

THE



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INFORMER

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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE SHIPPING COST TO DROP 2%

The SCFWB Christian Book and Supply Store is pleased to announce that beginning January 1, 2007 the cost of shipping Sunday School literature will drop from 10% to 8%. In spite of steadily increasing shipping cost the SCFWB Christian Book and Supply Store has been able to cut expenses and pass this savings on to our Churches.

Several years ago the SCFWB Christian Book Store was able to obtain tax free status because of our affiliation with the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptist and this has saved our churches thousands of dollars in taxes over the past 5 years. Cutting Sunday School Literature shipping cost is another way to cut cost for our churches and help them to realize that we are here to serve the Lord and the Free Will Baptist Churches of South Carolina.



Mrs. Linda Tanner, Christian Book and Supply Store Manager

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Keep
in **Christ**
Christmas

ROLL CALL REJOICING- Churches across our state were asked to have a special day in October and then report attendance of the largest single service they had during the month. Numerous Churches had tremendous attendance with numerous souls saved. Here are a few examples.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| White Savannah, Conway | 403 |
| First FWB of Florence | 331 |
| Gilead, Scranton | 237 |
| Evergreen, Conway | 238 |
| Beulah, Pamplico | 225 |
| First, Kingstree | 180 |
| Happy Home, Andrews | 178 |
| Free Welcome, Conway | 176 |
| Mt Elon | 170 |
| Bay Branch, Timmons ville | 160 |
| Gaffney FWB | 130 |
| Turning Point, Spartanburg | 130 |
| Poplar Hill, Hemingway | 130 |
| Southside, Darlington | 130 |
| Jefferson Road, Sumter | 127 |
| New Vision, Hemingway | 122 |
| Mt Ariel, Conway | 110 |
| St. John, Patrick | 110 |
| Bethany, Timmons ville | 100 |
| Southside, Aiken | 99 |

Space will not allow a complete listing. Check out the complete list at www.scfwb.com

The South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. will meet for their 65th Annual session on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 22-23, 2007 at Temple FWB Church of Darlington, SC. (Hosted by the South Carolina Conference). A complete program will be included in the January "Informer".

Because of the abundance of Motels (Probably 30 or more) located within 15 miles of the Church we will not designate a "headquarters" hotel this year. Most hotels will be located at the intersection of I-20 and I-95 or the intersection of I-95 and Hwy 52

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church of Santee celebrated their 20th Anniversary on Sunday, October 22. Pastor Pete Minor and the congregation of Immanuel had planned a great time of celebration in honor of this special occasion. It began with a "Home Coming Revival" on the Friday and Saturday night before Home Coming with Rev. Phil Ange serving as evangelist and stirring the hearts of the people to "Keep on keeping on for Jesus".

The Home Coming service on Sunday celebrated the hard work and sacrifices of the people who had helped bring the church through its first 20 years. Founding Pastor, Rev. Herman (and wife, Patsy) Hyman were honored with a plaque and gifts for their hard work and dedication in establishing Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church. Also honored were faithful members Bill and Margaret Davis who have been faithful members of the Church since its beginning and are still very active in the work today.



Rev. Herman Hyman request your prayers as he battles lung cancer



Whitney FFWB Church of Spartanburg recently called Rev. Larry Monday (wife, Elfrida) as their Pastor. Brother Larry comes from a pastorate in Knoxville Tenn but he most recently served in our state as pastor of Evergreen FFWB Church of Conway



Horse Branch FFWB Church of Turbeville has called Rev. Mike Edwards (wife, Karen) as Pastor. Brother Mike was most recently Pastor of First FFWB Church of Jesup, Ga.



North Spartanburg FFWB Church recently called Rev. Terry Miller (wife, Tammy) as Pastor. Brother Terry was most recently at Shady Grove FFWB Church in Alabama.



Freedom FFWB Church of Tabor City, NC recently called Rev. Mike Lyles as Pastor. He is bi-vocational as a deputy sheriff



High Point FFWB Church of Lancaster recently called Rev. Cliff Wilson as Pastor. This is brother Cliff's first stint as a Pastor.



Rev. David Conners was recently ordained into the Gospel ministry. He is presently serving as Sunday School Superintendent and teaches the Young Convert class at Turning Point FFWB Church of Spartanburg



Pastor Ron Ogle recently presented member Jimmy Ard a pin for 42 straight years of perfect attendance at Happy Home FFWB Church of Andrews.



Each year Mill Branch FFWB Church of Johnsonville (Pastor Johnny Evans) receives a special offering in October in memory of Travis Poston who was killed in an auto accident. This fund is used to purchase land for Church buildings in India.

This year the parents of Travis Poston (Terry and Cynthia Poston) were honored to present Missionary Carlisle Hanna a check for \$12,661 (Glory!) from the Church. What a great blessing to the work of God.

The members of Bay Branch FFWB Church of Timmons ville wanted to let people know that Rev. Mike Tart went to be with the Lord on Aug. 28, 2006. He served as pastor of Bay Branch from 1976 until 1980.

First FWB Church of Kingstree held a mortgage burning ceremony on Sunday, October 29, 2006 to celebrate successfully paying off the debt on their "Family Life Center". SCFWB Executive Secretary, Rev. Mike Jones, was special speaker. Following the worship service, the church family gathered outside to burn the mortgage and then enjoyed a delicious meal in the fellowship hall.

The church family also used this day to honor and appreciate their pastor, Rev. Wayland Owens, for 23 years of faithful service. We also Praise the LORD that two sisters, ages 11 and 15, were saved in this service- GLORY!



Pastor Billy Powell reports that October was a great month at Liberty FWB Church of Orangeburg. It began on Sunday, Oct 1st with Home Coming services with former Pastor Rev. Roger Tripp as speaker and a wonderful attendance of 60 (Over triple the attendance of several months ago). They also had a great Fall Festival with 40 children and 25 adults in attendance and a fifth Sunday singing with nearly 50 attending a Sunday Night service.

Brother Billy also shared a great little story about a Sunday Morning Happening. He was in his Study, which is directly in front of the front door to the church, on a recent Sunday Morning. As he looked up he saw three small girls come to the door. The smallest one tried to open the door and it seemed to be stuck. She looked up and saw Brother Billy and started to shout, "Let me in. Let me in. Please let me into the Church." Brother Billy said if he could create that same kind of desire in adult Christians then their church could change their part of the world.

Pastor Jody Wynn reports that the VBS of Free Will Baptist Bible Church of Darlington raised \$850 to help the Pooles build a church in Brazil. By pitting the boys against the girls in this campaign they were able to raise this record amount for a VBS offering.

Rev. Jacob Creech (and wife, Betty) officially retired from the Pastoral Ministry on Sunday, September 17, 2006. Brother Jackie began the service by adding some lightness to the occasion when he said he did not think the bulletin was chosen on purpose but the front cover of the bulletin read "Glory to God!".

Brother Jackie stayed busy as Pastor right up until the end. He dedicated a baby at the beginning of the service (according to his records that was 39 babies he had dedicated while Pastor of Horse Branch FWB Church) and then received a new member into the Church just before his last official act as Pastor which was to baptize 6 people who had professed faith in Christ (What a way to end a ministry). In between these events were sandwiched beautiful choir music, several great special music presentations, and a challenging message from Rev. Sherwood Lee.

In addition to attendance by the State Moderator (Rev. Sherwood Lee), the SCFWB Children's Home Director (Rev. Roy Roach), and the SCFWB Executive Secretary were also in attendance and wonderful letters from the National Executive Secretary (Rev. Keith Burden), National Foreign Missions Director (Rev. James Forline), and National Home Missions Director (Rev. Larry Powell) were read congratulating Brother Creech on his faithful service to the denomination and the cause of Christ and expressing their regret at not being able to be part of this special service. Gifts of appreciation were also presented to Brother Jackie and Sister Betty from the Church.

Lunch was served for the invited guest and several members of Brother Creech's family who were able to attend before a drop in reception sponsored by the church was held in the Church fellowship building. Brother Jackie and Mrs. Betty were beginning their retirement "on the run". Brother Jackie spoke at a special service in Tupelo (Where he once was a Pastor) the next Sunday before they, and several family members, traveled to the Western States to view such sites as Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, etc.

This happy couple is now enjoying their retirement at 1156 Mosy Creek Circle, Turbeville, SC 29162 but Brother Jackie is anxious for his phone (843.659.4752) to ring and for someone to invite him to show his slides of India or to preach.



Pastor John Johnson and **Hillside Free Will Baptist Church** of Florence celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary / Home Coming of the church on Sunday, November 19th. The Church was organized on July 15, 1956 in a rented house in Florence. The foundation for the first church building was laid Thanksgiving Day 1956 on a lot on Purvis Drive donated by Mr. Charlie Purvis. The first service was held in the new church in January 1957.



A special revival service was held before Home Coming with former Pastors serving as Evangelist- Thursday, Rev. Todd Smith; Friday Rev. Buddy Seay; and Saturday Rev. Wayne Snipes. It all came to a wonderful conclusion on Sunday with Rev. Joe Faircloth (the oldest living former Pastor of the Church) as guest speaker. Special singing was provided by the Straight Gate Quartet with a great dinner in the fellowship hall after the morning services.

The Central Association will sponsor their annual "**Campmeeting in the Carolinas**" on Feb. 1-2, 2007. The Host Church will be the Mullins-Marion FWB Church.

Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7pm Rev. Joe Cagle and Rev. Billy Fields

Friday, Feb. 2 at 9am Rev. Wayne Snipes, Rev. Stephen Hyman and Rev. Steward Norris

Lunch for all in the Mullins-Marion FWBC Fellowship Hall

Friday, Feb. 2 at 7pm Rev. Rickey Evans and Rev. Billy Fields

Contact Conference Moderator, Rev. Buddy Seay (843-455-7028) for more Info.



Evangelist Billy Fields



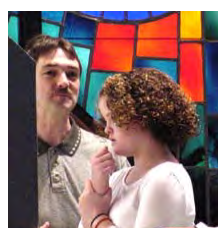
SCFWB Executive Secretary, Mike Jones, and the lovely Princess Paula visited Missionaries **Tim and Kristi Johnson** (and Alejandro and Ana) in Spain in September. They were privileged to meet with all of the missionaries to Spain and see the work God is doing in the Madrid area. It was exciting to see what God has already given us in Spain and to hear the missionaries share their hearts about their plans for future growth. Your prayers and support are vital as Tim and Kristi continue to build a work for God in this needy area.

Lighthouse FWB Church of Florence held its first annual Bluegrass Gospel Singing Benefit to raise money for the FWB Bible College on Saturday, October 14, 2006. Seventy-nine people came out to hear several Bluegrass groups sing and play. Musicians and singers ranged in age from an 8 year old fiddle player (Worth Pearce) to a 91 year old singer (Everett Ard from New Prospect FWB Church). Pastor Brian Tolliver said the benefit raised \$462.00 for the college.

Lighthouse FWB Church also called Rev. Tandy Tapp as Pastor's Assistant for Outreach and Development on Sunday, November 12th. Brother Tapp was a deacon in the Church before answering the call to preach. He was recently ordained into the ministry. Pastor Brian Tolliver is excited about this new step in the development of the program at Lighthouse FWB Church.

Pastor Brian Bishop and **Lockhart FWB Church** celebrated a big day on Sunday, Nov 12th. After the Sunday School hour, they had a baptismal service, honored the area Veterans with a special service and the SCFWB Executive Secretary as special speaker, received 5 new members into the Church, celebrated Pastor Appreciation day, and had a community lunch in honor of Veterans Day- Wow! What a full but blessed morning. And the Friday before this special Sunday they had taken the young people on a special outing on their brand new 24 passenger bus and 29 people showed up!

L-r: Pastor Brian Bishop conducts a baptism, receives a new outfit (suit, shirt, shoes, tie, and card with check!) for Pastor Appreciation, and stands in front of the new 24 passenger bus the church just purchased.



Children's Home Day, Saturday, November 4, 2006: A constant buzz ran through the crowded cafeteria at the SCFWB Home for Children as friends met and greeted one another for the annual Home Coming at the Children's Home. They came from all over South Carolina with trucks full of supplies for the Home and an offering that exceeded \$10,000 (Glory!) and they enjoyed great music by the Bibletones, a powerful sermon by Children's Home Board Chairman, Rev. Tim Hackett, and a great bar-b-que dinner courtesy of Eddie Bar-b-que Restaurant of Turbeville. Director Roy Roach and the staff of the Children's Home had done an excellent job preparing for this great day. Everyone seemed ready to do something special for the home- including the ladies of New Town FWB Church who had set up a table to sell candles with all of the proceeds going to the Children's Home.



Directors, Roy and Paula Roach



Girl's Dorm Parents, R.J. and Nancy Clark



Boy's Dorm Parents, Arley and Mary Atchley



Little People's Dorm Parents, Nathan and Tracy Saverance



Mrs. Tracey Culick, Secretary



Mrs. Sherry Lee, Dietician



Mrs. Merry Floyd, Housekeeping



Mrs. Patara Hyman, Little People's Part Time Helper



Director Roy Roach introduces the Children's Home Board



The "Bibletones" blessed everyone's heart with their fine music.



State Woman's Auxiliary President, Faye Hanna shares that WAC Churches in South Carolina have raised over \$12,000 so far this year for the Home.

Fall 2006 Gainer Update - Greetings from Florence, South Carolina! Yes, I have finally arrived back in the USA. The trip was long and painful but thankfully behind me. I am making Mother's home in Florence my main base for the next few months.

Let me bring you up to date on what's been happening the past few months. I moved into temporary housing for the last three months of my stay in the Tokyo area. Tim and Katrina Crowson, new short term workers, moved into my house. First, I moved into the guest apartment of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Higashi Tokorozawa. Next I 'moved' into Toyooka Daiichi Hospital for several days in late October when I suddenly had to have a second surgery on my left ear. Then for the last week of October I moved into one of the guest apartments of the OMS campus in Higashi Murayama.

What effect have the moves had? Well, since I was still going to rehab Monday through Saturday, it meant a

longer commute. Every morning I walked about a mile to the Higashi Tokorozawa train station from the CMA building and traveled one stop to the Shin Akitsu Station. Then I walked from that train line to a different train line at the Akitsu Station where I took another train to either Musashi Fujisawa Station or Iruma Station. The hospital buses shuttled to both stations. Also, the bus for the Kenko Center went to the Iruma station. So I could get to

rehab at both the hospital and the Kenko Center. When I went to

the pool rehab, I went to Inariyamakoen train Station. I was becoming a pro with train and bus schedules. In the late afternoon I would reverse the process to get back home. Carrying all the 'stuff' I needed for the morning and afternoon rehab sessions proved more tiring than I had expected. I tried to look at that as just more 'weight training.' Then before my going back into the hospital and later moving to the OMS campus, Tim Crowson broke his arm. And I could suddenly use his car. That really was a help, especially in the last hectic week before returning stateside.

All my moving around also affected meeting my hospital- and rehab-related friends for meals or times together outside of rehab. I had to be much more careful of bus and train schedules so that I could still get back home at a reasonable time in the evening. God continued to be so good at making opportunities through it all. Even my sudden hospital stay became a reunion with previous 'roomie' Ms Yabuuchi, also back for more surgery.

I have continued to meet with my former roommate Sayuri Saito. Sometimes we meet at her house; other times we go to a restaurant. Her husband and mother-in-law are often present. Please continue to pray for our times together that God would work in their hearts.

God has also given many opportunities to meet with Mr and Mrs Ikeda and share with them. Recently, short term Shirley Williams went with me for a meal at their home. I was the interpreter (interrupter?) for them as Mr Ikeda asked questions and Shirley gave answers about Shirley's faith, Christianity, and the differences between religion and a personal relationship with God. I was able to reinforce what I had already shared with them about Jesus through interpreting Shirley's answers.



CMA building



Toyooka Daiichi Hospital



and my bed there



With Sayuri Saito



With the Ikedas

Please continue to pray for

Salvation of Sayuri Saito, her family and the Ikeda family; Hospital staff, doctors, therapists and other contacts

My health and medical consultations in USA

Stateside ministry January through June 2007

Thank you so much for your consistent prayer support. Mirial

Gaffney FWB Church celebrated Home Coming on Sunday October 1, 2006 with 130 in attendance (Glory!) and Rev. Alan Sailors (Pastor of New Prospect FWB Church) as guest speaker. Special music was provided by the "Hamptons" from Blacksburg, SC. Rev. Dennis Tolley is the Pastor.





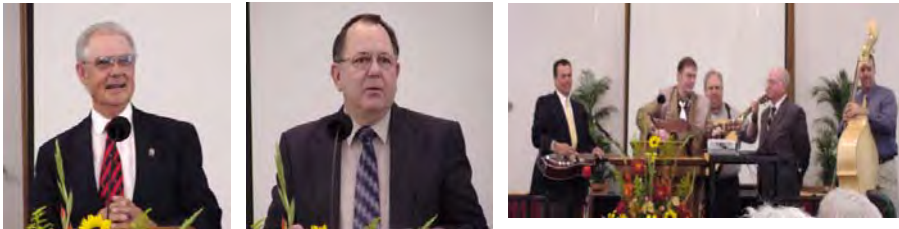
The Sam Truett Memorial is in front of the Donald Smith shelter on the right. Note that they now also have cement parking all around the church

Black River FWB Church of Andrews held a special service on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2006 to dedicate a new drive thru shelter in memory of former deacon Donald Smith and a monument in memory of former Pastor, Sam Truett. Brother Sam Truett's son, Chris, delivered a powerful morning message before everyone gathered outside for the dedication. The Brother (Mr. Jimmy Smith) of Deacon Donald Smith spoke in his behalf. Rev. Jacob Creech, a good friend of the Sam Truett Family and SCFWB Executive Secretary, Mike Jones, spoke in behalf of Rev. Truett before the prayer of dedication and a wonderful fellowship meal. Rev. Jeff Cockrell is Pastor.

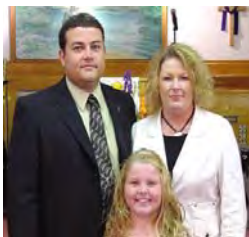


Mrs. Anne Truett (seated) and the Rev. Chris Truett family behind the Sam Truett memorial

First FWB Church of Darlington celebrated their 100th Anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006 with praise and celebration, with a written history of the Church, with a slide tribute to deceased members, with letters from former Pastors, Rev Ruben Cason and Rev. Irvin Hyman, with numerous special music presentations including a Blue Grass Gospel group composed of members of several local churches, and with the morning message being delivered by former Pastor, Rev. Melvin Worthington. They also managed to include a Pastor Appreciation gift for Interim Pastor, Rev. Ron Moore and a great fellowship meal. May their next 100 years be the best ever.



L-r: Former Pastor and former National Executive Secretary, Rev. Melvin Worthington. Interim Pastor and former State Executive Secretary, Rev. Ron Moore. A Blue Grass Gospel group from several churches.



Mt Ariel FWB Church of Conway celebrated their 110th Anniversary on Sunday, October 1st with a message from the SCFWB Executive Secretary, a presentation of the History of the church, special music by the "Jordan River Boys" and a wonderful meal. New Pastor, Rev. Stephen Hyman, expressed delight in what the Church has accomplished in the past and declared he is looking forward with excitement to the Church's future.

Reading the history of the 110 year old church is extremely interesting. For example, during the church quarter that ended May 31, 1897 it was reported that the church had 12 male members and 18 female members. Their offering for the quarter was \$5.53 with \$1.30 of that going to pay the preacher.

In April of 1921 the church voted to sell the church where they had been meeting for \$100 and move to their present location. In April of 1923 the records show that the new church was hulled in except for a few shingles and there was \$.07 cent left in the treasury.

By Contrast, the **Youth Group of Mt Ariel FWB Church** had an ice cream social on Sunday Night, Oct 22nd. Although only 7 members were present for this social they raised \$206 to help the Children's Home in Turbeville!



Pastor Bennie Turner of Fellowship FWB Church of Manning recently baptized 4 young people-Glory!



South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists
Rev Mike Jones, Executive Secretary
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Giving Thanks

Submitted by Mr. Ranae Baxley - Midlands FWB Church of West Columbia honored **Pastor and Mrs. Ernest Barnes** with a dinner in recognition for twenty-three years of faithful service to the church on Saturday, August 5, 2006. Current and former members, parents and children associated with the day care ministry, family, and other special friends gathered at the Vegetable Medley Restaurant in West Columbia to surprise Pastor Barnes and express gratitude for his years of faithful service.



The theme for the night was taken from a portion of Pastor Barnes's resignation to the church — "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Rev. Carroll Alexander (pastor of the Columbia Original FWB Church and dear friend) began the "Time for Food and Fellowship" part of the program by sharing examples of times they served together and the special bond of friendship they had built over the years. He then offered the prayer of blessing for the food (the menu was selected especially for Pastor Barnes).

Disposable cameras were placed on the tables so the guests could take candid shots throughout the night. Ranae Baxley led the "Time to Remember and Say Thank You" portion of the program by recalling special times shared throughout the years. He also shared several highlights of the ministry over the last twenty-three years beginning with the mission status in October 1983; the beginning of the first bus ministry; Junior Church ministry; reaching self-supporting status in July, 1987; beginning of the day care ministry by Mrs. Barnes in September, 1987; purchasing the parsonage in May, 1988; and the list continued up to starting the Hispanic ministry in 2005.

Former member, Teresa Walker, recalled how she and her family were touched by the love and compassion offered to them by Pastor and Mrs. Barnes. Helen Sweatt, current member, reminded the special couple of the many lives they have touched over the years and thanked them in her own special way for "being there" for her and her family. Wanda Carlson, daughter, recalled the consistent Christian example of her parents and expressed gratitude to them for their unconditional love and support.

The laughter and tears continued as others shared special memories and expressed heartfelt gratitude to Pastor and Mrs. Barnes. Among those sharing special memories were Rev. David Carlson (husband of daughter Wanda and pastor of Liberty FWB Church of Manning); Priscilla and Alex Hawkins (daughter and son-in-law from Nashville, Tenn.), and Margaret and Kenny Hampton (daughter and son-in-law from Pleasant View, Tenn.). All eight grandchildren were present. Two of Pastor Barnes's brothers from Georgia — Rev. and Mrs. James Barnes and daughter Susan Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Coy Barnes, and his sister also from Georgia, Mrs. Amelia Harris, surprised Pastor Barnes in joining the group to honor him and Mrs. Barnes. Many other former members, friends, families associated with the day care ministry, and current members expressed sincere love and gratitude.

The evening closed with a "Time of Special Presentation" to Pastor and Mrs. Barnes. A basket of gifts, cards, and money was presented to them. The church family also honored them with a plaque thanking them for their twenty-three years of service and reminding them of the lives they have touched along the way.

State WAC President, Mrs. Faye Hanna, reports that approximately 70 ladies have responded with their \$20 reservation for the September, 2007, Women's Retreat at White Oak Conference Center (remainder of \$39 to be paid upon arrival). Patty Newton has pleaded with the Center's staff to allow some time for others to respond. They have said they will accept reservations as long as space is available. So, ladies, you have another chance to respond. Please send your \$20 to Patty Newton, 7 Ladson St., Inman, SC 29349, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. After space is no longer available, those who want to attend will have to make reservations off-site and pay a walk-on fee. Plans are underway for a special time and I'm sure you don't want to miss it!