



# HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions

JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
1999

**Showing God at work around the world**



*General Director  
James Forlines  
seeks . . .*

## Mobilization for Christ

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*General Director  
James Forlines Seeks . . .*

# Mobilization for Christ

**H**e was just a teenager when I first came to the office of Foreign Missions in December of 1971. But even in those days, James Forlines was making his mark. He was actively involved in music and youth ministries. In 1975 he teamed with another teen named Paul Harrison to win the Bible Bowl competition at the National Association in Dayton, Ohio. Today he is the new general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions.

Born to Leroy and Fay Forlines on December 11, 1958, James grew up in Nashville, spending a lot of time on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College where his father was a professor. He graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1976 and earned his B.A. degree from FWBBC in 1980. James also

*by Don Robirds*

attended Anderson School of Theology in Indiana and the graduate school of FWBBC.

*Missions was stressed in the Forlines home when James was growing up.*

Brother Forlines met Anita Ganey from Hendersonville, N.C., while attending FWBBC. They were married December 17, 1977, and they have three children. Daniel, age 19, is a freshman at the School of Engineering of Vanderbilt University; Rachel, 15, is a sophomore at Overton High School in Nashville; and Rebekah, age 14, is an eighth grader at McMurray

Middle School.

"I think my most rewarding ministry is my family," James declares. "Other than that, God did something special for my family and for Allen Chapel, the church I pastored in Batesville, Ark. We stayed there 12 years and saw the church grow in every way during that time. As a pastor, I grew personally there and the church supported my leadership."

James served as youth pastor at First FWB Church in Gastonia, N.C., from July of 1980 to July of 1982. From August of 1982 till the summer of 1986 he pastored the First FWB Church in Chesterfield, Ind. He worked for a short period of time with Archie Ratliff in Indianapolis before assuming the pastorate of Allen Chapel FWB Church in Batesville in September of 1986. He



served Allen Chapel until he came with the Department of Foreign Missions in August of 1998. He also served one year as assistant moderator of Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptists before his tenure as moderator from 1993 to 1998.

Mr. Forlines has served various roles in working with the National Youth Conference. He also has written teen curriculum for Randall House Publications.

Missions was stressed in the Forlines home when James was growing up, and he met many missionaries as a child. He became well acquainted with pioneer missionary Laura Belle Barnard while she was teaching at FWBBC. "I remember going to Miss Barnard's apartment by myself when I was about 10 years of age," says James. "I sat down and listened to her share a strong vision for those who had never heard the Gospel."

The impact of knowing Miss Barnard and other missionaries was strong on young James. He also credits Dan Cronk and Eugene Waddell with challenging him with their passion to reach the world for Christ. Since graduating from college, he personally has sought to mobilize people for the cause of world evangelism. But he says, "Probably my election to the Board of Foreign Missions in 1994 was a real turning point, because what had always been a passion of mine, I at last had the opportunity to exercise on a broader scale."

James attributes his providential placement among cooperative, missions-minded people in Arkansas as the grounds for believing "we can do more together than we can do apart." He says what the state did to lead the way in missions giving

helped prepare him for his vision to mobilize the entire denomination to involvement in world evangelism.

"We need to mobilize an entire generation of young people for God's call on their lives," declares the new general director. "We must help them answer the question, 'What is my place in God's call to reach the world?' Then hundreds, perhaps even thousands, need to say, 'I should be on a foreign field!' The rest need to find their place here. We need lay people to accept short-term assignments overseas, to be missionary advocates here, to be active on missions committees in their local churches, etc."

*"We need to mobilize an entire generation of young people for God's call on their lives."*

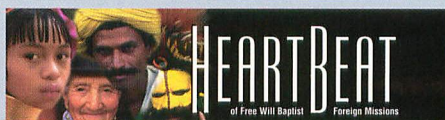
Brother James also shared his concern that the denomination be mobilized in sincere, coordinated and passionate prayer for the world. "I am thankful for those prayer warriors who have supported the areas of the world where we have FWB missionaries," he says. "But we need to pray for the **whole world**, especially for the resistant countries and unreached peoples."

The third area on Mr. Forlines' mobilization agenda involves expansion of the support base. "This is where we have to partner with Home Missions to encourage the

starting of hundreds of new FWB churches in the United States," declares the new leader.

Finally, Brother Forlines believes mobilization needs to extend to churches and people around the globe. "What if we could mobilize young people in Brazil, Uruguay, Cuba, France, Russia and other countries?" he asked. "The great commission was not given just for Christians in the U.S. It was given to every believer. So I look forward to the day when Free Will Baptists in North America will partner with Free Will Baptists around the globe to send missionaries to other areas of the world."

In addition to the mobilization of people and churches around the world, Mr. Forlines stressed the urgency of developing interdependency within the denominational agencies. "We need one another," he claims. "We cannot fulfill Acts 1:8 unless we are starting churches in the United States. We desperately need FWBBC and our other colleges to train soldiers for the army of the Lord. Randall House, our publishing arm, must be an integral part in facilitating publishing the Word around the globe. The men's and women's ministries must provide opportunities for service around the world. I think it's time for our denomination to join hands and determine there is a cause—the cause of Jesus Christ as set forth in Acts 1:8—reaching Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth."



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R. Eugene Waddell (right) gives the missionary charge to Verlin and Debbie Anderson.

## Andersons Depart for Language Study

Newly commissioned missionaries Verlin and Debbie Anderson left Nashville, Tenn., on December 5 en route to Michigan and then to Quebec, Canada, where they will begin their study of the French language. Verlin and Debbie were officially commissioned to missionary service on November 22 at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville.

The Andersons plan to study in Quebec for a year.

## Board Meets, Opens Field in Korea

The Board of Foreign Missions met December 7-10 at Antioch, Tenn. Action included the opening of a ministry in South Korea and the appointment of two associate missionaries. They also appointed four overseas assistants, nine overseas apprentices and 12 to serve with Team Renaissance 1999 in France. One couple also was approved for service with English Language Institute in Mongolia.

Paul and Rhoda Creech were granted a year's leave of absence beginning in June so they can get educational help for their son.

Dr. John and Mrs. Chang of South Korea were charged with the task of developing a program to establish a Free Will Baptist Church in Korea, train missionaries and ex-



Dr. and Mrs. John Chang hope to start a Free Will Baptist denomination in Korea.

pand into other Pacific Rim countries. They began their ministry on January 1. Officially they will act as mission consultants and coordinators for Pacific Rim countries.

Matthew and Christine Price of Nashville, Tenn., will serve one year as overseas assistants with Steve and Becky Riggs in Nantes, France. Jeremy Maxwell of Russellville, Ark., and Adam Morgan of Côte d'Ivoire will also serve in France from August through December of 1999.

Jeff and Melissa Lunsford of Thomaston, Ga., will serve as affiliates working with ELI.

The Board changed the date of the foreign missions retreat to August 9-13.

## Aycock Says Two Called to Preach, Five Baptized

Two young men, 20-year-old Ricardo and 17-year-old Renato, answered the call to preach recently in Barbacena, Brazil. According to mis-

sionary Bobby Aycock, Edneia, 16 years old, also dedicated her life to be a missionary while 15-year-old Fabiana surrendered her life for full-time Christian service.

At the end of October a single lady and two brothers and their wives were saved and a week later a 60-year-old lady came to know the Lord.

Aycock noted that five converts were baptized on December 13: Ricardo, Renato, Denilson, Douglas and Caetano. A sixth man, Ronaldo, was unable to be baptized because of a broken leg.

## Uruguay Home Meetings Pay Off

Twenty-three people packed into a small living room in Montevideo, Uruguay, recently in a home outreach gathering. "The majority of these were not Christians," writes Dave Franks, Jr. "The next day two ladies from the group came to church. Maria Cilia Machi accepted Christ and Stella Acunã rededicated her life to the Lord."

On Sunday, December 6, four people were baptized in the river near Montevideo: Nidia Ricarte de Velazquez, Juan Manuel Ricarte, and Elizabeth and Vanesa Canto.

## Lengthy E-mails Cost Missionaries Money

Lengthy e-mail letters overseas are costing some missionaries big bucks according to a report from Côte d'Ivoire and other areas of the world. Carol Pinkerton says, "Overseas e-mail is not cheap. We want, and are thankful for, short news; but we've been getting some really long stories, jokes and such. But it isn't free here. Even funny jokes lose their humor when the price is high."

In some areas of the world, e-mail messages cost according to the number of characters sent or received and some include long distance charges.





Charity VanWinkle



Kevin Stacy

## VanWinkle, Stacy Seek Unreached Peoples

Miss Charity VanWinkle and Kevin Stacy, missionaries to unreached peoples, are scheduled to leave the United States on February 28 to begin their four-year term of service. Their exact locations have not been specified for security purposes.

## News Capsules

**Spain**—On October 25 the Alcala de Henares church in a suburb of Madrid, Spain, celebrated 22 years since its founding.

**South Carolina**—David and Valerie Sturgill Ponder gave birth to their first child, Deborah Lynn, on December 17 in Turbeville, S.C. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. She is the granddaughter of missionaries Jim and Vicki Sturgill of Brazil.

**Canada**—Ginger Harrison, missionary nurse to Côte d'Ivoire, is scheduled to leave Quebec, Canada, at the end of February and will start tropical medicine training in Belgium in March.

**Brazil**—Missionaries Jim and Vicki Sturgill of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, returned to the United States on November 24 to begin a short state-side assignment.

**France**—In early November, a lady was saved at the St. Nazaire church in France. According to Jerry Gibbs she already is interested in baptism. This is unusual in France.

**Brazil**—Missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole marked their 38th year of service in Brazil on December 14.

**Côte d'Ivoire**—Dr. Kenneth Eagleton has been teaching three subjects at the Bible Institute in Bouna



Kevin Stacy, Jaime and Tammy Lancaster with their two sons, and Cathy and Mike Corley bear flags during their November 6 commissioning service in Madison, Ala.

this semester: Spiritual Gifts, Stewardship, and The Christian Family.

**Michigan**—Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschall officially ended their ministry under the Board of Foreign Missions on December 31. The Paschalls had served one full term at the hospital at Doropo in Côte d'Ivoire. Dr. Paschall expects to resume a medical practice in the area of Detroit, Mich.

## Kontin Paul Dies in Doropo Hospital

Kontin Paul, an elderly converted witch doctor in northern Côte d'Ivoire, died on Thursday evening, November 19, at the hospital in Doropo.



Kontin Paul

Kontin was saved under the ministry of Dr. LaVerne Miley many years ago and continued as a faithful Christian, sharing his faith at every opportunity. Many who met him said they would never forget him.

## Awareness Team Sees Brazil FWB Work

Five pastors from around the United States joined missionaries Ken and Marvis Eagleton on October 26 in an awareness tour of Free Will Baptist work in Brazil.

Those making the tour included Allen Whitt of Sophia Free Will Baptist Church in Sophia, W.Va.; Donnie Price of Rosebud FWB Church in Wilson, N.C.; Gene Norris of Philadelphia FWB Church in Clinton

Township, Mich.; Danny Scott of Wasco FWB Church in Wasco, Calif.; and George Naumann of Hannon FWB Church in Liberal, Mo. They returned to the United States on November 10.

## Five Commissioned to Serve Overseas

Five Alabama missionary appointees were commissioned for overseas service on November 6 during the Alabama State Association in Madison, Ala.

Commissioned were Mike and Cathy Corley to Russia, Jaime and Tammy Lancaster to Uruguay and Kevin Stacy to unreached peoples. This was the first commissioning service for multiple candidates to be held at a state association.

## Nine to Serve as Overseas Apprentices

Nine students are scheduled to serve as overseas apprentices during the summer of 1999.

Adam and Darla Davis of Nashville, Tenn., will work with Donnie and Ruth McDonald while Susan Pattengill of Farmington, Mo., will work with Miss Mirial Gainer in northern Japan.

Terry and Deloris Vandivort of Wentzville, Mo., and Micah Derby (not confirmed) of Clovis, Ga., will aid Kevin Stacy in outreach to unreached peoples while Anna Beck of Norfolk, Va., is to work with Charity VanWinkle.

Jonathan Turnbough of Batesville, Ark., and Walter Lee (not confirmed) of Florence, S.C., will minister in Russia.



# NEWS IN REVIEW

## Bowermans Return to Panama Ministry

Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman, who have been in the United States from Panama since June 18, were given clearance to return to Panama in December. Eddie has been recovering from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Panama in May.

Eddie says, "The doctor told me that my leg is fully healed and I will be able to return to Panama in January."

## Curt Holland Robbed After Money Exchange

Missionary Curt Holland was robbed on November 10 just after leaving the bank with the Brazilian currency which he had received in exchange for dollars a few minutes earlier.

"I was about 30 yards from the bank," says Curt. "I was not hurt, but I was shook up and mad that I had been robbed of a lot of money."

## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

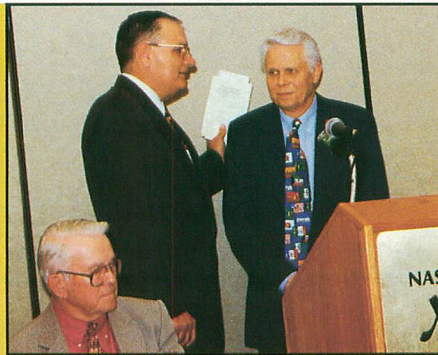
These special gifts were received in October and November 1998:

Donor	In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Jim E. Ragan Hermitage, Tenn.	Robert Waddell
Mr. Lerry J. O'Neill Baltimore, Md.	Robert Waddell
North Zulch FWB Church North Zulch, Tex.	Mabel Willey
Dr. and Mrs. Thurman M. Pate, Jr. Nashville, Tenn.	Bess Hampton
Rev. and Mrs. Paul Harrison Nashville, Tenn.	Arnold Harper
First FWB Church Farmington, Mo.	Milo Knuckles
Donor	In Honor of
United FWB Church Dickson, Tenn.	Bob Baggett

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 \_\_\_\_\_



Board Chairman Bill Jones (left) presents gifts to Brother Waddell.

## Waddell Honored on His Retirement

R. Eugene Waddell, who officially retired December 31 from his role as general director of Foreign Missions, was honored at a reception on December 8 at the Free Will Baptist Offices in Antioch, Tenn. That was followed by a special banquet given by the Board of Foreign Missions in his honor on December 10.

Many leaders from around the country attended the reception which took place during the Leadership Conference. The banquet was held at the Marriott Hotel and included the board, the staff, a few special friends and Waddell family members.

The board presented Brother Waddell the keys to an automobile and a cash gift in appreciation for his years of faithful service to FWB Foreign Missions.

## Belo Horizonte Church Has "Kids Praise"

A special program entitled "Kids Praise—The Fantastic Family," was held at the Belo Horizonte FWB Church in Brazil on October 18.

According to missionary Jim Sturgill, the visit of General Director R. Eugene Waddell and General Director-elect James Forlines made it an opportune time to utilize them in their service. Sturgill noted that the children sang three songs from their musical, the teens sang one song and Mr. Forlines preached through an interpreter.

## Hanna, Daughter Go Back to India

Missionary Carlisle Hanna and his daughter, Brenda Kay Hanna Roach, left the United States on December 10 to return to North India. Brenda's husband, Michael, and her brother, Mark, are scheduled to leave at the end of December to join them at Sonapurhat. Brenda, Michael, and Mark plan to return to the United States on January 16.

Carlisle expressed gratitude that he and Brenda had received five-year multiple-entry visas into India. This is Carlisle's first trip back to India since he lost Marie in April.

## 12 to Serve with Team Renaissance

Twelve college students will serve on TEAM Renaissance 1999 in France during May and June.

Those going abroad include Matt and Katie Markins, K.C. and Liz Kohn, and Timothy Crowson, all of Nashville, Tenn.; Kim Douglas of St. Anne, Ill.; Jackie Rasar of Decatur, Ill.; Shane Davison and Sara Wilson of Springdale, Ark.; Matt McAfee of Jacksonville, NB, Canada; Kathy Britton of Nolensville, Tenn.; and Jeremy Riggs of Joelton, Tenn.

## Dr. Wisehart Mugged While in Uruguay

On October 10 a mugger in Montevideo, Uruguay, snatched Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart's purse. The former executive secretary-treasurer for Women Nationally Active for Christ fell into the street, broke her arm and cracked her pelvis.

Dr. Wisehart was in Uruguay for the International Fellowship meeting.

## New Attendance Peak Set at Ipiranga

A record high attendance of 87 people was set on November 29 at the Ipiranga congregation in Ribeiro Preto, Brazil. According to





Dr. Robert C. and Georgia Hill

missionary Jim Cowart, an unwed mother accepted Christ as her Savior the same evening.

"There were about 20 people standing during the whole service," says Cowart. "That was even after 23 children and two workers went to a small classroom."

## Hills Teach Russians, Family Values

Dr. Robert C. Hill, minister to seniors at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., and his wife, Georgia, left the United States on October 22 for Russia. They spent three days in Ekaterinburg teaching 40 pastoral and deacon couples from five different cities biblical principles on marriage and family values.

Bob and Georgia returned to the States on October 31.

## Waddell, Forlines See Brazil Works

General Director R. Eugene Waddell and General Director-elect James Forlines traveled to Brazil on October 17 following the International Fellowship gathering in Montevideo, Uruguay. The duo visited all of the main Free Will Baptist works except those in Uberlandia since Tom and Nancy Hughes were on stateside assignment.

Mr. Forlines expressed satisfaction to see the works in Brazil doing well and to see the hundreds of Free Will Baptist young people committed to the Lord. He said he was surprised at the number of national

pastors and the number of young men who have answered God's call to preach.

The two leaders met with individual missionaries and national pastors to discuss their vision and plans for the future. They returned to the United States on November 2.

## Four Saved in New Work in Campinas

Missionary Curt Holland in Campinas, Brazil, reports two people were saved at the São Jose work on October 17 and two others were saved on Saturday, October 24.

Teca, who was saved in the evening service on October 17, told Curt, "I woke up this morning and shouted, 'Do you exist? Do you really love me? Are you concerned about me, God?'"

Teca was glad to hear that God cares about her and is concerned about her well-being.

## Health Classes Give Opportunity to Preach

According to Ernest and Elaine Holland, Elaine's health class in the village of Yerekai became an evangelistic campaign on Saturday, December 5.

Ernest and Elaine traveled to the village from Bondoukou so Elaine could teach the class. They soon learned that several surrounding villages had been invited. The meeting was held in the marketplace and many non-Christians from the village came to listen. The Hollands urged people to pray for those who heard God's Word for the first time during that meeting.

## 72 People Attend Weekend Retreat

A special weekend retreat for young people in Brazil was held October 9-12 at Evangelandia, the camp in Jaboticabal. According to missionary Curt Holland in Campinas, Brazil, 72 campers were on hand for the event.

David Aycock traveled nine hours to serve as the main speaker for the retreat. "We had five salvation decisions on Sunday night and at least five that prayed about some special need in their lives," says Curt.

## FINANCIAL BEAT

### Through November 1998

Income for October.....	\$ 473,805.08
Income for November.....	470,495.05
Total income through November.....	4,703,291.04
Projected income through November.....	5,302,230.50
Total expenses through November.....	4,659,515.92
Total 1998 Budget (including VISION projects).....	\$5,784,251.45

These accounts are in the deficit:

Bailey.....	\$ 1,802.89	Volena Wilson.....	2,056.35
Beck.....	1,223.39	West.....	11,908.54
Cowart.....	3,030.60	Internat. Cons.....	4,013.40
Cuba.....	1,764.76	Church Planters:	
Deeds.....	11,176.37	Ekaterinburg.....	4,906.14
Eagleton Sr.....	25,523.70	Kamyslov.....	3,405.80
Ellison.....	1,988.06	Kopeysk.....	5,532.30
Holland.....	3,290.53	Kurgan.....	3,602.04
McFall.....	506.52	Noyabrisk.....	1,016.67
Morgan.....	2,193.84	Russian	
Owen.....	8,000.00	Pastor's Conf. ....	14,374.04
Richards.....	110.00	Committee, IC.....	18,882.34
Robinson.....	3,351.92	Info Promo.....	50,979.11
Snow.....	3,285.58	Third World	
Sturgill.....	2,350.79	Development.....	1,368.20
Tallent.....	6,349.69	Support Serv. ....	77,447.49
Teague.....	5,367.87		
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$280,808.93</b>		

These accounts are in the black but in serious need:

Lloyd Plunkett.....	\$ 834.26	Jerry Gibbs.....	4,664.08
Jim Combs.....	1,467.67	Ron Callaway.....	2,814.13

## STATES IN ACTION

State	1999 Goal	1998 Goal	Contributions Thru November
Alabama.....	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 271,650.55
Arizona.....	11,000.00	8,000.00	5,882.67
Arkansas.....	355,000.00	367,000.00	342,267.09
California.....	75,000.00	72,000.00	54,102.09
Canada.....	11,000.00	9,000.00	6,137.09
Colorado.....	13,000.00	6,000.00	5,773.63
Florida.....	142,000.00	85,000.00	104,104.76
FWB Foundation.....	27,500.00	23,000.00	20,484.07
Georgia.....	250,000.00	227,000.00	190,793.03
Hawaii.....	1,000.00	750.00	0.00
Idaho.....	7,500.00	1,000.00	5,634.00
Illinois.....	175,000.00	152,000.00	118,634.75
Indiana.....	50,000.00	59,000.00	39,175.23
Iowa.....	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,649.64
Kansas.....	12,000.00	10,000.00	5,266.86
Kentucky.....	90,000.00	76,000.00	61,463.25
Louisiana.....	2,500.00	2,500.00	7,490.27
Maryland.....	60,000.00	46,000.00	59,068.01
Michigan.....	210,000.00	185,000.00	156,135.23
Miscellaneous.....	135,821.10	83,351.45	24,801.01
Mississippi.....	90,000.00	76,000.00	191,021.54
Missouri.....	460,000.00	378,000.00	374,012.99
Montana.....	3,000.00	2,500.00	2,037.85
Nebraska.....	1,500.00	2,000.00	636.00
New Mexico.....	5,000.00	4,000.00	3,114.72
North Carolina.....	685,000.00	656,000.00	568,550.91
* Northeast Assoc.....	4,000.00	2,000.00	2,750.00
** Northwest Assoc.....	11,000.00	10,000.00	5,936.09
Ohio.....	200,000.00	178,000.00	129,157.99
Oklahoma.....	505,000.00	457,000.00	420,805.08
Pennsylvania.....	1,000.00	2,000.00	1,375.00
South Carolina.....	375,000.00	275,000.00	337,524.26
Tennessee.....	850,000.00	777,000.00	710,269.59
Texas.....	95,000.00	91,000.00	61,626.93
Virgin Islands.....	4,000.00	2,300.00	2,040.17
Virginia.....	100,000.00	107,000.00	68,131.87
West Virginia.....	130,000.00	127,000.00	100,998.84
WNAC.....	170,000.00	198,000.00	151,201.70
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>\$5,565,821.10*</b>	<b>\$5,010,401.45*</b>	<b>\$4,610,804.76</b>

\* 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





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**Board of Foreign Missions:** Bill Jones, chairman; Milton Worthington, vice-chairman; David Shores, secretary; Bill Reagan, David Williford, Bill Van Winkle, Sherwood Lee, Douglas Little, Terry Eagleton.

**Administrative Staff:** James Forlines, general director; Fred Warner, director of stateside ministries; Don Robirds, director of communications; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary; Robert Conley, treasurer.

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



## Forlines' Focus

*By James Forlines, General Director*

On three occasions in Luke 14:25-35 Jesus proclaims that an individual "cannot be my disciple" if he does not measure up to some pretty high standards (v. 26, 27, and 35). In the midst of this challenge he gives two examples of those who started something they were not able to finish. In verse 28 of this chapter we are all urged to "count the cost." A king going to war against a formidable enemy must do so.

Lately I have been thinking about world evangelism from a spiritual warfare point of view. Paul urged us to "Put on the whole armour of God" (Ephesians 6:11), and reminded us that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God" (2 Corinthians 10:4). Truly we are engaged in warfare for the souls of men, women, boys and girls from all over the world. But have we truly counted the cost?

I am a history buff. I am particularly enamored with the reaction of the people of the allied countries in World War II when threatened by the Axis powers and their totalitarian

regimes. Many of you lived during that time. Your memories are personal. Most of us were not even alive, but we can learn some valuable lessons about sacrifice and a common commitment. The cost was high because the stakes were high. Losing the war was unthinkable. No price was beyond reason. Our entire way of life could have been altered. History as we know it would have been quite different. But we sacrificed, persevered, and eventually prevailed.

The United States, as a country, went into wartime production mode. Hundreds of thousands volunteered to bear arms and represent their country. Factories were re-tooled. People from every rank went to work to replace those who had gone to war. Rosie the riveter [a representative woman who stepped into a job left vacant by a man gone to war] was hailed as indispensable to the war effort. Though everyone did not go as a soldier, millions found their place in supply and support efforts.

Perhaps you are wondering, "What does this have to do with Foreign Missions?" I am glad you asked. Those of us who have the knowledge of Christ are in a spiritual war. If we feared the aspirations of Hitler, how much more should we fight against Satan and his legions of

demons. In Matthew 10:28 Jesus said clearly, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hel." As you read this article, Satan holds in his clutches billions of people in spiritual darkness. The war is real. We must count the cost.

I am afraid that we may have been asking the wrong question for years. As it relates to world evangelism we have asked, "Is God calling you to be a missionary?" A small group responded yes. Others felt called to support their efforts by prayer and financial support. Many, however, said, "No, He didn't call me; now I can go about reaching the American dream."

The question is not, "Has God called you to be a missionary?" The biblical question must be, "What should your role be in reaching the unreached with the gospel?" This is a task for the whole church, not just a limited few. Free Will Baptists are poised to achieve some great and lasting things for the Kingdom. What is your place? What role should you play in the cause of world evangelism?

*James Forlines*