

1961-2004

HEARTBEAT

of Free Will Baptist

International Missions

Commemorative Edition



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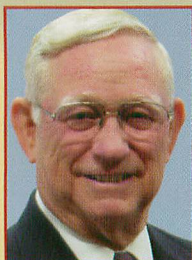
In This Issue

A 12-star Gathering, page 6
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44 Years of Heartbeat Memories



Heartbeat: 1961 issues (bottom row, left to right), 1962 issues (top row, left to right)



Foreword

By Don Robirds

This special commemorative issue of *Heartbeat* has been prepared to carry old readers down memory lane and to translate newer readers into the past. When the publication was conceived, no one knew the broad strokes of history it would progressively paint. The board was not certain of its ultimate impact, but the need for greater missions awareness and broader support was evident.

Launched by Jerry Ballard, a skilled journalist, the publication quickly caught the attention of a growing number of Free Will Baptists. As feedback flowed to the missions office, changes and improvements were implemented when money and time allowed.

This issue will carry you through the years from the magazine's inception and allow you to feel the pulse of some of those who have contributed over that period. Significant events will be highlighted from issues over the entire life of the publication; however, space is inadequate to cover every important ministry, event and/or crisis over those 44 years.

I was assigned the task of selecting the material, writing and editing the content, and designing the publication. Most likely some will recall items or events they consider more important than those I selected. Unfortunately, everything could not be included, so I apologize if I did not catch something that was extremely important. I did try to choose mostly positive items even though some trials and negative circumstances were recorded.

Reading through 44 volumes of the publication has been a gigantic task in itself. Deciding what to include and what to leave out has proven an even greater burden. I trust enough is included to help readers appreciate the progress and struggles that have led Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions to its current status as Free Will Baptist International Missions.

I urge readers to cling to God's blessings set forth in this edition and to praise Him for what has been accomplished. Take the time and effort to keep up-to-date via the Web site www.fwbgo.com, and through the new video magazine, *IMPulse*. Stay in contact with missionaries and the missions office through regular correspondence.

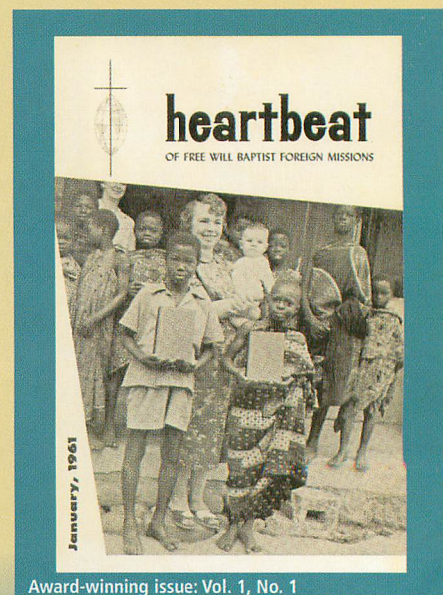
Four full-time editors have guided *Heartbeat* since 1961. It was my privilege to edit the publication for 32 years. Producing this commemorative issue was a special blessing. I thank Brother James Forlines for asking me to assume the task. It turned out to be a larger exercise than I expected. I often paused in awe and wonder at what God brought us through. I rejoiced in the victories and hurt over the losses. I hope this edition does the same for you.

In the Beginning

By Dr. Jerry Ballard

Before I came to Foreign Missions the board relied on itinerate missionaries and one full-time field worker who spoke in conferences, represented the Mission at conventions, etc. It was intentional in my appointment that we take fresh approaches to securing funds. *Heartbeat* was the logical outcome of that, and we won a national Evangelical Press Association award with the first issue.

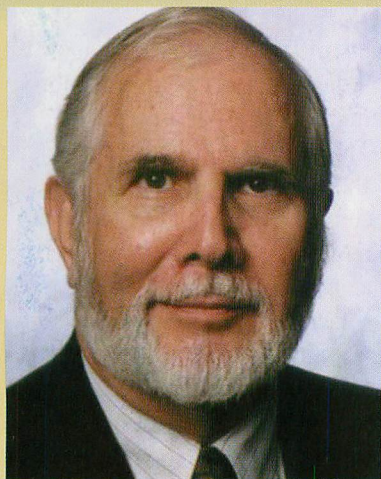
We immediately began to see two of the three things an organizational publication is designed to do: (1) increase the frequency of giving and



Award-winning issue: Vol. 1, No. 1



Heartbeat: 1963 issues (bottom row, left to right), 1964 issues (top row, left to right)



Dr. Jerry Ballard

(2) increase the average amount of gifts. The third thing came in time and that was increasing the number of people exposed to content designed to inform and to motivate gifts. We began to see new donors come on line regularly.

In a denominational situation many give through church offerings, so one has to handle the individual giving with sensitivity. We did not want to appear to be trying to bypass local church giving. We developed several ways to do this, most of which were continued by editors who followed me. But seeing growth in both individual donors and increased amount of gifts from key churches made us believe *Heartbeat* was being effective.

The publication, along with one or two annual church giving events and receipt letters, certainly didn't supplant "on site" representation through missionary itineraries and representation at conferences.

Actually it enhanced face-to-face opportunities. Rolla Smith, and later Reford Wilson, and I certainly spent considerable time in churches and at conferences and conventions as work load allowed.

But the facts stood for themselves. While budgets were not met a significant number of times before *Heartbeat*, receipts were under budget only once while I was there. I can't give all the credit to the publication, but we know *Heartbeat* was a strong reinforcement to those who were giving and presented compelling reasons for those who were not to start doing so.

While budgets were not met a significant number of times before Heartbeat, receipts were under budget only once while I was there.

I don't remember how many awards we received over the years, but they were several for both editorials and graphics. It was always an inspiration to win awards. But winning awards was only a measurement that in the eyes of our editorial peers we were doing journalistically correct things. The real payoff was

in the written response we received, the comments missionaries heard on their itineraries and, bottom line, a significant and sustained growth in income. If we had not increased our readers' conviction that missions giving was both the biblical and responsible thing to do, we would have failed.

Dr. Joe Ange, one of the board members during my tenure and at that time pastor in Detroit, Mich., usually stayed in our home during board meetings. He awakened me to an encouraging reality once when he said, "As a preacher, I really covet your job. Do you realize you preach to more people about missions every month than I do in six?" I don't remember the supporting arithmetic, but I'll always remember that his words gave me the perspective I needed to envision the true mission of *Heartbeat* among our readers. It also made me realize the seriousness of my role as editor/gatekeeper. Yes, I was a preacher with uniquely presented sermons reaching, what was for Free Will Baptists, a large congregation.

Dr. Jerry Ballard, the founder of *Heartbeat*, is currently chairman of BallardMiltnerCromie (Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Nashville, Richmond, West Palm Beach) and resides in Palm City, Fla., with his wife, Winnie, and a daughter, Kim. He is Past President with Honors of World Relief (Baltimore and New York).



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Don Robirds and Deborah St. Lawrence, *Editors*

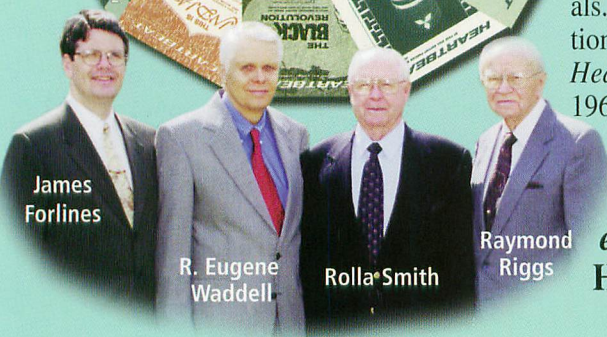
Don Robirds, *Layout and Design*

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1965
clockwise

1966 →

From Their Perspective



Only five men have served as general director under the Board of Foreign Missions since it was formed in 1935. Four of those are still living: Raymond Riggs, Rolla Smith, R. Eugene Waddell and James Forlines. J. Reford Wilson died in 1995 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Three of the remaining four give their viewpoints in this article regarding *Heartbeat*. Brother Riggs is represented through a condensed version of an article published in the January 1965 edition of *Heartbeat*. Mr. Wilson contributes via his well-read column, "Out of My Heart," which ran for nearly 12 years.

Rolla Smith recalls the early days of the mission: "We tried to keep missions before our people through four ways: (1) a monthly newsletter from the general director, (2) the director traveling to churches and associational meetings, (3) appointees and furloughing missionaries and (4) Lewis Moulton, a full-time promotional man.

"Brother Moulton suffered a heart attack and died, so the board and I saw the need for someone with editor-

ial ability and expertise in audiovisuals. Jerry Ballard was offered the position. He came and the first issue of *Heartbeat* was published in January of 1961."

"Its role is succinctly expressed in the name Heartbeat."

Rolla continued, "I believe *Heartbeat* sparked additional income and commitment to missions. Its role is succinctly expressed in the name *Heartbeat*. We wanted people to feel the pulse of world missions."

Mr. Waddell noted, "*Heartbeat* has kept a good, positive impression before our Free Will Baptist people and has played a very important role in the growth of Foreign Missions. Many generous donors have referred to the impact *Heartbeat* had on their decision to give."

General Director James Forlines had this to say: "I suppose I have always viewed *Heartbeat* as the official voice of Foreign Missions. Its major role, I believe, has been to raise the level of awareness among Free Will Baptists to the needs of peoples around the world."

All three men were complimentary of the editorial and visual content of the magazine, but Brother Forlines says, "Two issues stand out. The first was the March-April 1998 issue (see page 12) which covered the lives and deaths of four of our pioneer missionaries. It was sobering to lose so many

giants of the faith in such a short time. Don did a masterful job in honoring them."

The second outstanding issue cited by the director was that of November-December 2002 which covered the coup d'état in Côte d'Ivoire and the evacuation of missionaries.

Missionaries also spoke out about the publication. Robert Bryan in France declared, "It helped us move from a handful of missionaries in a couple of countries to well over 100 on four continents. *Heartbeat* made its readers aware that 'their missionary' was part of a larger team working toward the same goal."

"To us missionaries it was a letter from home, a letter from our colleagues."

As Clint Morgan observed, the magazine "has served as the informational link from the missionaries to the constituency. This has developed more focused prayer for the ministries as well as assurance that their financial contributions are being properly used."

Retired Japan missionary Fred Hersey declared, "My first impression was, 'What an improvement.' Before *Heartbeat* that little two-page newsletter was not much." Brazil missionary Jim Sturgill said, "I believe this publication has been a great





1967 →

part of the success of the denomination's world outreach program."

Carol Pinkerton writes from Côte d'Ivoire: "It serves to help me know how to pray/praise God." Jerry Pinkerton added, "It was always encouraging for me to hear of souls saved on other fields." June Wilkinson Hersey indicated it helped missionaries create a bond and feel a part of a "bigger picture."

According to Mike Cousineau, "It has singled out specific issues, praises and crises at the moment. We looked forward to getting *Heartbeat* to see what was happening in and on our other fields."

Similar comments were made by numerous missionaries who seemed anxious to get their copy of the publication. Jim Combs in Brazil said, "I read it from cover to cover the day it arrives." His wife, Shirley, noted, "We keep copies on our coffee table here in Brazil and it has started conversations with Brazilians. We put up articles on the church bulletin board that pertain to Brazil or a country the church may be praying about at that time."

In short, *Heartbeat* has been the primary communication tool to help Free Will Baptists around the world get a focus on what God is doing and wants to do through His servants.

Pioneer missionary Trula Cronk was in India when *Heartbeat* started. "I remember when we had no mission magazine," she recalled. "We had to do with a



Trula Cronk

few lines here and there in other papers. We missionaries had little contact with one another. Then *Heartbeat* was born. To us missionaries it was a

letter from home, a letter from our colleagues in other countries. It grew bigger and better. That's why I cry to note its passing."

'out of my heart'

a word from the general director

(May 1964 edition)



■ A spiritual weakling will be crushed by the trampling feet of satanic forces. Our missionary force must be strong in the power of His might.

■ Prayer is the missile of missions. It is the controlling force of spiritual power—"tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." The disciples "continued with one accord in prayer."

■ Prayer gave Holy Spirit boldness to the preacher Peter. Prayer sent a messenger with a message of salvation—Peter to the house of Cornelius. A praying Church delivered Peter from prison.

■ Prayer is the means of confession. The psalmist prayed for cleansing. The prophet Daniel confessed the sins of his countrymen. The publican pleaded for mercy.

■ Prayer is a ministry of intercession.

■ The suffering Saviour prayed from the cross, "Father forgive them . . ." The broken-hearted Apostle declared, "my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." John Knox gave himself to pray, "Give me Scotland or I die."

■ Praying is humble and hard work. It is the exercise of spiritual muscles against invisible foes. It is often the unseen and unsung ministry of unknown saints.

■ Missionary victories must often be credited to those whom we have never met . . . you who frequent the closets of prayer . . . you who attend regularly the prayer services of your church . . . you who have family devotions.

■ I ask you to pray for your missionary family. Pray for their spiritual power . . . for their physical and mental health . . . for the new believers . . . for the salvation of enemies of the cross, many times the families of new Christians . . . for children of the missionaries . . . for God's provision for needs of the fields . . . for more workers.

■ "Pray without ceasing."

J. Reford Wilson



I AM DEBTOR

By Raymond Riggs

Condensed and revised 1965 Foreign Missions theme message from the January 1965 issue

"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also" (Romans 1:14, 15).

These verses in Romans give us an insight into the missionary heart of the Apostle Paul. We learn right away that he is in debt. He is under an obligation! His obligation involves preaching the gospel. The same responsibility and obligation are mine today and that of every other Christian.

I AM DEBTOR TO THE SINNER

Perhaps you need no convincing that all men outside of Jesus Christ are

lost and in need of salvation (Romans 3:10, 3:12, 3:23; 5:12), but we who are saved have a solemn obligation to present the plan of salvation to every lost sinner everywhere.

Some seem to think our obligation is largely to the unlearned and the underprivileged. But Paul says, "*Both to the wise and to the unwise.*" In other words, we are in debt to every lost sinner in the world—the rich, the poor, the educated, the ignorant, the foreigner, the native, our friends, our enemies, the Greeks, the Jews, the sick, the healthy, the good moral man, the harlot, and drunkard.

The following excerpt is taken, word for word, from my diary for Thursday, April 1, 1954, written while

visiting our mission field in India. As I write it and relive the experience, I am conscious more than ever that we are in debt even to India.

"Sonapurhat—Thursday, April 1, 1954—Up early. Had breakfast, shaved and cleaned up. Wore Dan's (Cronk) khaki pants and took Trula's blue jeans to wear after the baptism. We went in jeep to village 20 miles away and had baptismal service. The Indian Bible women went with us. The roads were terribly rough. I drove the jeep. First time to baptize on mission field. Baptized six (What a thrill!)."

And I am debtor!

I AM DEBTOR TO THE YOUNG CONVERT

Our debt and Christian responsibility does not end with witnessing to and leading the lost sinner to Jesus Christ. It merely begins there.

The church in Rome was a thorough mixture of Jews and Gentiles. Already their faith was "spoken of throughout the whole world" (Romans 1:8), but there was a need for them to

Birth of *Heartbeat*
Cuban Crisis
Rolla Smith resigns

1961

Reford Wilson
chosen as general
director

1962

Board adopts
English language
program

1963

First baptism in
Doropo, Ivory
Coast

1964

Student
Demonstrations in
S. India
Heartbeat
changes format

1965

Heartbeat printed
on glossy paper for
first time

1966

Board adopts
"Hold the Line"
policy

1967

"Pop" Willey
called to heaven
Heartbeat goes to
10 issues
per year

1968

Miley's survey
trip to
Ivory Coast

Heartbeat wins
EPA award

"Out of My Heart"
column started

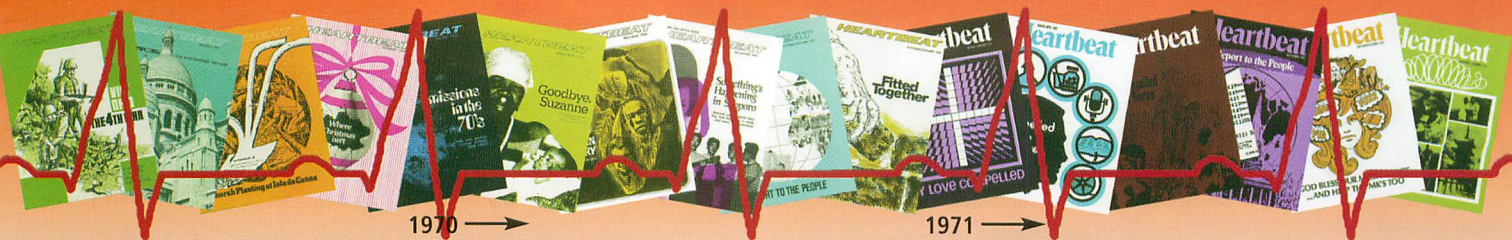


Red China
threatens invasion
of N. India

Literature program
launched in Brazil

First FWB
association
formed in
S. India

First \$500,000
budget
approved



be “established.”

This seemed to be the longing of Paul’s heart—“. . . *that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established*” (Romans 1:11).

He said to his understudy, Timothy, “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*” (2 Timothy 2:2). Here we see the why of Bible schools on the mission field and the why of Christian schools and colleges at home.

I AM DEBTOR TO THE VETERAN SAINT

Younger Christians would grow faster and would be challenged to a deeper life of consecration if they could develop in a climate of love, respect and gratitude for those who have gone before us.

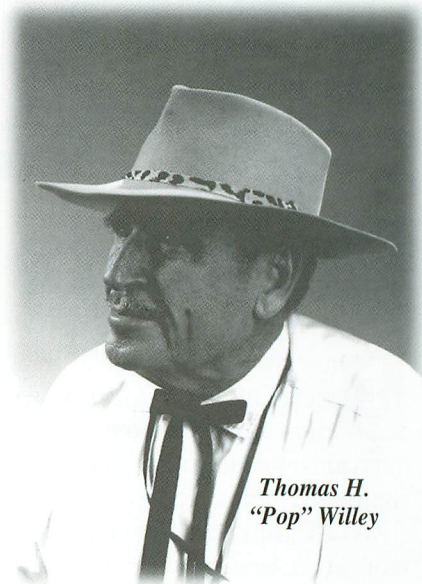
We had a wonderful experience at our house the other night. We had just finished our dinner and were still seated around the table. Five of us. A broiled veal chop was left on the plat-

ter and plenty of vegetables, too.

Suddenly, there was a loud knock at the door. One of the children went to the door. Then the call came forth, “It’s Pop Willey!” Brother Tom Willey Sr. had driven all the way from Massachusetts en route to meetings in Eastern North Carolina and stopped by our home in Norfolk, Va., to spend the night. My wife said, “Now I know why I broiled an extra veal chop.”

What a pleasant and joyful surprise! What fellowship! What comfort! We talked about former days in Cuba. We remembered the fruit that remains and reviewed the service of our various mission fields. The next morning before he left, we mingled our tears of joy, heartache, burden, and rejoicing in prayer, then he went on his way. We were comforted together by our mutual faith.

Paul, the veteran, longed to visit the saints of Rome, “. . . *that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me*” (Romans 1:12). Even veteran saints need comfort that can only be met in fellowship with God’s people.




Thomas H.
“Pop” Willey



Raymond Riggs was the first general director of FWB Foreign Missions and served several years on the Board of Foreign Missions. He is the father of Steve Riggs, missionary to Nantes, France.

Photo 1950

Call-a-thon initiated Payne’s People started	Ballard leaves, Bill Jones chosen as editor <i>Heartbeat</i> goes bimonthly	Bill Jones leaves for Hillsdale 2,000,000 Pakistani refugees enter N. India	Don Robirds becomes editor of <i>Heartbeat</i> Emma Ruth Willey dies	First \$1,000,000 budget approved	Combs flooded out in Brazil	Reford Wilson resigns Rolla Smith returns	First prayer calendar included in <i>Heartbeat</i>
1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
 Mommy and Daddy wanted to be missionaries to the heathen, but I knew they couldn't afford it.	Alicia Willey dies “Pop” Willey Memorial Offering started	Reprint of “Never Say Can’t” book	Good News Team goes to Sapporo, Japan	Meeting of forerunner of International Fellowship	Koulango New Testament published	Three veteran missionary families resign	<i>Heartbeat</i> design changed



Heartbeat's Changing Face

Bursting on the Free Will Baptist scene in 1961, *Heartbeat* magazine caught the attention of thousands. Readers were immediately confronted with a report on the Cuban crisis of Castro's revolution and subsequent declaration of a communist regime. Thomas and Mabel Willey Sr. had hoped for a "new day" for evangelicals after cruelties of Fulgencio Batista's rule became evident. It was not to be! They were forced to leave in November of 1960.

Starting in the very first issue Free Will Baptists were sequentially introduced to missionaries and their ministries. Number one on the agenda was pioneer missionary Laura Belle Barnard. The Willeys were formally introduced in the second issue. Each

subsequent issue spotlighted one missionary family until all under appointment had been introduced. This was repeated in the 1970s.

Computers made desktop publishing a reality and color printing possible.

Over the years the face and contents of the publication have changed. The magazine started out, as Trula Cronk put it, "small, not terribly impressive as magazines go," but it grew in size, style, content and appearance. It changed style six times: July 1962, January 1965 (style and size), January 1971, July 1976, November 1978, and January 1999. Printing was two color

before 1998 except for two issues. January of 1968 had a four-color theme cover of "At Least One Chance" and the October 1968 issue memorialized Thomas H. "Pop" Willey who died on October 18, 1968.

The publication vacillated between eight, 12 and 16 pages after it changed to a larger format (8 x 10 1/4 inches). Sometimes a four-page Newssheet Edition would intersperse the regular 12-page bimonthly or quarterly publication. The frequency of publication also fluctuated over the years.

The production process modified dramatically over time, too. Initially type was set on a linotype machine and reproduction proofs pulled for paste-up. In recent years computers made desktop publishing a reality and opened the door to printing the magazine in full color. Coupled with e-mail capabilities, this cut costs and significantly shortened the turn-around time in getting information from the field to the constituency.

Editors also changed, though not as frequently as styles. Jerry Ballard held the post for 10 years before passing the helm to Bill Jones, who had resigned from missionary service in Ivory Coast to teach at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Oklahoma. Bill held the post almost a year before being asked to return to Hillsdale as president.

<i>Heartbeat</i> resumes 10 issues per year	Some churches closed in Uruguay	Religious liberty granted in Spain	First emphasis on reaching Muslims Project 20/20 launched	Eugene Waddell joins staff Earthquake destroys church in N. India	Samuel Appia from Ivory Coast at National Association	12 full, 2 short-termers appointed New FM logo introduced	Metcalfe killed in auto crash "50-Year Advance Celebration" launched
1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Tom Willey Jr. visits Cuba	<i>Heartbeat</i> style changes, reverts to bimonthly	Closed doors in Uruguay	First \$2,000,000 budget approved	Robert Bryan becomes editor at CPE in Ivory Coast	<i>Heartbeat</i> resumes 10 issues per year	Miley book, "I Looked for a Man," released	Dr. Eagleton appointed for Doropo hospital



The board decided to seek Don Robirds, who had been involved in publishing literature in Brazil. After much prayer, Robirds agreed to assume the position and started in January of 1972. He remained in that position 32 years until he retired at the end of December 2003. Deborah St. Lawrence—who had been editorial assistant on the publication since May 1, 1998—took over the editor's job in January of 2004.

When they learned of *Heartbeat's* discontinuance, many missionaries lamented its cessation. "It struck a sad note," says one veteran missionary. "It left me feeling that something essential . . . is now missing." Another said it was like "losing an old friend." Though some were disappointed, most expressed hope that the change will turn out positive.

The Saga of Payne's People

Sketching, painting and doodling were everyday ways Eddie Payne found early in life to avoid doing more demanding and productive things. Diverse characters showed up in art classes and on the edges of most papers turned in.

The **Payne's People** cartoon was launched in the September 1969 issue of *Heartbeat*. It grew out of a discussion with the publications director for Foreign Missions. Payne agreed to give the idea a try. He only asked that no editorial changes be made to his captions. He simply said, "You don't have to use it, but if you do, don't change the caption." The strip became regular *Heartbeat* fare.

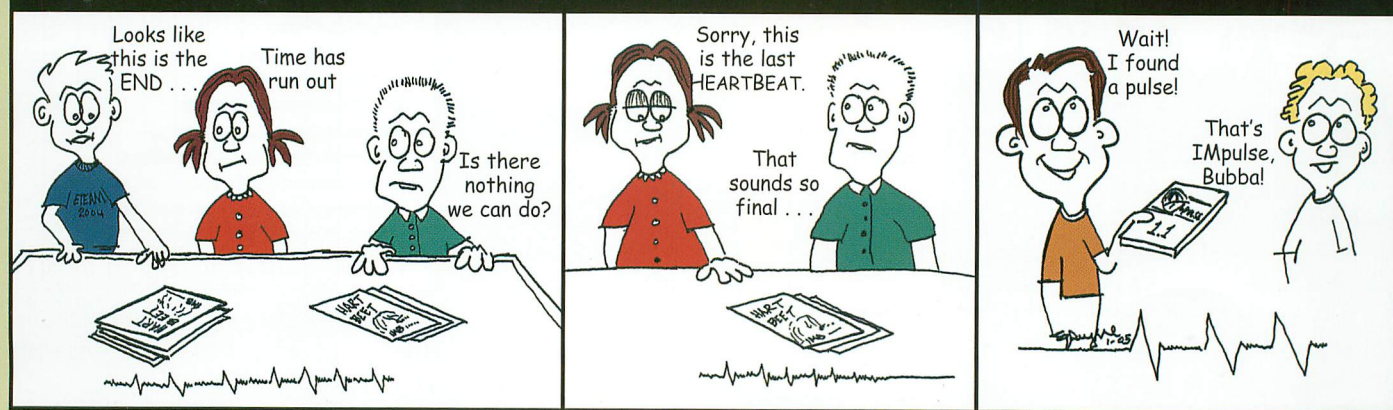
Payne believes some hard truths

can be communicated best through humor. **Payne's People** tackled the challenge of making Christians aware of their need to find their place in global evangelization. Out of the mouths of innocent cartoon children, humorous but painful challenges to comfortable Christianity helped *Heartbeat* shape worldview thinking.

The strip ran from September 1969 through October 1978 and reappeared briefly from March 1997 through December 1998.

Payne believes Free Will Baptist circles offer abundant material to fuel the satirical minds of cartoonists. He says, "Maybe if we laughed at ourselves more we could get more serious about world witness."

Payne's People



50th anniversary of
FWBFM celebrated

Rolla Smith announces retirement	Eugene Waddell becomes general director	First \$3,000,000 budget approved	Cubans visit U.S. for first time since Castro	Willey and Worthington visit Cuba after 30 years	"Advance" gifts top \$630,000 All accounts clear of deficit at year end	New building for National Offices Hospital in Doropo burns	L. B. Barnard passes TEAM ministry launched
1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Barnard book, "Touching the Untouchables," released	Dr. Gentuso appointed for hospital in Ivory Coast	Conflict develops in Ivory Coast	Committee evaluates Ivory Coast ministry and gives approval	Robirds suffers tragic loss of daughter, two grandsons	First graduation at Bible institute in Côte d'Ivoire	Deficit accounts soar again	Cuban jubilee celebrated



Statistics That Matter

Numbers do not always reflect the scope and effectiveness of a ministry, but they are tools by which to measure and assess progress and growth. *Heartbeat* has provided numerous graphs, charts and statistical reports since its inception.

issue focused on the correlation of growth of missions giving and *Heartbeat* circulation. It showed a circulation of 22,749 and giving at \$215,938 in 1961. It illustrated a corresponding increase of circulation to 39,097 in 1966 with donations rising to \$435,984.

An annual report in the July-August 1969 edition included a chart revealing 25 years of progress and a graph demonstrating 20 years of steady financial growth.

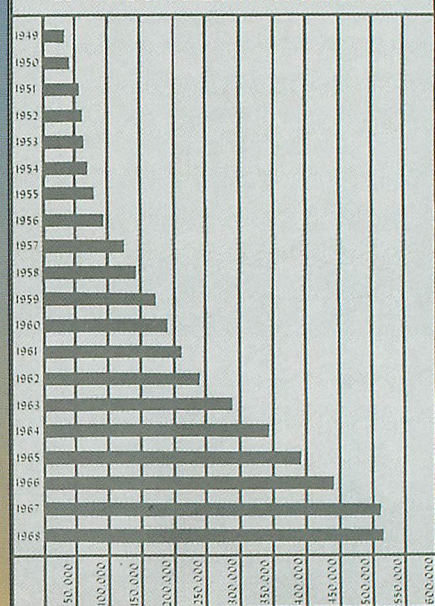
The March 1973 edition reported giving surpassing the projected budget three consecutive years—1970, 1971, and 1972.

A map in the January 1975 *Heartbeat* showed statistics of missionary personnel and where they were serving. Ivory Coast and Brazil each represented 25.3 percent

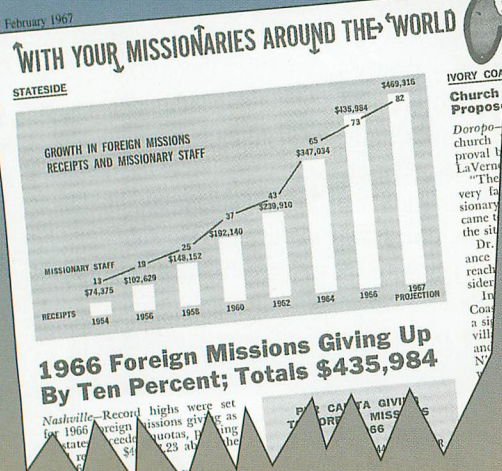
25 YEARS OF PROGRESS

1944	\$ 10,000	1956	\$ 95,000
1945	12,000	1957	125,000
1946	18,000	1958	144,000
1947	24,000	1959	172,000
1948	30,000	1960	192,000
1949	36,000	1961	216,000
1950	40,000	1962	240,000
1951	55,000	1963	290,000
1952	60,000	1964	347,000
1953	65,000	1965	391,000
1954	70,000	1966	446,000
1955	80,000	1967	522,000
		1968	\$526,000

20 YEARS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS GIVING

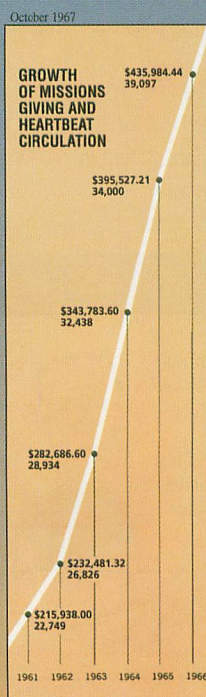


of the missionary force while France stood at 15 percent and Japan showed 11.5 percent.



The very first statistical chart in *Heartbeat* appeared in the February 1967 edition. It showed the growth of Foreign Missions receipts and missionary personnel from \$74,375 and 13 missionaries in 1954 to receipts of \$469,316 in 1967 with personnel totaling 82.

Another chart in the October 1967



China, an opening door
First \$4,000,000 budget approved

Arkansas "Norman Invasion" raises over \$80,000

Children's home named after Trula Cronk
"A Second Chance" published

Arkansas launches Acts 1:8 Program

Field chairmen meet for first time in Antioch

Heartbeat full color cover becomes standard
Hospital turned over to nationals

New *Heartbeat* design, full-color Korea opened
Forlines becomes general director

First \$7,000,000 budget approved
"Embracing the Vision" video series launched

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

New hospital building dedicated
Evelyn Hersey passes

Glennnda Leatherbury passes suddenly

Entering Russia
First \$5,000,000 budget approved

International Fellowship organized

Winford Davis with the Lord

Willey, Cronk, Mayhew, Sexton, Hanna pass on
Waddell retires

Nepal work opens
FM/HM hold joint seminar
Ken Eagleton dies

Coup d'etat in Côte d'Ivoire
FM department revamped

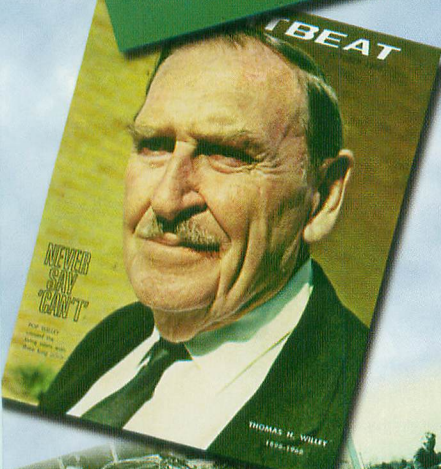
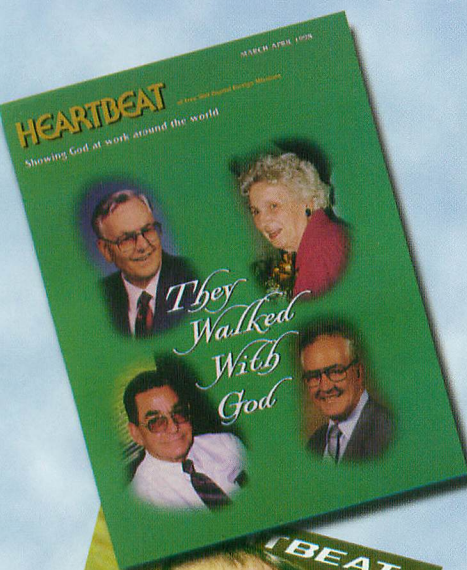


God's Precious Ones

By Don Robirds

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

—Psalm 116:15



When loved ones are taken from us, we grieve. But remembering the words of the apostle Paul, we "sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." We know "the dead in Christ shall rise first." God's people realize that the saved are simply going home when they pass from this life.

During its existence *Heartbeat* has reported the heavenly gains in various ways, sometimes in simple short articles and others in lengthy combined articles or tributes. Limited time and space have often made shorter acknowledgements necessary but when pioneer missionaries went home, they often received greater recognition due to their perceived stature among Free Will Baptists.

The 1968 death of Thomas H. "Pop" Willey, the highly esteemed servant who had dedicated his life to reaching and training Cubans, caught the attention of most of the denomination. His photo appeared on the front cover of the October 1968 issue of *Heartbeat*. Jerry Ballard, who wrote his biography entitled, "Never Say

Can't," declared "he couldn't say can't and wouldn't say won't."

When the Willeys' granddaughter, Alicia, was taken by cancer in Panama on August 21, 1970, a special section memorialized her passing. Then on December 13, 1972, Alicia's mother, Emma Ruth Willey, joined her and Pop on heaven's shore. Mom Willey gave a tribute to her in *Heartbeat*.

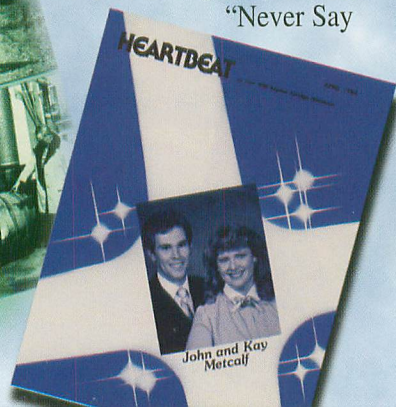
"God's final appointment came while John and Kay were en route to the field."

One of the most shocking of losses came on February 28, 1984. Missionary appointees John and Kay Metcalf were on icy Interstate 40 near Jackson, Tenn., when a tractor trailer hit them and flames engulfed their car. The April 1984 *Heartbeat* article stated, "God's final appointment came while John and Kay were en route to the field in Brazil where they felt God was sending them."

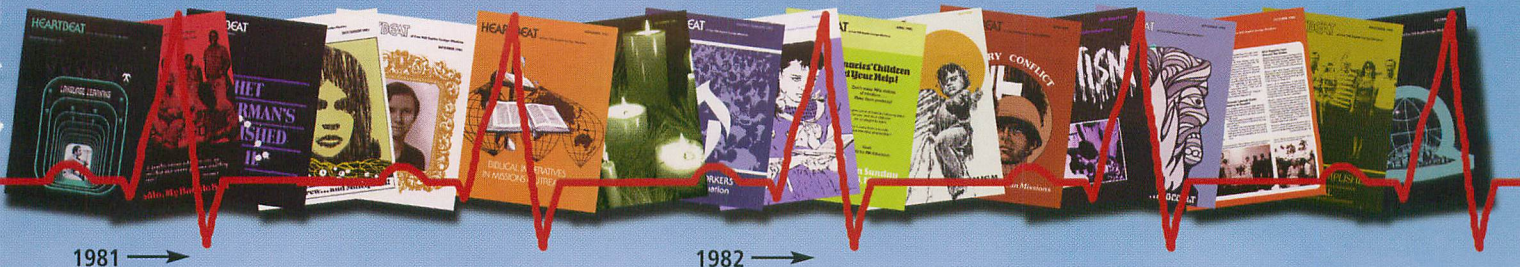
Laura Belle Barnard, Free Will Baptists' first foreign missionary, passed away on March 9, 1992. The May-June 1992 issue of the magazine memorialized her in a cover story entitled, "She Took God's Path," referring to her life verse, Psalm 16:11. She dedicated 22½ years of her life as a witness, touching the untouchables in South India.

A tribute to Evelyn Hersey, veteran missionary to Japan, appeared in the November-December 1993 issue of *Heartbeat*. Her son, Stephen, wrote, "My mother had a strong sense of God's hand on her life."

When 43-year-old Glennnda



Our Disappointment—
God's Appointment—



Leatherbury died suddenly of cardiac arrest on October 15, 1994, at the Free Will Baptist hospital in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire, the mission family and the denomination were stunned. Her prayer card verse was Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Probably the most significant of all the tributes appeared in the March-April 1998 issue when four veteran or pioneer missionaries went home in a relatively short time: Mabel "Mom" Willey, Dan Cronk, Archie Mayhew and Don Sexton. Under the title, "They Walked With God," the article noted they "were distinct individuals with diverse opinions, abilities and gifts, but each shared a great love for God and a commitment to spreading His message of redemption to people who had not heard."

God called Marie Hanna while ministering in her beloved Sonapur, North India.

Only a short time later, on April 23, 1998, God called another hero of the faith, Marie Hanna, to her reward while ministering in her beloved Sonapur, North India, where she had ministered since 1952. Marie was memorialized in the July-August 1998 issue by her daughter, Brenda Kay.

When veteran missionary Ken Eagleton was taken by an aggressive respiratory disease in 1999 at age 70, as a colleague, I wrote this in a short tribute in the January-February 2000 *Heartbeat*: "He appeared to be unstoppable and his vitality was conta-

gious—often convicting."

Time and space do not permit elaboration on all of those International Missions servants whom God has called to their heavenly reward. The rest are listed here for the reader's acknowledgement.

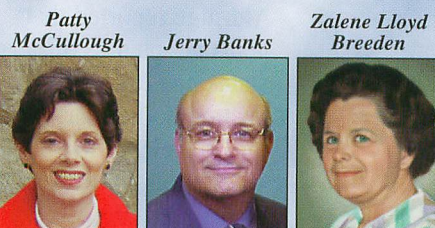
Former Missionaries Enter Glory

Three new ones have been added to the list since December of 2004: Zalene Lloyd Breeden, Patty McCullough and Jerry Banks.

Zalene Lloyd Breeden, who served two years (1948-1949) in India, passed away on Tuesday evening, December 14, 2004 at the age of 87. Mrs. Breeden had suffered a stroke and the effects of a deteriorating heart condition.

Missionary to France Patty McCullough (1980-1991) went to be with her Savior on December 18, 2004, due to complications from surgery. Patty had battled multiple sclerosis and cancer for many years. Her husband, Tom, is pastor of Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Mich.

Jerry Banks, former missionary to Japan (1972-91), was killed in an automobile accident on January 6 when his vehicle was struck by a tractor trailer on an icy interstate in Oklahoma. He was preparing to leave for Mexico on a missions trip. Jerry was pastor of the Kingsview FWB Church in Oklahoma City.



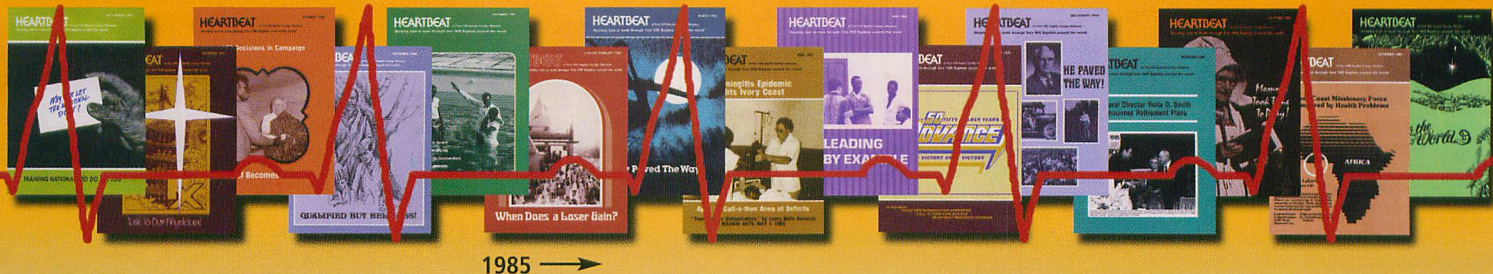
A special video presentation memorializing all of these saints will be a featured part of the video magazine, *Impulse IV*, to be released in March 2005.



These Have Gone Home

Deceased	Years of Service, Field	Date of Death
Banks, Jerry	1972-1991—JA	Jan. 6, 2005
Barnard, Laura Belle	1935-1960—IN	Mar. 9, 1992
Breeden, Zalene Lloyd	1948-1949—IN	Dec. 14, 2004
Calvery, Wesley	1952-1976—JA	Jan. 13, 2002
Cousineau, Frank	1968-1973—CI	Feb. 9, 1988
Craft, John	1968-1973—BR	Jan. 8, 1980
Cronk, Daniel	1947-1972—IN	July 20, 1997
Dodd, Damon C.	1945-1847—CU	Apr. 27, 2003
Sylvia	1945-1947—CU	May 5, 1996
Eagleton, Ken	1958-1999—BR	Aug. 26, 1999
Marvis	1958-1999—BR	Feb. 21, 2003
Fulcher, Bill	1960-1969—UR 1971-1979—PA	Mar. 23, 2004
Hanna, Marie	1951-1998—IN	Apr. 23, 1998
Hersey, Evelyn	1955-1993—JA	Oct. 4, 1993
Leatherbury, Glenda	1985-1994—CI	Oct. 5, 1994
Martin, Eula Mae	1958-1968—BR	Sept. 1, 1996
Mayhew, Archie	1963-1980—CI 1985-1987—CI	Oct. 26, 1997
Merkh, Daniel	1957-1961—CI 1966-1975—FR	April 12, 2002
McCullough, Patty	1980-1991—FR	Dec. 18, 2004
Metcalf, John	Appointee—BR	Feb. 28, 1984
Kay	Appointee—BR	Feb. 28, 1984
Phenicie, Herbert	1953-1958—CU	June 1, 1985
Edith	1953-1958—CU	Aug. 27, 1999
Phipps, Barbara	1961-1967—PA	Aug. 3, 1983
Sexton, Don	1971-1979—FR	Dec. 17, 1997
Wilkinson, Samuel	1959-1979—BR	Apr. 11, 1988
Willey, Thomas "Pop"	1936-1967—CU/PA	Jan. 16, 1998
Mabel "Mom"	1936-1980—CU/PA	Oct. 18, 1968
Willey, Emma Ruth	1955-1972—PA	Dec. 13, 1972
Wilson, Volena	1951-1968—IN	Mar. 30, 2001
Woolsey, Paul	1947-1952—IN	June 19, 1989
Nelle	1947-1952—IN	Dec. 15, 1986
Yeley, Bessie	1938-1954—CU/VZ	Jan. 23, 1969

Fields: Brazil=BR; Cuba=CU; France=FR; Côte d'Ivoire=CI; India=IN; Japan=JA; Panama=PA; Uruguay=UR; Venezuela=VZ



1985 →

A Half Century of Blessings

When the final report was published in the July-August 1992 *Heartbeat* it showed total gifts of \$813,365.92.

A series of articles entitled **"They Paved the Way"** ran in *Heartbeat* from March 1985 through April of 1988. The series featured many key figures who helped lay the groundwork for what was and is being done around the globe. Some of these were people who were virtually unknown by many, yet their contribution to the Mission was significant.

Ken Turner of Missouri used his 16mm camera to report and challenge people to support the work in Cuba.

Obviously the more significant people were our first missionaries. Laura Belle Barnard opened South India in 1935 and "Pop" and "Mom" Willey opened Cuba in 1942. Paul and Nelle Woolsey and Dan and Trula Cronk started work in North India in 1947. Wesley and Aileen Calvery arrived in Japan in 1954, Lonnie and Anita Sparks opened Ivory Coast in 1957, and Dave Franks went to Brazil in 1957 as a single missionary.

Tom Willey Jr. and Emma Ruth started work in Panama in 1962

and Bill and Glenda Fulcher went to open Uruguay in 1962 with Paul and Amy Robinson. Dan and Margaret Merkh started work in France in 1970 and the Sparks and Dock and Norma Caton began work in Spain in 1973.

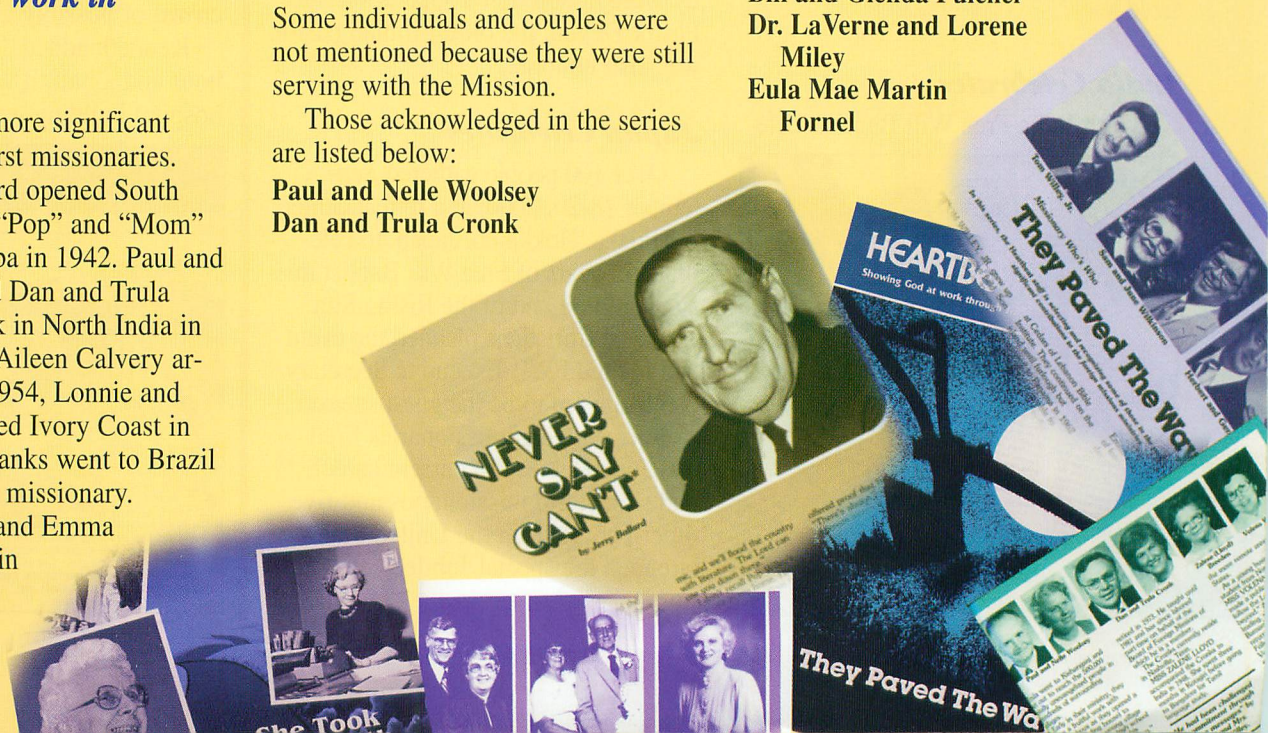
While the articles in the series did not include everyone who had a part in getting the ministry started or advanced in the various countries around the world, a few of the lesser known were included. One of those was Ken Turner of Missouri who used his 16mm camera to report and challenge people to support the work in Cuba.

Some other somewhat obscure individuals mentioned were Damon and Sylvia Dodd, Bob and Jerri Wilfong and Herbert and Edith Phenicie who labored for a short time in Cuba. Some individuals and couples were not mentioned because they were still serving with the Mission.

Those acknowledged in the series are listed below:

**Paul and Nelle Woolsey
Dan and Trula Cronk**

**Zalene Lloyd Breeden
Volena Wilson
Damon and Sylvia Dodd
Bob and Jerri Wilfong
Herbert and Edith Phenicie
Lucy Wisehart Lima
Ken Turner
Tom Willey Jr. and Emma Ruth
Sam and June Wilkinson
Herbert and Geraldine Waid
Howard and Willie Gage
Mary Ellen Rice
Winford and Bernice Davis
Melitino Martinez
Bessie Yeley
Estenio Garcia
Reford and Jean Wilson
Bill and Joy Jones
I. J. Blackwelder
Dan and Margaret Merkh
Bill and Glenda Fulcher
Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley
Eula Mae Martin
Fornel**





Jubilee Celebrations

Cubans Celebrate

In the September-October 1992 issue of *Heartbeat* a headline reads, "U.S. Leaders Unable to Attend Cuban Jubilee." Although a Free Will Baptist entourage of 39 leaders and representatives had planned to attend the Jubilee Celebration of the Cuban Association, visas were denied on most. Only David and Pat Shores from Illinois were able to obtain visas.

The celebration started August 17, 1992, at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Pinar del Rio. They had hoped to dedicate the Willey Memorial Chapel but it had not yet been completed.

Four services were held daily during the week plus a baptismal service, a graduation ceremony and a tribute to "Mom" and "Pop" Willey. Four young men and two young women graduated from the seminary program. On Saturday evening 16 people were baptized.

India Celebrates

North India Free Will Baptists cele-

brated their Fiftieth Golden Jubilee Anniversary at Sonapurhat March 5-11, 2001. More than 5,000 people participated.

Carlisle and Marie Hanna had requested prayer in 1995 that the Lord would give them 100 churches by the year 2000. In December of 1999 North India reported 125 organized churches.

Attending the Golden Jubilee from the United States were General Director James Forlines; Don and Mark Hanna, Brenda Kay Hanna Roach; and Sherwood Lee and Todd Parrish from South Carolina.

The celebration began on Monday night, March 5, with a very elaborate opening service. Of the 5,000 people attending the conference, some 200 came from Nepal and some pastors traveled from South India.

Brother Hanna and the Hanna family were honored in a special service. Pastor Devon, the oldest Indian pastor, was also honored.

Japan Celebrates

Over 100 people gathered September 18-20, 2004, at a retreat center in Hidaka, Hokkaido, Japan, to celebrate 50 years of Free Will Baptist missions in the Land of the Rising Sun. Japanese Christians planned the event and invited FWB Executive Secretary Keith Burden to be the guest speaker.

Former Japan missionaries Fred and June Hersey, 14 current career and short-term missionaries and five other people from the United States attended the special Jubilee celebration.

The hospital is on fire!" shouted Dr. Kenneth Eagleton (May-June 1993 *Heartbeat*). Flames engulfed the hospital building on the Free Will Baptist medical station in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire, on June 5, 1991. It was a total loss.

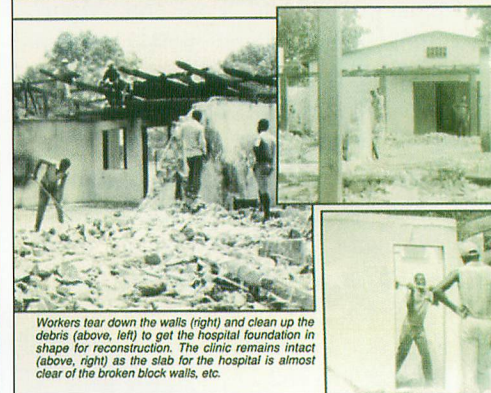
Dr. Kenneth says his shout "alerted the African nurse on call and the two patients in the ward. One of them had just given birth a couple of hours earlier, but both got out safely. The ward was unusually empty that night. Just a few days before we had about 12 patients in the ward."

The blaze was apparently caused by an electrical short in the attic over a supply room. Dr. Eagleton and an African maintenance worker discovered the fire.

"The wood in the ceiling and roof fed the fire, causing the tin roof to twist and melt away," says the doctor. "Flames reached at least 20 feet into the air and could be seen from a great distance. Within minutes we had a crowd of possibly a thousand people."

Kenneth added, "Within about an hour and a half, it was all over. The hospital building was in ashes."

News Update



Workers tear down the walls (right) and clean up the debris (above, left) to get the hospital foundation in shape for reconstruction. The clinic remains intact (above, right) as the slab for the hospital is almost clear of the broken block walls, etc.

September-October 1991 *Heartbeat*



May-June 2001 *Heartbeat*



1988 →

Doropo Hospital Burns

Free Will Baptists responded with funds to rebuild the hospital and reconstruction started in late January of 1992. Robert West supervised the whole project and it was finished in November of that year. It was dedicated on December 23, 1992.

The new hospital has a capacity for 18 beds plus 12 beds for a maternity ward. It includes a nursing station, a delivery room, nurses' quarters, a laboratory, a classroom, administrative office, and storage space.

Transition in Doropo

Once the hospital was back in operation, the addition of Dr. Paul and Tammy Gentuso greatly helped in the medical ministry. It gave relief to Dr. Eagleton, and they looked forward to another physician joining them in 1996. Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschall arrived in January of that year.

With the three men on the station and circumstances drastically changing in the area, the medical team sat down to evaluate the situation. They realized that the original purpose of the hospital was to provide a beachhead for evangelism in Doropo. They concluded that it had done so and a mature church with seven daughter churches existed.

With government regulations and involvement affecting the ability of the hospital staff to evangelize, they realized changes must be made.

According to Dr. Paschall, "We recognized a mature church in Doropo

and realized the entire denomination had become capable of forming a committee of African church leaders who could administrate the hospital."

The changes took place in a relatively short period of time due to the hospital staffing schedule. Dr. Gentuso says, "The Paschalls and Wests were scheduled for stateside assignment. The Eagletons were starting a community health program. Ginger Harrison [nurse under appointment] and the Verlin Andersons were still quite a way from getting to the field."

Ultimately it meant the Gentusos would have been left with the responsibility of keeping the hospital running. Consequently, this seemed to be the best time to make the transition.

"It has given our believers new confidence in themselves."

May 29, 1998, was the last day for consultations by missionary doctors at the hospital. On May 30, the missionary staff conducted inventory and on June 2 the hospital reopened with a new administration and staff. Dr. Eagleton maintained an advisory role to help assure the transition went smoothly.

R. Eugene Waddell, general director at the time, said the transition was in keeping with the strategy of missions. He noted a statement by Dr. Harold W. Fuller, former administrator of SIM International: "The missionary begins as a pioneer, then as the church

is born he becomes a parent. As the church is able to assume more of the responsibility, the missionary's role becomes one of partnership. Finally, the missionary is a participant with the national church in the work of the kingdom."

A hospital board was formed of seven African believers. Mr. Palé, a Christian from the Bouna church, was hired by the board to be the administrator of the hospital. Dr. Ballo, an African Christian doctor, and a Christian registered nurse were also hired.

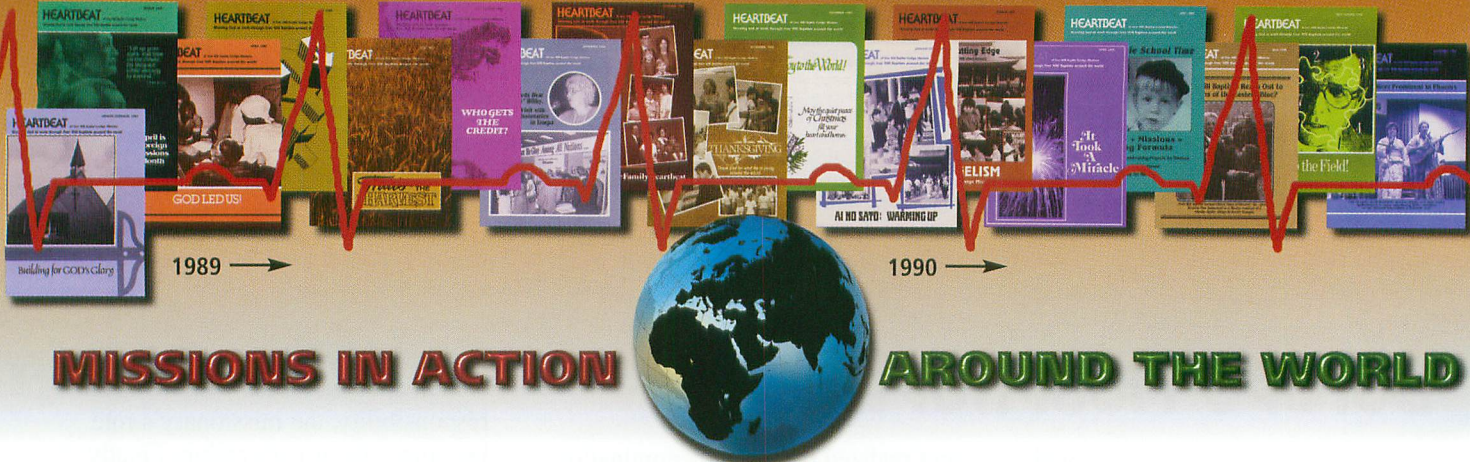
One year later the hospital was still functioning normally. According to Kenneth, "It has given our believers new confidence in themselves and a sense of ownership. Late in 1999 it continued to function well; consequently, it is serving as a model for what can happen to other aspects of our Free Will Baptist ministry in Côte d'Ivoire."

The biggest challenge the hospital faces is that of making it financially sound. Missionaries ministered without taking a salary from the hospital. That is no longer possible. They are facing a tremendous hurdle, but as Dr. Kenneth says, "They have shown they can successfully manage the hospital, treat the sick and evangelize the lost."

The hospital was rebuilt in 1992.



May-June 1993 HeartBeat



The following are excerpts of actual reports in *Heartbeat* over 44 years. Some are word-for-word (usually in the present tense) and some are condensed revisions with updated comments.

March 1965 *Heartbeat*

Student Demonstrations in S. India Hamper Leaders

Kotagitri, S. India—Civil disorder, spawned by student demonstrations against the government's adoption of Hindi as the official language of India, hampered the mission of General Director Reford Wilson and Director of Publications Jerry Ballard in South India.

For a time it appeared doubtful that Wilson and Ballard would be able to depart to continue their itinerary schedule. They did manage to make their plane connection in Madras by leaving at night by auto on February 14, 1965.

Earlier in that week Ballard was stopped by demonstrators twice en route to speaking engagements.

In spite of the difficulties, the mission leaders were welcomed by church leaders in North and South India. An Indian spokesman exclaimed, "How blessed we are to be the recipients of the gospel of Jesus Christ through you!"

October-November 1965 *Heartbeat*

Red Chinese Threaten Invasion of North India

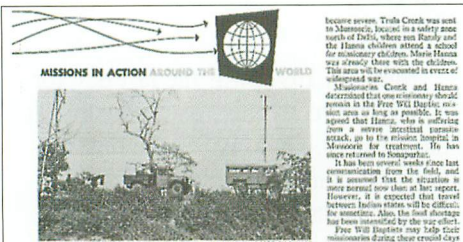
North India—Since October 1962, when Red China first invaded northern India, the communist empire has continually threatened further invasion. As this is being written, Red Chinese soldiers are massed on the Sikkim border only 100 miles from the nearest Free Will Baptist mission station, Sonapurhat, manned by the Carlisle Hannas. A short distance to the south is the Kishanganj station attended by the Dan Cronks.



June 1977 *Heartbeat*

Tom Willey Jr. Visits Cuban FWB Churches

Cuba—Tom Willey Jr. spent 14 days in April of 1977 on the island of Cuba visiting Free Will Baptist churches, his first visit to the field since his family was unable to return in 1961 after Castro's army took over the government.



Red Chinese Invasion Threats Keep Pressure On Missionary Operations in North India Field

North India Since October, 1962, when Red China first invaded northern India, the communist empire has continually threatened further invasion. As this is being written, Red Chinese soldiers are massed on the Sikkim border only 100 miles from the nearest Free Will Baptist mission station, Sonapurhat, manned by the Carlisle Hannas. A short distance to the south is the Kishanganj station attended by the Dan Cronks.



Tom indicated the national church is continuing to grow and is larger than prior to the new regime in spite of the fact that two-thirds of the membership was lost through that period of turmoil.

This report was followed up by a feature article by Tom Willey Jr. in the July-August 1977 *Heartbeat*.

April 1967 *Heartbeat*

Board Adopts "Hold the Line" Policy

Nashville, Tenn.—When missionary account deficits reached more than \$40,000, the board took several steps to remedy the matter: (1) The general director was authorized to seek redirection of support from oversubscribed accounts to the needy accounts; (2) promotional emphasis would be given to deficit accounts; and (3) no new missionary appointments would be made after July 15 until all deficit accounts were cleared and all accounts were sufficiently underwritten.

This policy was reversed early in 1968.

November-December 1971 *Heartbeat*

Good News Team Set for Winter Olympics

Hokkaido, Japan—Ten college-age students were chosen to work in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, during the Winter Olympics in February of 1972.

The "short-termers" were scheduled to spend six months on the northern island of Japan. Each month was planned out for students to be involved in either tract distribution, English classes, or rallies at the youth center. The group arrived in Japan in September of 1971.

Several team members were touched by



AND THROUGH THE YEARS

this trip and later became missionaries (Dale Bishop, Sandra Ogletree Bishop, Mirial Gainer, Judy Smith and Arilla Wode).

September 1988 Heartbeat

Cuban FWB Leaders Visit U.S. Churches

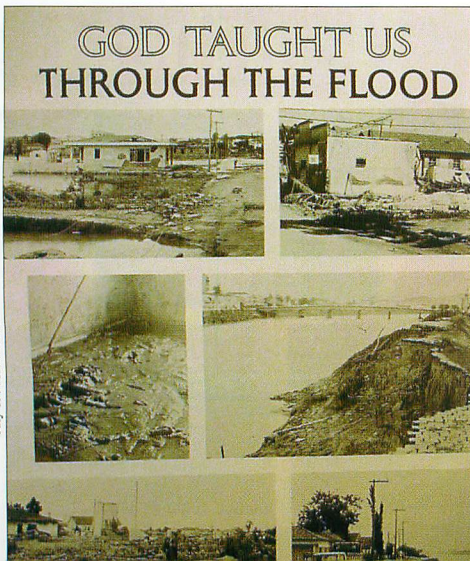
Nashville, Tenn.—Cuban Free Will Baptist leaders were finally granted permission to visit the United States and arrived in Miami, Fla., on August 1, 1988. Gilberto Diaz Triana and Roberto Perez Hernandez planned to visit churches in Tennessee, North Carolina, Arkansas, California, Michigan, and Florida depending on an extension of their 15-day visas.

The men assured American audiences that a very strong bond of faith and fellowship exists between Cuban and U.S. Free Will Baptists.

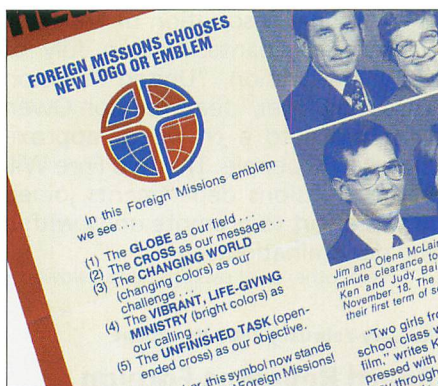
April 1974 Heartbeat

Special Emergency Bulletin

Tubarão, Brazil—Missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs were recent victims of a vast flood in Tubarão due to torrential rains. They lost everything! But the Lord spared their lives!



This report was followed up by a full feature-length story in the July 1974 issue under the title, "God Taught Us Through the Flood." God gave the Combs many opportunities to witness and give encouragement during the flood and in the months following.



December 1983 Heartbeat

Foreign Missions Chooses New Logo or Emblem

Nashville, Tenn.—A new Foreign Missions logo was introduced in the December 1983 *Heartbeat*. It includes the globe, the cross, bright colors, etc. The significance of the emblem was clarified in that issue. It continues to be the logo of the mission today.

July 1974 Heartbeat

The Koulango New Testament Published

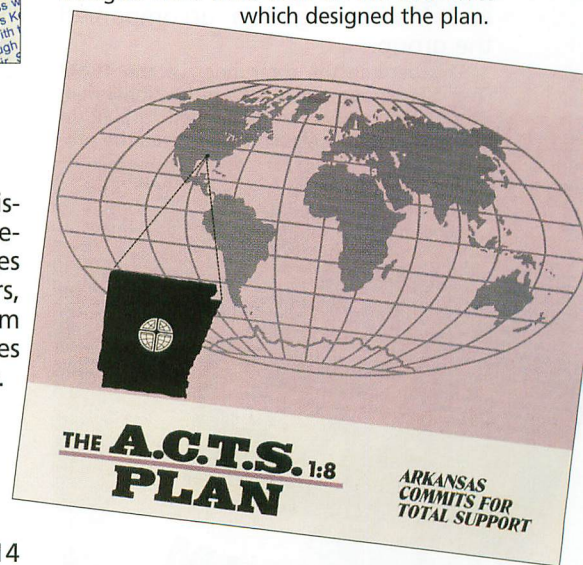
Nashville, Tenn.—After nearly 14 years of labor, sweat, and prayers by Lonnie and Anita Sparks in Ivory Coast and the United States, the first copy of the Koulango New Testament came off the press in the spring of 1974. It was a beautiful black book with a plastic cover and gold lettering: "Notango Veyo" (New Testament).

January-February 1996 Heartbeat

Arkansas Commits for Total Support

Russellville, Ark.—A new program was adopted by the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptists to provide support for Arkansas-based foreign missionaries. The program became known as the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan. It employs the acronym "Arkansas Committed for Total Support" and it follows the mandate as set forth in Acts 1:8 in the Scriptures.

This action set the stage for other states to adopt similar programs to aid in support of the missionary force. James Forlines and Douglas Little were both on the task force which designed the plan.



September 1990 Heartbeat

First Institute Graduation Held in Ivory Coast

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)—The first graduating class of the Bible institute of Côte d'Ivoire received their diplomas and certificates on June 3, 1990, after a vigorous three-year training



AND THROUGH THE YEARS

May-June 2003 *Heartbeat*

L. B. Barnard House Dedicated at FWBBC

Nashville, Tenn.—The Missionary In Residence house, officially named the Laura Belle Barnard House, at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., was dedicated on March 11, 2003, during the annual Bible Conference.

Remodeling the former Boyce House on Richland Avenue was a joint project between the college and Foreign Missions. It was totally refurbished, largely by volunteer labor, and furnished by women of WNAC.

July-August 2001 *Heartbeat*

Atlanta Consultation 2001 Gets Missionaries Together

Atlanta, Ga.—The entire Free Will Baptist foreign missionary family came together in April of 2001 in Atlanta, Ga., for "Atlanta Consultation 2001." This is the first gathering of all active foreign missionaries and only two were unable to attend. Many former missionaries were also on hand.

The consultation was an effort to orient missionaries and the entire

Missionary personnel below gathered in Atlanta, Ga., for "Atlanta Consultation 2001."



team to the "paradigm" shift in the approach of the foreign missions department. The projected goal was to involve the entire denomination in reaching the world for Christ.

September-October 2004 *Heartbeat*

Action at National Brings Name Change

Kansas City, Mo.—Delegates at the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Kansas City, Mo., July 18-22, 2004, voted to change the name of the Department of Foreign Missions from "Foreign Missions" to "International Missions."

General Director James Forlines indicated the change was necessary due to the changing view of the word "foreign" in the world today.

November-December 2000 *Heartbeat*

Coup d'etat in Côte d'Ivoire Causes Mission Concerns

Côte d'Ivoire—A coup d'etat, which started in December of 1999, continued off and on through 2000 and seriously increased at the end of that year.

Things began to heat up again in 2002 and erupted in September near

Bouaké. Students at ICA were in a precarious situation along with missionaries Mike and Deleen Cousineau. Mike had just gone through an ordeal with thieves at the school which almost took his life. The entire story was featured in the November-December 2002 *Heartbeat*.

Heroic efforts of those in the international community, the missions office, the U.S. State Department, and French and U.S. troops enabled the students and administrative staff to be evacuated safely.

All Free Will Baptist missionaries were evacuated from Côte d'Ivoire at the end of 2002 but some returned in 2003.

September-October 2003 *Heartbeat*

Prayer Summit 2004 Announced for January

Dickson, Tenn.—Prayer Summit 2004, the first special prayer emphasis and seminar by Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, was announced for January 16-18, 2004, at Camp Garner Creek in Dickson, Tenn.

The summit was composed of plenary sessions, workshops, and in-depth times of personal and corporate prayer.

January-February 2004 *Heartbeat*

"M" Team Commissioned for Service in France

Nashville, Tenn.—The French "M" Team was commissioned for missionary service in France on December 7, 2003, at The Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, Tenn. This was a first for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions.

The eight members received training and were commissioned to work with Muslims in southern France.



Currently . . .



A Missouri team spreads cement for a church in Panama.

Workers from Missouri Build for Eternity

A team of workers from the Hannon and Verdella FWB churches in Liberal, Mo., ministered in Chitré, Panama, January 2-11. Their main objective was to pour the cement floor of the Iglesia Buenas Nuevas (Good News FWB Church). The team met that goal and much more!

"The building is not eternal," writes missionary Stan Bunch. "What the team accomplished in the lives of others is eternal!" Six people made salvation decisions as a result of the team's efforts. Others heard the gospel presented and several unsaved people have agreed to attend church services once the building is completed.

New Converts Reported in Hokkaido, Japan

Missionary Joni Thomas in Hokkaido, Japan, recently praised the Lord for two more converts in the Miharashidai FWB Church. Keiko, a young lady who faithfully attended the church and youth meetings for about 18 months, became a believer while studying in England for a semester. She shared her decision with missionaries upon her return in January.

Mrs. Oui, who has been attending services for a few months, also thanked the Lord on Sunday, January 16, for her newfound faith.

Joni urged Christians to pray earnestly for these ladies and others who have recently accepted Christ.

Missionaries Evacuate, Return to Côte d'Ivoire

The tentative cease-fire between government and rebel forces in Côte d'Ivoire ended abruptly on November 4, 2004, when government aircraft bombed rebel installations in Bouaké, the rebel headquarters.

The Verlin Anderson family was in Ghana for a conference when the violence erupted and was asked to remain there. Jerry and Carol Pinkerton and Alice Smith evacuated to Ghana on November 15.

Although tensions remain and the country is still unsettled, all missionaries returned to their ministries during the last week of November. The Pinkertons are stationed in Abidjan. Alice Smith and the Andersons are pursuing Community Health Evangelism in Gouméré.

Throughout the conflict Mike Cousineau remained on the campus of the International Christian Academy on the outskirts of Bouaké.

International Missions Board Appoints Five

The Free Will Baptist Board of International Missions met December 8, 2005, in Antioch, Tenn.

During the 10-hour meeting, five new missionaries were appointed. Angela Emerick (Norfolk, Va.) will join the "M" Team in France as a career missionary. Steve and Donna Olson (Russellville, Ark.) were ap-



Appointed for missionary service were (left to right) Angela Emerick, Steve and Donna Olson and Ledge and Sharon Ferguson.

proved for career missionary service in France with plans to develop a camp/retreat/ministry center. Retired missionaries Ledge and Sharon Ferguson (Glendale, Ky.) received a two-year, short-term assignment to France.

Missionaries Dennis and Trena Owen (Uruguay) and Tim and Kristi Johnson (Spain) were reappointed to another term of service in their respective fields. Mike and Cathy Corley were granted a six-month leave of absence to begin on January 1, 2005.

The board voted to cancel the 2005 missions retreat for financial reasons. Various other actions were taken in an effort to significantly reduce the Support Services deficit.

Tsunami Relief Donations Now Being Accepted

Although the earthquake and tsunamis that struck Asia on December 26, 2004, did not directly impact International Missions works, General Director James Forlines released the following statement: "International Missions will gladly accept donations for disaster relief. We will forward 100 percent of these donations to a reputable evangelical relief organization with established ties to that area of the world."

To donate on-line using a credit card, go to www.fwbgo.com/storedonate.htm. The account will be "Humanitarian Assistance Fund." For other methods of giving, visit the Web site (www.fwbgo.com/donation.htm).



Looking Ahead...

The focus of a Commemorative Edition is, by nature, looking back. In this issue we have celebrated the goodness of God by a walk down memory lane. Yet, in international missions the gaze is always forward. The challenge is continually toward the unreached, new territories, new unreached people groups.

We find more certainty in looking at the deeds of the past. We can easily categorize them; however, the future is less sure. The world is a dynamic place and change is constant. Governmental policies, attitudes toward Christianity, demographic changes, and natural disasters are all at work, making our steps uncertain.

But as we close this commemorative issue we want to turn our sights toward the future: the dreams, goals, and plans of Free Will Baptist International Missions.

Acceleration of Church Planting

We are a church-planting mission. Our primary task is to plant self-supporting, self-propagating, self-governing churches internationally. Momentum is gathering. In the last 10 years alone we have grown from 290 churches and mission works to 690 churches and mission works. Our average weekly attendance in the same time has grown by 354 percent. Our goal must no longer be planting individual churches, but establishing church-planting movements.

Leadership Training by Nationals

The first stage of mission work is as a pioneer. Our mission has traditionally gone where Christian witness was minimal. People have to be won to Christ and a church established. Then a missionary acts as a parent. In this stage training is crucial. As national leadership emerges, the relationship changes to that of a partner. This is an exciting time as more responsibilities are transferred. However, the ultimate goal is for the missionary to be a participant. In this stage permanent leadership is taken by the national church.

We currently have 11 Bible institutes/colleges in eight countries. The cycle will be complete when national believers achieve the standing and training to be totally responsible for these training programs. Then the missionaries will have worked themselves out of a job and they can move on to a new work.

International Teams

Free Will Baptists have sent out over 250 career missionaries from the United States to the ends of the earth. One of the most encouraging developments in missions is that believers in "receiving" countries are developing a hunger to reach out beyond their Jerusalem to their Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Ten years from now teams of Free Will Baptists from South America, Europe, Africa, and

Asia will join the effort to reach the world's least evangelized peoples.

Creative Access Countries

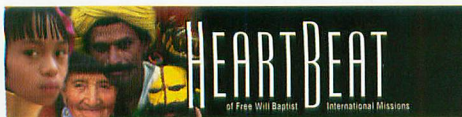
Governmental prohibitions have blocked over two billion people from access to the gospel message. Free Will Baptists have created a non-governmental agency to place workers on the ground and among the people in these "least reached" areas. We are confident Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Animists will come to faith in Christ through their efforts.

Arminian International Movement

Free Will Baptists are Arminian in theology. We believe in the free will of man. We believe the "Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." As we have expanded our efforts throughout the world, we have discovered far more people like us than we imagined.

Many Baptists throughout Russia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Central Asia, the Baltics, and many other places have traditionally held to Arminian beliefs. We currently are engaged in partnerships with such Baptist groups in Russia and Central Asia. In the future can we dream of a comprehensive effort of Arminian Baptists globally?

Free Will Baptists have a rich and glorious heritage in our international work. Hopefully, our greatest days lie ahead.



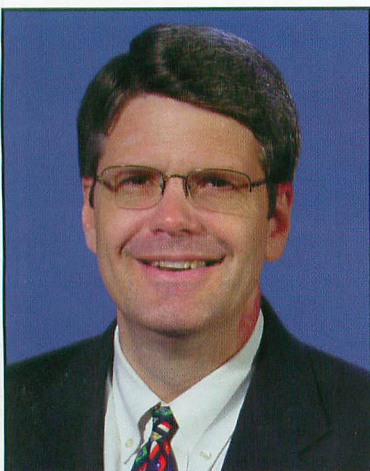
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Board of International Missions: Milton Worthington, chairman; Randy Wilson, vice chairman; Danny Williams, secretary; Bill Jones, David Williford, Bill Van Winkle, Sherwood Lee, Jerry Norris, Tom McCullough.

Administrative Staff: James Forlines, general director; Doug Little, director of stateside development; Steve Lytle, director of field operations; Robert Conley, director of financial operations; Eddie Payne, director of mobilization and recruitment; Dr. Neil Gilliland, director of member care.

Please clip and mail this label with all correspondence.

Web address: www.fwbgo.com



Forlines' Focus

By James Forlines, General Director

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

"Heartbeat." That is a very fitting title for the magazine that has reported the international work of Free Will Baptists for the last 44 years. In the human body the heartbeat is perhaps the most important measure of health. It signals life. So *Heartbeat* magazine has revealed the life and health of Free Will Baptists' commitment to the Great Commission.

Just a Backward Glance

I was just a child when *Heartbeat* first started churning out information and challenging its readers to become more involved in global evangelism. The pages of this commemorative issue reveal how far we have come. We have taken this backward glance with great gratitude for what God has done through the years.

Heartbeat has measured the pulse of missions commitment as waves of young missionaries have swept from the shores of the United States to lands around the world. Successes

have been celebrated, lives have been invested, souls have been saved, and churches have been planted. *Heartbeat* has been utilized in homes across the world as a tool to pray for missions efforts, thus connecting supporters and missionaries. We will never know this side of eternity how profound the impact has been.

Significant Changes

While staying true to the purpose of being a church-planting agency, Free Will Baptist Foreign (now International) Missions has seen significant changes. We have gone from one missionary serving in one country to over 100 missionaries and several hundred national pastors serving in nearly every part of the world.



Another Evidence of Life

In this issue we have tried to chronicle many of those changes and thank God for His guidance. This issue itself is a marker for another significant change. The cardiograph you see above continues to show a pulse. Though the reporting vehicle will change, International Missions is

alive and well. After this commemorative issue we will join together with all Free Will Baptist national departments to produce *ONE Magazine*—

One Lord, One Voice, One Vision.

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE
MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

Looking to the Future

The future is bright. Record numbers of new missionaries are headed to the field. Church planting is accelerating. In the future we will look back at these times through *ONE Magazine* and thank God for what He has done. For these few moments our gaze has drifted backward in celebration. Now we look forward.

I once heard a preacher say, "Mark well the debt we owe our fathers, and determine to pay it to our children." Nancy Friday put it this way, "The debt of gratitude we owe our mother and father goes forward, not backward. What we owe our parents is the bill presented to us by our children."

By God's grace we will pay that debt!

James Forlines