

# THE INFORMER

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



Pictured above are the state winners of competition in C. T. S. that represented the State of South Carolina at the National Association in Macon, Georgia. They are, from left to right: Ricky Edwards, Dale Reese, Eddie Truett, Scott Singletary. First row, standing: Cecelia Jackson, Paula Granger, Pam Strickland, Sandra Weatherford, Karan Thomas. Back row: Janet Harris, Joni White, Annette Kirby, Wanda Rogers, Carol White, Mona Burris, Wanda Lee.

## State C.T.S. Winners At National Association

We had a wonderful group of young people to represent our state at the National Association. We were real proud of them. They had three second place winners, one third place winner, and two first place winners. They were as follows:

First Place Winner: Adventurer Declamation — Scott Singletary, First Church, Florence.

First Place Winner: Keyboard-Fine Arts — Karan Thomas, First Church, Florence.

Second Place Winner: Crusade Essay — Carol White, First Church, Charleston. Carol also won first place in poems.

Second Place Winner: Vocal Solo-Fine Arts — Scott Singletary, First Church, Florence.

Second Place Winner: Bible Bowl

Team — Eddie Truett, Pam Strickland, Sandra Weatherford, Wanda Rogers, First Church, Darlington.

Third Place Winner: Sword Drill — Cecelia Jackson, First Church, Spartanburg.

## National Youth Conference

The 1973 National Youth Conference could be summed up as four days of competitive activities, Christian fellowship and spiritual renewal. A total of 887 young people and their sponsors, representing 23 states, officially registered for the conference. However, according to officials in the Church Training Service Department unofficial counts show that well over a thousand young people were actually present for the conclave.

Over 2,000 Free Will Baptists attended the opening service of the National Youth Conference on Sunday evening. Beneath the banner "Discipleship: Experiencing Jesus Christ," a mass choir of 130 voices and Mike Crain, youth evangelist and karate expert, began the five day conference. Throughout the week competition was keen; talent abundant; participation and cooperation outstanding; and a spiritual emphasis prevailed.

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

— Revival —



Rev. Smith

## A GROWING DENOMINATION:

I am very grateful to the Lord for His blessings on our denomination. Within the last few years the Free Will Baptist denomination has experienced an unusual growth in converted souls, baptisms, attendance and membership. It is so unusual that "The Wall Street Journal" in a front page story January 11, 1973, cited us as one of the fastest growing denominations in America.

As an illustration, one of our churches in Newport News, Virginia, had 46 in Sunday School in 1970; they have skyrocketed to 933 in 1973. Rev. Don Pegram, pastor of the church, reports the church is witnessing as many as 25 conversions in a single service.

Many of our churches in South Carolina are reporting steady growth. We are seeing new churches established, old ones being revived. If only we, as a state, could get a vision of what we could be doing in organizing new churches in areas where we don't have any, there is no limit to what we could accomplish in South Carolina. I believe the manpower is available to evangelize the state, but our vision is weak. We need to lift up our eyes and look on the fields that are white already unto harvest.

## STATE ASSOCIATION:

The State Association will meet at the Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church, November 15-16. I would like to see the greatest number of ministers, delegates and visitors we have ever had at a state meeting. I believe, if you will start planning now to attend, we can see this come to pass. The Mill Branch Church is located near Lake City.

## Supporters of the informer:

Has your church become a member of the Supporters of The Informer? We have looked forward for every church in the State Association becoming a member. Check the list below and see if your church is listed. If the Promotional Secretary's office ever expands, it will take the effort of all our churches. We encourage you to have a part in this work. Below is a list of the churches that have made the work of this office possible.

Valley Falls - - - - -	\$60.00	Greer Mission - - - - -	\$ 2.00
Fairview - - - - -	45.00	Bethany - - - - -	60.00
Rev. Wendall Ard - - - - -	10.00	Almetta - - - - -	5.00
Grace, Fort Mill - - - - -	38.00	F.W.B. Bible Church - - - - -	45.00
Mt. Elon - - - - -	10.00	First Florence - - - - -	80.00
Columbia Original - - - - -	40.00	First Rock Hill - - - - -	40.00
Horse Branch - - - - -	45.00	State Association - - - - -	176.12
Lockhart - - - - -	35.00	Liberty - - - - -	30.00
First Chester - - - - -	50.00	Lebanon - - - - -	45.00
Poplar Hill - - - - -	75.00	Grace Mission, Manning - - - - -	35.00
Bethany - - - - -	60.00	First McColl - - - - -	5.00
White Savannah - - - - -	7.50	Little Bethel - - - - -	20.00
Hillside - - - - -	15.00	Jefferson Road - - - - -	45.00
TOTAL RECEIVED - - - - -			\$1,078.62

The Valley Falls Free Will Baptist Church will be in revival September 24th, with the services beginning at 7:30 each evening. The evangelist will be the Rev. W. L. Kell. The pastor is the Rev. Carl Shook.

## Free Will Baptist Denomination Experiences Record Gains

Several months ago the prestigious paper **Wall Street Journal** reported from an independent survey that Free Will Baptists are among the denominations in America experiencing rapid growth.

This distinction has been further confirmed by the annual statistical reports to the national convention from member associations in 39 states. Statistical reports reveal a net increase last year of 15,729. This increase reflects an annual growth rate of 8%. The largest numerical gain in 20 years, it boosts the denomination's total membership to 214,003.

Reports at this year's convention, held in Macon, Georgia, also revealed a net increase of 49 new churches during the past year. The Department of Home Missions and Church Extension has set a five-year goal to establish 50 new churches per year.

"It is our aim to see our denomination double its membership during the next 10 years," stated Rufus Coffey, Executive Secretary. "With this tremendous harvest of souls during the past year, it is evident that by God's grace we can see this goal reached."

Executive Secretary Coffey further observed that he "attributes this phenomenal growth to a renewed thrust in evangelism." It is also significant, he noted, that the growth pattern is not limited to any single section of the denomination, but it reflected an overall increase in the 39 states where the 2,300 Free Will Baptist churches are located.

In the wake of this evangelism explosion the Executive Secretary calls upon the denomination to give sincere thanks to God for such a remarkable growth. He further urges pastors and laymen not to let up in their soul winning endeavors.

# New Quarter Change To Serve You Better

For years we have recognized the four quarters in the Sunday School curriculum cycle as January, February, March for first quarter; April, May, June for second quarter, etc.

A few years ago every denomination except our own made a change to a different quarter cycle. This change has worked a hardship on us in that we are not able to serve you as well as we would like. In order to eliminate the difficulties involved, the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board has voted to make the curriculum cycle change effective with the **third quarter, 1974**

## Sunday School materials.

This is how the change will be put

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## CHURCH NEWS

### CONVERSE, S. C.:

Converse Free Will Baptist Church is very thankful for the faithful church members. We're very proud of the Sunday School plaque we won in the campaign and for the marvelous increase in number.

We've just started organizing the C. T. S. and are very pleased with the turnout. Please pray for our leaders that God will lead us, that His name will be glorified.

We're thankful that souls are being saved and God's work is being done.

Our pastor and his wife have truly been missed while they were away at camp. Remember to pray for Converse Church and its pastor.

Rev. Troy Baldwin, Pastor

Georgia Foy, Reporter

### FLORENCE, S. C.:

Please find enclosed check for \$15.00 for The Informer from the Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church.

We at Hillside F.W.B. Church have so much to be thankful for. We just recently finished putting new furniture and carpet in our church.

For our young people Brother Danny Stone was chosen outstanding youth of the year. Danny is a very dedicated youth of our church. He is our C. T. S. and Choir Director.

We enjoy The Informer very much and you have our prayers. May God bless you in your work.

Joseph A. Timmons, Reporter

in operation. **Third quarter, 1974** lesson materials will contain only eight lessons. These lessons will go through the months of July and August. A 25% discount will be allowed from the regular cost of materials for this short quarter.

The new quarter system will not be called first, second, third and fourth. They will be seasonally labeled as follows:

Fall Quarter — September, October, November.

Winter Quarter — December, January, February.

Spring Quarter — March, April, May.

Summer Quarter — June, July, August.

There are a number of advantages to this arrangement.

**First** — It starts off with the fall quarter, the time when most churches begin a new year and elect new officers and teachers.

**Second** — It permits us to avoid the Christmas mail rush in shipping curriculum materials to you.

**Third** — It will cause the Easter lesson to fall within the same quarter every year.

**Fourth** — It will enable us to provide you with up-to-date take home papers.

**Fifth** — It will bring us in line with the curriculum cycle adopted by every other independent and denominational publishing house.

### How The Change Will Affect You

It will be necessary for you to place your order for fall quarter, 1974, materials in time to receive them before September 1, 1974.

It will enable us to serve you in a more efficient way with faster mail service because we will avoid the Christmas mail rush.

It will be necessary for you to help get this message across to our people.

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## Manning Free Will Baptist Church

Dear Brother Smith,

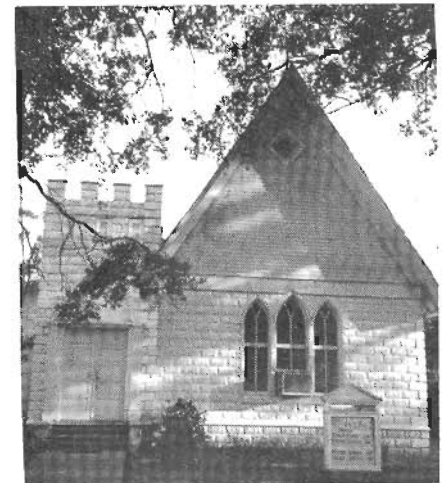
The Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Manning would like to share our news with you. We have enclosed a picture of our church on Keitt Street, and also our donation to The Informer.

On Sunday night, April 22, 1973, we began our Spring Revival with the Rev. L. H. Clayton from Fairview Baptist Church in Spartanburg. Each message filled with the spirit just blessed our hearts, and we had a wonderful time with the Lord. Our revival ended on Saturday with the Eastern Conference meeting at our church. Our ladies served a delicious meal and a day of preaching, business and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

On June 10, 1973, we went down to the river and had our first Baptismal Service.

On July 8, 1973, our Grace Free Will Baptist Church had its first anniversary of Sunday School and preaching. We began our services with the Rev. Mancy Noles of Sumter as our minister until the Rev. Hoyt E. Powell became our pastor in October of 1972.

We celebrated our special day with our pastor giving the morning message and dinner was served at the church, followed by singing in the afternoon



with our own groups and local visiting groups. A wonderful day of worship and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

The Lord has richly blessed us here at Grace Church in Manning.

Pray for us.

Alma Locklair, Reporter

Rev. Hoyt E. Powell, Pastor

State Association Meets November 15-16 At The Mill Branch F.W.B. Plan To Attend

THE INFORMER

# History Of Arcadia F.W.B. Church, Arcadia, S.C.

Cole's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church was organized November 17, 1927, in an abandoned Army barrack on Bennett Street, Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina.

In 1928, a new church was built in the Arcadia community on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Cole, in whose honor the church was named. The first service was held in the new church May 17, 1928, less than a year from the time Cole's Chapel was organized. God's blessings were many during these early years, and the following young men were called to preach the gospel from Cole's Chapel: Rev. Arthur Lawter, Rev. Earnest Waters, Rev. M. G. Gosnell, and Rev. Clyde Waters.

Ministers pastoring the Cole's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church during these years were: Rev. J. E. Bailey, Rev. W. R. Roland, Rev. M. G. Gosnell, Rev. Arthur Lawter, Rev. J. C. Franks, Rev. Harley Buckner, Rev. L. D. Revis, Rev. Harman Lastere, Rev. Earnest Rash, Rev. Frank Cousin, and Rev. Carl Shook.

During the ministry of Rev. Carl Shook, the first parsonage was built near the church. Cole's Chapel experienced a tremendous growth during this period, and there arose a need for a larger building to accommodate the large number attending the church at this time. So once again, plans were made for a new and larger church building. On land donated by Mayfair Mills at Arcadia, South Carolina, a new church was constructed in 1953, and the name of the church was changed to Arcadia Free Will Baptist Church.

Following Rev. Shook as pastor were Rev. James Earl Raper, Rev. Paul Sheehan, and Rev. Donald Seay.

On February 4, 1962, with Rev. Seay as pastor, a dedication and note-burning service was held. At this time, the parking area at the church was enlarged and paved, and a much-needed fellowship building was completed. An addition of six (6) Sunday School rooms also was completed during the ministry of Rev. Seay.

Following Rev. Seay was Rev. Elmer Carter, and during this time, the sanctuary was air-conditioned, and plans were made to remodel the existing church building. This remodeling was completed in 1972, and consisted of the front of the church being given a more modern look by the addition of brick, the addition of a larger tiled porch, and new lighting. Rev. Seay was again pastor of the church at this time.

God is still blessing Arcadia Free Will Baptist Church, and in late sum-

mer of 1972, a new, completely modern parsonage was completed, and the existing parsonage was put into use as a Children's Church, to accommodate all the children of the church from nursery age through nine (9) years of age. This has proved to be a tremendous success, and has completely captured

the interest of all the children involved, thereby winning whole-hearted approval from all church members.

God has indeed been with Arcadia Free Will Baptist Church since that day in November, 1927, and we pray that we will always be directed by His Holy Spirit.



Church



Fellowship Building



Children's Church



New Parsonage

## THE INFORMER

REV. J. B. SMITH, Editor

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