February. Mike Cousineau and Clint Morgan each baptized two of the converts and African pastor Amiezi Paul, a graduate of the Bible institute, baptized three people. This was Paul's first time to perform a baptism since being ordained.

Franks Says Three "Pray" in Special Services

Brazil—"God richly blessed as missionary Bobby Aycock preached the Word March 15 and 16," writes Dave Franks from Belo Horizonte, Brazil. "Three people went forward for prayer. Of the five men for whom we requested prayer on Hotline, three attended the services."

Dave indicated a woman, Dona Matilde, has been attending services recently. The woman had tried suicide, politics (especially communism) and had doubted God's existence.

"In desperation, one afternoon she entered her room and closed the door," says Dave. "She read her Bible for about five hours. As she read Psalm 143:8-10, the Holy Spirit spoke to her and she did just as the Psalmist said: 'I placed my trust in God and asked Him to teach me and lead me.'"



Panama women learn how to decorate T-shirts during one of the workshops at the annual women's retreat in March.

The woman says she emerged from her room with the peace of God in her heart. She recently moved to the neighborhood of the Belo Horizonte church and Dave gave her a copy of the Free Will Baptist treatise. She read it and affirmed it to be biblical. Now Matilde indicates she feels God wants her to help tell others in her own neighborhood about Christ.

Work in Kurgan, Russia, Progresses; Six Baptized

Russia—According to an April report from Pastor Nicolay Novikov, eight people have gone through the baptism preparation course in Kurgan, Russia. Six of them have followed the Lord in baptism. Free Will Baptists have been sponsoring this work since its inception.

Pastor Novikov indicated approximately 40 people were attending

meetings regularly. One group of about five people has finished the initial three-month course of study and a new group of about 10 people has been selected for another study.

Panamanian Women Hold Retreat March 14-16

Panama—The Panamanian Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a women's retreat March 14-16 with 49 ladies attending. The theme for the retreat was, "Do You Want Wisdom? Fear the Lord!"

According to missionary Judy Lytle, the main speaker was Adelaida Mendoza from the San Vicente Free Will Baptist Church. Workshops were conducted by Judy, Brenda Bunch and two other ladies.

On Sunday morning, March 16, the women gathered at the beach to sing and pray as they watched the sun rise.

"Many of the ladies made life-changing commitments," says Judy.

Aycock Reports Two Saved at Barbacena

Brazil—Two people were saved in Barbacena recently according to a report from missionary Bobby Aycock. Lea, a young lady 20 years of age, made a profession of faith on Sunday, March 16. Alex, a 23-year-old man, was converted in February.

Lea had been on drugs for five years prior to her conversion. The Aycocks urged people to pray that she might have victory and be a tes-

Continued on page 14 →

Payne's People

By Eddie Payne



News Update

—Continued from page 13

timony to her Catholic family. Alex has been very excited since his conversion and is studying in the Bible institute in Barbacena. He already feels the Lord wants him in full-time Christian service.

Field Chairmen Meet with Staff and Board

Antioch, Tenn.—Missionary field chairmen from seven different fields met with the administrative staff and the Board of Foreign Missions at the National Offices in Antioch, Tenn., April 16-22 to discuss board policies and procedures as well as missions strategy.

Those on hand for the gathering were Bobby Aycock from Brazil, Clint Morgan from Côte d'Ivoire, Dale Bishop from Japan, Steve Lytle from Panama, Jeff Turnbough from Spain, Dave Franks Jr. and Dennis



Missionary field chairmen and Foreign Missions staff members discuss mission policies, strategy development and overseas ministries.

Owen from Uruguay and Jerry Gibbs from France.

The missionaries went as a group to Free Will Baptist Bible College on April 23 and 24. They spoke to the students during chapel and some spoke in individual classes.

The field chairmen also met with many state leaders during a special Missionary Support Forum held on April 24 and 25 in the National Offices.

McDonalds See Progress and Answered Prayer

Japan—Missionaries Don and Ruth McDonald expressed praise recently over the progress of the new work in Miharashidai in northern Japan.

"We prayed that the Lord would send us 20 English students," write Donnie and Ruth. "The Lord has given us 29! We prayed for a successful first service, and He answered by sending 41 people to our December 23 evening outreach! We prayed that the Lord would send people to our new Sunday school and church and He has done just that!"

The McDonalds were excited about responses to a questionnaire given out at the Christmas evening meeting which asked, "Are you interested in learning more about Christianity?" Mr. Matshushita, a retired school teacher who has kept a Gideon Bible since his student days, answered, "Yes." A young housewife, who studies in the English class, commented, "This is my first time ever to come to a Christian church, but through tonight I understood a little about Jesus."

A 60-year-old Christian lady living in the community has begun attending the new church each Sunday and is now meeting with them for the midweek prayer service.

Donnie and Ruth have requested people to pray for all of these contacts and for those who are attend-

Special Gifts

These individuals gave special gifts in February and March in memory or in honor of friends or loved ones:

Donor	In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. C. McHarney III Gary, N.C.	Oleta Hughes
Ruby Kinion Broken Arrow, Okla.	Maxine Thurber
Jerry Waddell Millersville, Md.	Geneva Pope
R. Eugene Waddell Nashville, Tenn.	Geneva Pope
Robert Waddell Wilson, N.C.	Geneva Pope

Donor	In Honor of
Twin Oaks FWB Church Fredericktown, Mo.	Vernon Skiles

These individuals gave gifts in memory of
Mrs. Eleanor Anderson:

Marjorie Heffron Emporia, Kan.	Andale Farmers Co-op Andale, Kan.
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Trewne Wichita, Kan.	Mr. and Mrs. Billy Easterly Degoville, Tex.
Bertha Webber Wichita, Kan.	Linda Gross Wichita, Kan.
Alice Hoffman Fowler, Kan.	Dalgarn Dodge City, Kan.
Ira Salmon Fowler, Kan.	Jim Anderson El Dorado, Kan.

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These individuals also gave gifts in memory of
Mrs. Eleanor Anderson:

Enid Wellis El Dorado, Kan.	Frances Maynard Wichita, Kan.
Mona Ratzlaff and family Fowler, Kan.	Erleen Salmon Wichita, Kan.
JoAnn Parrish Wichita, Kan.	Greg Salmon Wichita, Kan.
Mary Fankhauser Emporia, Kan.	Wesler Fankhauser Emporia, Kan.
Jennifer Neilson Emporia, Kan.	Bron Sioul Emporia, Kan.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Jacobs
Haysville, Kan.

These individuals gave gifts in memory of
Mrs. Gladys Cooper:

Iva J. Daniels Kirkville, Mo.	Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wikler Olathe, Kan.
Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Sevits Kirkville, Mo.	Mrs. D.E. Riley Kirkville, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Thomas Kirkville, Mo.	Dora and Elizabeth Sponsler Kirkville, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. William Baiotto Kirkville, Mo.	Patricia Townsend Riverside, Calif.
Rollie Mathes Kirkville, Mo.	Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Cooper Brashear, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Cooper Kirkville, Mo.	Marianna Giovannini Kirkville, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baldwin Kirkville, Mo.	Glenna Foster Kirkville, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. William Sevits Kirkville, Mo.	Marvin Gregory Greentop, Mo.
Vivian Coleman Kirkville, Mo.	Hazel Green FWB Church Kirkville, Mo.
Frances Casey Kirkville, Mo.	Kathleen O'Connor Prairie Village, Kan.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Lundquist
Milan, Mo.

ing services. Sunday school for children was begun on January 26 and eight to 12 children attend each week.

Pastor Charged in Mob Attack in Guatemala

Guatemala—An evangelical pastor in Guatemala has been arrested and charged with murder and participating in a mob attack on two suspected baby-snatchers. The March 5 attack left one woman dead.

Eugenio Nij, 39, pastor of the San Raymundo Church of Christ for 17 years, was arrested along with five other people. Nij operates an orphanage and a school and has helped start several churches in Guatemala in cooperation with the New Iberian Mission Association.

Police officials reported that Carmen Gonzalez, 23, was beaten to death in the attack by around 1,000 people who used stones, boards and a homemade dumbbell. Officials said that virtually the entire population of San Raymundo, 13 miles northwest of Guatemala City, was involved in the attack.

A source familiar with the local situation explained: "The government has always sought a way to close the free school, the orphanage and the churches. This is how they plan to do it."

Pickpocket Gets \$154 from Ken Eagleton

Brazil—Missionary Ken Eagleton lost \$154 recently when his wallet was stolen at the bus station in Campinas, Brazil.

"The \$154 stolen was the last of our travel funds that we had in Brazilian currency," says Ken.

The Eagletons have been teaching Bible classes in the extension Bible institute in Barbacena, Brazil, and are expected to return to the United States early in May.

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Financial Summary Through January 1997

\$ubstance

Total income for February 1997.....	\$ 306,491.80
Total income for March 1997.....	366,584.51
Total income through March 1997.....	914,705.57
Projected income through March 1997.....	1,238,740.42
Total expenses through January 1997.....	1,054,413.87
Total 1997 Budget (including VISION projects).....	\$4,954,961.67

\$hortage

All of the following accounts are in the deficit:

Combs.....	\$ 182.40	McFall.....	\$ 882.65
Crosby.....	5,773.52	Midgett.....	338.97
Eagleton Sr.....	12,853.86	Owen.....	9,427.90
Ekaterinburg missionary.....	5,506.25	Robinson.....	4,647.84
Franks Sr.....	7,808.55	Sturgill.....	6,271.00
Hanna.....	4,336.13	Tallent.....	3,958.90
Hersey.....	8,000.00	Wilson.....	835.35
Kamyslov missionary.....	479.25	Willey.....	9,070.75
Kopeysk missionary.....	1,082.69	Special committee.....	18,882.34
Kurgan missionary.....	423.52	General Fund.....	30,555.43
Informational/Promotional Services.....	4,027.21		
Total.....			\$127,424.51

\$inking

The following accounts are in the black but in serious need:

Teague.....	\$ 352.38
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State Goals—1997

States/ Organizations	Goal 1997	Goal Through March	Contributions Through March
Alabama.....	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 48,750.00	\$ 49,625.47
Arkansas.....	300,000.00	75,000.00	69,030.43
Arizona.....	6,500.00	1,625.00	1,700.00
California.....	83,000.00	20,750.00	14,673.51
Canada.....	10,000.00	2,500.00	2,091.20
Colorado.....	8,000.00	2,000.00	2,479.28
Florida.....	85,000.00	21,250.00	18,867.12
Georgia.....	200,000.00	50,000.00	44,717.12
Idaho.....	1,000.00	250.00	285.00
Iowa.....	3,000.00	750.00	773.83
Illinois.....	150,000.00	37,500.00	29,517.61
Indiana.....	40,000.00	10,000.00	8,787.67
Hawaii.....	1,000.00	250.00	-
Kansas.....	9,000.00	2,250.00	1,861.00
Kentucky.....	80,000.00	20,000.00	16,927.45
Louisiana.....	2,000.00	500.00	105.00
Maryland.....	29,000.00	7,250.00	9,593.33
Michigan.....	200,000.00	50,000.00	16,455.21
Missouri.....	325,000.00	81,250.00	57,529.89
Mississippi.....	75,000.00	18,750.00	14,327.47
Montana.....	2,500.00	625.00	350.00
North Carolina.....	570,000.00	142,500.00	138,952.78
Nebraska.....	1,000.00	250.00	363.00
New Mexico.....	2,000.00	500.00	595.91
*Northeast Association.....	2,400.00	600.00	394.00
**Northwest Association.....	10,000.00	2,500.00	1,473.14
Ohio.....	135,000.00	33,750.00	26,209.67
Oklahoma.....	420,000.00	105,000.00	95,331.62
Pennsylvania.....	1,000.00	250.00	50.00
South Carolina.....	255,000.00	63,750.00	50,955.07
Tennessee.....	715,000.00	178,750.00	142,853.45
Texas.....	100,000.00	25,000.00	15,026.85
Virginia.....	110,000.00	27,500.00	21,579.20
Virgin Islands.....	3,000.00	750.00	330.00
West Virginia.....	110,000.00	27,500.00	21,505.74
Free Will Baptist Foundation.....	23,000.00	5,750.00	-
Miscellaneous.....	19,365.88	4,841.47	3,703.81
WNAC.....	170,000.00	42,500.00	32,000.61
Totals.....	\$ 4,451,765.88***	\$ 1,112,941.47	\$ 911,022.44

*Northeast Association

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

**Northwest Association

Alaska, Oregon and Washington

***Does not include VISION projects.

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

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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 stateside ministries; Don Robirds, director of communications; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary; Robert Conley, treasurer.

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