

March - April 2000

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47 SAVED ON ROLL CALL SUNDAY

South Carolina Free Will Baptist Churches reported 47 precious souls were saved on Roll Call Sunday (Glory!). 39 people also rededicated their lives to the Lord while numerous joined the church and were baptized. Our total attendance this year was 13,475 (Up over 500 from last year) as reported by 124 (of our 128) churches making our average attendance over 108.67 (Isn't that Great!).

4 churches reported over 500 in attendance with the top attendance honor going to Pastor Bill Jacobs and the Mullins-Marion FWB Church [Full attendance figures on page 2].

WONDERFUL STATE MEETING

Many things stand out to me during our State Meeting this year but there is one sight I believe I will never forget- All over the congregation of our State meeting men were standing as testimony to the fact that at least 5 people had been saved in their church in the first two months of the year 2000. What a wonderful God we serve; and what a joy to be part of a denomination that is on the move for God.

Several people told me after our State Meeting this year that it was almost like going to revival. Thank God for the good preaching, the great spirit, and the wonderful harmony this year (Someone commented that we must have broken some kind of record this year when we did not have a single negative vote during the entire meeting!). Truly, God is good, and greatly at work among his people.



The Big Givers for 1999- Overall, to the Promo Office, and to Foreign Missions: J Creech (Horse Branch), Home Mission: J Keen (North Spartanburg), Children's Home: J Moore (New Life), Aux: R Moore standing in for Mill Branch

Thankfully, the Progress continues- As of March 31st of this year your Promotional Office has already received over \$239,000 (compared to \$180,000 by this time last year) for distribution. Praise

the Lord for the generous hearts of South Carolina Free Will Baptist.

I have already had the privilege of visiting in over 50 of our 128 Churches and all over our state I see churches building or remodeling, young men answering the call to preach the gospel, and Free Will Baptist churches making a difference in their communities. Thank God for what HE is doing!

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. Mike@SCFWB.Com Beeper- 843-660-2100

Look inside where you will find:
>\$3300 Miracle-Twice!
>Ladies get Froggy
>Wheelbarrow pushing Pastor
>Chester Congregation Celebrates
>Coward church sends Pastor away and much, much more.

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BEAVER CREEK CONFERENCE (29)	
Arcadia, Arcadia	350
Calvary, Union	
Canaan, Lancaster	91
Converse, Cowpens	85
Cornerstone, Rutherfordton, NC	
Fairview, Spartanburg	178
First, Chesnee	124
First, Chester	207
First, Greenville	95
First, Greenwood	45
First, Inman	521
First, Simpsonville	47
First, Una	127
Freedom, Lancaster	130
Gaffney, Gaffney	129
High Point, Lancaster	514
Hope, Spartanburg	62
Landmark, Anderson	140
Lesslie, Rock Hill	37
Liberty, Lancaster	119
Lockhart, Lockhart	190
New Covenant, Spartanburg	44
New Life, Lancaster	179
North Spartanburg, Boiling Springs	142
Parkway, Boiling Springs	162
South Side, Gaffney	41
Trinity, Una	
Valley Falls, Spartanburg	507
Whitney, Spartanburg	115
CENTRAL CONFERENCE (26)	
Bethel, Florence	37
Cornerstone, Whiteville	187
Damascus, Conway	106
Evergreen, Conway	233
First, Hamlet	87
First, Myrtle Beach	188
Floyds, Nichols	24
Free Welcome, Conway	49
Jesus First, Rockingham	250
King's Way, Enoree	150
Little Bethel, Johnsonville	15
Little Star, Johnsonville	155
Mt Trolly, Conway	140
Mt Ariel, Conway	62

Mullins- Marion, Mullins	582
New Life, Conway	29
Oak Grove, Conway	115
Pee Dee, Conway	86
Rains, Rains	93
Socastee, Surfside Beach	80
South Conway, Conway	88
Sweet Home, Myrtle Beach	35
Unity, Johnsonville	66
Westside, Johnsonville	107
White Savannah, Conway	340
Wildwood, Nichols	37
S C CONFERENCE (41)	
Bay Branch, Timmons ville	98
Bethany, Timmons ville	134
Bethesda, Camden	23
Beulah, Pamplico	97
Bible, Darlington	77
Black River, Andrews	73
Calvary, Georgetown	33
Camp Branch, Scranton	76
Columbia, Columbia	54
Community, Florence	59
Eastside, Florence	30
Faith, Darlington	70
Fellowship, Florence	46
First, Hartsville	28
First, Florence	314
First, Kingstree	236
First, Darlington	74
First, Charleston	56
Grace, Lake City	136
High Hill, Lake City	24
Horse Branch, Turbeville	223
Immanuel, Santee	14
Jefferson Road, Sumter	134
Lebanon, Florence	88
Liberty, Manning	45
Liberty, Orangeburg	30
Low Country, Charleston	20
Lynches River, Coward	31
Midlands, Columbia	38
Mt Elon, Pamplico	122
New Town, Lake City	50
Pamplico, Pamplico	41

Peace, Florence	269
Poplar Hill, Hemingway	48
Salem, Scranton	30
Sand Hill, Coward	83
Southside, Darlington	212
St John, Patrick	60
Tabernacle, Coward	193
Temple, Darlington	189
Victory, Andrews	37
PALMETTO CONFERENCE (7)	
Bethel, Fort Mill	24
Bright Light, Thomasville, N C	62
Mountainview, Kings Mountain, NC	25
New Vision, Rock Hill	60
Peace, Spartanburg	267
Trinity, Wilmington, NC	26
Victory, Hanover, PA	87
EASTERN CONFERENCE (15)	
Cornerstone, Manning	42
Cypress Forks, Manning	49
Fellowship, Manning	19
Freedom, Ladson	102
Gilead, Scranton	222
Happy Home, Andrews	74
Hickory Hill, Gresham	66
Hillside, Florence	80
Mill Branch, Johnsonville	67
New Vision, Hemingway	91
New Prospect, Pamplico	130
Olanta, Olanta	13
St John, Pamplico	77
Walker's Chapel, Sumter	22
Williams Hill, Hemingway	57
GREAT COMMISSION CONFERENCE. (4)	
Great Commission, Lancaster	39
Greer First, Greer	
Pine Grove	85
Woodruff First, Woodruff	35
TRUE LIFE CONFERENCE (5)	
Calvary, Lancaster	71
Cornerstone, Chester	36
Faith, Smyrna	26
Gloryland, Rock Hill	44
Mt Carmel, York	42
MISSIONS Southside, Aiken	18



l-r Jerry Aley, Doug Carter, Randal Eaddy, Barbara Stanley, Willie Willis, Cameron Lloyd, Rev Leroy Lowery

GROUND BREAKING. Pastor Leroy Lowery and the building committee of Southside FWB Church in Darlington as pictured as they break ground on Sunday, Feb 6, 2000 for their new sanctuary. It will include 3400 feet of worship space and is being built in front of their present facility.



L-r Rev Leroy Lowery, Dorothy Sanders, Buffie Robinson, Mary Clark, Rev Theron Scott

Graduation services for the Pee Dee Bible Institute were held on Sunday night, March 26th at Southside FWB Church in Darlington. Rev Theron Scott was the guest speaker. We congratulate these for their desire

to learn more about God's word and work.



Pastor Daggett Duncan and the charter members of New Vision FWB Church in Rock Hill celebrated their 7th Anniversary on Sunday, March 26th. Your Promotional Director was privileged to speak to this great group and we really had church. Another church going forward for God.

Do you remember to pray for other Free Will Baptist Churches, as well as your own???

\$3300 Miracles

NUMBER 1

My wife and I love where we live; but, as you can see, our mobile home sits in the middle of a plowed field. One rainy Saturday we returned home



2434 Allen Road. Home of the Promotional Director and His Princess .

and as we sat in the car waiting for the rain to slack up my wife suddenly looked over at me and said she wanted to pray a prayer of praise for the cement pad she was going to get!! We had no idea where it would come from but we praised God for it by faith.

The next morning I preached Home Coming at **Mill Branch FWB Church** in Johnsonville. At the end of the service the pastor called my wife and I up and presented us a check (That had been collected several weeks before!) for \$3300 (Glory!). And here is the "kicker", they gave it to us designated to build a cement pad!! God is SO GOOD!!!

NUMBER 2:

The **Children and Youth of White Savannah FWB Church** in Conway sponsor an annual Valentine event to raise money for special Projects. This year their project was to raise money for Motorcycles for India.

Each child was given some jars to put out at various locations during the last week of January. When the jars were collected and the money counted these young people had raised \$3300 (Glory!).

Each child received a trophy for participating but the two children who raised the most were crowned King and Queen of the Valentine Celebration held at the Church. This year that honor went to Savannah Seay as Queen and Noah Pruett as King.

When Pastor Buddy Seay arrived in India with this money he saw the greatest need was bicycles for Evangelist so he brought 25 bicycles and a motorcycle! Only Heaven knows how many souls will be won to Christ because of the faithful work of these young people.





GOOD NEWS from Tim and Kristi Johnson in Spain- For quite some time now we have been talking about the little boy we are expecting. Well now he has a name...ALEXANDER RAY JOHNSON. In Spanish his name will be Alejandro (pronounced Ah-lay-HAHN-droe). As the time gets closer for his arrival into the world, mom and dad are getting more excited (and of course, his grandparents). Continue praying

for Kristi and Alexander these remaining nine weeks.

The young people recently were in charge of the service at the Villalba church. They did a very good job. Our church was full, with 75 people, with several there who were lost.

They also recently had a "Cafe y Algo Mas". Many unsaved people were in attendance, and a clear presentation of the Gospel was given. Pray with them that God will continue working in their hearts.

INDIA EVENTS: In spite of travel difficulties, Brother Sherwood Lee and Brother Buddy Seay reported a great blessing at the India National Meeting in March. They report that brother Carlisle continues to progress in the work and they brought back the following report:
 Total Ordained Pastors- 12 (4 were ordained at this meet)
 Licensed Preachers- 4, Evangelist- 22, Church Planters- 47.
 Organized churches- 16, Total FWB Churches in North India- 113, Preaching Centers- 146.
 Registration at Conference- 1582, Attendance 3000 !!
 Total attendance on roll call (1999)- 4470



Andy and Andrea MOORE were approved for inclusion in the S C Plan of Support for Foreign Missions during the State Association Meeting in February. They are excited to be part of the S C "Family" of missionaries and look forward to

beginning their work in Brazil soon.

POOLE PRAISE: Bobby and Geneva Poole are excited about the good Family Retreat they recently had with Rev Milton Worthington as the main speaker. Attendance was around 150 as Brother Milton preached on "How to cope with change- Moral, Social, and Spiritual". God is blessing the work right now and they are excited to see what He is doing. Continue to pray for God to guide as they reach out into their community.



The **DAVID AYCOCK** family have been very busy recently. Here they minister to the S C Conference Woman's Auxiliary Meeting at Black River FWB Church, Andrews.

GAINER GOOD NEWS: Mirial Gainer is hard at work in Japan. She recently helped in a farewell dinner for two believers in the Abashiri Church who were being transferred to other areas (One to Chile and the other to the southern part of Japan). Then she had to drive 6 hours thru the snow and ice to Sapporo to help Debbie Griffin move.

She wants to THANK each of you who give to her account so she can continue working for the Lord. Continue to pray for God to use her efforts.

JIM COWART retains his responsibilities as field council chairman for Brazil. He will also serve as team leader for the group of teens which will go to Belo Horizonte this summer as a part of TEAM Brazil 2000. He is looking forward to participating in the S C Conference Mission conference in September and plans to return to Brazil soon afterwards.

Remember, You can support all seven Missionary families with your gift. **Just designate "THE PLAN"** and your gift will be distributed to these seven missionary families that are carrying the gospel all around the world.

Free Will Baptist World Missions Offering is set for Sunday, April 30, 2000. This year's World Missions Offering goal is \$100,000. It will go toward Support Services in order to assist ALL missionaries as they labor in the field. Pray, and give generously.



The State Home Mission Board rejoices with Pastor Danny Keen as they view the progress on the new building at Anderson. The congregation hopes to move in by Easter and go self supporting by October!! God has done wonderful things under Brother Keen's ministry in Anderson and we rejoice with them.



Fellowship FWB Church in Florence is in need of a Piano Player. If you could use your talents to assist this church then contact pastor Joe McKnight at (662-1303)



Sunday, March 12th brought quite a surprise to Rev Ralph Byars and his beautiful bride, Bonnie. Over 200 people (including 40 family members and friends from Chester) brought the Sunday morning

service to a halt in order to honor this couple on their 25th anniversary and to show their appreciation for brother Ralph's 10 years as pastor of this church.

The church presented the surprised couple a gift of a week's vacation in Florida. Then brother Ralph got to listen as his brother Wayne preach the morning service before everyone adjourned to the fellowship building for a specially prepared meal.

Pastor Ralph is doing a great work at this church and it is wonderful to see his members honor he and his wife this way.

Pastor Earl Bittle of Happy Home FWB Church in Andrews walks the isles with his wheel barrow to collect an offering for Benjamin



Randall day. It worked- -he collected \$1000 !!!

Happy Home also honored it's **DEACONS** for their hard work and dedication by presenting each a sports coat and dinner in the fellowship building.



MORTGAGE BURNING: South Conway FWB Church held a special service on January 9, 2000 to burn their mortgage and celebrate God's blessings. Thank God for the progress this church has made.



L-R Rev Tim Larrimore, Glenn Haris, Roland Prince, Rev Ray Cribb, Rev Mike Gerald, Randall Jordan, Sonny Edge, Carlile Hatcock



Over 200 people attended the ordination service for **REV CHAD WEST** at the First FWB Church of Inman. Brother David Crowe brought the message and everyone enjoyed a fish fry and time of fellowship afterwards. Brother Chad came up under the ministry of Brother Earl Hendrix and he is looking forward to God

opening a door of opportunity for him.

Rev David Crowe will be the guest evangelist at the Eastern Conference Soul Winning Revival at Gilead FWB Church, **Oct 23-27,2000**. More about this event later but mark your calender. Money raised will go toward the Landscaping work at Southside FWB Mission in Aiken.

Known Available Pastors: (Resumes available)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Rev Chad West | Rev Gerald Corbett |
| Rev Jerry Aley, Jr | Rev Brian Tolliver |
| Rev W D Jones | Rev Todd Black |
| Rev Nathan Barrington | Rev Phillip Tipton |
| Rev Christopher Wall | Rev Pete Bove |
| Rev Dennis Kiser | Rev Wayne Smith |
| Rev Walter (Pete) Minor | |

Known Pastoral Changes:

- Rev Joe Cagle to Hillside, Florence
- Rev Johnny Evans to Mill Branch, Johnsonville
- Rev Galen Dunbar to Calvary, Georgetown



SOUTHEASTERN FWB COLLEGE invites you to attend "Camp Meeting 2000" April 17-19. Special speakers include: Calvin Ray Evans, Barry Goodman, Jack Lassiter, Christian Powell, Frank Woods, and Scott Wright. Special music will be provided by the Dove Brothers Quartet.

The first annual Alumni Banquet will also be held at this time with special music from past music groups and a message by Dr Danny Dwyer.

Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 12th.



The First annual South Carolina FWBBC Alumni Dinner was held Saturday, March 25, 2000 at the Family Life center of Lebanon FWB Church. A large crowd turned out to hear the President of the college (Dr Tom Malone) share the plans about relocation.

Officers were elected to make this a regular event- Todd Parrish- President, A C Allen- Vice President, and Vada Lee- Sec.

First FWB Church of Chester recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a full week of activities including powerful Gospel preaching and great Gospel singing. Many of the services completely filled their new 540 seat sanctuary and God presence was greatly evident.



The second week in April this fine church plans to break ground for a new 120 by 80 feet Christian Life Center. This will give them over \$1 million dollars in buildings(!). Truly they have reason to rejoice.



Jonathan McKnight has been selected to participate in the 2000 *Truth and Peace Student Leadership* conference. This

conference trains, motivates, and encourages high school students to impact their world through Biblical leadership..

Jonathan is the son of Rev and Mrs. Joe McKnight (Pastor of Fellowship FWB Church), and a senior at Mararatha Christian School. He plans to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College upon graduation.

***Lebanon FWB Church will have a special ET TA teacher training course with Keith Kennemer June 16-17. Contact Pastor Reedy Saverance for more information.



Southside FWB Mission (1411 E Pine Log Road, Aiken, SC) will have a **DEDICATION SERVICE** for their Church facility on **Saturday, May 27th**. Missionary Todd Smith invites everyone to attend.

Dedication Services begin at 2:00pm

Special Recognitions

Special Singing

Message- Pastor Buddy Seay, Jr

Prayer of Dedication

Refreshments

(Contact Brother Todd at 803-644-3771 {Home} for Directions)

Joey Postlewaite is the new associate pastor at Sand Hill FWB Church. He will Pastor (and state moderator) Sherwood Lee.



We are on the WEB- **WWW.SCFWB.com.**

--Need to find an available preacher to fill the pulpit or to become pastor of a church. Click on our web site to find their name/phone number. - -Need to know the address or phone number of someone on the state executive committee- Click on our Web Site.

- -Need to order supplies on the web through our Book Store. Click our connection on the web.

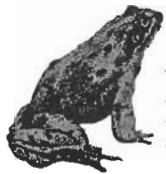
- -Need to find other FWB sites in our state, in our nation, or around the world. Click on our Web site.

Construction is continuing so check back often.



Lookup Lodge is the place. **September 29-30** are the dates. \$46 is the cost (The \$10 registration fee [non refundable] is due by July 15th). The annual **LADIES AUXILIARY RETREAT** is the event; and you don't want to miss it.

This year's theme will be **FROG** (Fully Rely on God) and ladies are encouraged to wear green T-shirts or clothing with Frog emblems. Mrs Gwen Hendrix promises a "hopping" good time will be had by all so get your registration in early.



Central District WAC was held at New Life FWB Church, Conway (Pastor Gordon Cook) on Saturday, Feb 19th. Your Promotional Director was guest speaker and these ladies had a splendid time as they conducted business, sang about the Lord, and enjoyed a great fellowship meal. Their theme was "Time to Work"



The Youth Choir of Black River FWB Church provided special music.

Black River FWB Church hosted the **SC Conference WAC** with a theme of "Given to Hospitality". Special guests were the David Aycock Family

and the church was so full until the Promotional Director had to stand the entire service! The ladies of Black River outdid themselves in preparing the meal and decorating the fellowship building for this event.

The **Eastern District WAC** was held at Gilead FWB Church with guest speaker Mona Dukes. Their theme was "Serving in Unity" and that theme was evident in the great spirit of worship and praise in their meeting.



Mrs JoAnne King was the guest speaker at the **Beaver Creek WAC** held on Saturday, March 4th at Gaffney FWB Church. In spite of rainy, stormy weather the church was completely full and they had a great meeting. You should have seen how the ladies of this church had

decorated their fellowship building (And to make it really special, they even let their Pastor, Jimmy Miller, help serve!)

Another full church greeted **Mrs Marjorie Workman** (Executive Secretary of the National WNAC) as she spoke at the **State WAC convention** at New Vision FWB Church in Hemingway. Their theme was "A New Vision of Opportunities with our Lord, Family, and Friends" and it was evident from the singing,



presentations, and business that these ladies really have a vision for doing a work for God- Let me give you an example. Last year they wanted to raise \$10,000 for Mexico but they ended up raising over \$20,000 (!) Way to go ladies.

The ladies of our state are a wonderful asset to our churches and to the overall ministry for the Lord in our state. If your church is not active in WAC then I encourage you to become a part. You'll be glad you did.



The Charter Members of **Liberty FWB Church** rejoiced on Sunday, April 2nd as they moved into their

new facility. Fabulous singing began the service and Rev Bobby Bowers preached a tremendous dedication message to the 184 people in attendance.

RESOLUTIONS adopted by the State Association of Free Will Baptist
during the February, 2000 meeting at White Savannah FWB Church.

1. Whereas promiscuity and violence continue to be propagated by a liberal society through numerous channels of entertainment, literature, and “post modernistic” education, be it resolved that we affirm our stand for moral purity, the sanctity of human life, and the worth of the human soul as supported by scripture (Gen 1:26; Levi 11:44-45); Rom 12:1-2; I Corinth 1:2; Eph 4:30; 5:25-27; Colossians 1:21-22; I Thess 4:3-8; II Tim 1:9). Be it further resolved that we refrain from all entities that would promote such unbridled behavior and jeopardize a holy standard of Christian living.

2. Whereas homosexuality is an abomination contrary to the principles of morality as stated in Leviticus 20:13 and Romans 1:26-27, and whereas “same-sex marriage” is an abomination contrary to God’s clearly defined order of the family (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:23-25), and whereas there is a consensus among groups in our nation to promote acceptance, tolerance, and legalization of the same, be it resolved that we stand in opposition to this consensus, be it the government, the military, the schools, the work force, or private residence of our American society.

3. Whereas gambling contradicts the Biblical teaching regarding the stewardship of possessions (Psalm 21:1; Proverbs 13:11; Matthew 6:21; I Corinthians 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, be it video poker, a state lottery, gambling boats, and other games of chance which cause one to put at risk their possessions provided by God. Be it further resolved that we commend the efforts of Free Will Baptist groups in our state who have cooperated with other groups to defeat the legality of video poker and encourage future cooperation toward the defeat of a potential state lottery or any other form of gambling.

4. Whereas abortion on demand, partial birth abortion, or any formality of “pro-choice” is in distinct contradiction to Biblical teaching (Exodus 20:13; Genesis 9:6; Leviticus 24:17, 21b), and whereas we are in an election year to decide the office of presidency of our United States, be it resolved that our support for candidates of said office and any other of our government be reserved for those who hold nothing less than a solid “pro-life” agenda.

5. Whereas the members of the White Savannah Free Will Baptist Church have so graciously opened their facilities and have been so gracious a host in assisting the needs of this State Association meeting, be it resolved that we, the State Association, give a rising vote of thanks for their labors of love.

(Another resolution was approved from the floor to give thanks to brother Bob Shields and his group for their work in helping the FWB Bible College in drawing plans for the relocation of the college.)

HISTORICAL GLIMPSES

by Historical Commission Chairman, Joe McKnight



Other than the third verse of a hymn, nothing is deliberately avoided as much in churches today as those sections of the Bible that deal with history. We maintain that history is boring and irrelevant, when it is neither. A strong argument can be made that an adequate knowledge of history and heritage is essential to the success of any endeavor. The South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists is no exception to that rule.

During the State Association meeting in 1999, a Historical Commission was created to research, document, and preserve the history of the denominational work in this state. This is the first comprehensive, statewide attempt to learn the answers to some vital questions. When was Free Will Baptist doctrine first introduced into South Carolina? Who preached it, and why did they come? Where did they settle and begin to build churches? Who were the early men of God who labored so sacrificially that we might inherit an organizational structure and a proud heritage of service to the cause of God? This is the first of a series of articles in THE INFORMER that will address these and many other issues.

The journey back in time to our roots begins in the early years of the nineteenth century. The year was 1816. America was a young nation. It had been only forty years since the Declaration of Independence was signed. We had fought two wars with Great Britain in that time span, the latest being the War of 1812. The nation was focusing on growth and expansion. People were moving from place to place seeking economic stability and a sense of community with others of common faith and heritage. One of those who migrated was a man named Redding Moore. It is with him that our story begins. [Continued Next Issue]