

THE



INFORMER

The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists.

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November - December, 2001

BOOK STORE CHANGES

Another Victim of the September 11th attacks has turned out to be the Free Will Baptist Christian Book and Supply Store. Walk-in business following the attack has been almost non-existent. Since we were already operating on a day to day basis reality finally had to be faced and changes had to be made.

Those things that take us by surprise did not, of course, surprise God. He had a plan and it was already at work when these circumstances occurred. Here are the main changes:



Mrs Ada Miles departs: Mrs. Ada has been a valuable asset to the FWB Christian Book and Supply Store. Her pleasing personality and adaptable work schedule has helped more than words can say. It would have been extremely hard to release her had it not been for the fact that she had just secured another part time job at the Family Christian Bookstore here in town before these events occurred. Releasing her will save approximately \$10,000 per year.

BOOK STORE HOURS CHANGE: Beginning the first of January, 2002 the FWB Christian Book and Supply Store will open from Noon until Five, Monday - Thursday. Several months ago, Book Store Manager, Eddie Hobbs began working nights at McLeods Hospital. He would work from 8:30am until 5pm at the Book Store and then work at McLeods until 11pm at Night- a very grueling schedule. The new schedule will allow him to get some much needed rest and spend some time with his family, as well as make some needed changes in his salary; from \$24,000 per year to \$18,000.

In Addition to the \$16,000 in savings from these two changes we have instituted other changes that will save us between \$2000 and \$5000 per year. This will allow us to operate in the black and also to make a real dent in the \$15,000 store remodeling loan that still hangs over our head.

Phone orders and Internet orders will be promoted and Church Supplies will be given much greater priority but the good news is that Sunday School Literature and VBS Literature sales normally make enough so that we can pay Brother Eddie's salary and the Book Store utilities even if we do not sell a single book!

BOOK STORE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

>Close Monday, Dec 24th at Noon

>Reopen Thursday, Dec 27th at 8:30am.

>Closed Tuesday, Jan 1, 2002 for New Year

Normal Store Hours beginning Jan 2, 2002

Noon - 5:00pm

Monday - Thursday

The Free Will Baptist State Promotional Office will



continue to operate from 8:30am until 5:30pm Monday - Friday to minister to our churches and missionaries and help promote the work of Free Will Baptists in our state (Saturday is for Conference Meetings and Sunday for Church Services).

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May you receive the present of HIS presence this Christmas

[SCFWB Churches continue to excel in their giving to the Lord. A complete Financial report for 2001 will be published in the next edition]

Promotional Director's January Schedule:

- >Saturday, Jan 5, 2002: Teacher Training Course-Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter (Pastor Tony Trott)
- >Sunday, Jan 6, 2002: 35th Anniversary of Pastor Bobby Bowers at First FWB Church, Greenville.
- >Friday, Saturday, Jan 11-12: Central Conference Meeting at Pee Dee FWB Church, Conway (Pastor Leroy Larrimore).
- >Sunday, Jan 13th : 10am Speak at Unity FWB Church, Johnsonville (Pastor Mikell Edge)
- >Sunday, Jan 13-Wed Jan 16: Teacher Training Course at Mill Branch FWB Church, Johnsonville. (Pastor Johnny Evans)
- >Saturday, Jan 19th: True Life Conference at Mt Carmel, York (Pastor John Cody)
- >Sunday, Jan 20th: Preach at First FWB Church, Kingstree (Pastor Wayland Owens)
- >Sun-Wed, Jan 20-23: Camp Meeting, First FWB Church, Chester (Pastor Jimmie Sanders)
- >Thursday - Friday, Jan 24-25: SC Conference Conference and Revival with Rev Jerry Norris at Peace FWB Church, Florence (Pastor Donnie Miles)
- >Saturday, Jan 26th: Beaver Creek Conference at Gaffney FWB Church (Pastor Dennis Trolly)
- >Sunday, Jan 27th: Preach at Immanuel FWB Church, Santee (Pastor Herman Hyman)

SECOND CHANCE

BRAZILIAN PROJECT COMPLETED.

Circumstances prevented the Second Chance Team from completing the work on the building for the Comb's Children's Home in Brazil during their visit in May but God prevailed and the building is now complete and in use. Here are a few pictures of what God had marvelously done.



A trash heap has become a Playground!



Andrea Moore teaches a lesson during the dedication of the new building at the Children's home in Brazil.



Class Room

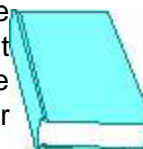
Hallelujah Night at Free Will Baptist Bible Church turned into an unusual experience for Pastor Jody Wynn. Over 100 people attended the evening activities. They were treated to a Hot Dog Supper with all the trimmings before the pastor found out that he was going to be the dessert!



His wife, Kristy, came up with the idea to allow people to Pie the Preacher for a donation to the ministry of the Church (I know a lot of wives who might jump at this idea!). Over 40 people also thought that was a great idea and proceeded

to share their dessert with the preacher! That is one way to make a preacher sweet!

FREE SONG BOOKS- Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward, S C has 75 of the Old Free Will Baptist Hymnals (Burgundy) that they no longer need. If you would be interested in them Contact Pastor David Young at (843) 389-2340



SUMMER MISSIONARIES: The following have been accepted for short term Mission Work in 2002. More details will be provided as final fields are announced and financial needs are revealed. Begin praying now that God will provide and lead:

- Lori Bowers- Puerto Rico [First FWB Greenville]
- Nancy (Deven) Coward- Chicago [Gilead, Lake City]
- Rebekah Player- Chicago [Temple, Darlington]
- Gowdy Cannon- TBA [Horse Brance, Turbeville]
- Jonathan McKnight- TBA [Fellowship, Florence]
- Jonathan Postlewaite- TBA [First FWB Florence]

Jesus said that *the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.* (Luke 16:8). With that in mind, listen to this advice- The things that will destroy us are: politics without principle; pleasure without conscience; wealth without work; knowledge without character; business without morality; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice. Mahatma Gandhi (1869- 1948) Indian leader

FAMILY HELPS COMING IN APRIL

STATE WIDE YOUTH RETREAT

APRIL 5-7, 2002

Quality Hotel and Conference Center
7136 Asheville Highway Spartanburg,
S C

Contact Rev B. L. Efirid at
(864) 472-2863 or (864) 472-6488
for more information.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE

APRIL 5-7, 2002

Smokey Shadows Conference Center
4215 Parkway, Pigeon Forge,
TN

Hosted by the Master's Men
Department and the WNAC



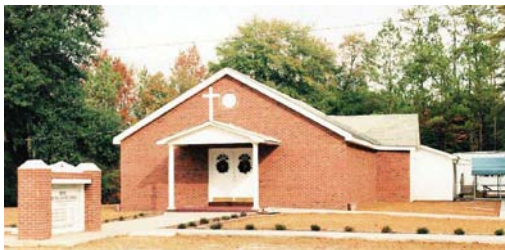
Speakers: Dr Richard & Dr Rebekah Land
Cost: \$175 per couple (Includes 2 nights
accommodations, Saturday Evening Banquet,
Continental breakfast, and all sessions).
Toll Free Information: 1-877-767-8039

IMMANUEL BENJAMIN RANDALL

OFFERING (Submitted by Mrs Patsy Hyman)

The congregation of Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church have been anxiously awaiting the month of November. This is the time set aside to see who can raise the most money for the Benjamin Randal Offering, the ladies or the gentlemen. The loser feeding the winner. We have the first three Sundays in November set aside each year and we start bringing in our money. Some have raised their offerings in many ways, saving all their coins all year, picking up and selling cans, putting aside from their retirement, pulling it out of their pockets, donations and even one eleven year old who used his Christmas money he saved to buy presents with. The scales have been up & down, sometimes the men ahead & sometimes the ladies.

The final moment was on Sunday Evening of the 18th, last chance to put money in the buckets & the women were ahead. The men were tired of feeding the ladies & some kept saying, "This is the last time & we mean it!". Well the men came in ready to win with money hanging out of all pockets, trying in vain to make their bucket the heaviest. They were able to bring it up even with the ladies & looked as though they might be just a little ahead, too close to call so the bank counted the one dollar bills for us and once again the men were defeated. Ladies had \$1485.00 & Men had \$1480.00 for a total of \$2965 (Praise The Lord!). Last year we raised \$1800 & the Church added another \$1000. This year the Church agreed to match the amount raised & that means we will be giving a total for Benjamin Randal of \$5965. Praise God for a small, willing to give, congregation of approximately 20 to 25 people.



Bethel FWB Church, Florence (Pastor Terry Brown) has just finished some extensive remodeling that has made a big difference in the looks of the Church both inside and out. Two years ago a broken down sign stood before a building badly in need of repair. Brother Terry and the members of this fine church did much of the work themselves and have turned an eyesore into a marvelous testimony for Christ in the Mars Bluff Community. Keep up the good work.

2002 FOREIGN Mission Plan of Support. Several years ago South Carolina Free Will Baptists instituted the Plan of Support for Foreign Missions. One of the objectives was to promote consistent giving to ALL of the Foreign Missionaries associated with South Carolina. Below is a table showing how NON DESIGNATED MONEY will be divided among the Missionaries in 2002.

The Plan is fairly simple to understand. Take the annual budget of the missionary, divide by the percentage of support pledged by South Carolina. Add all these Goal Amounts together and you get our Target Budget. Divide the Goal Amount for each missionary into the Target Amount and you get the percentage that each missionary will receive of each NON DESIGNATED dollar that is received for the Plan. (Example: The Aycock budget is \$103,415.74. The Plan is for SCFWB to pay 25% of that budget or \$25,853.94. Divide \$25,853.94 into the Total Target Budget of \$358,382.11 and you get 7.2% which means the Aycocks will receive 7.2 cents of each non designated dollar given to the plan).

South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support

MISSIONARY	2002 TOTAL BUDGET	SCPS %	GOAL AMOUNT	DISTRIBUTION %
Aycock, David	\$103,415.74	25%	\$25,853.94	7.2%
Gainer, Miral	\$101,402.16	75%	\$76,051.62	21.2%
Hanna, Carlisle	\$198,214.48	65%	\$128,839.41	36.0%
Johnson, Tim	\$97,857.87	50%	\$48,928.94	13.7%
Moore, Andy	\$79,196.68	50%	\$39,598.34	11.0%
Poole, Bobby	\$78,219.73	50%	\$39,109.87	10.9%
2002 Target Budget			\$358,382.11	100.0%

If 100 Free Will Baptists Church in South Carolina gave \$3,600 to Foreign Missions in 2002 then we would meet our part of every Foreign Mission budget! By the way, that is only \$300 per month.

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HISTORICAL CABINET: Rev Kenneth Upright (Liberty FWB Church, Manning) recently presented State Historical Director, Joe McKnight with the money to purchase a beautiful Display Cabinet for the State Historical Items. The Top has clear glass shelves to allow display of various items and the bottom has room to store items that are not on display.

Brother Ken purchased this cabinet in honor of his grandchildren- what a way to pass on the love of Free Will Baptists from generation to generation!

Pastor Earl Hendrix was recently presented the keys to a **new Cadillac (!)** by the members of First FWB Church of Inman as a means of showing their appreciation for his years of ministry at this fine church. Of course, Mrs Gwen has already laid claim to it and can't wait to get well enough to begin driving it! Continue to pray that God would provide the strength and wisdom that is needed so greatly by this couple during this time.



The National Women Active for Christ are compiling a **cook book**. Mrs Gwen Hendrix would like to see some of our South Carolina ladies participating in this National WAC Cookbook. The deadline for entries is December 31, 2001. Application forms are available from Mrs Teresa Smith (308 Greenwich Drive, Aiken, S C 29803- (803) 644-3771) or you can download them from www.scfwb.com



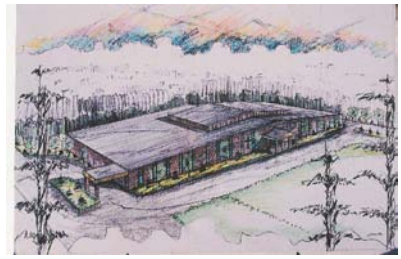
Pictured at right is the Fall Semester class of the Pee Dee Bible Institute during their award's banquet on Nov 30th. Spanish Instructor, Rev Rufo Gomez brought the message and awards were given for completion of Christian Ethics, Church Leadership, and Conversational Spanish. The 2002 Winter session will begin Jan 7th, 2002 and is hosted at Southside FWB Church, Darlington (Pastor Leroy Lowery).

FAIRVIEW BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW SANCTUARY. A warm sunny afternoon greeted the congregation of Fairview FWB Church as they started a new chapter in the history of this great church. The decision to relocate was followed by a much quicker than anticipated selling of their old facility. For months now they have been “pilgrims and strangers” working in cooperation with Whitney FWB Church to have a place to worship.



Pastor and Mrs Tim Hackett turn the first spade of dirt for the new facility.

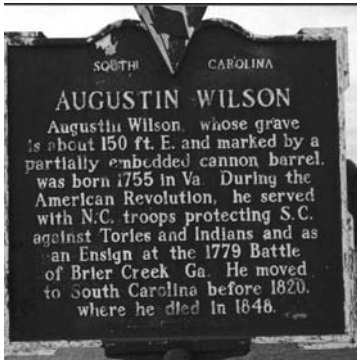
Sunday, December 2nd was a day of celebration as ground was broken for a tremendous new facility located on 17 acres of land on the busy Chesnee Highway. The large crowd of members and friends rejoiced as Pastor Tim Hackett shared that work on the new 31,000 square foot Family Worship Center/Education Building (above, right) was set to begin and should be completed in 8 months. This first phrase will give the Church a home until construction can begin on the new Sanctuary to be built in front of this Building.



Tim, Shiloh, Shawn Hackett await the Ground Breaking Service.

Praise God for Great works like this being built all across our state to reach souls for Christ.

HISTORY OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA



S C Historical Commission Chairman,
National Historical Commission Board Member,
Rev Joe McKnight



The Augustine Wilson Saga: (Continued from last Edition)

Augustin Wilson lived in Sumter District until 1815, when he signed a release for 250 acres of land on Douglas Swamp to William Wilson. For some reason, the release was not recorded until 1819. He then moved to Georgia. In the state of Georgia, six lotteries were held granting land to residents. These were in addition to “headright” and “bounty land” grants. Records show him being listed on two Lottery land grants. In 1827, he is shown as living in Washington County, and was granted Lot 220 in the 22nd District of Lee County on October 11, 1827. In the 1832 Land Lottery, he was granted Lot 277 in the 12th District of Cherokee County. While living in Georgia, he made an application for a pension.

By 1839, he had moved back to Darlington County, South Carolina. In the pension application he stated the reason for his move was because all his children lived in Darlington County. Augustin lived on a plantation there, near what was then the village of Rollinsville. He died about December 29, 1847, and was buried in the Lake Swamp Baptist Church cemetery near Timmonsville. A Revolutionary War cannon was inserted in the ground at the head of the grave, and remains there today.

While there is no record of Augustin Wilson being a minister, there is a family tradition that his honorable war record afforded him many opportunities to speak in area churches. While there is no conclusive proof that he was a Free Will Baptist, it seems very likely when fully considering the facts. The land where Augustin originally settled, in 1805, was close to both the Piney Grove Church and the Old Mother Church. His son John, who would become a Free Will Baptist minister, was deeply involved with the Piney Grove Church, and would later organize and pastor the Crossroads Church in Darlington County.

(Continued Next Edition)

Church Vans and South Carolina's Law

By Rev Ron Moore
(Associate Pastor, Peace FWB Church, Florence)



There has been some confusion and misinformation that has circulate concerning the use of vans for the transportation of children by churches. The law in question is A301, R338, H3300, which was ratified and approved in May 2000 and became effective July 1, 2000. Please understand that what I am about to share with you is not a **legal** opinion because I am not a lawyer. It is, however, an informed opinion based on research and direct communication with the South Carolina Attorney General's office. First, let me simply quote the law.

Section 56-5-195. (A) Effective July 1, 2000, any entity transporting preprimary primary or secondary school students to or from school, school-related activities, or child care. . . must transport these students in a vehicle meeting federal school bus safety standards, as contained in 49 U£C. Section 30101.. . . (B) Notwithstanding subsection (A) of this section, any vehicle that is purchased before July 1, 2000, and is utilized to transport preprimary, primary or secondary school students to or from school, school-related activities, or child care is not subject to the requirements contained in subsection (A) of this section until July 1, 2006."

In discussion of this law with a representative of the Attorney General's office, the following opinion was formulated:

1. The law applies to the transportation of students in schools and childcare facilities, public or private, and, thereby, applies to churches only if they operate such facilities.
2. There is a "grandfather clause" that exempts any non-conforming vehicle (i.e., a van) purchased before July 1, 2000. Those vehicles may remain in service until July 1, 2006. This provision gives churches that operate Christian Schools and childcare facilities a six-year window to gradually retrofit or replace nonconforming vehicles.
3. Churches that use their vehicles to transport children to and from church sponsored activities (Sunday School and teen outings, for example) are not in any way encumbered by this law.

In short, unless your church operates a day care and/or a school, the law should not in any way affect your activities. If you have further questions, I recommend you do what I did and call the Attorney General's office.



Pastor Mikell Edge (right) talks with a worker at Ground Zero

28 members of the Highland Brigade of the Second Brigade of the 5th Battalion of the South Carolina State Guard recently went to **Ground Zero in New York** for a week to assist in cleanup. This was the first time the South Carolina State Guard had performed duties outside the state since 1864. **Pastor Mikell Edge (Unity) and Pastor Kenneth Cash (Una)** are part of this unit and took part in this effort. Many interesting tales can be told about this effort; like almost being arrested when they stopped to take pictures of the Pentagon on the way through Washington! They stayed in a Church during their visit and were astonished at the destruction to near by buildings as well as the World Trade Center. Another way FWB are helping



Pastor Mikell Edge (center) and Pastor Ken Cash (right) view the destruction from atop the Empire State Building.

during this time of need.



The 60th Annual Session of the State Association of Free Will Baptists will meet at Peace FWB Church in Spartanburg February 21-22, 2002. Our Theme this year of “A Call to Holiness” will be expounded by Rev Carroll Alexander- “The Character of Holiness”, Rev Carlisle Hanna- “The Cost of Holiness”, and Rev Billy Vanderford- “The Consequences of Holiness”. Devotional Messages will be brought by Rev Brian Welch, Rev Tom Hill, and Rev Richard Conyers.

Motel 6 (864-573-6383) and Holiday Inn Express (864-577-9080) are located a mile or so from the Church. Fairfield Inn (864-699-0000) and a number of others are located about 4 miles from the Church. If special rates can be obtained, they will be reported in the next “Informer” but always inform the hotel you chose that you will be part of the SCFWB State Meeting so any discounts will be applied.

A REMINDER TO CONFERENCE CLERKS ABOUT STATE DUES: (From our State Constitution) Each local conference or association shall be represented to this association with an annual fee of \$115.00 per church in its membership. This fee must be paid before a conference or association or its local churches can represent to this association. The conferences and associations must be seated and must have submitted their fee and reports for the previous year before their members are allowed to be nominated or to continue to serve in any standing board or standing committee in the State Association. Those serving on standing boards or standing committees without meeting these requirements shall be replaced

Conference News:

True Life Conference (Reported by Rev John Cody)

1) Gloryland Freewill Baptist in Rock Hill SC recently installed a new sign; brick construction with a lighted changeable message board. Pastor Phil Lemmons said the sign because a necessity when some new members started attending the Church and stated that they had passed the Church numerous times and would have come earlier had they known it was a Free Will Baptist Church!

Gloryland FWB Church was also the meeting place for the Fall Session of the True Life Conference Brother Mike Jones and Brother Eddie Hobbs were present at the meeting. The church as well as the True Life Conference sends it's thanks to the State Promotional Office and the Book Store for their attendance.

2) Mt. Carmel Freewill Baptist Church gave Pastor and Mrs. John Cody an appreciation dinner and an anniversary recognition of 21 years of service on Nov 18, 2001. Members of the church purchased a vase of red roses and set a table for the pastor and his wife that included a huge cake with a computer enhanced photo decorated on the cake. Chairman of the Deacon Board Brother Guy Lemmons presented the Pastor a check for \$500.00 and the congregation gave them an envelope with a collection taken from the congregation.



Palmetto Conference News:

1) Rev Arnie McManus, Jr was licensed to preach by the Palmetto Conference at their November meeting. He is available to speak by calling (803) 327-1379

2) The Number one giver among all FWB Churches to the Benjamin Randall Offering for 2000 was Victory FWB Church of the Palmetto Conference (Nearly \$17,000). This year they gave nearly \$13,000. Pastor Buck Riffe and this fine Church are to be commended.

3) Other than their meeting immediately following the annual State Association Meeting, the Palmetto Conference will always meet with Bright Light FWB Church, Thomasville, N C (Pastor Henry King).

Central Conference News:

1) Jesus First FWB Church, Rockingham, N C has voluntarily left the Central Conference and moved back to a North Carolina Conference.

2) The Central Conference will host a quarterly Friday Night Preaching Service at the same church that hosts their quarterly conference on Saturday. This will give the delegates an opportunity to hear good preaching and still leave time for the needed business on Saturday.

WHITE SAVANNAH HONORS MISSIONARY CARLISLE HANNA: Sunday, September 30th was “Uncle” Carlisle Hanna Day at White Savannah FWB Church of Conway. Brother Carlisle is affectionately known as “Uncle” in India so Pastor Buddy Seay and the congregation of White Savannah honored him with this name of this special day. Brother Carlisle preached a stirring message on surrendering your all to the Lord before the Church presented him with a plaque honoring him and his late wife, Marie, for their dedicated ministry in India. A special offering of \$1000 (Glory) was received and presented to him before the church enjoyed a fellowship lunch. Later another \$500 was received to purchase rice (double Glory!) for the hungry in India.



Pastor Buddy stated that White Savannah FWB Church has supported Missionary Carlisle Hanna for his entire 50 year ministry in India- That is a wonderful record of support; and one of the reasons this church is growing and prospering for the Lord.



Liberty FWB Church, Orangeburg welcomes Rev Roger Tripp as Pastor

INTERIM PASTORS: (While these churches seek a Full Time Pastor)
 Rev James Pierce - New Prospect FWB Church, Pamplico
 Rev James Earl Raper- Bay Branch FWB Church, Timmonsville
 Rev Lamar Smith- Black River FWB Church, Andrews



South Conway FWB Church had Pastor Appreciation Day, Sunday, Oct. 21st. The Church gave Pastor Allen Goodman a bonus and other special appreciation Gifts. Brother Allen’s Birthday was the following week . When a church family took him to a local restaurant he got the “royal treatment” with a “Crown” to acknowledge that he was a special pastor.

The Children of **Rev. Ansel and Mrs Ruth Smith** honored their parents on their **50th Anniversary** by holding a Reception at the Bradley Arts and Science Building on the University of South Carolina (Lancaster) campus on Saturday, Dec 1st. A large turn out of family and friends enjoyed the food, fellowship, special music, and the displays of pictures that traced the life of this couple from before their marriage thru 50 years of married bliss. Everyone who attended was asked to sign a picture of their engraved invitation for a constant reminder of this great day.



The Ansel Smith Family



Tabernacle FWB Church surprised **Pastor and Mrs David Young with a 25th Anniversary celebration** on Sunday, November 25. In order to keep the pastor from finding out about the celebration they borrowed the Bible Temple fellowship building where they set up beautiful decoration and the finger food fellowship. Gifts of cash and presents were given as this fine church showed their appreciation for the work this couple has done to help the church progress for the Lord.

Neal Morgan got a good surprise during Chapel Services at Free Will Baptist Bible College recently. Rev Todd Parrish and Temple FWB Church presented him with the annual **“Roy Player Scholarship”**. This \$1000 scholarship is given to a student majoring in Missions to assist them in their education and to encourage them in their quest to reach the world for Christ. What a seed for a Church to plant!



L-R: FWBBC President, Tom Malone, Rev Sherwood Lee, Neal Morgan, Rev Todd Parrish