

THE



INFORMER

The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Rev Mike Jones, Editor, P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504 or call (843) 662-5010. Email: Mike@scfwb.com

July - August, 2001

Ladies to “Climb Mountains” and Raise money to feed Hungry in India

YO DA LADY WHO- The annual State Ladies Auxiliary retreat is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 14-15th at Look Up Lodge. This year’s theme of “I want that Mountain” is expected to lead to new heights of spiritual growth and creative adaptation as the ladies design theme wear for their group.



Guest Speakers are Ashley Hartley and Ronda Freeman (Remember them from the State Meeting?).

Pull out your boots, pack your gear, and plan to attend this year’s Retreat. You will have a great time of fun, fellowship, and growth in the Lord as you explore new games and adventures and learn to “climb that mountain with the Lord”. (See Additional Information on page 3)



Keep the Smile on this face by helping provide food for Indian Christians

PROJECT: Mrs Gwen has just learned of a MAJOR MOUNTAIN that needs to be climbed. The Monsoons have not come in India so the rice crop could not be planted on time. Many of the Christians may go Hungry. Each Auxiliary is asked to bring a special Offering to help feed the

Christians in India. Together, we can turn this Mountain into a Mole Hill!

The cost is only \$47 per person. A \$10 deposit is required as soon as possible. Send your deposit to: Gwen Hendrix; 90 Blackstock Road; Inman, SC 29349

REV SAM TRUETT PROMOTED TO HEAVEN.

Veteran Pastor, Rev Sam Truett, ran the last mile of his life’s race on Tuesday, August 7th. A sudden heart attack brought an end to a ministry that had profoundly impacted many. His church ministry, his teaching at various Bible Institutes, his 15 year tenure on the FWB Bible College Board, his writing of Sunday School Lessons for Randal House, and his loving personality all combined to leave a large mark for Christ in our State and across our denomination.

Brother Sam was blessed to have wife, Anne, for a companion for 35 of his 55 years. Her bubbly spirit and tremendous testimony of God’s care were a great help to Brother Sam’s ministry. God blessed this union with a wonderful son, Rev Chris Truett who is minister of music at Bethel FWB Church in Kinston, N C.

All of us who knew Brother Sam have special memories of him. The first “Formal” training your Promotional Director received was at the Florence Bible Institute where Brother Sam clarified my Doctrine and made me read Philippians every day for 2 months! He had a profound impact on my life and ministry. May God continue to raise us such soldiers for His Army.



Remember Pastor Appreciation Sunday is September 9th.

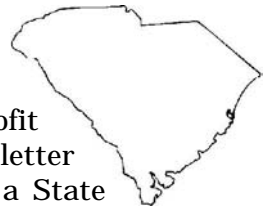
BELONGING BENEFITS:

An Editorial by Rev Mike Jones

Free Will Baptists are a fundamental, Bible Believing group of individual and churches who have survived all of Satan's attacks and still steadfastly proclaim God's Word week after week. In the midst of a sin sick society where government, schools, and even many churches have abandoned Godly principles and moral Purity God has raised up Free Will Baptists "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

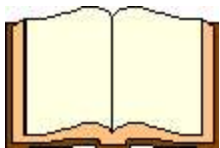
Not only do we support our local Church as it shares the Gospel, builds our families, and is the salt and light in our community BUT TOGETHER we support needy children in our Children's Home, the spreading of the Gospel in Home Missions and Foreign Fields, and the Christian Education of our children in Christ centered colleges.

Individually we join a local church in order that we might strengthen our faith, make full use of our talents, spread the Gospel, and occupy the place in the "Body" that has been assigned to us by the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12:11-14). For the same reasons, Churches join TOGETHER into Conferences, Conferences join TOGETHER into a State Association, and State Associations join TOGETHER into the National Association of Free Will Baptists. The Government recognizes individual Churches as "Non Profit Organizations" through this Umbrella of Association. A local Church that desires a not for profit mailing permit contacts the National Associational Offices which then issues a letter stating that the Church is a member of a Conference which is a member of a State Association which is in good standing with the National Association. The Government has recognized the National Association of Free Will Baptists as a Non Profit Organization and includes the State Associations, Local Conferences, and Churches that are in good fellowship under this Umbrella.



This wonderful Privilege of belonging TOGETHER brings with it Responsibility and Accountability. Take the matter of finances. Conferences, State Associations, and National Organizations all depend on the Local Church being responsible in their giving in order to operation. They generally have no other source for operation except the faithful support of individual Christians through their local church. If this responsibility is not met then Children's Homes must shut down, Home Mission Churches never get started, and Foreign Missionaries must leave multitudes in darkness as they return home. (This is why the \$1 Million Dollars (Glory!) S. C. FWB Churches send through the Promotional Office this year to support God's work in our state and around the world is so important).

How about Accountability? Local Churches require members to meet certain requirements in order to join and remain members of that Church. In the same way, Conferences, State Associations, and the National Association have requirements that must be met in order to enjoy the Privilege of Good Standing. For instance, Conferences, State Associations, and National Associations require the payment of quarterly or annual dues before delegates can be seated and given the privilege of active participation in the business being transacted.



I am a Free Will Baptist today because we begin our Church Covenant with these words, "Having giving ourselves to God by Faith in Christ Jesus and HAVING ACCEPTED THE WORD OF GOD AS OUR RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn Covenant". Free Will Baptists believe the Bible and TOGETHER we believe in preaching and practicing God's Word. That is where we began; and that is where we stand today. TOGETHER we have the greatest doctrine in the world, the greatest people in the world, and the greatest opportunity to reach a lost world for Christ.

If you are part of the Free Will Baptists Family then rejoice in, and hold fast to, our wonderful heritage. If you are not a Free Will Baptist then "come thou with us and we will do thee good" (Num 10:29).

[Learn more about our Doctrine and our Churches on our Web Site- WWW.SCFWB.Com]

Remaining balance on **Remodeling loan** for the State FWB Headquarters Building and Christian Book Store as of August 1, 2001- \$16,491.49 (A gift of \$150 per church designated for Loan repayment would completely wipe this loan out!).

YOUTH CAMP- 2001



Cletus the Chef - Donnie the Chief

Youth Camp Director, Rev Donnie Miles, reported that 190 Campers came to Camp Beaverlake this year (Glory!). There was a Wonderful Spirit and great fellowship (Some of the Teen even asked if they could stay another week- which almost caused the staff to faint!). Numerous decisions were made for salvation or commitment and the staff stated this was one of the best camps

ever.



A future Pastor and Wife???

A good lunchroom staff led by “Cletus the Cook” (Rev Marty Cox of Mt Ariel FWB Church) kept the kids well fed and it was evident from the hard work and zealous attitude that the cabin counselors came with ministering to the young people in their heart. Camp Evangelists- Jonathan Blankenship and Christ Rumfelt preached powerful messages and God greatly used them in the lives of the young people.

Pray for the Youth Board as they lay plans for more and better methods of reaching our Young people with the Gospel of Christ.



Jonathan Blankenship



Counselors Allen Goodman and Tony Trott head for Supper.



Everyone loved the “Water Banana”



State Moderator, Rev Sherwood Lee, helps Cletus dish up the grub

S C Conference Mission Conference- MISSIONS MANDATE 2001 Sept 16-19, 2001			
SPEAKER	Sunday MORNING Sept 16	Sunday EVENING Sept 16	Wednesday , September 19
RICK BOWLING	Bethany, Timmonsville Pastor Phil Bozeman	First -Kingtree Pastor Wayland Owens	Peace-Florence Pastor Donnie Miles
CARLISLE HANNA	Beulah- Pamplico Pastor Elro Driggers	Lebanon-Effingham	Temple- Darlington Pastor Todd Parrish
JERRY GIBBS	Black River- Andrews	Horse Branch- Turbeville Pastor Jackie Creek	Prospect Ind Methodist- Lake City
ROSANA GUIMARAES	Calvary- Georgetown Pastor Galen Dunbar	Lynches River- Scranton Pastor Jason Miles	Salem- Coward Pastor Larry Hughes
JAKIE CREECH	Eastside-Florence Pastor Eddie Riddick	Grace- Lake City Pastor Carroll Bazen	
SHERWOOD LEE	Faith- Darlington Pastor Cyrus Shoffner	Low Country- Charleston Pastor Phillip Jones	Tabernacle- Coward Pastor David Young
VICTOR NAFATYUK	Fellowship- Florence Pastor Joe McKnight	Jefferson Road- Sumter Pastor Tony Trott	Southside-Darlington Pastor Leroy Lowery
BOBBY POOLE	First-Darlington Pastor Mike McAuley	Midlands- Columbia Pastor Earnest Barnes	Poplar Hill- Hemingway Pastor Harry Cooper
TODD PARRISH	First- Florence Pastor Mike Creech	New Town- Lake City	
MIKE JONES		Liberty- Orangeburg	Sand Hill Coward , Pastor Sherwood Lee

**SOFT BALL TOURNAMENT
FOR AIKEN MISSION.**

6 Free Will Baptists Churches: St John, Gilead, Tabernacle, Camp Branch, Hill Side, and New Vision wanted to have some fellowship and help the work of the Lord at the same time. So Pastor Rickey Evans (St John) organized a Soft Ball Tournament on Friday and Saturday, June 22-23, 2001 to allow these churches to play some ball and raise some money for Home Missions. When the dust had settled, Tabernacle FWB Church of Coward had won the tournament (St John FWB Church of Pamlico was second) and **\$860 dollars had been raised to help the Aiken work** (Glory!).

Your Promotional Director had the great privilege



to take part in the annual God and Country Celebration at Victory FWB Church, Hanover, PA the first week in July. **Pastor Buck Riffe**, and New Youth Minister, Jason Myers are doing a great job and we enjoyed a great time of fellowship.

And again this year we were able to leave this service in time to be in the Sunday Night Service with Brother Paul Collins at the Harrisonburg FWB Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The work there is progressing well and we had a good service- followed by a cold Watermelon fellowship!

Looking for a good used van at an extremely good price? Pastor Joe Cagle informed us that he has someone wanting to help churches with excellent values in rebuilt vans- (843) 386-2014.

When I enter the beautiful city
and the saints all around me
appear
I hope that someone will tell me,

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MILLIONAIRE OR A MOUNTAINEER?
At the Fall Ladies Auxiliary Retreat you will get to play "Who wants to be a Mountaineer?" with the winner receiving as much as \$100 for their Auxiliary. In order to qualify as a contestant your Auxiliary must bring at least 10 people to the Retreat. Those who qualify will have their names put in a box from which the final contestants will be drawn. [And I won't tell you what kind of questions Mrs Gwen might ask!]



Back Row: Ordaining Counsel- l-r: Rev Larry McAlister, Rev Murrell Young, Rev Earl Bittle
Front Row: Rev /Mrs Phillip Tipton, Rev Kenneth Moore, Rev Terrace Crawford.

The **Eastern Conference** had an unusual quarterly Meeting at Williams Hill FWB Church recently. After the normal business meeting, Pastor Larry McAlister (Gilead FWB Church) preached a powerful message of challenge and commitment, Pastor Murrell Young (Olanta FWB Church) delivered a stirring charge, and Pastor Earl Bittle (Happy Home FWB Church) even managed to preach some as he presented Bibles! Then the conference gathered together to lay hands of ordination on 3 men- Rev Phillip Tipton, Rev Kenneth Moore, and Rev Terrace Crawford.



Rev Buddy Seay, Rev Carl Ward Jr Family, Rev Richard Huggins

Thursday Night, August 2, 2001 was a life changing night for **Rev Carl Ward, Jr.** On that night the Ordaining Counsel of the Central Conference and a good crowd of family and friends met at Sweet Home FWB Church, Conway to Ordain him into the Ministry. A tremendous message by Rev Buddy Seay was followed by a moving charge by Rev Richard Huggins. Then Brother Ward's dad presented him the Bible and commanded him to remain steadfast to it.

Thank God He continues to call soldiers into His army in order that a lost world might hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.



MEXICO MINISTRY: Dressed in Bright yellow shirts, 19 members of Gilead FWB Church set out to minister in Mexico June 26-July 3rd- Pastor Larry McAlister, Retha McAlister, Assistant Pastor Mike Bishop, Jennifer Bishop, Judy Nettles, Carolyn Matthews, Larry Coward, Gearld Yates, Ronnie Coward, Devan Coward, Lindsey Coward, Dale Connell, Brock Connell, Will

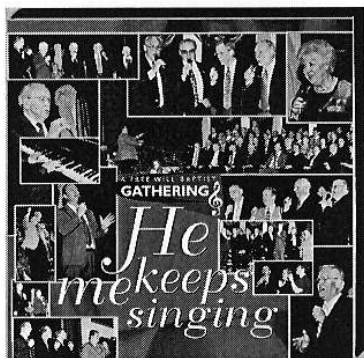
Byrd, Bradley Ard, Chris White, Jennifer Lamb, Rhonda Cantely, Jamie Godwin, Amber Street, Shelly McKnight.

Despite the fact that they were supposed to arrive in McAllen, Texas at noon on the 26th and ended up arriving at midnight due to plane problems every member of the group reported that this was a life changing experience for them. They learned to spell, and to shovel, Caleche (Somewhat like crushed rocks that had to be spread over the roads to make them passable in wet weather). They painted buildings and laid block at the Mexico Bible Institute, they brought in 1400 Tracts and 100 Spanish Bibles for distribution, and they attended numerous Church services. Pastor Larry McAlister reported that seeing the zeal of the Mexican Christians and the conditions they have to live under produced a profound change in everyone who attended.

A Free Will Baptist Gathering *He Keeps Me Singing*



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IMAGINE

**THE GOSPELIERS, THE KING'S MESSENGERS,
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RAYMOND RIGGS, BILL GARDNER,
SCOTT BULLMAN, & MANY OTHER
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ON THE SAME STAGE**

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Coming Benefits to help the FWB Children's Home:

The 7th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the FWB Home for Children will be held on Saturday, September 8th at the Players Courses at Wyboo and Wyboo Plantation, Manning, S C . Tee Time is 8:30am with 3 man teams, shot gun start- captain's choice. Lunch will be served at the Children's Home after the Tournament. Entry fee is \$50 per person and applications must be in by August 25th, 2001.



The 5th Annual Benefit Sing for the FWB Children's Home will be held at St John Elementary Auditorium in Darlington on Saturday, September 29th at 7:00pm. Featured will be the Anchormen and the Mt Calvary Clowns.

GOOD NEWS GOSSIP: Here are some GOOD things I have heard in the past few months.

** **Pastor Jody Wynn** (FWB Bible Church, Darlington) reported that 1 man was saved and another rededicated during a recent communion/feet washing service. Glory! That is what is supposed to happen when we examine ourselves and celebrate the broken body and shed blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

** **Pastor Wayne Snipes** (Hillside FWB Church, Florence) happily reported that 20 souls were saved during their Summer VBS (Glory!). Right behind him came **Pastor Brian Welch** (New Vision FWB Church, Hemingway) who reported that he had 20 decisions during VBS also. And then **Pastor David Young** (Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward) reported 5 people were saved with nearly 100 in attendance at their VBS. I don't know what is going on here but I like it!

** **Beulah FWB Church** (Pastor Elro Driggers) honored **Mrs Vera Hinds** on Sunday, June 24th for her more than 60 years of service to the Church, the community, and her family. Mrs Vera was first presented with a dozen long stem red roses and then church members shared what she had meant to them. Pastor Driggers then presented her a plaque for her 60 years of faithful



The VBS at New Vision raised \$686 for the Aiken Home Mission Work- Glory!

service, and family, friends, and church members adjourned to the fellowship building for a delicious dinner.

When the service was over, Mrs Vera said they could just bury her when she died now because her funeral had already been preached! What a joy to celebrate Faithful service for the Lord.

Beulah also had **Children's Home Day** recently. The Children from the Home presented a program of music and skits, Brother Wilhide preached the message, and, surprise!, they had a dinner! \$1650 was presented to the Home to help on the new Girl's Dorm!



Fellowship FWB Church, Manning surprised Pastor Bennie Turner on Sunday, July 23rd with a special day to Honor his 67th

Birthday! Services included special music, a message by Rev Monroe Harrell, and a fellowship meal. Brother Bennie said the only present he wanted was to have 67 people present on his 67th birthday- when the total attendance for the day was added up that is exactly how many they had!



Pastor Elro Driggers and Mr Billy Bazen present a check to Brother Wilhide

Darin Miles (Son of Rev. and Mrs. Donnie Miles) graduated from FWB Bible College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Missions. Darin also received the Student Body President's medal and was selected as "Outstanding Student". He plans to continue his education at Columbia International University

Jonathan McKnight (Son of Rev. and Mrs. Joe McKnight) received the "Class Scholastic Medal" at FWBCC for his Freshmen year- and was recently licensed by the South Carolina Conference to Preach the Gospel!

Shiloh Hackett (Son of Rev. and Mrs. Tim Hackett) recently joined the staff of FWB Bible College as part of their Enrollment Management team. We hate losing him in the state but look for God to greatly use him in his new responsibilities.

Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews (Pastor Earl Bittle) has begun work on a 2100 square foot Sunday School Room Edition to handle their continued growth. May God soon fill every room.

Pastor Carroll Edwards of the Greer FWB Church reports that they are in the beginning phase of building an Outdoor Amphitheater to host outdoor Gospel Singing and Revivals. They believe this will greatly expand their witness in the community and enable them to reach even more souls for Christ.



Deacon A C Allen invites the congregation to come by and honor the Saverances

Sunday, July 8th was **Rev Reedy and Edra Saverance Day at Lebanon FWB Church**. Brother Reedy is retiring as Pastor and the Church wanted to honor him for his faithful service. A large gift from the church was supplemented by personal gifts from the congregation as they came by and told this fine couple what they had meant to them through the years.

The Promotional Director brought the message and a wonderful dinner was served in Lebanon's new Family Life Center. Brother Reedy and Mrs Edra are now living as neighbors to the Promotional Director on Allen Road.



What do you put on the cake of a retiring minister?- Amen



Pastor Jerry White burns the parsonage mortgage while the Trustees look on

Liberty FWB Church, Orangeburg had a Happy/Sad Day on Sunday, August 5th. The Church was able to **burn the mortgage** on the Parsonage and become totally debt free (Glory!). The 5 year mortgage was paid off is just over 2 years.

Sadly, this was Pastor Jerry White's last Sunday. He was moving the next day to become pastor of Free Will Chapel in Sulligent, AL. We appreciate Brother Jerry and pray God will bless him in his new work- and we look for God to send just the right person to lead this good work at Orangeburg.

Pastor Mitch Edge and the Parkway FWB Church did something unusual on July 29th, they had a DEACON APPRECIATION DAY. The Pastor had secretly invited members of the Deacon's families to attend this special service and their attendance started the service off right. Then wonderful congregational, choir, and special music opened up the windows of Heaven so Pastor Mitch could preach a powerful message on the duties of Deacons and the devotion shown by the present Deacon Board.



Deacons Vernon Carroll, Jerry Mills, and Allen Brown with their wives.

Plaques of Appreciation were presented to each Deacon and then, in a well kept Secret, the Pastor revealed that the Family Life Center was being renamed for the Chairman of the Deacon Board and his wife! The Deacons were then sent to the Head of the line for the Fellowship meal and a great time of fellowship was had by all.



(Parkway also recently added new rooms for Youth Activities on each end of the Church. God is really blessing and moving in this congregation.)

The First Annual "Soul Winning Conference" will be held at Canaan FWB Church (Pastor Clay Cordell) on Friday and Saturday, August 17-18th at 7:00pm each night. Special Speaker is Rev Kevin Smith (Arcadia FWB Church) and special music will be provided by High Point FWB Church Choir on Friday and "Royalty" on Saturday. The theme is "Going Out- Yielding Everything".



Dedication Service for Peace FWB Church, Florence new Sanctuary is scheduled for Sunday, August 19th.

REVIEW of the 65th Annual Session of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION- Detroit

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington announced his retirement effective December 31, 2002. Dr Worthington was elected as Executive Secretary in 1979 and during his 22 years in office Free Will Baptist have published a new hymnal, purchased a \$1.8 million dollar national office complex, adopted the "Together Way" plan of support, and organized the International Association of Free Will Baptists Churches. The Executive Committee is presently screening candidates. They will recommend one candidate to the General Board who will recommend one Candidate to the National Association for their approval at the next National Association Meeting in Memphis.



Rev Joe McKnight (Pastor of Fellowship FWB Church, Florence and State Historical Chairman) was **elected to serve on the Historical Commission** of the National Association.



Rev Bobby Bowers (Pastor of First FWB Church, Greenville) was **re-elected to serve on the Board of Retirement** (Term expires in 2007).

Adopted a record \$22.5 million budget:		Registered 5,031	
Foreign Missions	\$7.5 million	Ordained Ministers	504
Home Missions	\$5 million	Licensed Ministers	19
FWB Bible College	\$4.7 million	Deacons	100
Sunday School- Church Training	\$3.5 million	Local Church delegates	34
Executive Office	\$744,000	State delegates	71
Retirement and Insurance	\$373,000	Home Missionaries	64
Master's Men	\$194,000	Foreign Missionaries	27
FWB Foundation	\$120,000	Board/commission members	46
Music Commission	\$34,000	National Youth Conference	1265
Historical Commission	\$4,800	WNAC Convention	755
Commission for Theological Integrity	\$8,250	Visitors	2146
Media Commission	\$200,000		



Pastor Buddy Seay, Dr Don Hanna, Missionary Carlisle Hanna, State Moderator, Sherwood Lee, await their part in the Wednesday Night Service



Foreign Mission Director, James Forlines presents Missionary Carlisle Hanna a Plaque for his 50 years of service in India

Major News:

The Executive Committee was asked to investigate the actions and statements of the Home Missions Department regarding the late James Munsey and issue a report at the 2002 convention that will also be printed in Contact.

A study committee was put in place to study the feasibility of printing one enlarged national magazine to replace the magazines presently published by the Executive Office, the Home Missions Department, the Foreign Missions Department, the Master's Men Department, FWB Bible College, and the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

The Master's Men Department will withdraw from the "Rest of the Family Offering" effective 2002 and designate Father's Day as Master's Men Emphasis Day with a special offering received for Master's Men.

The Music Commission will publish a new Free Will Baptist Hymn Book soon.

The name change for FWB Bible College was defeated. Present President, Rev Tom Malone, will move to Chancellor of FWBBC in January of 2002 and a new President is being sought. Difficulties are still being encountered in selling the present Bible College location.

Pastor Earl Hendrix was honored by Home Mission Director Larry Powell for his 8 years of faithful service on the National Home Mission Board.

