

THE INFORMER

Vol. 2 — No. 4
July, 1973

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



CHURCH OF THE YEAR

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Inman, S. C., has been selected as the Church of the Year in the Beaver Creek Association. Following is some of the accomplishments of this growing church in 1972:

The membership increased 68 per cent in 1972, from 98 to 170. Their average attendance in Sunday School increased approximately 48 per Sunday, averaging 175 for the year. There were 43 baptized, and the church budget increased by \$260.00 per week. The church supports Home and Foreign Missions, the Beaver Creek and Piedmont Bible Institutes, F. W. B. Children's Home in Turbeville, S. C., the Arthur Lawter Tabernacle, and their Wednesday night offering goes to Rev. Carlisle Hanna, missionary in India.

The church started a bus ministry

last year with two buses that brought in an average of 75 per church service. With the bus ministry, they started a children's church. Under the leadership of Mrs. Margaret Fowler, the children's church has proved to be a real blessing to the church.

The Ladies' Auxiliary made much progress in 1972. Besides duties of visitation, serving meals for bereaved families, etc., the ladies raised enough money to send their pastor, Rev. Earl Hendrix, and his wife to the Holy Land. This was a surprise Christmas gift to show appreciation for the work the Hendrixs have done in Inman. The Auxiliary also turned in over \$2,300.00 on the building fund.

Brenda Easler, assistant church secretary, says, "Our church could not grow without faithful members who

are not afraid to go out and witness for God. Our church has grown much

Continued on P-2

Commencement Exercises

The Beaver Creek Bible Institute held its commencement exercises at the Lockhart Free Will Baptist Church in Lockhart, S. C., on Saturday, April 21, 1973. The graduates completed the twelve E.T.T.A. subjects, Free Will Baptist Doctrine (Faith for Today),

Homeletics, and Revelations in a three-year course of study.

The school recorded a record enrollment during the 1972-73 session with an enrollment of 103. Rev. J. B. Rice, home missionary in Greer, S. C., delivered the graduation message.

See Picture On Page Three

Honors Teacher

The Free Will Baptist Bible College family and friends paid tribute to Miss Laura Belle Barnard during the school's recent commencement exercises. The occasion was the announcement of Miss Barnard's retirement as head of the college's missions department.

Dr. L. C. Johnson recalled Miss Barnard's service as a member of the original faculty when Free Will Baptist College opened in 1942. She served several years before returning to India and the missions work she loves. In 1960 she resumed her position with the school and continued her teaching for 13 years.

Miss Barnard has been paid many tributes. Dr. Johnson spoke of her contribution to the denomination and to the Bible College. The College Board of Trustees presented a plaque to her in honor of the occasion.

But the real tribute to her labor is on the mission field today or is preparing for that ministry. And her hour of greatest honor is yet to come.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Rev. Smith

I feel that the State Promotional Secretary's Office is an important office in our state. If we are informed on what's going on in our state work, we need a point of contact. The state paper, "The Informer," is serving us in this capacity, but on a very limited basis. We are limited to the fact that the promotional secretary is unable to cover the news on a balance ratio over the state. I am not sure that he could, if he were on a full time basis, but I am sure it would help.

We voted, at our State Meeting, to consider making the office a quarter

or half-time job. I think this was a move forward in the right direction, but we have not responded accordingly with our financial support. If we improve and update the office, we must arrange for a more substantial source of support.

One sure way to meet the financial need is for each church to include the office in the church budget. Several churches, even though in a small way, have already done so. I believe the office can be maintained with the support being received, but it will be on a very limited basis.

November, the month for our next State Meeting, is only a little over four months away. It sure would be encouraging to receive a contribution from your church and a note that you have put the Promotional Secretary's Office in the church budget. Can we count on you and your church? I am looking forward to hearing from you. Your opinion concerning the office and its future is also welcomed.

What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do

Have you read the book, "What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do?" This is a book written by Rev. Irvin Hyman, Th.M., pastor of the Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, Timmonsville, S. C. A simple solution to the problem of doubt. If you would be interested in a copy, or would like more information concerning the book, write to: W. Irvin Hyman, Route 3, Creek Road, Timmonsville, S. C. 29161. The price is 60c each, 2 for \$1.00, 5 for \$2.50.

SEND FOR YOUR FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO:

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions
 1134 Murfreesboro Road
 Nashville, Tennessee 37217



Herbert Allen **Pictured on the Right**

Layman Of The Year

Herbert Allen of Route 1, Inman, S. C., a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Inman, has been selected Layman of the Year of the Beaver Creek Association.

Brother Allen served his church during the year of 1972 in the following offices: Served as the teacher of the Men's Bible Class; served as a Deacon; was chairman of the nominating committee; filled the pulpit in absence of the pastor; president of the Master's Men, and was faithful in visiting the sick and lost.

During the time the First Free Will Baptist Church in Inman was building their new church, Brother Allen put many hours of labor in on the building, many times letting some of his own jobs get behind. He has also offered and is willing to help the Beaver Creek Home Missions in using his knowledge in building. We praise the Lord for laymen that are willing to put their talents to work for the Lord. They are a blessing to their pastor, church, community, association, state, and yes, even to the world. Mr. Herbert Allen was selected by the Selection Committee of the Beaver Creek Association.

Church - Continued from P-1

in 1972. It is a living church for a living Christ. We moved into our new sanctuary on June 11, 1972. All the work was done by the men of the church, who gave of their time and effort because they love the Lord. The church has a capacity of 510 and is worth approximately \$150,000.00. We have a beautiful church and are proud we have a nice place in which to worship God. God has truly blessed us here at Inman. We do have a lot of activities, but our main concern is visiting lost souls to Christ. Please pray for us here, that even more work can be done for Christ than was done in 1972."

THE INFORMER

VALUABLE COUPON

FREE



HEARTBEAT
SUBSCRIPTION!!!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Our Tribute To Rev. Homer E. Willis

By Mark and Louise Vandivort

A young couple paid a visit to Bro. Homer Willis' office seeking guidance and more information about New England. It was the unforgettable spring of 1960. God had spoken to Louise and me through a prayer request from New England during missionary prayer band at Free Will Baptist Bible College. As a result we were able to experience three rewarding and fruitful years ministering for the Lord in New England.

On one occasion during our New Hampshire ministry we were quite discouraged — we were out of money. A letter came from the Home Mission office. Bro. Willis had written a short note and added a scripture reference in his neat handwriting. After reading the scripture verse, we got on our knees to pray. God supplied the need! I know now that Bro. Willis was prob-

Pastor Retirement and Insurance?

Is your pastor one of the 234 participants in the retirement plan of the National Association? Is your church sending regular contributions to his retirement account? Does he have life insurance? Is it enough? Each church must face up to her obligation to the pastor in providing retirement and insurance protection for him and his family. As it costs more and more to live, so will it be in retirement.

A question often asked is: "What happens to the retirement money when a church changes pastors?" The money contributed for each pastor is combined with deposits from other churches he has pastored and held in trust for him or his beneficiary until retirement, disability or death. The church should continue deposits for their new pastor and the former pastor's new congregation should continue deposits for him.

Regular deposits are encouraged (weekly or monthly) but may be made at any time. The retirement plan does not take the place of life insurance. Both are needed. Send for details today. Remember to include your pastor's birthdate. Write to: Department of Retirement and Insurance, National Association of Free Will Baptists, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

If your pastor is not a member, talk it over with him! It will make a difference in his retirement years.

THE INFORMER

ably praying for us and felt impressed to write a note of encouragement. Later I was reminded of the incident during the five years I worked with Bro. Willis as field secretary and then as assistant to director. During those five years, I experienced kneeling with Bro. Willis in prayer to God for the needs of the National Home Mission ministry.

Bro. Willis believed that if we let our Free Will Baptist people know the needs of Home Missions they would respond. The record shows the result!

A well known characteristic was his practice of keeping a "close watch on the funds," a characteristic I was to learn to respect and appreciate. To my knowledge Bro. Willis never over committed the Home Mission Board for money they did not have or had not been approved in the budget. It was my experience that he would do what he said he would do. He operated on the safe and sound principle of "cash and carry." Bro. Willis held the firm conviction that money should be allocated to the ministry for which it had been designated as long as the person or ministry represented the

interest of the Board of Home Missions.

The General Director was equally at home with the young, aged, a Kentucky farm family, or the socially elite. I recall the tremendous response of the youth as he spoke at the Ohio State Convention a few years ago.

On occasions Bro. Willis would express the burden of his heart for a Free Will Baptist Church in the Virgin Islands. On missionary night during the 1967 National Association at Jacksonville, Fla., Bro. Willis counseled with a young couple, Larry and Wanda Powell, who had responded to the missionary invitation. I remember clearly the joy and enthusiasm as the General Director shared the news with the office staff.

The years I spent working with the General Director were meaningful years. I am convinced that we should direct much prayer to God for the executives and office staffs of our various denominational ministries.

Thank you Bro. Willis, for giving and sharing, for serving and caring. We anticipate your continued valuable service in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Beaver Creek Commencement Exercises

The ten graduates pictured above are, from left to right: Flossie McCorkle, First Church, Chester; Shelby Fortner, First Church, Spartanburg; Melissa Quinn, First Church, Spartanburg; Joyce Roof, First Church, Chester; Joann Sneed, Faith Baptist Church, Lancaster. Second row: Rev. Tommy Bryson, Sr., South Avenue F. W. B. Church, Lancaster; Rev. Edward Hinson, West Columbia F. W. B. Church, Columbia; Ruth Yarborough, First Church, Chester; Juanita Lewis, First Church, Chester; Pauline Carter, First Church, Chester. Faculty members, seated from left to right: Rev. Allen Lemons, business manager; Mr. Knight, music teacher; Rev. L. H. Clayton, Rev. J. B. Rice, Rev. Ansel Smith, Rev. Earl Hendrix, Rev. J. B. Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW CHURCH ORGANIZED

The Grace Free Will Baptist Mission, located in Fort Mill, S. C., will be organized into a church July 21, 1973. The Mission's first pastor was the Rev. Thomas Bryson, Sr., from Lancaster, S. C. Rev. Allen Lemons from Lockhart, S. C., is presently serving as pastor. Everyone has been extended an invitation to attend the organizational meeting.

Church News

HEMINGWAY, S. C.:

Poplar Hill Free Will Baptist Church completed their week of Bible School June 10 with all the ice cream they could eat on Friday.

The commencement was held Sunday night with certificates presented to each child. The average attendance for the week was 73. It was enjoyed by all.

We are sorry to report our pastor, Mircheal Jones, "whom we loved so well," is leaving us. The Lord has called him to Grace Free Will Baptist Church at Lake City, S. C.

Reporter: Mrs. W. R. Calcutt.

Pastor: Mircheal Jones.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Brother Smith:

Just a note to personally express my appreciation for the fine job you are doing with **The Informer**. Your pictures are sharp and well placed. Your articles are short and to the point as well as quite informative.

I would appreciate it if you would pass along a word of commendation to Brother Tommy Godly, of the Little Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, concerning his welcome attendance increase in CTS from an average of 40 last year to 92. If his CTS could maintain an average of 100 for a literature quarter of thirteen weeks, he would be eligible for our Century Award. You may want to pass this information on to other churches in your state.

Sincerely in Christ,
Malcolm C. Fry
General Director
Church Training Service

WEEK OF OLD CAMP MEETING: JULY 30 - AUGUST 3

The Annual Camp Meeting of the Beaver Creek Association will be held this year at the Arthur Lawter Tabernacle in Chester, S. C. The dates will be July 30 - August 3. We are looking for even bigger crowds than we had last year. The program committee has some good preachers and singers lined up for this very special occasion. You are encouraged to bring your camper and spend the week. You can fish and fellowship during the day and enjoy old Camp Meeting at night. The theme this year will correspond with the 50th Golden Anniversary of the Beaver Creek Association, which will meet August 9-10, also at the Arthur Lawter Tabernacle.

FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP

It's time again to pack up for Youth Camp! The S. C. Free Will Baptist Youth Camp will be held at Camp Juniper, Cheraw, S. C. This is for the primary age group (age 7-9). The junior age group (age 10-12), and the teenage group (age 13 years up) will be held at Camp Forest, Cheraw.

The dates for the camps will be the following: primary age group (7-9) and the junior age group (10-12) will check in from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. August 6. The teenage group (13 years up) will check in from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on August 13.

The reservation fee should be sent in by July 20. The reservation fee of \$5.00 will be applied to the total camp fee of \$20.00. Send reservation fee to: S. C. Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, P. O. Box 441, Darlington, S. C. 29532.

THE INFORMER

REV. J. B. SMITH, Editor

208½ WEST ELLIOTT STREET

CHESTER, S. C. 29706



73 Receive College Awards

A record 73 students received degrees, diplomas and certificates during Free Will Baptist Bible College's recent commencement exercises. President L. C. Johnson awarded 61 Bachelor of Arts degrees, 3 Bachelor of Science degrees, 5 Christian Worker's Bible diplomas, and 5 Business Certificates.

Among 14 seniors graduating with honors, Thomas Dowling of Florence, S. C., graduated cum laude. Making the "B" honor roll from South Carolina were the following:

Seniors — Patricia Rogers, Darlington; **Juniors** — Dianne Jordan, Conway; Randy Stone, Pamplico; **Sophomores** — Gerald Kirby, Timmonsville; **Freshmen** — Miriam Benton, Aynor; Ettaphine Hyman, Pamplico; Donnie Miles, Darlington; Trudy Powell, Johnsonville; Regenia Tipton, Turbeville.

Students from South Carolina receiving B. A. degrees: Seldon Buck, Darlington; Tommy Dowling, Timmonsville; John Gilliland, Spartanburg; Billy Hanna, Florence; David Kirby, Georgetown; Patricia Rogers, Darlington.