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# THE LORD OR THE LOTTERY

On Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, the good people of South Carolina will enter voting booths and make many choices. These choices will determine who represents them, who leads our country, and what kind of moral climate we want our children to have. Among the most important decisions made that day will concern the constitutional amendment to allow the state of South Carolina to get into the gambling business by establishing a state run Lottery.

 At our State Meeting this year Free Will Baptist again affirmed their stand against gambling- Resolution #3- “Whereas gambling contradicts the Biblical teaching regarding the stewardship of possessions (Ps 21:1; Prov 13:11; Matt 6:21; 1 Cor 10:26), and whereas the Bible reveals that all property and possessions are provided by God and that we are accountable for their proper use; Therefore be it resolved that we reaffirm our stand against any and all forms of gambling...”

Facts you need to be aware of:

- To date there is no enabling legislation written to impose any guidelines or restrictions on how a lottery will function or any limit on how much money will be given to out of state lottery operators (“Profit” from a typical lottery- 35% )
- Changing the constitution to allow a lottery is thought by many to allow ALL forms of gambling: including video poker and casinos.
- Convenience stores in other states endorsed the lottery at first but eventually quit selling lottery tickets. They found their food sales went down in direct proportion to the number of lottery tickets they sold.
- 63.8% of the Georgia students who received gambling scholarships for 1996-97 lost their scholarship after the first year.
- The odds of picking the right numbers in a state lottery are 1 in 13 million! Your chances of being hit by lightning are one in 1.9 million.

You can teach your children to lean on the Lottery to make them a millionaire or you can show them you trust the Lord for daily bread. The difference has eternal consequences.

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**\$2000 SAVINGS-** Your Free Will Baptist Book Store saved our churches across the state over \$2000 by billing this quarter’s Sunday School Literature on No Tax Week-end (We called the State Revenue Department and were told it was permissible to do so).



**NEW HOURS** - Beginning Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> the new hours for the Promotional Office and Book Store will be Monday - Saturday: 8:30am - 5:00pm (We have staff meeting and prayer time from 8-8:30 each morning). Most people seem to prefer us opening earlier and the early closing time will allow us more opportunities to visit our churches in other areas of the state during revivals and special meetings. (Put us on your mailing list for special events)

**NEW LOOK-** Your Free Will Baptist Book Store is changing into a Resource Center. Rather than attempting to be all things to all people, we are focusing on providing Ministry Resources that will help our Churches fulfil their ministry- A large Bible section, A Church supplies section, A Bus Ministry section, a Youth Center, a Prayer section, etc.

*The Informer* is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Mike Jones, Editor, P O Box 13266, Florence, S C, 29504 or call (843) 662-5010.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST HAVE A REPUTATION

It is the kind of phone call I long for. The lady on the other end of the phone wanted my help in locating a Free Will Baptist Pastor who had helped lead her brother to the Lord. The story goes like this- Two sisters had tried for years to lead their brother to the Lord. Finally, he lay desperately sick in a hospital bed and still would not accept Christ. Knowing his time was limited, these ladies called the pastor of the church where their brother had attended some; but he never came. Finally, in desperation, they asked the nurse if there was a chaplain on duty. She said yes and called for him.



This chaplain talked with these ladies, talked with the brother, and the happy conclusion was that he ended up accepting Christ as his savior. Now these ladies were calling me to seek my help in locating this man who had made their brother's funeral bearable. All they knew was that he was a Free Will Baptist Pastor in the Florence area. Some detective work later revealed that the chaplain was Pastor Joe McKnight of the Fellowship FWB Church in Florence.

What a joy that Brother Joe could reach this soul on the brink of eternity. And what a joy when these ladies told me that they were so glad to hear him introduce himself as a Free Will Baptist pastor when he arrived. To quote one of the sisters, "Many churches and preachers only know about religion but we knew that a Free Will Baptist preacher knew about winning a soul to Christ!". May God ever help us to keep that reputation.

**Web Site News-** Recently someone visited our web site - [www.scfwb.com](http://www.scfwb.com) - and then emailed me to ask for the address of a Free Will Baptist Church in the area in which they were moving. These people were from an Independent Baptist background but when they wanted a fundamental, bible believing church to attend they thought about Free Will Baptist!

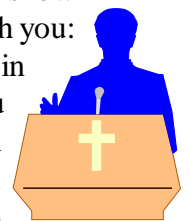


I gladly supplied the address of a FWB Church in the area for them, and thanked the Lord that, even with no more work than we have been able to put into our site recently, it still is being used of the Lord.

We also receive numerous hits each month from churches looking for pastors or from people seeking additional information about Free Will Baptist. One day our site will be really attractive, every FWB church in our state will have a page showing their picture, listing the times of their services, and providing a map to help people locate them, and the "best churches in South Carolina" will also be the easiest to find!

**PASTOR APPRECIATION:** September is Pastor Appreciation Month. Here are 7 ways you can show your appreciation to someone who gives of his time and effort to share God's word and work with you:

1) Give him a raise. 2) Send him a letter stating you will pray a special prayer for him each day in September; and then do it! 3) Give him a raise. 4) Send him a thank you card telling how much you appreciate him. 5) Give him a raise. 6) Look for ways to assist him in his work for the Lord in order to take some of the load off his shoulders. 7) And, if you can't think of anything else to do for him, give him a raise! (The Promotional Office has forms available that can be used to designate a Pastor's salary in such a way that he will keep more and give the government less. Contact us for more info.)



**Tim and Wendy Snipes-** Little People's Dorm Parents at the Free Will Baptist Home for Children: On March 18, 2000 Brother Tim met Rev and Mrs. Wilhide at the State Ladies Auxiliary meeting held at New Vision FWB Church in Hemingway. Within 2 weeks they had interviewed for the position of Little People's Dorm house parents and in 2 more weeks they (and their two children- Dustin (11) and Lauren (9)) had moved to the Home.

Brother Tim says that he is greatly encouraged by the daily lives of the Wilhides and the other staff of the home. He enjoys working with the children and his first goal is always to lead them to seek after Jesus.



Mrs Rebecca Asbury joined the growing congregation of First FWB Church in Myrtle Beach on Mother's Day. Her daughter, who was one of 4 generations of Mrs. Rebecca's family present that day, also joined. What makes this newsworthy? Mrs. Rebecca is 99 years old!

**First FWB Church of Myrtle Beach** recently



knocked a wall out of their church. They installed double entrance doors in the back wall of the sanctuary, added a big entrance porch, and put in a breeze way that connected to the fellowship building as well as the new drive-through unloading porch. This allows them to utilize the parking area at the back of the church; which the growth of the church makes very much needed right now.

Part of the reason for the great growth at this church is the tremendous ability of their choir. If you are visiting in the Myrtle Beach Area then you need to plan to make this church one of the "attractions" you visit. Pastor Jimmy Brown's preaching will stir your heart and this choir's music will bless your soul.

The congregation of **Bethel FWB Church**, Fort Mills celebrated their 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary/ Home Coming on Sunday, June 4, 2000. Festivities

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ladies of the church, and a great time of gospel singing by the Locklair Family of Lumberton, NC. Pastor Darrell Morgan is the leader of this growing flock.



Pastor Lifus (Buck) Riffe and the congregation of the **Victory FWB Church** of Hanover, Pennsylvania celebrated

their Annual "God and Country Day" on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brother Buck began this church ten years ago and they have great facilities, wonderful room to expand, and a drawing of the new sanctuary they are planning to build already posted in the foyer!

These fine folks are members of the Palmetto Conference and, for a church in Pennsylvania, they sure know how to give "southern hospitality". We had a great day of preaching the word, listening to good gospel music by the singing group "Refuge", and eating a hot dog and hamburger picnic lunch under the trees.

Victory is located almost midway between Gettysburg and Amish country. If you vacation up that way drop by and see these good folks. They'll treat you just like family.

**Freedom FWB Church** of Ladson, SC had a great night of celebration Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> as their Pastor, Allen Goodman, was ordained into the



L-r Rev Steward Norris, Rev Neil Harrelson, Rev Buddy Seay, Pastor Allen Goodman and wife Tara, Rev Richard Huggins.

Gospel Ministry by the Central Conference Ordaining counsel. Brother Buddy Seay preached a powerful message, the spirit of God was evident, and the time of fellowship provided by the Church was great.

Preacher Buddy proclaimed that "This is not a club initiating a new member. This is the Church of the Living God setting apart a man of God for the Work of God." Amen- Thank God.



Missionaries to Spain, Tim and Kristi Johnson, rejoice in the birth of Alejandro on Friday, June 9, 2000. Alexander weighed in at 7 ½ lbs and 21 inches long. Mother and son are fine, and even Dad survived! They appreciate your prayers; especially after the way he was spoiled by his grandparents during their Spain visit!



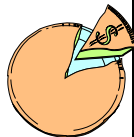
L-R Rev Larry McAlister, Ronnie Coward, Larry Coward, Rev Mike Bishop, Kenny Sauls, Mick Morgan, Debbie Morgan, Gerald Yates, Skip Mastle, Earl Bazen, Melody Mastle, Tony Lynch, Denise Lynch, Randy Graham, Melvin Cantley, Ronald Knight, Arnette Bazen. (Not pictured- Calvin Smith and Rod Smith)

The last Sunday in July found the congregation of **Gilead FWB Church** rejoicing in the dedication of their new Family Life Center. Special activities included music by Crystal River, Dinner in the new building, an offering of over \$9200 toward the remaining \$90,000 debt, and a wonderful spirit of worship. Plaques of appreciation were also presented to those who helped so much in building this new building for God's Glory. Rev Larry McAlister pastors this growing church.

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So far this year your Promotional Office has distributed over a **Half Million Dollars** that has come in from our Churches to support missions, our Children's Home, and the Work of God. Truly, God is doing a mighty work among our Churches and their generous giving is greatly to be praised.

Presently, we are attempting to pay off the \$30,000 loan that was incurred during the remodeling project. This would save us over \$22,000 in interest; as well as ease a great deal of financial pressure. If 100 churches gave only \$300 each then the loan would be paid. Can YOU help?



These are some of the Pastors at the Home Mission Rally held at White Savannah FWB Church, Sunday Night, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Guest speaker was Home Missionary to Arizona, Rev Billy Wayne Baker. Brother Billy Wayne reported 10 salvation decisions in recent weeks, a tremendous amount of work done on the church building, and a great burden for the work in Arizona (only 9 Free Will Baptist Churches in Arizona).

Host pastor, Rev Buddy Seay was happy to announce an offering of \$2400 was received to help Brother Billy Wayne's account.



Missionary to India, **Rev Carlisle Hanna** was licensed to preach on a Saturday. The next day Marion and Althea Coker asked Brother Carlisle to marry them. He must have done a good job. On Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, he helped them celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

#### CHILDREN'S HOME NEWS:

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> - Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Children's Home. Call the Home at 659-2880 to get an application. This is always a fun event that raises lots of funds. Calling all golfers.



Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> - "Common Bond" in Concert in Darlington to benefit the Home. Contact Pastor Todd Parrish for more details.

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - Annual Children's Home day. This year they are calling it "Miracle Day" as they seek to raise the remainder of the money they need to pay off the Boys dorm - and get to work on the new Girl's Dorm. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

# YOUTH CAMP 2000



Director Donnie Miles and Camp Evangelist Carroll Bazen discuss "great matters".



Rusty Conyers, Eddie Hobbs, and Bennie Turner dish up delightful salads



The director learned early that the safest place for most of his staff was "behind bars".



Friends are made at camp.



Kevin & BL keep the Kool-aid coming.

**Youth Camp Board**  
 Field Director- Donnie Miles  
 Richard Conyers  
 Brian Tolliver  
 Marty Cox  
 Mike Bishop  
 B.L. Effird

In spite of many obstacles, Youth Camp 2000 was another GREAT SUCCESS. **152 campers** (plus staff) attended this year and (Praise the Lord!) 15 young people were saved and 16 made other commitments.

Thank God for the men and women across our state who do the hard work and who give of their time to make a life long impact on our young people.

Pray for your Camp Board as they make decisions about next year's camp schedule in light of how early many schools are beginning. If you have suggestions for alternative camp sites then contact a Board Member.

## Free Will Baptist Bible College News:

--During the past school year the young people attending Free Will Baptist Bible College led an average of one person per day, for each day of class, to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (Glory!).

--42 people crossed the stage and received their diplomas during the spring graduation this year.

**Rev Brian Tolliver** has had a busy July. He was elected pastor of New Prospect FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. As he celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary on July 14<sup>th</sup> he and his wife were surprised by a huge Anniversary / House warming party given by the members of the church (He and his wife have a beautiful new home in Florence). Then the ladies of the Church gave a surprise birthday party for his wife at the School House in Scranton on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sounds like his ministry is off to a good start. May God bless that we hear many more stories like this in the future.



Congratulations to **Rev Paul Collins**, pastor of the Home Mission Church in Harrisonburg, VA, on being selected as the new Promotional Director for Virginia FWB. Pray for God to bless as he takes on the dual

role of Pastor and Promotional Director.

Brother Paul is the former Pastor of Temple FWB Church in Darlington and doing a great work at this mission church. Visit him when you are in the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia.

Tabernacle FWB Church of Coward called **Rev David Young** (Former Pastor of Homer's Chapel FWB Church in Black Mountain, NC) as pastor on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. He is already moved in and working hard and we look forward to God greatly using him in the Coward area.

The South Carolina Conference Mission Rally "**MISSIONS MANDATE 2000**" will be held September 10 - 24, 2000. Below is a list of the Speakers and where and when they will be speaking. Mission rallies keep the need of missions and the person of missions before our people. All conferences are encouraged to consider their benefits.

Mission Mandate 2000 Speakers: David Aycock – Missionary to Brazil, Jim Cowart – Missionary to Brazil, Carlisle Hanna – Missionary to India, Andy & Andrea Moore – Missionaries to Brazil, Todd Smith – Missionary to Aiken, SC, Danny Keen – Missionary to Anderson, SC, I. Bennie Turner – Tentmaker Missionary to Manning, SC, Herman Hyman – Tentmaker Missionary to Santee, SC, Sherwood Lee – State Moderator, Member of the National Foreign Missions Board, Mike Jones – S. C. State Association Promotional Director

CHURCH	Sunday (pm) Sept 10	Monday, September 11	Tuesday, Sept 12	Wednesday, Sept 13
1 <sup>st</sup> – Darlington	Cowart	Hyman	Hanna	Moore
Southside	Lee	Cowart	Hyman	Hanna
Faith	Aycock	Smith	Cowart	Hyman
Temple	Turner	Aycock	Smith	Cowart
Fellowship	Moore	Turner	Aycock	Smith
1 <sup>st</sup> - Florence	Hanna	Moore	Turner	Aycock
Tabernacle	Hyman	Hanna	Moore	Turner

CHURCH	Thursday, Sept 14	Friday, September 15	Saturday, Sept 16	Sunday (am), Sept 17
Eastside	Cowart	Hyman	Hanna	Moore
Lebanon	Smith	Cowart	Hyman	Lee
Mt. Elon	Aycock	Smith	Cowart	Hyman
Pamplico	Turner	Aycock	Lee	Cowart
Peace	Moore	Turner	Aycock	Hanna
Sand Hill	Hanna	Moore	Turner	Aycock
Pamplico	Hyman	Hanna	Moore	Turner

CHURCH	Sunday (pm), Sept 17	Monday, September 18	Tuesday, Sept 19	Wednesday, Sept 20
Grace	Cowart	Hyman	Keen	Moore
New Town	Hanna	Cowart	Hyman	Keen
Prospect I. M.	Aycock	Hanna	Cowart	Hyman
High Hill	Turner	Aycock	Hanna	Cowart
Black River	Moore	Turner	Aycock	Hanna
1 <sup>st</sup> - Kingstree	Keen	Moore	Turner	Aycock
Lynches River	Hyman	Keen	Moore	Turner

CHURCH	Thursday, Sept 21	Friday, September 22	Saturday, Sept 23	Sunday (am), Sept 24
Immanuel	Cowart	Jones	Lee	Moore
Liberty - M	Hanna	Cowart	Hyman	Jones
Horse Branch	Aycock	Hanna	Cowart	Hyman
Liberty - O	Turner	Aycock	Hanna	Cowart
Jefferson Road	Moore	Turner	Aycock	Hanna
Midlands	Keen	Moore	Turner	Aycock
Poplar Hill	Hyman	Keen	Moore	Turner

**OPERATION SATURATION**  
**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000**  
**9:30am - 12:30pm**

An effort by our Home Mission Churches to Saturate their area with the gospel of Christ. Information packets will be provided for you to distribute; and a noon meal will be provided!

Free Will Baptist have talked Soul Winning for a long time. Now it is time to back that up with our prayers and our presence. Contact the Home Mission Church of your choice today and sign up. (Psa 68:11) *The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.*

**DEDICATION SERVICE** for Landmark FWB Church, Anderson, SC will be Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. Special guests include Rev David Crowe from the National Home Mission Department and Rev Earl Hendrix from the State Home Mission board.

Join these, and many others, as we rejoice with this church in the dedication of its beautiful new building to the work of God and the saving of souls.

Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> will be another **BIG DAY** as Rev David Crowe (National Home Mission Department) and Rev Dennis Keen (Pastor of Mt Calvary FWB Church of Perryman, Maryland) are guest speakers. Pastor Danny Keen invites you to join them in all these services.

This Home Mission's Church plans to go self supporting in October- Praise the Lord for what He has done in Anderson as a result of your prayers and support.

# LADIES AUXILIARY RETREAT

**September 29-30 - Lookup Lodge**

\$46 per person (There is still time to register).

This year's theme is **FROG** (Fully Rely on God) and a prize will be awarded to the Auxiliary with the most unique shirt about this year's theme.



We are looking for a great crowd with lots of fun things to do so get your reservation in right now (Mail to Mrs Gwen Hendrix, 90 Blackstock Rd, Inman, SC 29349 as soon as possible- \$10 deposit and \$36 due at check in).

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You leave Hartsville and drive 13 miles through the country until you come to a cross roads called Patrick. You are not impressed. Then you drive 6 more miles through the country and, just past the road that turns off to our Youth Camp at Beaverlake, you see a small sign pointing down another country road. You are still not impressed.

A couple of miles more through sand hill and scrub pines brings you to **St John FWB Church**. NOW you are impressed! Founded in 1850, this country church is a proud picture of dedication and determination as it stand as



a lone sentinel for Free Will Baptist in this part of our state.

The people are friendly, the facilities are gorgeous, and the worship is spirited. If you are ever in this part of the country at church time then stop by for a visit. You will be impressed.

Rev Todd Black was installed as Pastor of St.



Front Row Rev Mitch & Regina Edge, Rev Todd & Tina Black, Back row I-r Deacons- Bill Stokes, Robert Jordan, Harry Shoemake

John FWB Church in Patrick on Sunday, June 24, 2000 by his former Pastor, Rev Mitch Edge (Parkway F W B Church,

Spartanburg). Great Sermon, good fellowship, and a marvelous meal highlighted this Sunday night service.

We have another **St John FWB Church**. This one is located on busy highway 378 about 12



miles east of Lake City, SC. For years it had held to survival "by the skin of its teeth". Then Pastor Rickey Evans arrived, God began to work, and now the church is a post card for Free Will Baptist on this busy highway.

Recently the Church added a steeple to the church, much needed parking (aren't the flags a beautiful touch?) in front of the new fellowship building, and a very nice sign with good messages that are changed regularly. And Pastor Rickey said plans are well under way for a new sanctuary since the man who owns the land beside the church donated enough land for a new building and parking!! (Glory).



During the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ Home Coming celebration (Sunday, Aug 6, 2000) at New Life FWB Church, Lancaster, Pastor Joe Moore proclaimed **Rev David Anders as Pastor Emeritus**. This means brother David will assist in the pulpit, help with the seniors ministry, and help the pastor as much as possible; while his wife, Parlie, conducts a powerful prayer ministry among the ladies. (Brother Anders will still be available to fill the pulpit for you if needed- Rev David Anders, 561 Creekside Pk Ln, Lancaster, SC 29720 (803) 283-2692).

Pastor Moore also announced that New Life had joined with Canaan, Piney Grove, High Point, and Great Commission FWB Churches on the Saturday before Home Coming to raise over \$2500 for Missionary Todd Smith and the Aiken work (Is there a Glory anywhere out there?). A car wash raised over \$350 dollars and then an all afternoon sing at Andrew Jackson State park featuring "Canaanland" and local church singers produced the remainder.

**Information you might want to know:**

- -Are Free Will Baptist growing? Take a look at the Statistical Summary published in this year’s digest of reports.

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
215,579	221,533	227,224	232,124	238,359	243,244	249,713	255,883	261,169	268,913	275,163

- -Why did the cost of church representation go up \$25 per church per year? Look at the cost increase for hosting our National Meeting:

1995 Charlotte	1996 Forth Worth	1997 Cincinnati	1998 Tulsa	1999 Atlanta	2000 Anaheim
\$110,000.00	\$115,050.00	\$139,466.00	\$138,358.00	\$179,326.00	\$217,535.00

- -The 2,124 Delegates attending the National Association at Anaheim this year:



- >Approved budgets for the various National Departments totaling over \$21 million dollars (!)
- >Approved A C Allen as a trustee for the FWB Bible College (Through 2006)
- >Approved Rev Sigbee Dilda as General Board member through 2003
- >Heard Executive Secretary, Dr. Melvin Worthington, announce that our national office building is now debt-free.

Heard that Free Will Baptist Bible College has signed a contract to sell its current location. Heard that the Home Mission department had sent out 22 new home mission missionaries last year. Heard Foreign Missions director, James Forlines, announce that there are now 202 national pastors as compared to 114 missionaries in our fields of service. A typical Sunday finds 12,314 people worshipping in Foreign Mission churches (1344 conversions last year).

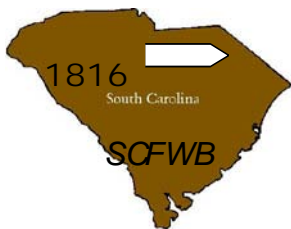


- >Approved the Media Commission’s plan to raise funds in order to go from a \$2000 a year commission to a \$200,000 a year full time work that will go self supporting in 3 years as it saves time and money for every department- and, potentially, every church in our denomination.

## HISTORICAL GLIMPSES

by Historical Commission Chairman, Joe McKnight

[Continued from last edition] The exact date of Redding Moore’s arrival in South Carolina has not been determined. He is not listed in the 1810 Census for Marion County, but does appear in the 1820 Census. No record has yet been found which lists him as head of any household in North Carolina. In a previous article, reference was made to the possibility that he served with North Carolina troops in the War of 1812. If this was indeed correct, he would not likely have moved to South Carolina before 1814 at the earliest.



A statement written in 1901 by Rev. J. B. Moore, Redding’s grandson, identifies him as “*Elder Redding Moore, who was onced a citizen of Green County, North Carolina, and came to South Carolina in the year 1816.*” The first documented evidence is a deed, dated March 5, 1816, in Marion County, South Carolina, which at that time included much of what is now Florence County. The deed records a transaction between “*William Alsbrook of Marion Dist. To Redding More (also sp MOOR) of the same place.*”

Moore paid \$550 for 350 acres of land, “...except such part as the waters of Mill pond does drown or may drown...”, which was located northeast of Jeffreys Creek. Today, that land is in the Mars Bluff Community, near the intersection of National Cemetery Road and Bethel Road, southeast of Florence. The intersection of those roads has long been known as Moores Crossroads. Bethel Road was undoubtedly named after the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, which was founded by Redding Moore and which is located on land he once owned. Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, one of the oldest Free Will Baptist churches in South Carolina, will be the subject of some upcoming articles.

The next article will discuss what is known about Redding Moore’s family. There are several items of interest in that area, including the possibility that Redding’s first wife died after moving to South Carolina, and that he remarried while living here.

[Continued Next Issue]