

INFORMER

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

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71 SOULS ANSWER SALVATION'S ROLL CALL

Attendance in SCFWB Churches on Roll Call Sunday jumped by an average of 20 people this year compared to 2001 (Glory). All across the state increases were reported as 844 first time visitors had the great privilege of attending worship in a Free Will Baptist Church. But, most important of all, 71 salvation decisions were reported on Roll Call Sunday- That should make everyone say, "Glory!".

Top Ten Attendance Churches are below. Roll Call Attendance for the past 3 years at all churches is located on page 2. Thanks for all the effort their plaque for being the SCFWB Church in 2002 that went into making this year's Roll Call such a success.



Pastor David Carter and the Sunday School Superintendent of Valley Falls FWB Church show the ladies SS Class their plaque for being the top attendance SCFWB Church in 2002

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Pg 2: Roll Call Results
- Pg 3: 35 Year Celebration New Camp Ground
- Pg 4: Veteran Pastor goes Home. WAC news
- Pg 5: New Sign/Sanctuary SCFWB History
- Pg 6: New Sanctuaries on the way
- Pg 7: New Church joins. Special Events
- Pg 8: S C Youth make a Mark.

State Home Mission Board approves Hispanic Ministry. Gerardo Rodriquez Antivero and family are due to arrive Friday, May 31 and hope to begin itinerant in the State as soon as possible.

	2000		2001		2002	
1	Mullins - Marion	582	Valley Falls	637	Valley Falls	577
2	First, Inman	521	First, Inman	525	1 st , Inman	512
3	High Point	514	Mullins- Marion	344	Mullins- Marion	489
4	Valley Falls	507	White Savannah	330	1st, Myrtle Beach	452
5	Arcadia	350	High Point	320	Peace, Florence	353
6	White Savannah	340	Arcadia	275	Liberty, Lancaster	352
7	First, Florence	314	Gilead	275	Evergreen	325
8	Peace, Florence	269	Liberty, Lancaster	275	White Savannah	325
9	Peace, Spartanburg	267	Southside, Darlington	269	1 st , Florence	324
10	Jesus First, Rockingham	250	Peace, Florence	255	Gilead	276
TOTAL ATTENDANCE 2000 13,561		13,561		AVE ATTENDANCE 00		108
TOTAL ATTENDANCE 2001 12,3		12,328		AVE ATTENDANCE 01		99
TOTAL ATTENDANCE 2002 14,590		14,590		AVE ATTENDANCE 02		119
TOTAL SALVATION DECISIONS			2000	47		
			2001	81		
			2002			

BEAVER CREEK CONF	00	01	02
Arcadia, Arcadia	350	275	
Calvary, Union			
Canaan, Lancaster	91	95	114
Converse	85	85	75
Enoree First	150	179	98
Fairview, Spartanburg	178	149	200
First, Chesnee	124	158	148
First, Chester	207	231	220
First, Greenville	95	138	137
First, Greenwood	45	59	80
First, Inman	521	525	512
First, Simpsonville	47		68
First, Una	127	101	113
Freedom, Lancaster	130	139	144
Gaffney, Gaffney	129	75	
High Point, Lancaster	514	320	220
Hope, Spartanburg	62	84	76
Landmark, Anderson	140	197	150
Lesslie, Rock Hill	37	20	59
Liberty, Lancaster	119	275	352
Lockhart, Lockhart	190	153	177
New Covenant	44	61	63
New Life, Lancaster	179	136	
Northgate, Greer	0	57	34
North Spartanburg	142	104	178
Parkway, Spartanburg	162	224	176
Southside, Spartanburg	41	50	39
Southside, Aiken	18	39	49
Valley Falls	507	637	577
Whitney	115	115	175
CENTRAL			
Bethel, Florence	37	45	48
Cornerstone, Whiteville	187	155	160
Damascus, Conway	106	95	100
Evergreen, Conway	233	226	325
First, Hamlet	87	63	91
First, Myrtle Beach	188	238	452
Floyds, Nichols	24	39	20
Free Welcome, Conway	49	45	55
Freedom, Tabor City	0	0	35
Little Bethel, Johnsonville	15	64	75
Little Star, Johnsonville	155	148	66
Mt Trolly, Conway	140	133	220
	 	75	89
Mt Ariel, Conway	62		

New Life, Conway	29		25
Oak Grove, Conway	115	105	115
Pee Dee, Conway	86	85	87
Rains, Rains	93	66	65
Riverside, Conway	0	0	59
Socastee, Surfside Beach	80	88	84
South Conway, Conway	88	110	102
Sweet Home, Myrtle Beach	35		40
Unity, Johnsonville	66	64	125
Westside, Johnsonville	107	230	200
White Savannah, Conway	340	330	325
Wildwood, Nichols	37	120	42
S C CONFERE	NCE		
Bay Branch, Timmonsville	98	56	101
Bethany, Timmonsville	134	185	154
Bethesda, Camden	23	18	32
Beulah, Pamplico	97	84	99
Bible, Darlington	77	85	116
Black River, Andrews	73	84	110
Calvary, Georgetown	33	40	38
Camp Branch, Scranton	76	60	102
Columbia, Columbia	54	77	45
Community, Florence	59	89	115
Eastside, Florence	30	26	52
Faith, Darlington	70	80	75
Fellowship, Florence	46	47	45
First, Hartsville	28	27	31
First, Florence	314	244	324
First, Kingstree	236	195	176
First, Darlington	74	87	93
First, Charleston	56	55	52
Grace, Lake City	136	105	105
High Hill, Lake City	24	65	46
Horse Branch, Turbeville	223	198	237
Immanuel, Santee	14	28	38
Jefferson Road, Sumter	134	164	122
Lebanon, Florence	88	91	145
Liberty, Manning	45	35	36
Liberty, Orangeburg	30	27	36
Low Country, Charleston	20	40	123
Lynches River, Coward	31	55	97
Midlands, Columbia	38	34	36
Mt Elon, Pamplico	122	102	110
New Town, Lake City	50	79	51
Pamplico, Pamplico	41	36	30
Peace, Florence	269	255	353
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Poplar Hill, Hemingway	48	49	55			
Salem, Scranton	30	28	27			
Sand Hill, Coward	83	68	120			
Southside, Darlington	212	269	213			
St John, Patrick	60	153	147			
Tabernacle, Coward	193	148	157			
Temple, Darlington	189	160	225			
Victory, Andrews	37	44	25			
PALMETTO CONF	ERENCE					
Bethel, Fort Mill	24	37	46			
Bright Light,	62	48	47			
New Vision, Rock Hill	60	49	122			
Peace, Spartanburg	267	242	263			
Trinity, Wilmington, NC	26	31	30			
Victory, Hanover, PA	87	169	130			
Lovin Hope, Enoree	0	0	32			
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Cornerstone, Manning	42	54	48			
Cypress Forks, Manning	49	81	27			
Fellowship, Manning	19	43	54			
Freedom, Ladson	102	48	58			
Gilead, Scranton	222	275	276			
Happy Home, Andrews	74	140	102			
Hickory Hill, Gresham	66	66	119			
Hillside, Florence	80	72	115			
Mill Branch, Johnsonville	67	57	100			
New Vision, Hemingway	91	105	127			
New Prospect, Pamplico	130	193	158			
Olanta, Olanta	13	11	22			
St John, Pamplico	77	80	103			
Walker's Chapel, Sumter	22	31	35			
Williams Hill, Hemingway	57	84	112			
GREAT COMMI	SSION					
Great Commission, Lancaster	39	26	40			
Greer First, Greer	86	76	73			
Pine Grove	85	56	104			
Woodruff First, Woodruff	35	10	-			
TRUE LIFE CONFERENCE						
Calvary, Lancaster	71	27	55			
Cornerstone, Chester	36	24	36			
Faith, Smyrna	26	50	31			
Gloryland, Rock Hill	44	40	55			
Mt Carmel, York	42	37	50			



The First FWB Church of Inman used the first Sunday in April to honor **Rev Earl Hendrix for 35 years of service** as their pastor. The sanctuary was packed with members, dignitaries (Including the Mayor and Chief of Police of Inman), fellow Pastors, and guests. A great time of worship in song was followed by



Rev Earl and Mrs. Gwen Hendrix with Mayor and Mrs. Marshall Brown

several testimonies about Brother Earl and Mrs. Gwen's influence; and about their funny human side. Then they were presented with several mementos, including a "Prayer Chest" where people could put cards of appreciation and promises of

prayer.

(From the Bulletin Insert on this day) "Thirty-five years ago, a young man, newly converted and full of excitement and zeal came to Inman to build a FWB Church and claim Inman for Christ. He arrived with only a Buick Wildcat "Gas Hog" automobile, a reluctant wife who doubted his sanity, and a dream. With a mobile chapel to worship in and a \$10 a week salary he set out on a mission.

During the next years he worked at a public job (as did his wife), attended Bob Jones University, prepared sermons, and learned the duties and responsibilities of being a pastor first hand. Soon the dream became a vision and the mobile chapel changed to a church which then grew to the great sanctuary in which they now worship. Inman Christian School (with all its related buildings) grew up across the road and now this church not only ministers



to hundreds each week but they are a tremendous impact on Home and Foreign Missions and Bible Colleges. Great things God hath done."



Great Commission Dedication: It felt just like coming home for this home coming! Pastor Eddie Hinson and the congregation of Great Commission FWB Church, Lancaster had recently purchased the old pews and pulpit furniture from Grace FWB Church that were no



Princess Paula awaits services to begin

longer needed because of their remodeling (see pg 5) so Paula and I felt right at home sitting in our normal pew and I felt right at home preaching from a pulpit that I had preached behind for many years.

A warm spirit of worship greeted us on this Home Coming Day as we celebrated God's Blessings on this congregation. A good fellowship meal followed and then we all moved out to the land behind the Church in order to **dedicate the latest vision of this growing Church- A Camping and Recreation**

area to be used for Out Door Preaching and Singing events as well as a place for churches to bring groups to camp and fellowship. Located right beside busy By-pass Hwy 9 in Lancaster, this area will be a great opportunity to not only reach this community but also people from surrounding areas who come in for special events and camping.

Right now the Church is clearing land as money becomes available or work is donated and they plan to move on this project a step at a time as God provides.



MIRIAL GAINER PRAYER REQUESTS:

- +++Financial support to bring her account into the black
- +++Wisdom to direct the Short Term Mission Program in Japan
- +++Guidance as she develops the English curriculum and the Children's Bible curriculum
- +++The Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who come to English classes so they will accept Christ.

Rev Wilburn Beasley 1917-2002



Rev Wilburn Beasley, an humble but highly effective servant of the Lord ended his earthly journey on Tuesday, March 19, 2002. He was born in Marion County, Alabama on June 2,1917 to Isaac and Della West Beasley. He was married to Verna Mollie Lynn on May 6, 1937 (She went to be with the Lord on December 22, 1972). Brother Beasley had 3 children: James (Mary) Beasley, Betty (Rev. Jakie) Creech, and Jan (Tracy) McElveen.

Brother Beasley was pastor of two churches in Alabama before going to Free Will Baptist Bible College (where he was the pastor of Oaklawn FWB Church while attending College). Upon Graduation from FWBBC in 1954 he became pastor of Beech Springs FWB Church in Tupelo,

Mississippi. Later he was pastor of Glennville FWB Church, Glennville, GA; Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville, SC; and High Hill FWB Church, Lake City, SC.

Brother Beasley held numerous local, state, and national offices among FWB during his active ministry. Declining health confined him to a nursing home for the last 5 years but he still liked to attend church and revival services. He was highly respected among his peers and will be greatly missed. State Moderator, Sherwood Lee, and Son-in-law, as well as pastor of Horse Branch FWB Church, Jakie Creek brought the messages at the memorial service.



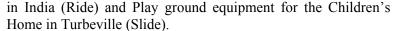
A note from the Family of Rev Mike Creech: Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your love, concern, and your gift to help us during this time. Your prayers have been a great strength to us. Love, Carla, Rachel, Hannah, & Caleb.

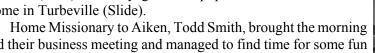
State WAC. 243 ladies, ministers, and delegates met at Peace FWB Church on Saturday, March 16th, 2002 for the annual South Carolina Women Active for Christ state meeting



Children's Home Director, James Wilhide presents a plaque to Mrs Gwen for the play ground equipment given in her honor

(Which was nearly 100 more than attended the State Association meeting!). WAC Director, Gwen Hendrix, is not often surprised but the ladies managed to keep a secret and collect \$4828.27 for a special "Ride and Slide" program in honor of Mrs. Gwen. This Service is interrupted as "Ride project, which will be a continuing project until this year's State WAC Retreat in September, will be divided equally between buying Motorbikes for Pastors





message. Then the ladies had their business meeting and managed to find time for some fun time at the end as various ladies presented great performances impersonating others and asking "Who am I?". The SC Conference WAC and especially, Peace FWB Church, are to Mrs "Mona-Mike" encourages the be commended for the great job they did in hosting this year's meeting.



and Slide" gifts are brought in



ladies to Give, Give, Give.



Assistant Moderator, Sherry Carter, leads in Celebrating 25 years of leadership by Mrs Gwen Hendrix

Beaver Creek WAC: Cold, rainy weather did not prevent a huge crowd of ladies from attending the annual meeting of the Beaver Creek WAC Conference at Valley Falls FWB Church on the first Sunday in March. Included in the Business and Worship was a special time to honor Mrs Gwen Hendrix for serving 25 years as Coordinator (and chief cheerleader!) of the Beaver Creek WAC with special gifts and testimonies.

And Mrs. Gwen's long term leadership has paid off. At this conference 2 more Auxiliaries joined the Beaver Creek WAC- Landmark FWB, Anderson and Southside FWB, Aiken. That means the Beaver Creek WAC has as many active WAC chapters as the rest of the conferences in the State combined. Way to go!.

Glorlyland FWB Church, Rock Hill, celebrated their 10th anniversary on Saturday, March 24th 2002. Pastor Phil Lemmons decided to hold the celebration on a Saturday so members that had moved away and other local pastors could attend. His strategy succeeded with a full house and a great service. Located on busy highway 5, this church has grown from a grain store into beautiful buildings that are a great testimony for Free Will Baptists in the Rock Hill area. The church originally borrowed \$50,000 with hopes of paying it off on their 10th Anniversary. Instead, God blessed and it was paid off in only 4



Lemmons

years (Glory!). That has enabled them to do other improvements including paving the parking, building a fellowship

building, and erecting a new sign.



The State Executive Secretary had the great privilege of preaching the morning message and then leading in the dedication of their new sign. Rock Hill has expanded until it is now almost at the door of this church and a tremendous number of vehicles past this church each day. The new sign will be a continuing testimony of God's activity in this Church.



Following the Morning service we all enjoyed a hot dog and hamburger lunch before coming back for an afternoon of good Gospel music.



Pastor Carroll Bazen (L) and Song Leader, Sully Sullivan, rejoice in the new additions.

Grace FWB Church, Lake City celebrated the renovation of their Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. A Baptistery, a New Choir loft and Pulpit area, and new rest rooms were added to the end of the Church. Then everything was changed from varnish to bright white paint. New carpet and new pews were also added. Now it looks like a brand new Church.

Pastor Carroll Bazen says more improvements are on the way and He is excited about the Church's future.



Grace FWB Church spacious new Sanctuary

HISTORY OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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



The John Wilson Saga: (Continued from last Edition)

The 1850 Census of Darlington County indicates that Rev. John Wilson, age 60, was married to Ruth Ellis, age 55, who died in 1861. Both stated they were born in North Carolina. Family traditions claim that Ruth Ellis was the daughter of a minister. It is interesting to note that in the incident in which Jesse Wilson's ear was bitten off in a fight, the other party in that altercation was Joseph Ellis. Though it is not yet established, there is a probability that they later became brothers-inlaw

John T. Wilson is connected with four early Free Will Baptist churches. Family tradition indicates that he would "swim Lynches River on horseback" once a month to preach at Piney Grove Church. His connection to Piney Grove could be easily explained by its close proximity to the Wilson family home in what is now Williamsburg County, South Carolina. In the 1863 Minutes of the South Carolina Conference, he is listed as pastor of Mother Church, Sand Hill Church, and Cross Roads Church. By 1864, his attentions were focused on Crossroads Church, in Darlington County. This church was located on land owned by John Wilson. The date and circumstances of its origin is uncertain. That it existed prior to 1858 is certain. However, it ceased to operate after Wilson's death in 1869. Family tradition states "he was such a good man that when it was extremely dry, folks would send for him to pray for rain and he was successful in every case."

Sadly, the end of John Wilson's life and ministry were not as peaceful or productive as his early days. His son, Thomas J. Wilson, had him declared "lunatick." It is intriguing that witnesses state that he "preached many times from his pulpit at Wilson's Crossroads" after he "became infirmed and declared insane." A bitterly contested lawsuit among his children, over the inheritances, dragged on for many years.

(Continued Next Edition)



UNA TRIPLE BLESSING: "Bursting at the seams" is the best way to describe what Una FWB Church looked like on the fourth Sunday in March. The Choir stayed in the choir loft, the little ones sat in little chairs placed between the front pew and the altar, chairs were put in the aisle, and people crowded against the walls and into the vestibule. If ever a church could see the need of building a new sanctuary then surely this was such a case.

1) The Pastor's 25th Anniversary: Brother Mitch Edge, pastor of Parkway FWB Church, and former Assistant Pastor of Una FWB Church, surprised Pastor Kenneth Cash by suddenly appearing at the end of the first prayer. He asked Pastor Cash and wife, Brenda, to sit on the front pews with the rest of his family. Brother Mitch then directed the services and preached a message of honor for this fine Pastor for his 25 years of faithful service to Una FWB Church. A plaque, presents, and another week of paid vacation (What a great idea!) were then presented to Pastor Cash and wife.



Deacons present Pastor Cash and Wife, Brenda a Plaque for 25 years of Service.



2) Mortgage Burning on Fellowship Building. Immediately following this service the congregation adjourned to the nearby fellowship building for a great meal and a time of fellowship before the mortgage was burnt on this new building



3) Ground breaking for new Sanctuary. Not wanting to be out of debt long(!) the congregation then moved across the street and broke ground for their new Sanctuary. As soon as it is constructed, the Una congregation will move to the much needed larger facilities and the old building will be used for the new state Hispanic Ministry. What a Great day of Victory for this Church.



Local Pastors and members assist in the mortgage burning service.





Arcadia on the Move- After 75 years in the same location, Arcadia FWB Church had their final service at their present location on Sunday, March 17th, 2002. They have purchased land on a prime location just down from one of the major Spartanburg malls and building has begun on the new Sanctuary. A Russian congregation has purchased their old facilities so they will be meeting at Fair



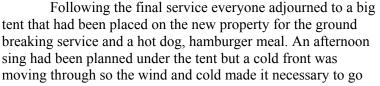
The New Sanctuary will be just beyond the tent

Forrest School for the next few months during construction.

Pastor Kevin Smith was so excited about the big day until he forgot his coat but he did not forget the roots of the Church. He asked former pastor, Buddy Seav, Jr. to bring the final message in



the old building and the packed congregation had a wonderful service. It was a time of great joy in God's Blessings; but also of some sorrow as this chapter in the life of this church ended.





Rev and Mrs Kevin Smith break ground for future growth.

back to the church for one more final service (I told them the church just did not want to let them go!).



Black River FWB Church, Andrews, recently welcomed Rev Jeff Cockrell as pastor. Brother Jeff is a native of Selma, NC and was ordained to preach in February of 1985. He has pastored churches in NC and Georgia as well as being active in the denomination serving as associational clerk and on local and state boards. He has also written numerous articles for "Contact" magazine and for the Georgia FWB Promotional Bulletin.

Jeff and wife, Terri, have 2 children; Drew (13) and Joel (10). We welcome him to SC.

Friend and family day at White Savannah. A huge crowd of over 400 people met with Pastor Buddy Seay and the congregation of White Savannah as they celebrated Friends and Family Day on Sunday, March 10th, 2002. Special guest of honor on this day was Mrs. Molly Gibson, wife of former State Promotional Director, Rev Norwood Gibson, who was recognized for the wonderful work she and brother Norwood had done in years gone by.



This service was also the beginning of Revivals services with Rev Rick Bowling, L-R: Mrs Molly Gibson, Rev Hispanic Minister of the National Home Mission Department. Following the morning Rick Bowling, Rev & Mrs Buddy Seay, Jr. service a fellowship meal was served. Great services, Great spirit, Great day.



Lovin Hope FWB Church, Enoree, SC recently joined the Palmetto Conference. Pastor Everette Tyner has led this young work to completely remodel their church building and provide a nice place of worship just off busy interstate 26 and he is looking forward to good growth in the future.

Liberty FWB Church, Orangeburg welcomed the FWB Children's Home to their services the Sunday before Easter. The 71 people who turned out for this special



Pasta-a- plenty is loaded in the CH Van

event greatly excited Pastor Roger Tripp and provided a great day of worship. The Church received a \$250 offering for the Home and one of the members arranged through his company to obtain a year's supply of Pasta for the home. CH Director, James Wilhide Those kids will soon be as fat as the State Executive prepares to preach. Secretary!



This former mission church just turned 14, has a beautiful facility, and great potential. Former Pastor, Earl Hanna will be in Revival with them April 28-May 1.

Did you Know?

- - The First Annual Session of the SC State Association of Free Will Baptists was held at Whitney FWB Church, Spartanburg, S C on September 10, 1943.
- - -Rev L. A. Holliday was elected for a 2 year term as "President" at this meeting.
- - -The conferences representing at that first meeting were the Beaver Creek Association (4 churches), Rock Fish Association (2), Pee Dee Association (1), South Carolina Conference (10), and the Eastern Conference (1).

- - The Second State Association meeting was held at Horse Branch FWB Church,

Turbeville, SC in November of 1944.

- - - These, and many more interesting facts are available for research at our State Historical Display in the vestibule of the SCFWB State Office. Come by and take a look at how God has blessed SCFWB through the years. We might even find you a cup of coffee!

SCFWB Minister's Benevolent Fund: As of April 8, 2002, the Minister's Benevolent Fund contains \$1400. Several Churches have contributed the \$52 fee for their pastor and his wife. Something to pray about.



Ministers/ Church addresses: The addresses published in the State and National Minutes are those submitted by the CONFERENCE CLERKS. Make sure your Conference Clerk has your correct address (They normally get the church address from the forms submitted by the church).



I-r Neil Morgan, President, Kiley Sect/Treasurer, Scott Collins, Chaplain, Mitchell Cooper, Worship Leader

South Carolina Young Men make a mark at FWBBC: Neil Morgan was recently elected President of the Student Body of Free Will Baptists Bible College. Not only is this a great honor for him but it carries on a recent trend at the Bible College: 3 of the last 4 Presidents of the Student Body have come from South Carolina- Shiloh Hackett, Darin Miles, and now, Neil Morgan. And the other president during this time was Charles Cook. whose mother is from South Carolina. Thank the Lord for Leaders among Hawkins, Vice President, Charles Cook, the coming generation of young men from South Carolina.

First Annual SCFWB Youth Retreat a hugh Success: One Hundred Forty youth, sponsors, and guests convened at the Quality Hotel and Conference Center in Spartanburg the first week-end in April for a time of preaching, rallies, and fun. Nearly half of the participants had never attended our state's youth camps or any other event of this magnitude and the great time had by the participates is expected to spark a greater participation in our summer youth camps scheduled for July 28 - August 3.

Youth from 15 churches across the state enjoyed the preaching of Brother Lee Patrick and the singing of Darin Miles and Jeremy Riggs. The Youth were also challenged by a visit from Rev Shiloh Hackett and a group from the FWBBC. Sunday Morning's final service produced numerous decisions for salvation and dedications of lives for God's glory.

Fun activities included unlimited go cart rides, putt-putt, a batting cage, basketball, volley ball, ping pong, and a visit to Greenville Municipal Stadium for a chilly night of Greenville Braves baseball.

State Youth Camp Board members: Richard Conyers (Director), Marty Cox, Mike Bishop, B.L.Effird, Cyrus Shoffner, and Carroll Bazen are to be commended for their hard work in putting this event together.



State Youth Board Director Richard Conyers

The National Association of Free Will Baptists will meet July 21-25, 2002 in Memphis,

Tennessee. Nearly 8000 delegates and visitors are expected for this convention in the heart of our country. The national Youth Convention and national Woman Active for Christ convention will meet at the same time.

Over \$22 million dollars in budgets are expected to be approved. Very important changes in leadership will be up for vote. Churches are encouraged to encourage their pastor to attend (and provide him the finances necessary to do so!!). Programs and Hotel information are available from the SCFWB State Office and have been mailed to all churches in the State.

Free Will Baptists Christian Book Store has available:

***A large selection of KJV Bibles for Grads, Gifts, and Personal study

***VBS starter kits so your committee can determine what theme to use this year- 2 are KJV based.

Phone orders are taken Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:30pm 1-800-319-2346 / (843) 662-8682

Store Hours: Monday - Thursday: Noon - 5:00pm

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