

# THE INFORMER

Vo. 1 — No. 3

May 1972

OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF S. C.



## GRADUATING CLASS - 1972

Pictured above is the graduating class of the Beaver Creek Bible Institute of 1972 with the teachers, business manager, and guest speaker. They are as follows: Front row, left to right: Rev. Ansel Smith, Rev. L. H. Clayton, Rev. Earl Hendrix, Rev. J. B. Rice, Rev. J. B. Smith, Mr. Steve Carter, Rev. Harold Harrison, and Rev. Allen Lemons. Second row: Miss Kim Smith, Miss Vickie Joe Rice, Mrs. Gwendolyn Hendrix, Mrs. Gayle Hughes, Mrs. Donnie Ellis, Miss Wanda Mills, Mrs. Nettie Shehan, and Miss Dianne Shehan. Third row: Mr. Curtis Rice, Rev. Roy Shehan, Rev. Jack Elders, Mr. Robert Vick, and Mr. Frank Shehan.

The Beaver Creek Bible Institute was organized in 1967. The first classes were held on November 6, 1967, at the Lockhart F. W. B. Church, with an enrollment of 62. Thirty-nine finished the first year.

The school has been both a success and blessing since it was started. The school is operated from the last of September to the last of March. There are 12 weeks before Christmas and

12 weeks after Christmas. The classes are held each Monday night from 6 p.m. to 8:45, with three 45 minute periods being taught each night.

The first graduating class was on March 28, 1970, with 12 graduating. The second graduation was on March 27, 1971, with six graduating. This year was the largest graduating class with 13.

The speaker for the exercises this year was the Rev. Harold Harrison, from the National Sunday School Department, Nashville, Tenn.

The courses being offered in the three-year school are the 12 E. T. T. A. courses plus Faith for Today (Free Will Baptist Doctrine), Homiletics, and Revelation. Students finishing the required subjects can earn the Preliminary and Advanced Teachers Certificate from E. T. T. A. and the Beaver Creek Institute Certificate.

Any questions concerning the school can be secured by writing Rev. Allen Lemons, P. O. Box, Lockhart, S. C. 29364.

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



**Rev. Smith**

Revival is in the air. The reports I am receiving concerning revival are wonderful. Almost every church I have heard from has had several saved in their services. One of the reasons I believe that Free Will Baptists are experiencing revival, is for their stand for God in this day of compromise. People are still looking, and hungry for the old time Gospel. And I praise God that they can find it in our Free Will Baptist Churches.

If I were looking for a church home today, I would be looking for one that believes the Bible is God's infallible word, and preaches a heart-felt salvation, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And I believe we have that kind of churches in our denomination. It is a sad thing to see some of the denominations that once were burning with revival spirit, dead cold, and dry. Let's stay true to God.

I am still looking for the picture and write-up for the Pastor, Layman, and Church of the Year from the Central, Eastern, and the S. C. Conference. There will only be three more issues of The Informer this year. There isn't enough room to get them all in one issue, so please get them to me as soon as possible.

## Supporters Of The Informer

We are praising the Lord for your response to The Informer. We are increasing in supporters each month. Your letters of encouragement mean a whole lot to me, and I thank you for them. Keep them coming. There are several churches that have not responded with any news or financial support. It would be a real joy to hear from every church in the state. We are looking to hear from you real soon. Below is a list of the supporters since the last Informer:

Mr. Herbert H. Henderson, Spartanburg -----	\$ 5.00	St. John's Church, Patrick -----	\$12.00
Mill Branch Church, Johnsonville	60.00	Grace Mission, Fort Mill -----	5.00
Rev. Colston Moore, Chesterfield	5.00	Rev. Wendell Ard, Andrews -----	5.00
Columbia Original, Columbia ---	5.00	Rev. Howard Broome, Lancaster -----	1.00
Valley Falls, Spartanburg -----	5.00	Converse Church, Spartanburg -----	10.00
First Church, Florence -----	20.00	Rev. Paul Butler, Patrick -----	5.00
St. John's Church, Patrick -----	22.72	Sumter Mission, Sumter -----	15.00
Free Will Baptist Bible Church, Florence -----	5.00	Rev. J. B. Rice, Lockhart -----	5.00
Fairview Church, Spartanburg --	5.00	Chester First Church -----	15.00
<b>Total Received -----</b>	<b>\$205.72</b>		

# THE INFORMER

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF  
THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EDITOR

REV. J. B. SMITH

## YOUTH CAMP

It won't be long before it will be time to pack up for Summer Youth Camp. There will be two camps used this year — Camp Forest and Camp Juniper in Cheraw, S. C. The week for the Juniors will be August 7-12 (this is ages 7-12). The week for the Seniors will be August 14-19 (this is ages 13-up). Check-in time is 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. the first day. Reservation fee will be \$5.00. These are to be in by July 15. They are to be sent to: Rev. William D. Sealy, P. O. Box 441, Darlington, S. C. 29532. Make your plans to go this summer.

Rev. Sealy says: "Since we will be using both camps the first week we can accommodate 210 campers. Of this number we can have 125 campers between the ages of 10 and 12 and 85 campers between the ages of 7 and 9. The second week we will use Camp Forest only, which means we can have only 125 campers. Those reservation forms received first will be the first honored. Therefore, get your reservation in as soon as possible to be assured of a bunk. The total fee will be \$15.00 again this year."

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The National Association of Free Will Baptists will convene in Fort Worth, Texas, this year, July 10-13, for their 36th Annual Session.

Daily business sessions and evening public services will be held in the Tarrant County Convention Center.

One of the reports to be heard will come from the committee appointed last July to re-study our relationship with the National Association of Evangelicals; this committee will make recommendations concerning our future relationship with N. A. E.

The April issue of Contact, the official magazine for Free Will Baptists, will carry a listing of the hotels and a reservation form. Make your plans to be present.

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This is NOT a proposal. It is just "food for thought." Several folks asked about the possibility of our purchasing land and developing our own camp site. The major problem at this time would be the location of adequate available land and the means to finance the purchase and development of the land. Another problem we would face would be in the development of the property. For instance, some of our folks prefer a barrack type housing unit with the staff "living in" with the campers. Others prefer the cabin type housing with staff strategically located throughout the area. Some want an adequate swimming pool while others prefer a lake adequate for swimming, fishing, and boating. Some want all the modern conveniences of home in every cabin while others prefer a rustic, bare-necessity type of cabin.

It is my personal opinion that we possibly should have a study committee to: (1) ascertain the desires of the people of South Carolina in the matter of our owning our own camping facility. (2) Work with our camp administration to ascertain our present needs and future hopes. (3) Check into possible ways of financing a facility both in development and maintenance. (4) Make reports to the S. C. STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS and the S. C. STATE C. T. S. CONVENTION as to the findings of the committee.

I have expressed the above opinion for the following reasons: (1) During my years of labor with our encampment at Camp Forest very little repair has been done to the facility. Therefore, the restroom facilities are inadequate to handle our camp needs. (2) Even though we put forth every effort to keep the restroom facilities clean and sterile it is almost impossible due to out-dated fixtures that are in need of replacement. (3) Even though a new six inch well was "put down" and is now the source of water supply it is inadequate as was proven last year by a water failure during our encampment with the pump running a constant 12 hours per day. Following the water failure the pump wasn't turned off until we left. (The electric bill for the pump alone was \$8.16.) (4) Even though new screens are installed each winter many are missing when we arrive in August. Since we are the last group to use the facility each summer it is almost impossible to get ANY repairs made in the facility when we are using it.

We will be using both Camp Forest and Camp Juniper at Cheraw this year. The facility's capacity has been reduced. Camp Forest will accommodate 150 presently whereas it formerly would accommodate 180. Camp Juniper will accommodate 100 instead of 125. We will use only Camp Forest for the "Teen" week as in previous years. Mr. Adair, the State Park Superintendent, has already said that there will be an increase in the rent for the camps next year (1973).

In view of the fact that our camp  
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## CHURCH OF THE YEAR

The Valley Falls Free Will Baptist Church of Valley Falls, S. C., has been selected as the Church of the Year for 1971 in the Beaver Creek Association.

This church, which was started in the late 1930's, has been a strong church throughout its history. The church is now breaking records and has progressed tremendously during the year of 1971. The pastor, Rev. Carl Shook, who came to the church in August, 1970, is doing an outstanding job.

The Sunday School average in 1970 was 60 per Sunday. They averaged 112 in 1971, almost a 100% increase. They also broke the record attendance of the Sunday School, which was 168, with 182. They had 71 additions to the church during the year, increasing the membership from 169 to 240. There were 35 of these baptized.

The church, during the year, built a new parsonage, valued at \$36,000; put carpet in the Sunday School rooms; added guttering to the church building; bought a new piano; remodeled the fellowship building. The tithes and offerings doubled. The church started tithing their income to Foreign Mission, Home Mission, Bible Institute, Children's Home, Tabernacle Fund, and The Informer.

The pastor, Rev. Carl Shook, informed me that the Sunday School has reached 215 one Sunday this year. He said, "We thank God for His blessings and we are expecting greater things in the future. We covet your prayers as we endeavor to reach the lost for Christ."

## NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

The Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaign was a real success. There were churches from 23 different states utilizing the theme "Jesus Christ Is Lord" in marking up outstanding gains in average attendance for the four Sundays in March. The average net increase of those reporting was 30.1%.

We say "Thanks" to the Sumter Mis-

sion in Sumter for placing South Carolina in the first place winners. They were winners in Division H. Their average for October-December was 35. Their average for March was 75, an increase of 114.2%. The fine pastor of the Mission is the Rev. Fred Kirby. He is doing real good work in Sumter. Praise the Lord for our Mission pastors throughout the state. Let's give them our support.



# CHURCH NEWS

## **PAMPLICO, S. C.:**

April 16-23 was a week of spiritual nourishment at the Mt. Elon Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico. Rev. Ronald Creech of Durham, N. C., was the evangelist, and Rev. Dennis Lowry of Lake City was the visiting minister of music.

Our pastor, Rev. Bobby Glenn Smith, was thrilled at the large crowd for homecoming and the large crowds during the week. Indeed, it was the best attended revival at Mt. Elon for years.

The following Free Will Baptist ministers attended the revival: Rev. Paul Reid, Rev. Adam Scott, Rev. Billy Po-teat, Rev. T. C. Farmer, Rev. Tommy Godley, Rev. Sam Truett, Rev. Wayne Watson, Rev. Earl Sutton, and Rev. James Stepps.

Church Reporter: Mrs. A. J. Tirmer, Jr.

## **HEMINGWAY, S. C.:**

The Poplar Hill F. W. B. Church reports a good revival the first week in March. They had 11 rededications.

Rev. Joe Cagle did the preaching. The revival is still going on. They had good services in the Lord, all during the Easter week-end.

The Ladies' Auxillary had pre-Easter Week of Prayer on Wednesday and Thursday nights, the Master's Men on Saturday night. Sunrise Service at 5:45 was enjoyed by all.

Pastor: Rev. Mircheal Jones; Reporter: Mrs. W. R. Calcutt.

## **FOOD FOR -**

(Continued From Page 3)

operates with "free labor" and is generally conducted under the oversight of our pastors an increase of weeks presents some tremendous problems. I don't believe many of the churches of our state that have existed for more than 15 years will permit their pastor to be away three or more weeks for youth camp. If we have to hire staff plus pay an increase in rent we will probably have to double, at least, our camp fee.

Please don't misunderstand me. Camp Forest is a dear place to me. I wish it were possible that we could purchase the facility, repair it and use it from now on as a Free Will Baptist Camp-ground just because of the Lord's blessings on us there. Since this is an impossibility I believe we should begin to make some plans toward meeting our need. It would be tragic to come up to a camping period and find that there is no facility available for our use.

**PRAY ABOUT THIS MATTER.**  
Rev. William Sealy  
S. C. Youth Director

## **JOHNSONVILLE, S. C.:**

Please send us about 20 copies of The Informer. We will be sending you an offering real soon. Little Bethel F. W. B. Church reports a good revival, with the pastor, Rev. Tommy Godley, doing the preaching. There were 17 decisions, 10 rededications, seven saved, and one surrender to full-time Christian service. We appreciate The Informer very much.

Pastor: Rev. Tommy Godley.

## **LOCKHART, S. C.:**

Please apply the attached \$5.00 to the State Promotional Office in behalf of the Lockhart F. W. B. Church. The church will be in revival May 1-7 with the Rev. Damon C. Dodd.

Pastor: Rev. J. B. Rice.

## **ANDREWS, S. C.:**

Happy Home F. W. B. Church: In our last church conference on Jan. 22, 1972, our church voted to send a support of \$5.00 per month to you to be used in the publication of our S. C. Free Will Baptist paper, known as The Informer. Since I missed the month of February, I am sending \$10.00 for the months of February and March. This will be continued as long as we can afford it. Thank you very much.

Reporter: Omega McCutchen.

## **JOHNSONVILLE, S. C.:**

Received the State paper, The Informer, and thank the Lord for you and your good work. The paper is real nice, and lay out excellent. Please send me more copies next time. Sending you our \$60.00 for the year.

Pastor: Rev. Paul Clayton.

## **PATRICK, S. C.:**

St. John's F. W. B. Church, in Patrick, S. C., will be in revival May 15-21. The evangelist will be the Rev. Frank Thompson, from Johnson City, Tenn. We received an offering of \$15.72 for The Informer in our Sunday service which you will be receiving soon. (It has been received.) Keep us about 30 copies coming each time. If we need more we'll let you know. Keep up the good work.

Pastor: Rev. Paul Butler.

## **CHERAW, S. C.:**

Faith F. W. B. Church in Cheraw, S. C., reports a good revival. There were several saved and several rededications. For the months of January, February and March, we had six new members to join the church. This gives us 29 members. Two years ago we only had four members and 12 in Sunday School. We have increased to 50 in Sunday School.

Pastor: Rev. Colston Moore.

## **CHESTER, S. C.:**

The First F. W. B. Church in Chester has been in revival for the past six months. Since October, 1971, there have been 75 saved and rededicated. Of this number there have been 52 to join the church. Thirty-five have been baptized. Rev. Donnie Seay, from Aradia, was the evangelist in our revival April 16-22. We had a wonderful revival with 18 coming forward in the services. We broke the all-time Sunday School attendance record of 202 on April 9th with 227. To God be the glory, great things He hath done.

Pastor: Rev. J. B. Smith; Reporter: Mrs. Rachel McMahan.

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## **THE INFORMER**

REV. J. B. SMITH, Editor

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