

THE



**JULY - AUGUST
2002**

INFORMER

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

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DEBT FREE!

The Generous giving of South Carolina Free Will Baptists, the fiscal changes made in the SCFWB Christian Book Store at the beginning of this year, and some very serious "belt tightening" in the SCFWB State Office have enabled your SCFWB State Office to enter August DEBT FREE (Is there a "Glory" anywhere out there?). By paying off the \$30,000 renovation loan in two and a half years instead of the 15 years for which the loan was obtained we were able to save nearly \$20,000 in interest (Glory!); and begin to look to God's plans for our future without being held back by the past.

Not only is the State Office Debt Free but we were also able to purchase a 2000 Dodge Van for the State Office and it is also Debt Free. Rev Brian Tolliver donated a 1993 Ford Van to the Office in April of 2001 and it did a great job for us. However, as it approached 200,000 miles several problems developed that made it prudent to look for more dependable transportation.

Then one day former missionary, Jimmy Aldridge, came by the office to visit. In our conversation I mentioned looking for a replacement van. Brother Jimmy now has a "hobby" of going to auto auctions so he went looking- and the rest of it is just one big "Glory!". The money that was saved in mileage from the use of the 93 Ford Van enabled us to be able to pay for the new 2000 van- Excuse my English but, "Ain't God Good!"

The only problem we had with the 2000 Dodge was that the tires needed to be replaced. Enter Pastor David Young and the fine congregation of Tabernacle FWB Church. He came by one day with a check and told me God had laid on his heart to purchase a new set of tires for our van. Now we ride in a nice van with new tires- praising God for His goodness and provision.

Thank you, South Carolina Free Will Baptists. Your prayers and support have been vital and they are GREATLY APPRECIATED. Keep up the good work.



Pastor David Young admires the new tires on the SCFWB Van

Free Will Baptist National Offices

Toll Free Numbers

Executive Office	877-767-7659
Foreign Missions	877-767-7736
Home Missions	877-767-7674
Master's Men	877-767-8039
WNAC (Ladies)	877-767-7662
Retirement	877-767-7738



Eddie Hobbs resigns as Book Store Manager. August brought some very good news to Eddie and Jennifer Hobbs as they look forward to a new addition to their family. But it brought sad news to us in the State Office. Because of the need of better Insurance and the additional financial responsibilities of a larger family, Brother Eddie announced that he would be leaving the SCFWB Book Store effective December 31,2002.

Brother Eddie has been a very valuable asset to South Carolina Free Will Baptists during his 5 years of service as Book Store Manager and he will be greatly missed.

The good news is that the work of the SCFWB Book Store and the distribution of Sunday School Literature and Vacation Bible School literature will continue unabated. A replacement for Brother Eddie is being prayerful sought and will be made as soon as possible. God is preparing our future Path. What an exciting hope to walk into the dark with a God who is the Light!

GREAT NATIONAL MEETING. We had a Great National this year in Memphis. Wish you could have been there. Here are some of the highlights as written by Rev Jack Williams:

Keith Burden Elected Executive Secretary- Reverend Keith Burden, 48-year-old Oklahoma pastor, was elected executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists during the 66th annual convention in Memphis July 21-25. He succeeds Melvin Worthington who retired after 23 years.

Burden's election came Wednesday morning in Memphis Convention Center with the largest attendance in 17 years. The vote culminated a year in which the Executive Committee, acting as a search committee, interviewed candidates and recommended Burden to the denomination's General Board. The General Board recommended him to delegates who made the decision to elect.

Keith Burden began preaching as a 16-year-old high school junior in Poteau, Oklahoma. He graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College (Moore, OK) in 1976, attended Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduate School in Nashville and completed a master's degree at Moody Bible Institute Graduate School.

He has pastored five churches—one in California and four in Oklahoma: First FWB Church, Holdenville, OK (1975-'77), First FWB Church, Locust Grove, OK (1977-'80, 1999-2002), Harmony FWB Church, Fresno, CA (1980-'83), West Tulsa FWB Church, Tulsa, OK (1983-'87), First FWB Church, Ada, OK (1987-'99). He was pastor at First FWB Church in Locust Grove when elected executive secretary.

Reverend Burden is well-known on the broader denominational scene. He served 18 years as assistant clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 15 years as clerk of the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists, three years as National Association clerk and three years as moderator of the Oklahoma State Association.

A writer, statistician and lead singer in a men's quartet, Burden will move to Tennessee in late August and begin his duties as executive secretary September 1. He plans to consult with his predecessor for a time to effect a smooth leadership transition. Both men will attend September's steering committee meeting with the Florida State Association to plan the 2003 national convention. They will also participate in the October general session of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches, Inc., which meets near Nashville.

Keith and Debbie Burden have two children: Jennie (Mrs. Jeff) Blair who gave birth to the Burden's first grandchild in June, and Katie Burden who is a freshman at Hillsdale FWB College.

Mrs. Debbie Burden is a preacher's daughter and a graduate of Hillsdale FWB College. A pianist and children's choir director, Debbie served seven years on the Hillsdale College Board of Trustees. She is secretary of Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC), an auxiliary to the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

In other action, convention delegates . . .

Elected . . . members to 37 positions on the following boards and commissions: General Officers (4), General Board (13), Executive Committee (3), Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees (4), Foreign Missions Board (4), Sunday School and Church Training Board (4), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Media Commission (2), Music Commission (1), Historical Commission (1).

Registered . . . 7,959 people in three concurrent conventions, including 720 ordained ministers, 144 deacons, 50 local church delegates, 84 state delegates, 56 home missionaries, 28 foreign missionaries, 3,398 for the National Youth Conference and 968 for the WNAC convention.

Adopted . . . a \$22.2 million denominational budget for the following agencies: Foreign Missions—\$7.4 million; Home Missions—\$5 million; Free Will Baptist Bible College—\$4.6 million; Sunday School and Church Training—\$3.6 million; Executive Office \$796,000; Retirement and Insurance—\$391,000; Master's Men—\$135,000; Free Will Baptist Foundation—\$135,000; Music Commission—\$34,000; Historical Commission—\$4,600; Commission for Theological Integrity—\$6,500; Media Commission—\$10,000.

Approved . . . the Budget Committee's recommendation that gifts received through The Together Way Plan be allocated to national ministries on the following basis: (1) Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts; (2) Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts according to these percentages: Free Will Baptist Bible College—23%; Foreign Missions—23%; Home Missions—18%; Retirement and Insurance—14%; Master's Men—14%; Free Will Baptist Foundation—6%; Commission for Theological Integrity—0.5%; Historical Commission—0.5%; Music Commission—0.5%; Media Commission—0.5%.

Gave . . . a Wednesday evening missionary offering topping \$21,700. Undesignated funds will be divided between Home and Foreign Missions.

Loved . . . the short walk, trolley rides and flat terrain between the major convention hotels and convention center. The downtown streets were safe for pedestrian travel.



Keith Burden accepts the "reins" from Melvin Worthington.

Heard . . . five sermons in worship services delivered by the following men: Alton Loveless (Tennessee), Carl Cheshier (Oklahoma), Kerry Steedley (U.S. Army Chaplain), Melvin Worthington (Tennessee) and Curtis Linton (Oklahoma).

Gathered . . . in Memphis Convention Center Monday afternoon to hear pastor and author Stan Toler speak in a two-hour Pastors/Laymen Conference on building a ministry team.

Filled . . . every seat in Heritage Ballroom at Memphis Marriott to hear Teri Peacock speak Tuesday noon at the WNAC Fellowship Luncheon. More than 350 people were on hand for the event.

Thanked . . . the Tennessee State Association for their splendid work hosting the 2002 convention. This marked the eighth time the convention has met in Tennessee.

Joined . . . WNAC attendees and delegates Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. to hear Tim and Kristi Johnson, foreign missionaries to Spain, speak at Memphis Convention Center.

Listened . . . carefully Tuesday morning during the Theological Trends Seminar while Ron Callaway delivered a powerful message on the omnipresence of God and open theism. More than 400 people



attended the 90-minute session. Callaway later fielded questions from attendees.

Praised . . . the Music Commission and Scott Bullman who arranged four days of solos, choirs, quartets, trios and rousing congregational singing. A convention highlight occurred Sunday evening during a 90-minute Free Will Baptist singing convention set in the Gaither homecoming style presentation.

Invested . . . more than \$3 million in the Memphis economy. This includes hotel rooms, food, shopping, gasoline and more.

Placed . . . the Mexican Association of Free Will Baptists on probation for one year. If the Mexican Association brings its documents into conformity with the Treatise regarding autonomy of the local church, probation will be removed.

Accepted . . . the Association of the Free Will Baptists of Mexico (formerly the aggrieved minority) into the National Association as a district association. Luis Felipe Tijerina was elected as their General Board member.

Raised . . . National Association representation fees to **\$100 per church per year**. The new representation fees take effect at the 2004 national convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Required . . . badges to be worn for attendance at all future convention events. This action takes effect in 2003 at the national convention in Tampa, Florida. This vote makes pre-registration more attractive for attendees.

Gave . . . a standing ovation to retiring executive secretary Melvin Worthington Tuesday evening before he preached at the convention. Then hundreds stood in line for two hours at the Marriott Hotel in order to shake Worthington's hand during a gala reception in his honor.

Named . . . Melvin Worthington "Executive Secretary Emeritus." Dr. Worthington is the first person to hold the title. He will retire to his home in Ayden, North Carolina, later this fall.

Wept . . . with Free Will Baptist Bible College as a Wednesday morning video presentation recalled the life and ministry of Dr. L. C. Johnson who died June 26 at age 88. Johnson was the first president of FWBBC and twice served as moderator of the National Association.

Adopted . . . the re-stated charter of the Master's Men Department.

Waved . . . 5,000 flags Monday evening in the worship service when U. S. Army Chaplain Kerry Steedley stepped up to preach his rousing sermon. Eleven Free Will Baptists chaplains were honored, veterans saluted and stirring patriotic music sung. It was America at its best and the Free Will Baptist people at their happiest.



Flinched . . . when William Evans, director of the Board of Retirement, reported 22% losses in the last six months. Evans encouraged participants in the denomination's retirement program to resist panic and to look at long-term results. Over the past 10 years, the agency registered a 9% annual increase.

Embraced . . . the new Free Will Baptist Bible College president, Matthew Pinson, who gave his first report to delegates. Pinson said that relocation plans have been put on hold while the college addresses rebuilding the student body and retooling the pastoral ministries program. A 21% increase in giving this year enabled the college to reduce a \$600,000 deficit to \$45,000.

Nodded . . . their understanding when Home Missions director Larry Powell announced that all cross-cultural workers have been placed on designated support. He also announced that five new home missionaries were appointed in 2001, that applications for five new churches have been received for 2002. Home missionaries reported 1,000 converts in 2001 and made 211,000 contacts in their local communities.

Caught . . . their collective breath when Foreign Missions director James Forlines reported an attack by armed gunmen on Free Will Baptist missionaries and workers in Africa. He announced that the department may send out as many as 10 E-



Lossie Evans, Mill Branch FWB Church (3rd from right- top row) helps with the Mass Choir.

teams in 2002. Oversees attendance at Free Will Baptist churches has tripled since 1992, surging from 6,329 to 18,892. Personnel will be trying to spend 25% less than the adopted budget in 2003. Eight career missionaries and six short-term missionaries were sent out in 2002.

Said . . . goodbye to Alton Loveless who retires in August after eight years as general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department. Hundreds attended a Monday evening reception to honor Dr. Loveless. He was busier than usual during the convention—he preached the opening sermon Sunday morning, taught a seminar Tuesday afternoon, reported to the General Board Monday and gave his farewell presentation to delegates Wednesday afternoon. He introduced his successor, Ron Hunter, who shared a PowerPoint presentation and described his vision for the agency.

Waited . . . as Music Commission member Chris Truett announced 2003 plans to publish a companion to The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book: Rejoice. The commission plans a fall 2002 survey before proceeding with efforts to publish a new hymnal.

Focused . . . every eye on Nathan Ruble (MO) as the Publications Committee chairman explained plans to conduct a reader survey before making recommendations to the 2003 convention regarding the feasibility of combining six national publications into one (Aim, Contact, Heartbeat, Master's Men Newsletter, FWBBC Bulletin and Outreach).

Set . . . a record for the city of Memphis when members gave 162 units of blood in a blood drive spearheaded by the National Youth Conference.

Reached . . . out into the Memphis community when 600 Free Will Baptist youth worked at local food banks, visited the elderly, organized a blood drive and more in their "Reach That Guy" campaign.

Lauded . . . Convention manager Dean Jones who reported standing-room-only at youth worship services. The youth conference recorded 250 decisions by participants, including 12 salvation decisions. More than 1,700 Free Will Baptist students participated in Bible competition activities and music and arts events.

Struggled . . . with the oppressive heat in downtown Memphis, and tried to find a way to move past numerous street people who populated the Main Street Mall area.

Roared . . . with enthusiasm during the NYC Awards Ceremony Wednesday night after the convention missionary service. NYC competitors picked up certificates, trophies and well-deserved praise.

Walked . . . through the expanded exhibit area, signed up for door prizes, visited nearly 80 exhibit spaces filled with information, ideas and giveaway items.

Chuckled . . . when moderator Carl Cheshier stepped aside and called on 74-year-old evangelist Wade Jernigan for the Wednesday morning devotion. Jernigan preached 10 minutes telling delegates, "It's time to let Jesus speak for Himself." He got up, spoke up, shut up and sat down . . . and he wore an American flag necktie while he did it!

Congratulated . . . WNAC executive-secretary treasurer Marjorie Workman when she announced that WNAC gave more than \$548,000 to missions outreach last year.

Grabbed . . . (and paid for) more than 700 copies of The Fruit of Our Hands, a new cookbook published by WNAC that features 1,200 recipes from 850 cooks.

Sympathized . . . with North Carolina pastor Henry Van Kluyve who had a light heart attack Thursday as the convention ended, with Tennessee layman James Vallance who injured his foot on the "Watch Your Step" sign while exiting the trolley, with assistant moderator Tim York who thought he might have to walk back to eastern Kentucky after parking attendants misplaced his car (they found it).

Adjourned . . . by 10:30 am Thursday to meet in Tampa, Florida, at Tampa Convention Center for the July 20-24, 2003, session.

GLORY! What a great group of Young People we have in SCFWB Churches. Guidelines for YOUR youth group to participate are available at the SCFWB Christian Book Store.

South Carolina Winners

1st Place - 3rd Grade Bible Memorization - David Bowers, 1st Greenville

3rd Place - Male Vocal Solo (7-9 grade) - Bryce Mims, Horse Branch, Turbeville

3rd Place - Duet (1-3 grade) - Horse Branch Duet, Horse Branch, Turbeville

2nd Place - Duet (7-9 grade) - Horse Branch Duet, Horse Branch, Turbeville

1st Place - Trio (7-9 grade) - Horse Branch Trio, Horse Branch, Turbeville

2nd Place - Quartet (10-2 grade) - First Florence Quartet, First, Florence

3rd Place - Vocal Ensemble, 5-12 members (4-6 grade) - Horse Branch Chorale, Horse Branch, Turbeville

2nd Place - Vocal Ensemble, 5-12 members (10-12 grade) - First Florence Ensemble, First, Florence

2nd Place - Instrumental Ensemble, 2-4 members (7-9 grade) - Temple Trumpets, Temple, Darlington

1st Place - Keyboard Solo (10-12 grade) - Hannah Creech, First, Florence

1st Place - Keyboard Solo (10-12 grade) Gibson/Postlewaite, First, Florence

1st Place - Individual Drama (10-12 grade) - Jackson Watts, Horse Branch, Turbeville

2nd Place - Group Drama (4-6 grade) - Horse Branch Drama, Horse Branch, Turbeville

3rd Place - Group Drama (10-12 grade) - The Temple Troupe, Temple, Darlington

1st Place - Short Story (1-3 grade) Emily Parrish, Temple, Darlington

2nd Place - Essay (10-12 grade) - Kara Battista, Temple, Darlington

Also, Jackson Watts was selected to participate in the 2003 National Youth Evangelistic Team Program next summer, based on his score. This twelve member team will travel next summer for two weeks and present a musical drama program.

Gilead has great VBS. Pastor Larry McAlister and the people of Gilead FWB Church are rejoicing in a wonderful VBS this year- Average attendance of 166. 12 Salvation and 2 Rededication decisions (Glory!). And \$1000 raised to help the new South Carolina Hispanic ministry of Gerardo Rodriguez.

Pictured is the "Green Team" who were the highest fund raisers with \$311.36 collected during VBS. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Shelly McKnight).



Ground Breaking at Liberty FWB Church. Sunday, July 21 was a BIG day in the life of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church of Lancaster. On that day they broke ground on a new 500 seat Church Building. God blessed with the need and the ability to go into this new building program after only 2 years in their present building (Glory!).

This special day started with Calvary's Call singing during the Sunday School hour and Pastor Tim Larrimore preaching from Matt. chapter 7 on "The wise and foolish builder" during the Worship service. God blessed and 2 souls were saved (Glory!). Another indication about how much this new building is needed.

Left to right: Bennie Adams, R. Wayne Snipes, Randy Ransom, Pastor Tim Larrimore, J.M. Cope, Larry Snipes, Robert Lloyd, Waynes Snipes, and Billy Snipes.



Bay Branch FWB Church welcomed as pastor **Rev Larry Monday** and wife, Elfrieda the first of August. This fine couple have 3 children (none at home) and 3 grandchildren. Brother Larry is a 1977 graduate of FWBBC (BA) and has an MA in Christian Counseling and Psychology



Mt Ariel FWB Church recently called **Rev Kenny Baxley** as Pastor. According to Brother Kenny, he is the first full time pastor this church has called and he is very excited about the further possibilities at this fine church.

New Pastor at Calvary FWB Church, Georgetown is **Rev. Billy Wayne Baker.**

Brother Billy Wayne comes to Calvary from a recent pastorate in Arizona.

Great Commission FWB Church of Lancaster recently changed their Name to **Heart Land FWB Church.** They also adopted as their motto- A little Church with a big heart where God is big and we are small. Rev. Eddie Hinson is the pastor of this fine flock.

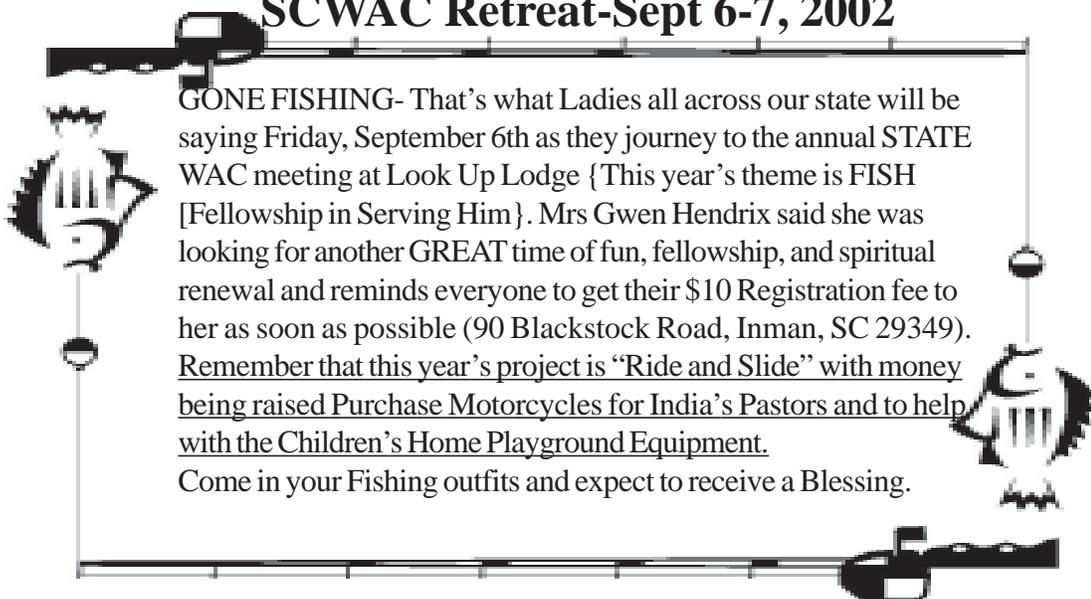
SCWAC Retreat-Sept 6-7, 2002

GONE FISHING- That's what Ladies all across our state will be saying Friday, September 6th as they journey to the annual STATE WAC meeting at Look Up Lodge {This year's theme is FISH [Fellowship in Serving Him]}. Mrs Gwen Hendrix said she was looking for another GREAT time of fun, fellowship, and spiritual renewal and reminds everyone to get their \$10 Registration fee to her as soon as possible (90 Blackstock Road, Inman, SC 29349).

Remember that this year's project is "Ride and Slide" with money being raised Purchase Motorcycles for India's Pastors and to help with the Children's Home Playground Equipment.

Come in your Fishing outfits and expect to receive a Blessing.

General Board and State Executive Committee will meet, Tuesday, September 3rd at the SCFWB Children's Home in Turbeville. The major item for discussion will be any changes that need to be proposed for any of the state Constitutions.



Mt Carmel Renovation (Reported by Pastor John Cody)

Mt. Carmel has just finished a renovation of the Sanctuary. We completely remodeled the inside of the sanctuary and rededicated it the first Sunday in June. We have replaced all the windows with krinklglas multicolored panels. 9 families in the church bought windows with debossed symbols, the dove with an olive branch, the sword and Bible praying hands and the cross. The work was directed by Brother Guy Lemmons chairman of our deacons along with Donald Rose, John Cody Jr., Tom Ervin, Rick Campbell, Dwight Franklin, Wyatt Ervin, Byron Scherer, and myself. We had help with the painting and cleaning from some of the women: Toni Lemmons, Sandy Cody, Laurie Scherer, and Shirly Ervin.



The sanctuary work included replacing the floor in some places, rebuilding the choir area, removing the old paneling and replacing some sheetrock as well as new molding and trim. We also replaced all the carpet in the sanctuary and hallways and installed new carpet in the entrance hall and handicapped ramp. While we were working on this project another crew was busy remodeling the nursery. They completely remodeled the inside, adding a Noah's Ark theme to the walls and bought new furniture - a toy box, a VCR cabinet, a rocking chair, a crib, and tables and chairs for tots. The projects took about 5 weeks from start to finish yet we only had to be out of the Sanctuary for 2 weeks during which time we met in the fellowship hall.

The money had been raised over a 2 year period and the work was completed debt free. (Glory!) We also have funds set aside for the padding of our benches and adding new curtains for the sanctuary since we changed the color scheme.

The church had it's homecoming the second Sunday in June with Rev. Arson Dixon who was the first pastor (1955) of Mt. Carmel in the building we are in now. The original pulpit of the first building has been preserved and we brought it out for Brother Dixon to preach from. Needless to say he was very moved since this is the first time he has preached in the church since 1956



Arcadia FWB Church



Fairview FWB Church



Una FWB Church

While traveling back from the National Association in Memphis, the State Executive Secretary stopped by to check on the progress of our Churches being built in the Spartanburg area. Their progress is pictured above.

GOD USED A STRAW HAT TO LEAD A MAN TO CHURCH (Submitted by Rev Paul Reid, First FWB Church, Greenwood, SC)

On Sunday, June 23, 2002 a lady who has been coming faithfully for several weeks, told me the reason she left the church where she had been attending. She said every service the preacher browbeat the people in his preaching to the point that she became discouraged. And that since she has been coming to First Free Will Baptist Church not once has she been called a name. She is now enjoying worshiping and growing in the Lord.

Wednesday, June 26th I went to Columbia for Dr. Jim Chow to check my ear where he had removed a skin cancer and did a skin graft. I stopped at a clothing store in Saluda and bought a Stetson broad brim straw hat. I went to the post office that evening back in Greenwood and a man stopped me and said he could tell that the hat I was wearing did not come from Wal-Mart and wanted to know where it came from; he wanted to get one just like it.

We found out each other's name and as we chatted for several minutes I told him where I pastored. He said, last Sunday evening he and his wife discussed changing churches but did not know where to go. He said his pastor browbeat the people while preaching and young converts did not need this, they needed encouragement. After telling him about what the lady told me the previous Sunday at church, he immediately said, "Now I know where we will go to church this coming Sunday." He and his wife came to Sunday School and Worship Service yesterday.



A small group of the Campers

In spite of uncontrollable circumstances that caused some changes in this years camp schedule the **SCFWB State Youth Camp** turned out to be another great year. Nearly 140 campers and counselors converged on Camp Beaver Lake the last 4 days in August to brave the high heat and still have a great time of Fun, Fellowship, Bible Teaching, and



Registering for camp

Powerful Preaching. Plans are already being made for next years camp- details will be made available as soon as they are received.



Danny Stone, Hillside FWB Church, Florence, was licensed to preach by the Eastern Conference at their June Meeting. He is available for speaking engagements.



Camp Cook, Rev Marty Cox shows off the new Bus recently purchase by Mt Trolly FWB Church.

Softball Tournament for a Motorcycle for India raises \$1225.29. Pastor Rickey Evans wanted to raise the money for a Motorcycle for a pastor in India and have some fun at the same time so he arranged a Softball tournament with a number of area churches. The registration fee to take part in the tournament was used to raise the \$1225.29 that was then given to Missionary Carlisle Hanna for a motorcycle.

The Friday night games were held in a driving rain and the Saturday games were held in hot, humid conditions but they did not deter these young men from enjoying themselves and helping to spread the Gospel.



Two of the nine teams that participated in the Softball tournament



Rev Gerardo Rodriguez and wife, Maria, ministered in Music before Brother Gerardo brought the morning message.

The July meeting of the Central Conference at Socastee FWB Church (Pastor Darin Squires) turned out to be a very special event. First of all, chairs had to be put out to handle the overflow crowd. Then the Spirit started to overflow and things really got exciting. Finally, Hispanic Missionary, Rev Gerardo Rodriguez and his family blessed our heart with special music and a message from God's word (Translated by National Hispanic Director, Rev Rick Bowling).

The Socastee Church and Pastor Darin had gone to great lengths to make everything just right and to provide a great meal for all these delegates and it helped make a great blessing even greater. Now, what is this I hear about Quarterly Conferences being dry and dull?



The New breeze way recently constructed by Socastee FWB Church was needed to handle the overflow crowd

SCFWB CHILDREN'S HOME NEWS.

Monty & Michelle Guffey joined the staff as Girl's Dorm Parents in June. They are from the First FWB Church in Inman.

Rev Shiloh Hackett will join the staff September 1st as Promotional and Developmental Director. Brother Shiloh has **MANY** plans that will help the Home and the work of FWB across the state. Pray for him as he begins this great work.



Freedom FWB Church, Lancaster and Pastor Mitch Ingram recently remodeled their Church to seat nearly 400 because of Continued Growth- Glory!



Victory FWB Church, Hanover, PA held their annual God and Country Day, June 30th. Attendance was great and the Spirit was wonderful. Special speakers in addition to the SCFWB Executive Secretary were l-r Representative Todd Platt, Rev Quentin Tate, Youth Pastor Jason Myers, Mr Peck Foster, and Pastor Buck Riffe.

HOUSING ALLOWANCE DESIGNATION: (Taken from the July 2002 Christian Law Association Bulletin) On May 21, 2002, President Bush signed the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act. The bill was introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Representative James Ramstad of Minnesota, and passed by a vote of 408-0 on April 16, 2002. The United States Senate then also passed the bill unanimously on May 3, 2002. The Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act was designed to pre-empt a lawsuit that has come before the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

That case began in the United States Tax Court when the pastor of one of the nation's largest congregations challenged an IRS ruling that he could not claim his actual housing-related expenses as a tax-exempt housing allowance. The IRS wanted to allow only the fair rental value of his home as furnished plus the actual expenses of utilities as the amount excluded from income. The U.S. Tax Court ruled in the pastor's favor, but the IRS appealed.

While reviewing the dispute over the amount claimed as a housing allowance by the pastor, a three-judge panel from the 9th Cir. , by a vote of 2-1, announced that it would also consider whether the minister's housing allowance statute violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, even though neither the IRS nor the pastor had presented this question to the court. The ministers' housing allowance is not the only provision in the tax code that excludes housing expenses from taxable income. Similar income tax exclusions exist for the military and for U.S. citizens living in foreign countries.

The Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act specifically codifies the position of the IRS in the Warren case. Under the Act, the amount that a minister may exclude from federal gross income as housing allowance for income tax purposes is the least of 1) the amount of salary designated as housing allowance by the church; 2) the actual expenses incurred by the minister to maintain his home; or 3) the fair rental value of the furnished home plus the actual cost of utilities. For example, if the minister's actual housing expenses are \$12,000 and the amount designated by the church for housing is \$14,000 but the fair rental value (plus the actual cost of utilities) of his housing is \$11,000, only the \$11,000 may be excluded from the minister's income taxes. The minister must report the difference between the church-designated housing allowance and the fair rental value of the housing as taxable income.

DESIGNATED GIVING: One of the stipulations Church Treasurers must be aware of is that Designated Money **MUST** be used for its designated purpose- That is why Pastors are so careful to designate the purpose of regular and special offerings (Example: You cannot designate an offering to help a sick member and then use that money to pad the church pews). Members, however, need to be aware that they cannot control by designation; once the money is placed into the designated fund then the giver no longer controls the use of that money (Example: You can designate your gift to the Building Fund {and it must go to the Building Fund} but you cannot stipulate that the Church must use that money to paint a class room blue. Once the money is in the Building Fund then the Church acting in its normal business method must decide how to use those funds.

This is why Church (and State!) Treasurers must be so meticulous in their accounting and reporting- and why you ought to **THANK** your Church Treasurer today for the extra effort they put in every week in order to keep the work of God functioning smoothly and effectively.

**PASTOR
APPRECIATION
SUNDAY**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2002.

“Esteem them very highly
in love for their work’s
sake” (I Thess 5:13)



South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists
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