

THE



March 2005

INFORMER

The Informer is the official publication of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc.
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BUILDING THROUGH UNITY

The consistent comments from Pastors, Delegates, and Visitors was that the 63rd annual session of the State Association was one of the best ever. "Building through Unity" seemed an appropriate theme as God moved in the messages, in the music, and in the business as we united together around God's word and for God's work.



Moderator Sherwood Lee, Clerk Todd Smith, and Assistant Moderator, Buddy Seay guided the business sessions and kept us on track

The meeting began with a special report from Brother Tim Hackett, chairman of the Children's Home board. After his report, people took a deep breath, said an earnest prayer, and decided that God was still on the throne so we were just going to trust Him and continue His work. Other reports were then given and things went so well until the Association heard all the State reports and almost all of the National Reports by the close of business on Thursday.



Thursday Night's worship service was well attended with great special music and a stirring message by Rev. Earl Hendrix. Friday's session went so smoothly until the State Moderator was able to conclude his Moderator's Message (the last thing on our program) by 11:30am.

Evergreen FWB Church and the Central Conference did an excellent job of hosting the State Meeting. The facilities were great, the food was wonderful, and everyone left looking forward to next year's State Meeting which will be hosted by the Eastern Conference (Feb 23-24, 2006).

This State meeting added important statements of faith to our constitution, required state agencies to send a monthly financial report to their boards, and passed several noteworthy resolutions. It is great to see how God is uniting His people to work together for His glory.

WAC STATE MEETING

March 19, 2005

The 55th Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Women Active for Christ will be held at Fairview FWB Church, Spartanburg on Saturday, March 19, 2005. This year's theme is "Christ our Shield and Great Reward" (Gen 15:1). This year's special project is to raise the money to build a church in India. Guest speaker is Mrs. Brenda Kay Hanna Roach (daughter of Missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna).



The headquarters motel is the Fairfield Inn at exit 75 (Hwy 9, Boiling Springs-864-699-0000). Be sure to mention you are with Free Will Baptists for the special \$49 rate.

ROLL CALL SUNDAY- Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005 will be national Roll Call Sunday. This event, sponsored by the National Home Mission Department, encourages churches to have a big day and reach souls for God. Let's pray and work in order to break last year's record attendance and have more souls won to the Lord than ever before.

Every Pastor is requested to count everyone who attends his services on Sunday but to only count each person once (no matter how many services they attend that day). He should call (or email) the moderator of his conference on Easter Sunday afternoon and give the total attendance, the number of salvation decisions, and the number of first time visitors. This information will be published on the state web site and in the "Informer" as soon as possible.

Remember, Roll Call Sunday is not about egos and competition. It is about reaching souls and building God's Kingdom. If you do your best then God is pleased with what you do- and that is what really matters.



Pastor Marty Cox and the good people of Mt. Trolly FWB Church, Galivants Ferry, SC invited the SCFWB Executive Secretary to a special “Executive Office” day on Sunday, February 27th. A shortened Sunday School was followed by a delightful concert by the bluegrass gospel group, “Crystal River”. Then Executive Secretary, Mike Jones, had the delight of sharing a message from God’s Word with these fine folks before everyone enjoyed a wonderful fellowship dinner. Brother Marty is the State Treasurer as well as “chief cook” for the annual State Youth Camp.

Pastor Todd Black sent the following report: Converse FWB Church recently voted 100% to begin financing and building our much needed new facilities. Over 11,000 sq feet and over \$760,000.00 for the project. We also voted, that when the project is completed our new church name will be **TURNING POINT FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH.**

Sunday night, Feb 27th, we had a song service with THE DOVE BROTHERS QUARTET. It was standing room only in the sanctuary with over 40% of the congregation being first time visitors traveling from hundreds of miles away. And to top it all off 6 precious souls were added to the Kingdom of God during this special service. (Glory!)



We will be having an auction on March 19th to benefit our building program. All merchandise is brand new except for a 1998 Ford van with less than 97,000 miles which was donated. Over 70 businesses has donated new merchandise for this project and it is growing daily. The auction will begin at 6pm at Parkway FWB Church Gym.



Brother Rickey Evans, manager of our State Book Store, saw this sign at the parking place of Pastor Jimmy Sanders of First FWB Church, Chester and thought it told everyone plainly that no one but the Pastor could park there!



Hillside FWB Church of Florence recently welcomed Rev. Steve Shannon as their new Pastor. And they welcomed him in style by putting him into the Church’s new Parsonage



The Ladies Auxiliary of St. John FWB Church of Pamplico felt the church needed a new piano so they joined together and raised the \$3000 needed- Glory! Now the digital notes from their new piano delight the entire congregation.



This story was submitted by Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator of the True Life Conference and Pastor of Calvary FWB Church- " The year of 2004 started off at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Gastonia, North Carolina, just like many other around the world, but finished far greater than I could have imagined. In the year 2004, the church continued to grow, not



Rev. and Mrs. Mike Wilson



only in souls but in projects as well, due to the Almighty God and a faithful congregation. The Lord blessed and allowed us to completely renovate the Fellowship Building and the Sunday School Building, put a new roof on all 3 of our facilities, Install a new sound system in the Sanctuary, install a security system, Have sidewalks to the other facilities, New AC/Heat Unit put in sanctuary, completely fence the entire property, and not only enlarge the parking lot but also pave it with no debt incurred to the church.

To see God not only move, but Bless those that are true and faithful to Him, we have increased in number in the past 3 years, from 12 faithful members to over 100 when all are well. Many times we see in the Informer, how a church has given to the Shepherd, but without a flock there would be no shepherd. The greatest blessing of all to me was being able to go into the Pastor Ministry full time in September 2004. I would like to thank all my faithful flock for their love and their support through all the good times and bad. In Christ, Rev. Mike Wilson



Entrance to the Church of God Camp Ground (Located about half way between Florence and Marion, SC) where SCFWB Youth Camp will be held this year

SCFWB Youth Ministries Summer Camp '05

July 25-29, 2005. Registration 10am- noon on Monday July 25th and Departure Friday Morning after clean up.

This year the camp will use the Pee Dee Camp of the Church of God. All dorms will be AIR CONDITIONED! The restrooms, shower rooms, Indoor Gym, and Tabernacle will all be AIR CONDITIONED!! Facilities will be available so that activities can take place even if it rains.

Information and registration forms are included in the packet in which this "Informer" arrived at your church. They are also available at www.scfwb.com.

Pastor Clay Cordell of Canaan FWB Church, Lancaster reported that 115 people have been saved in the past 24 weeks. These salvation decisions have surged his attendance from 60-80 each week to 140-150 each week and have allowed the Church to cut its debt in half (from a debt of \$200,000 to less than \$100,000). He attributes this astonishing success to God's great work because of prayer and witnessing. He invites everyone to a special Camp Meeting Service beginning Easter Sunday (March 27th) and continuing through March 30th.



Pastor Ron Ogle of Happy Home FWB Church wanted to announce a "Retired Pastors" Revival April 3-7, 2005. This is not to revive retired Pastors! but to allow retired Pastors to bring the messages that will challenge people's hearts in their relationship with the Lord.



Rev. and Mrs. Ron Ogle

The Lord has blessed Happy Home with many improvements and additions in the past year - look for photos and information in the next "Informer".

This from Missionaries to Brazil, Bobby and Geneva Poole share some of the triumphs and trials of mission life.

Dear Friends,

We had over this Carnival a great Family Retreat at the Camp Jeová Shamá (God is present). The weather was perfect! The messages and studies met many needs. There was at least one saved and a number made life changing decisions. We had 165 that slept at the camp and at services at night we would have 180 or so. We had a sweet spirit throughout the Retreat. The Lord worked in hearts. At least one was saved and a number made some life changing decisions. Geneva had the kids (up to 10 years old) and her classes went real good. It was just a good time for the people of God to seek the Lord, good times of fellowship, good food and a lot of tired bodies after the sports in the afternoons. The weather was perfect! We could not have asked for better weather.



The afternoon (Saturday) we were getting last minute things in order when my cellular phone rung. It was the police in Ribeirão Preto, looking for John. His house had been broken into, stole his car and the police did not know what else. They found the car about two blocks from the house. Some neighbors saw the thieves trying to get the car started and noticed that it was full of things. They called the police. From the license they found John's address. They were calling from John's house. We felt that all of this was an attack from the evil-one to hinder the Retreat. The Lord gave His peace (II Ts. 3:16).

We arrived back to Ribeirão about 1:00 P.M yesterday. As far as could be determined nothing was lost in the break-in. They broke the front door, but it was repairable. John had to replace the front door lock. They stole the car, TV, DVD, keyboard, a radio and some food (Andrew was concerned about his music instruments, but they did not see them, it seems). Everything that was missing in the house was in the car. The police came and the thieves left everything in the car. There is so much to praise the Lord for. The Church had just bought \$1,500 dollars to give to Paula Garcia, who will be leaving today to work as a English teacher/missionary in China. The money was in a drawer which they messed with but did not see the money! There was some more money that belongs to the Seminary that they did not see also. We all have so much to praise the Lord. Thanks for your prayers.

News from Missionary to Japan, Mirial Gainer:

Greetings in the Precious Name of Jesus!

A big 'Thank you' to each of you for your continued prayer and financial support. You are to be commended for your increase in giving in 2004. My account has stayed strong because of your faithfulness.

In spite of Satan's hindrances, the work of church planting in the Tokyo area continues. Good News Chapel Church Plant (Sayamagaoka) is growing, with two baptisms in 2004. At present plans go forth to relocate to a different facility with more reasonable rent.

Short term Ben Bailey is finishing his service as a teacher in the English evangelism program in March. Because of a lack of a replacement, Bethany Crowson will relocate from Hokkaido to Tokyo for her second year as a short term worker. We certainly need more workers for this vital program and the financial and prayer support to bring and keep them here.



We are seeing progress in the church plants at Shiki and Higashi Yamato (Kodaira). Preaching services and Bible studies are being held in each place.

My health is still not good. Doctors have recommended I return to Hokkaido. So I will probably be moving some time this year, although I don't know exactly when yet. I'm looking forward to improved health, but am sad to leave the people who have become dear to me in the Tokyo area.

Prayer requests: For

1. God's wisdom in final negotiations for the new facility of Good News Chapel (Sayamagaoka);
2. The church plants in Sayamagaoka, Shiki and Kodaira, that God would give fruit for our labors;
3. My health and preparations for a change of location;
4. Missionaries in the Tokyo area: career—Ken and Judy Bailey and Don and Ruth McDonald; short term—Bethany Crowson;
5. National workers: Pastor Kojima (Iriso FWB Church) and Ms Etsuko Asahi;
6. New short term workers, especially in the English evangelism program.

Thank you again for your faithfulness in being a part of the work here in Japan.

Serving Jesus in Japan, Mirial J Gainer

(Submitted by Pastor Lee Patrick of First FWB Church, Florence)

I challenged our folks to read the Bible completely through (including genealogies) during 2004. It was amazing to me how many had never read their Bible through. We had 39 people that made it - what an encouragement!

We had a lady who has read the Bible through for her 27th consecutive year.

We had 15 who read the Bible through for the first time.

We had one lady who read it through in Japanese (Fumi Hicks).

We had one man (Clinton Snipes) who read it through 6 times in 2004. He finished it for the first time in January 2004! That puts me to shame. We had a few people read it that I didn't even know could read (Ha).

We had a special service to recognize, brag on, and to hear from these folks. Most of these folks committed to read the Bible through again in 2005 and a number of folks got challenged during the special service. It's contagious. I found a two-edged sword and had it mounted on a large plaque with the title "Sword of the Spirit" and placed the names of these folks on it.



First FWB Church of Kingstree held their annual "66 club" appreciation service on Sunday, Jan 23rd. This annual event honors those in the Church who have read all 66 books of the Bible. According to Pastor Wayland Owens reading through the Bible in a year has really been a help to everyone who has participated.



Missionaries to Brazil, Andy and Andrea Moore (and Levi and Lilly) are busy visiting conferences and churches to share their vision and encourage people to pray for their soon return to the mission field.



February was a difficult month for Missionary Kristi Johnson with the heart surgery of her dad and the flu of husband, Tim, but she still attended many conferences and church meetings.

The following Nominations were all elected:

One Year Term Ending 2005

STATE OFFICERS & PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Moderator: Replacing Sherwood Lee(SC) Sherwood Lee

Asst. Moderator: Replacing F. "Buddy" Seay, Jr. (CA) Buddy Seay

Clerk: Replacing Todd Smith (BC) Todd Smith

Asst. Clerk: Replacing Caroll Bazen (SC) Caroll Bazen

Treasurer: Replacing Marty Cox (CA) Marty Cox

Asst. Treasurer: Replacing Mitch Edge (BC) Mitch Edge

Member at Large: Replacing Doug Mathis (EC) Doug Mathis

Member at Large: Replacing James Sanders (BC) James Sanders

FINANCE COMMITTEE AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Replacing Kenneth Cash (BC) Kenneth Cash -Term Ending in 2008

Five Year Term Ending in 2010

YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD - Replacing

Larry McAlister(EC) Larry McAlister

YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD - Replacing

Cyrus Shoffner's Unfulfilled term. Jonathan Postlewaite

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Replacing Theron Scott (CA) Theron Scott

Seven Year Term Ending in 2012

CHILDREN'S HOME BOARD

Replacing Tim Hackett (BC) - Tim Hackett

DIRECTOR Youth Conference - Replacing Tim Bowers - Jonathan Kell

(News from Hispanic Missionaries to upstate South Carolina- Rev. Gerardo and Maria Rodriguez)

Dearest friends in Jesus:

My heart is so happy for all God is doing! Last Thursday and Friday we enjoyed our SC state meeting at Evergreen FWB Church! Was a beautiful time meeting with every FWB pastor! We enjoyed fellowship, messages, meals, God's business, and more! Its a privilege to us to be a part of South Carolina mission!



They began with 14 in attendance. Note how full the church is now, even after the Child have been dismissed to class!!

Sunday, Feb 27th, at Hispanic church was a very special time too! The Spirit talk with us and we can feel Jesus touching lifes...5 (five) peoples renewed their relationship with the Lord! Our attendance is very high now, 102 people were here for this service. Our heart are sad because Diego Cueva family go out to begin a mission work in Virginia....but we know they will be a blessing there. Our hearts say "stay here", but we know they must going. We are so glad, because God send us a nice couple for help us with music (guitar and keyboard) from NC.- they are with us since 3 weeks and they are making an excellent job!

Thank you! God is good! Please, continue to pray for this ministry, please support us, and come to be a part.. You can do something! My God Bless you so much! Rev. Gerardo and Maria Rodriguez

2005 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

1) Be it resolved that this South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists send a letter or e-mail to each of our elected representatives, House and Senate, asking and encouraging them to support Governor Sanford's bill known as "PPIC (Put Parents in Charge) Act." Be it resolved that we take a stand to put parents in charge and bring real reform in the education of our children in South Carolina.

Also, we encourage each pastor to take a list of the names of our elected House and Senate members and make this list available in every church and that each pastor encourage each member to contact by calling, writing, or emailing their representatives and ask them to support the "Put Parents in Charge" Act.

2) Whereas, the South Carolina State Association always has been patriotic, loving God and country, and whereas, we now have troops in various parts of the world involved in the struggle against world wide terrorism, be it resolved that we support our troops through encouragement and prayer.

3) Whereas the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists believe in the biblical teachings on marriage, be it resolved that we reaffirm the Biblical position of heterosexual marriage.

4) Whereas the Evergreen Free Will Baptist Church, Conway, SC and whereas the Central Association have been a wonderful host for this South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Meeting, be it resolved that we give a rising vote of thanks to this church and association for their fine hospitality.

Respectfully Submitted,
Your Resolution Committee
Leroy Lowery (SC), Chairman
Todd Black (BC)
Philip Tipton (EC)
Melvin Pressley (TL)
Chuck Thorton (PC)

Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute Commencement

By Rev. David Newton

On Saturday, December 17th, 2004, the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute held Commencement Exercises for the ten students who had completed the 5 month intensive course. This marked the second graduating class for the newly founded Bible Institute. Brother Trymon Messer spoke at the commencement service.

Of the 13 total alumni of the Institute, all are serving in some capacity in a local, Free Will Baptist Church. Two men and their families are in the process of planting new works in California and Virginia. To God be the glory for this first year of existence for the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute.

Fourteen Students enrolled for the Winter term which began January 10th. Each of these men and women will participate in 5 months of intensive college-level Bible classes and practical ministry experiences. At the end of the term, the students will have had over 700 hours of classroom instruction and approximately 200 hours of practical ministry experience; as well as numerous opportunities to serve and minister in local Free Will Baptist Churches in the surrounding areas. The contents of the program are about the equivalent of 100 credit hours at a traditional 4-year college.

Please pray for the Institute as it begins its second year of operation. God has blessed and we have seen vision become reality. The future, no doubt, holds many exciting days for the students, professors, and supporters as we see God work through our students to touch the lives of the Hispanic population in America. There are many needs, but God is faithful. Please prayerfully consider how you could help in this work.

Throughout the terms, the Institute students would love to visit your church for a service in order to share the work that God is doing. For information on services, enrollment, or ways that you can help, feel free to call us at (864) 472-2863. We look forward to a great year in 2005. Please join with us as we reach the Hispanic community for Christ!



The faculty and students of the December 2004 graduating Class of the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute.

New name for the National Association of Free Will Baptist Combined Publication- The oversight committee released the name of the new denominational magazine following a meeting on January 17, 2005. **ONE Magazine** will be printed bi-monthly, and the 48-page, full-color magazine will be sent free to more than 50,000 readers. The magazine will pool the resources and mailing lists of the following national agencies: The Executive Office, Home Missions, International Missions, Master's Men, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Randall House Publications, The Board of Retirement, and The Free Will Baptist Foundation. The first issue of ONE Magazine will be released late spring 2005.

STUDENTS RAISE \$10,000 FOR MISSION CHURCH- Free Will Baptist Bible College students set out to raise \$10,000 over the course of a year to help build a church in Tajikistan—but completed it in four months!

The project was adopted in October 2004 by the college's Global Missions Fellowship (GMF). John Murray, FWBBC's Christian Service Director, spearheaded the drive and presented it to the student body in hopes of raising the total by the end of the school year. However, students, faculty, and staff, with the help of others, completed it before the end of January 2005.

The money, to be matched by Russia's Central Baptist Union, will help to build a church in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Tajikistan is the poorest of the former Russian republics. Bordering on Afghanistan, it is nearly 90 percent Muslim with a population of about 7 million.

James Forlines, General Director of International Missions, says, "It is incredible for Bible College students to have raised this much money in such a short time. Years after their college days are over, there will be a church in Tajikistan making an impact for the Kingdom." He added, "This truly is a God-honoring legacy for these students."

Are you praying for the Speakers and Leaders of the National Association meeting in Louisville, Ky July 17-20, 2005??



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Pastors and Delegates gathered from all over South Carolina to conduct God's Business.

Pastor and Mrs. Robie Hiott of First Charleston brought their recent addition to her first state meeting.



Rev. Chuck Thornton began our session with a biblical call to unity



Rev. Doug Mathis stirred the congregation as he called for unity of Heart, Hand, and Zeal



Rev. Neil Hinson reminded everyone that prayer unites us to God and His work.



Rev. Earl Hendrix preached about our unity as believers to a large Thursday night Crowd.



Rev. Melvin Pressley gave a very practical parable of God's call to ministers to unite in feeding God's flock as we began the Friday session.



Rev. Donnie Miles brought the session to a glorious close as he shared how God uses men to unite His people in building the work of God.



Our music leaders also provided special music



For the fourth year in a row, Pastor Jacob Creech of Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville received the Plaque as the number one giving Church in the State.



A wide variety of musical specials, including a joint choir for the Thursday Night session, stirred our hearts and brought the assembled Pastors, Delegates, and visitors into the wonder of worship.

Tapes of the messages are available from the SCFWB State Office.