March-April 2001 H arolina State M

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. Mike@scfwb.com

Thank You!

Words can never adequately express the THANKS that Paula and I feel for the generous giving of South Carolina Free Will Baptists (and others!) to help with her Medical Expenses. In the midst of this valley we are seeing so many Mountain Tops until we simply have to stop from time to time and rejoice in God's continued presence and provision. Thank you for caring and sharing with us.

\$21, 263.28 has been received so far for the Paula Jones Medical





Account! (Is there a Glory, Glory, Glory! anywhere out there?!) This is just overwhelming; and tremendously appreciated. All of this money is placed in a special fund at the State Promotional Office from

which Paula's Medical Bills will be paid. The State Executive Committee will audit the account from time to time and a complete accounting will be given at the 2002 State Association Meeting.

Paula should be almost through with her Radiation treatments by the time you receive this paper. God has been so good and the problems associated with her treatment have been less than we anticipated-we believe as a direct result of the prayers of God's people. Humbly, we thank you for praying- and praise God for His great mercy and care.

Inside see if you can find a story about:

STATE MEETING- TOO HOT TO HANDLE *STATE WOMEN THROW OUT PREACHERS* *FWB PREACHER BECOMES SNAKE HANDLER* *PREACHER CAUGHT- GETS 57 YEARS*



Why is the State WAC Leader hugging this man?

BOOK STORE MANAGER GETS SECOND CHANCE *MISSIONARY'S WIFE BECOMES PROBLEM PREACHER* *CHILDREN'S HOME: Ready to Pay off Boys and Build Girls*



Would you trust these men with \$15,000 and a suitcase? Someone did. read about it inside.

CHURCH'S PRAYER FOR A SIGN IS REWARDED WITH A SIGN FOR A SIGN *STATE PROMOTIONAL DIRECTOR **DRIVEN OUT OF TOWN*** *MANY FWB TO LEAVE THE STATE IN JULY*

And on the Back page IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU WILL **EVER READ!**

ALWAYS GIVE GOD WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHAT IS LEFT

HIGHLIGHTS of the 59TH SESSION of the STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Eastern Conference hosted this year's state meeting at Gilead FWB Church, Lake City, SC. 162 ministers, delegates, and visitors registered for this session and they were treated to great preaching and singing, fruitful business sessions, and BBQ hot enough to keep anyone awake during the afternoon session! It was a great time of fellowship and stirring messages mixed in with a good spirit as we took care of the Lord's business in the state.

Almost all committees and boards reported progress in their work in the state and we

praise God for His continued blessings.



Carolina Conference Moderator, Rev Leroy Lowery, Member (and new Home Mission Director), Larry Powell a check for Mission Scholarship at FWB Bible College.

The Thursday Night Service opened to a packed house and God's presence was evident from the singing to the preaching to the presentations. The South Carolina Conference used this time to disburse \$20,000 from the sale of the church in Oates to various

needs and a special offering was received for the Paula Jones Medical Fund which totaled \$15,093.03. (Glory! We still are in shock).

Foreign Missions Director, James Forlines, preached a very presents Bible College Board powerful message about our obligations as Christians to be proclaimers of the gospel where ever we are and the altar was full of \$5000 to begin a Carlise Hanna praying and weeping people during the invitation.

During the **Friday business session** the State constitution was revised to change the Promotional Office from a Faith based salary into a budget met salary. A separate account was to be set up to only be used for the Promotional Director's Salary and he was instructed to be sure his entire salary was paid each

year. This year's Promotional Office Salary was set at a total of \$36,000 (including all taxes, housing, medical, and benefits). This is a raise of \$2000 from the year 2000 budget and \$4000 from the year 2000 actual salary.

Todd Parrish presents Foreign Mission Director, James Forlines a check for \$10,000 from the South Carolina Conference to build a new church in India.



Lee, accepts a check from the South Carolina Conference for \$5000 to help with the Golden Jubilee Celebration in India from Pastor Joe McKnight.

Three ways to meet this salary were put into the constitution. (1) Educate the people of the state on the need and expenses of the Promotional Office. (2) Receive a special offering from each church on Roll Call Sunday to go to the Promotional Director's Salary (3) Allow the Promotional Office to receive up to 4% of the money contributed to the South Carolina Plan of Support if enough money did not come in to meet the \$36,000 budget from other sources. This last item was put in as a "safety net" provision but it is believed that people and churches will respond with increased giving until it will not need to be used.

Rev Sherwood Lee (Former Missionary to Ivory Coast and now Pastor of Sand Hill FWB Church of Coward, SC) was **elected as Moderator for his 6th consecutive Term**. All other standing officers were re-elected. Next Year's State Meeting will be February 21-22 and will be hosted by the Palmetto Conference.

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Wanted- **Old Prescription Bottles**. If you have old prescription bottles the hospital in Doropo could use them. Put them in small boxes (2 lb or under) and send them via SURFACE mail (This will take a long time but is the best method). Send to:

> Centre Medical de Doropo B.P. 20 Bouna, Cote d'Ivoire

© Want to see a list of all the Churches that are members of the State Association?

Want to get a list of available preachers or contact people for churches seeking a pastor?

Want to read the latest version of the State Constitution and By-Laws?

The Want to Find out how to be saved or get some help after you are saved?

Go to WWW.SCFWB.Com and Surf the S C Free Will Baptists Web Site.



WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST



The Central District WAC met on Saturday, Feb 17th at Mt Ariel, Conway. A beautifully decorated church highlighted their theme of "Sharing our Heritage" and the special music by 6 year old Caitlin McClellan showed how that heritage was being passed on. Sadly, the Eastern District WAC is down to one active church (Gilead) so the Eastern District decided to consolidate with the Central District for the time being. Special Speaker, Teresa Smith of the Southside Mission in Aiken dealt with this Problem in her powerful message on "Why Ladies do not attend WAC Meetings". A wonderful lunch followed before the afternoon's business session.



The South Carolina District WAC met at Mt Elon Church on Saturday, Feb 24th. Their Theme was "Joy for the Journey" and the Church had gone all out to put symbols of Joy everywhere. Mrs Rebekah Bragan (First, Charleston) gave a stirring



Mrs Diane Bridgman (Behind pulpit) installs the officers of the South Carolina District WAC after delivering a powerful message on "Joy in the Journey in spite of trials and tragedy"

testimony beginning of the service and Mrs Diane Bridgman South Carolina District WAC delivered lunch followed before

an president, Carolyn Riddick (left) encouraging morning presents Mrs Mary Byrd a gift for message. A delicious over 30 years of service as SCD WAC Treasurer.

> The Beaver Creek District WAC met the first Saturday in March

> speaker, and share a tasty meal.

the afternoon activities and business.



These lovely ladies are the new officers of the Beaver Creek District WAC

Highlights from the STATE WAC MEETING at Inman on Saturday, March 17th:

***A new format of completing the day's activities before dismissing for lunch was tried and found successful.

***Their Goal of \$5000 turned into \$7000 (Glory!). \$4000 for the kitchen in Aiken, \$1000 for the Children's Home Loan Fund (That is why Children's Home Board Member, Rev Tim Hackett is Hugging Mrs Gwen!), \$1000 for a new Digital Camera for the National WNAC Office, and \$1000 for Missionary Mirial Gainer.

***A Voluntary Choir did a Marvelous job (Can we book

them for the next State Meeting!) and more ladies attended the State WAC Meeting than Men attended the State Association!

***And Mrs Gwen kicked all the preachers out of the meeting before the Morning Message- Because Speaker Ashely Hartley was going to Missionary Todd Smith share some "Women things" accepts a check from the and did not feel comfortable State WAC for \$4000 to with the men there.

vour calendar for next year. Mission.



compete the new Great Meeting. Put it on Kitchen at the Aiken



National WNAC President, Mrs Marjorie Workman (Left) and Mrs Joanne King, accept a WAC for \$1000 to go toward a new digital Camera.



State WAC President, Gwen Hendrix, "hatches a plot" with check from the South Carolina speaker Ashley Hartley (left) and special singer Ronda Freeman at the State Wac Meeting.

INDIA GOLDEN JUBILEE REPORT

(A Personal Account by Pastor J M Creech of Horse Branch FWB Church of Turbeville)

For many years it has been my desire as a pastor to visit some of our mission fields. In 1996 God allow me to visit our work in Africa and now He was allowing me to go to India.

On Sunday, February 25, Sherwood Lee, Todd Parrish and I left South Carolina to go to India to attend the Jubilee Celebration of the Free Will Baptist work in North India. We met Brother James Forlines, the Director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions in Paris.

The four of us traveled on to India. We stayed in Dehli for 3 days to take care of some business for the mission. Brother Hanna also wanted us to be able to see some of the attractions of India since this would be the only trip for some of us.

We arrived at the airport in Bagdogra, West Bengal, India on Friday and were met by Brother Hanna and some of the folk from Sonapur. The Hanna children, Don, Mark and Brenda Kay arrived with us.



When we got to Sonapur, a good delegation was there to meet us. They placed laurels around our necks and it was an a w e s o m e

experience to know that we were finally with Brother Carlisle and some of his Indian family.

After a short visit with the people we went to the grave of Mrs. Marie. It was a very moving experience to stand there with the Hanna family.



Hanna India Home

We were able to preach in some of the Indian churches on Sunday. The 50 Year Jubilee Celebration Conference began on Monday night. They had a very elaborate opening service and Brother James Forlines spoke.

Throughout the week there were services at 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 2:30pm and 6:30pm. We started by the clock but ended "Indian time". No one was in a hurry.

There were right at 5000 people who attended this meeting. There were 200 from the country of Nepal and there were 4 of the South India pastors who came.

The people did not seem to get enough of the Word of God. They would sit for hours on the ground and listen. They all loved to sing and there was a lot of special music.

Most of the services were not in English, but there was

one thing that was easy to know-The Lord was in that place. His Spirit bore witness with our spirits that we were in the presence of the Lord and among God's people.

They had a special service to honor Brother Hanna



Hanna Family and delegation Pastor

and the Hanna family. They also honored Pastor Davon, who is the oldest Indian pastor. He was saved even before Brother Hanna went to India, and Brother Carlisle told us that Davon had probably lead more

people to the Lord than any Free Will Baptist ever.

To meet the 17 Ordained Indian Pastors, the many Evangelist and the Church Planters was a blessing beyond description. They are dedicated men of God and are doing a great work for the Lord there in India. Our hearts were knit together in brotherly love.

There are over 125 churches in North India and 529 folk were baptized this past conference year.

If you have ever had a question in your mind about whether or not you should support the work in India, I want to tell you that you can dismiss your doubts. Brother and Mrs. Hanna have sacrificed their lives to work with the Indian people. God has used them to do a great work that will last for it is built upon a firm foundation. The work is not built upon the Hannas, but upon Christ, the Solid Rock.

I praise the Lord that He allowed me to be a part of this team that was privileged to visit the work in India. It a snake that came on has truly been a life changing the compound soon experience.



Jakie becomes a "Snake Handler" upon arrival in India. Actually it was after they arrived and was killed by the workers!



News Flash- The Promotional Director plans to go to India to assist Missionary Carlisle Hanna as he prepares to come back to the States for a visit. Plans now call for the Promotional Director to leave on May 29th and

return with Brother Carlisle on June 12th.

Funds for this trip will be raised outside of the Promotional Office Budget. This is the chance of a lifetime for the Promotional Office to get some pictures of our work in India and also be of service to this great servant of God. Your prayers are appreciated.

God has blessed **Socastee FWB Church** and enabled them to pay off the loan on their Church Bus (\$24,000) in less than a year (Glory!). They use the bus for a children's ministry for the Church and also to carry their Youth Choir to different Churches for Revivals (Contact Pastor Darrin Squires at (843) 650-0121 to set up a date).



Rev L.H.Clayton went to be with the Lord on Jan 22nd of this

year at the age of 88. He had preached for over 65 years and was a member of the Beaver Creek Conference for over 42 years. Brother L.H. served for 11 years on the Children's Home board, served 2 years on the General Board of the National Association, one term on the National Sunday School Board, and taught at the Beaver Creek Bible Institute for 3 years. He was a member of Fairview FWB Church, where he had served as pastor from 1962- 1975. He was one of our best Bible preachers and Heaven's gain is a great loss here on earth.

Pastor Robert Rose did it Backwards. On January 28th, Brother Rose and his wife celebrated 17 years of service at Mt Elon FWB Church by having a **Church Appreciation Day**. After sharing some selected passages of scripture and some personal remarks, Pastor and Mrs Rose asked each family or individual to come forward where they expressed personal words of gratitude and presented each family a copy of a book written by the pastor. Then Pastor and Mrs Rose provided a complete meal for the entire congregation. It was a day the church will not soon forget.

CAUGHT FOR 57 YEARS- While returning from a service in Manning recently the Promotional Director decided to stop by the



Olanta FWB Church and take a picture. When he arrived he

found numerous cars there. Curiosity compelled him to investigate. He found that **Pastor Murrell Young** and his lovely bride were being honored with a surprise 57th anniversary dinner.

Brother Murrell said the church had been

completely full of family and friends and it really surprised, and honored he and his wife.

SUMMER MISSIONARIES.

South Carolina is privileged to have FIVE of our Young People going out to serve as Summer Missionaries this year (Not pictured is Darrin Miles who will go with "Go and Be" to Ivory Coast.). Thank you for your support and continue to remember them in prayer.



Go and Be Missionary to Ivory Coast- Jonathan Postlewaite



Team Missionary to Puerto Rico- Katie Bozeman



Go and Be Missionary to Ivory Coast- Daniel Miles



Team Missionary to Japan - Natasha Cannon



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION:

On July 15-19, 2001 over 7,000 Free Will Baptists are expected at Cobo Center in Detroit to worship and celebrate the wonderful ways God is working throughout our denomination.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists includes 2,500 churches and 215,000 members in 40 states. The denomination supports 114 missionaries in 10 foreign countries and 78 home missionaries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Virgin

Islands, and Puerto Rico. Delegates to the convention are expected to approve budgets in excess of \$21 million dollars. Pray for all of the speakers and activities. Remember that on Wednesday Night State Moderator, Sherwood Lee, will direct the Service and Missionary Carlisle Hanna will be the Speaker. You can Pre-register at www.nafwb.org/convention Hotel Accommodations: Headquarters, Marriot Hotel at Renaissance Center- 1-800-228-9290 (Rate \$115 room) Pontchartrain Hotel - Crown Plaza - 1- 313- 965-0200. (Rate \$109 room)

SECOND CHANCE MISSION GROUP

(Submitted by Book Store Manager, Eddie Hobbs)

It all began in September of last year with a Mission Conference. A local church had a burden to become more involved in missions so it joined the South Carolina Conference Mission Conference effort. From that

Mission Conference a soul was saved and, because of that soul, a passionate group of people were stirred to help a culture they had never experienced.

This group of people organized themselves and became known as the "Second Chance Mission Group". The two fold purpose of this ministry is to reach out to the local community through evangelist efforts and to help construct an activity center for the New Life Children's Home in Araras, Brazil. Free Will Baptists missionaries Jim and Shirley Combs are presently the administrator of the Children's Home and the coordinator of this project.

Just recently, the National Foreign Missions Department has shown interest in was saved during a Mission this group. In a recent statement they said, "The Department of Mobilization and Recruitment of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions has as part of its goal to facilitate and implement our churches and their members in hands-on mission involvement. I am Word and help build an pleased to work with Bro. Eddie Hobbs and Rosana Guimaraes in the project of the activity center for the "Second Chance Mission Group". We wish to encourage our people all across the Children's home

Rosana Guimaraes Conference and now is going with a group to her native Brazil to share the

denomination to seek such opportunities to be part of Acts 1:8 evangelism in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. We hope to do a video documentation of the Second Chance Mission Group through the entire process as a case study for how a local church may have a global impact in missions."

Presently, Second Chance Mission Group is raising the funds to help with the cost of the building materials. They have raised \$5,000 and they still need \$13,000 to reach their goal of \$18,000. If you would like to assist in building the Activity Center for this Children's Home in Brazil then contact Eddie Hobbs at the FWB Christian Book Store at 1-800-319-7234 or 1-843-662-8682.

These are the People presently planning to go to Brazil in June to build this Activity Center.

From the First FWB Church of Florence- Rachel Creech, Brianna Dennis, Rosana Guimaraes, Eddie Hobbs, Chad Munn, Jennifer O'Neal, John Strickland, Dana Sarver, Stacey Erwin.

Tara Calcutt from Hoffmyer Baptist Church, Florence.

Arris Morgan and Joey Postlewaite from Sandhill FWB Church, Coward.

Bruce Jones and Wade Creel from Beulah FWB Church, Pamplico

Charles Collins from Calvary Baptist, Florence and Harold Reynolds of Elim Baptist Church, Effingham Judy Strickland and Fredis Strickland from Fellowship FWB Church, Florence.

Four representatives from the National Foreign Missions Department will also be traveling with the group.



Pastor Bennie Turner and the people of Fellowship FWB Church in Manning have been praying for a sign. God gave them a sign for a sign! A local advertising company wanted to put a sign up on the edge of their property. In return for this privilege they gave the Church a beautiful sign. What a testimony of God's Blessings on this busy road.



A Note from Miss Darla Kirby (Serving in unspecified area): I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for you generous support. Even though I do not know specifically who gave I want you to know that I am greatly encouraged to have your support. When I am having a "bad day" it is good to know there are friends cheering you on the finish the race.

It has taken me a while to get this note out. I do apologize for the delay. I was hoping to get more specific information so I could send an individual note to each group. After some communication problems, I finally decided to write this note to the Promotional Office for each of you.

Thank you so much for your gifts and support. Love, Darla

FREE WILL BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN NEWS

When the Boy's Dorm at the Children's Home was completed last year the Home needed \$150,00 to complete paying for that building. The board told them to take out a one year loan for the entire amount and, Praise the Lord, in a year's time it has all been paid! Now they are looking to **BREAK GROUND FOR A NEW GIRL'S DORM on Children's Home Day** this year (Nov 3rd, 2001).

Here are just a few of the many projects that produced this wonderful result:

--- The 7th Annual Fox Hunt was held March 2nd and 3rd at the Low Country Fox Pens in Manning to raise money for the Children's Home. Mr Wayne Oxendine headed up this effort and it was a tremendous success. 632 Dogs were registered, three meals were served, and an all day auction was held. The Fox Hunt made more than \$40,000 before expenses and cleared \$32,000 to be used on the loan debt. (Glory!)



- - - Pastor Tony Hargett and the Pine Grove FWB Church of Jefferson had special Fund Raisers for the Children's Home the entire month of January. On Sunday, February 4th they invited the home to meet with them for a special day. The Children from the Home presented skits and special music before Superintendent James Wilhide preached the Morning message. At the end of the service Pastor Hargett presented Brother Wilhide a check for \$1476 (!). Then he told Brother Wilhide that each family in the church had chosen a child and there was a gift for each of them in the fellowship building. A great meal and time of fellowship followed.

And there is even more to come - - The 7th Annual **Gold City Benefit Concert** is scheduled for <u>June 9th at Patriot Hall, Sumter</u> (7:30pm). Mr Tommy Barron is the coordinator for this major fund raiser. Gold City Quartet is Southern Gospel Music's Number 1 Quartet and have been a great supporter of the Children's Home over the years. For tickets call Tommy Barron at (803) 481-0169 or James Wilhide at (843) 659-2880.



Rev John Cody completed 20 years of service at **Mt Carmel FWB Church**, York, SC in November of 2000. His congregation honored him by presenting him a beautiful plaque, a cash gift, and a surprise dinner in the fellowship building. Not only has Brother Cody been a faithful pastor to this church but he has also served faithfully in the True Life Conference for many years.

Around the first of the year this faithful servant of the Lord contracted a condition known as Gilliun Barre' Disease.

This disease strikes about one person in 100,000. It is a paralyzing condition that leaves the person unable to do even life's small task, such as buttoning your shirt. Brother John spent 5 weeks in the hospital and had to use a wheel chair for a time but

he is slowly getting better. Rev Paul Childers filled the pulpit for Brother John during his hospital stay.

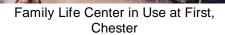
Mt Carmel held a BBQ benefit and a Gospel Singing to help Brother John with his financial needs since he had been holding a full time job as well as being the pastor of this fine church and they were able to raise over \$3000 (Glory!). Continue to uplift Brother Cody in your prayers. (By the way, Brother John is a great writer of poetry. Some of his poems can be found on the state web site {www.scfwb.com} under S C Minister's Written Works).



Evangelist Jack Lassiter, Pastor Jimmy Sanders, and Special Singer, Rev Billy Fields rejoice in God's Blessing on Carolina Camp Meeting 2001 at First FWB Church, Chester.

Carolina Camp Meeting 2001 was a great success at the First FWB Church in Chester. Large crowds, great singing and preaching, and even food and fellowship after the meetings made for a great time in the Lord.

On Monday Night of Camp Meeting, your Promotional Director had the privilege of praying the dedication prayer for the new Family Life Center recently



Built by the Church. We praise the Lord for His blessings on this work.



Pastor Chad West and the Congregation of the Northgate FWB Mission in Greer are all abuzz about God's Blessings. They are already outgrowing their rented facilities and are in the midst of a campaign to raise money to purchase land for a Building (Glory!).



Northgate Congregation prepare for service





Pastor John Matthews and the Cornerstone FWB Church of Manning celebrated their 5th Anniversary/Home Coming on March 18th with the announcement that 2 acres of land had been purchased and as soon as it is paid for then the new church wants to begin building. Brother John's wife will appreciate that since they now meet in her living room for their services!



CAMP MEETING at SOUTHEASTERN FWB COLLEGE will be APRIL 16-

18. Special Speakers include Tony Bazen, Billy Bevan, Roger Duncan, Barry Goodman, and David Gibbs.

Last year the Promotional Director traveled over 48,000 miles as he visited all of the Churches in our State Association. Pastor Brian Tolliver (New Prospect FWB Church) thought of that when he

The Promotional Director





purchased a new van and he gave the Promotional Office his gladly accepts the Title to a old Van (Glory!). It is a 1993 Aerostar but it rides very good used van from Pastor Brian and the Promotional Director has already "driven out of Tolliver. town" for nearly 2000 miles in two weeks!

Promotional Director Schedule:

- Sunday, March 25- Dedicate New Family Life Center at West Side FWB Church in Johnsonville (Pastor Theron Scott)
- Revelation Revival at Liberty FWB Church in Orangeburg with Pastor Jerry White- Sunday, April 1- Thursday, April 5th
- * Revival at Columbia FWB Church with Pastor Carroll Alexander Friday, April 6th - Sunday, April
- * Speak on Tax Laws and Church helps at Lake City Area FWB Minister's Fellowship- Tuesday, April 17th
- Revelation Revival at Myrtle Beach FWB Church with Pastor Jimmy Brown: Sunday, April 22-Wed. April 25

WHO SHOULD BE SAVED- YOU: ROM 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

ROM 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

WHY YOU SHOULD BE SAVED- Hell awaits: ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. ROM 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

WHEN TO BE SAVED- NOW: ROM 5:8 God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

THE WAY TO BE SAVED- Trust Christ: ROM 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

HOW TO LIVE AFTER YOU ARE SAVED:

ROM 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.