

THE INFORMER



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

July 1979

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

REVIVAL! CAN WE HAVE IT?

REVIVAL! is something talked about — prayed about and many and varied efforts made to obtain. However, we see — experience or hear very little of the real thing. As a pastor and Promotional Secretary for our State, I'm deeply and sincerely concerned about our people experiencing a God sent revival. Normally when you want an article written on a given subject you call on the expert or one with experience in the field of the topic. For the next few issues of "The Informer", I'm going to call on some pastors — men of the grass root level of the work about the need and suggestions on how we can have God give Free Will Baptists a genuine heaven sent Revival. It seems to me if anyone really knows the need and capable of making worthwhile suggestions it would be the Pastor. This issue we will hear from two of our good pastors — Brother Merritt Floyd, Central and Johnny Evans, Eastern.

Revival — Whose Responsibility?

By Merritt Floyd, Pastor, West Side FWB

We read that every 1½ minutes a divorce decree is granted in America. Venereal disease is our nation's most urgent communicable disease problem. America needs revival! Pastors are defeated, sick, discouraged, and many have succumbed to the luring of Satan and fallen into open sin. We need revival! Our churches are plagued with broken hearts, broken homes, hurt feelings, bitterness, contention, and unconcern. The church needs revival! Our hearts yearn for an outpouring of God's spirit in our midst.

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My Thoughts On Revival

By Johnny Evans, Pastor,
Mill Branch FWB Church

From Isaiah 57:15 we read "For thus saith the High and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

I. DOES THE WORLD NEED REVIVAL?

This scripture from God's Word, relates to us that God dwells in a more exalted sphere than our finite minds can possibly comprehend. He is the Ultimate Being, of Ultimate Character, dwelling in the Ultimate of Time. Here we have a beautiful picture showing us our need for revival. This verse also tells us that revival comes from God, as it indicates God's desire to revive, if we will only meet the condition.

Now, what is meant by the term revival? Many refer to revival as a series of religious services, but far be it from such. Such may be the beginning of revival, when an individual, or a church humbles themselves before God. Webster relates to us that revival is, "an awakening in a church or community of interest in and care for matters relating to personal religion", and "to vigor, strength or the like", also "restoration to use". Revival then is the arousing, strengthening and returning to

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Homegoing For Rev. Sheehan

After forty-eight years of service, on Wednesday night, May 23, 1979 the Lord called His faithful servant home. That celestial city he longed for and offered to thousands of lost men through Jesus Christ as he preached the Gospel, is now his eternal home. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

Brother Paul Jones Sheehan was born April 3, 1908 in Clifton, S. C., a son of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sheehan of Spartanburg, S.C. On March 31, 1932 he married Lillie Mae Philbeck, who was a faithful help meet to him in his service to the Lord. During those wonderful years together the Lord blessed them with three children; a son, Paul and two daughters, Yvonne and Vickie.

Brother Sheehan preached under license of a local church and the Beaver Creek Association for a number of years before being ordained. He was ordained at Fairview No. 2 Church, at Nebo, North Carolina on August 15, 1938. The ordaining council consisted of Rev. J. C. Franks, Paul Jenkins, A. F. Lawter, E. L. Beachboard and J. J. Brooks (Chairman).

In Brother Sheehan's forty-eight year ministry he pastored churches in North and South Carolina. He organized and

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From The Editor

Let me thank each church for your financial giving to the Promotional office for the past two months. At the last printing of "The Informer" when all the bills were tallied I was in the red about \$25. Many of you responded to my letter for support and at this time all bills are paid and I have sufficient funds on hand to print and mail the July issue of "The Informer." I stand in praise and thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ for you and your faithfulness to Him in supporting this worthy and helpful ministry to our people. I continue to receive favorable comments about the content and quality of our paper. There are so many interesting facts about our state ministries that most of our people do not know, but would like to know, and would be helpful to them. It is my intention to fully inform our people of all the works that our state is doing for Christ and in so doing we will see an increase in support for and participation in these ministries. As I have stated often times, and am more convinced now than ever, "The Informer" is the source that will link us together as South Carolina Free Will Baptists. **YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED.** A monthly gift of \$5 - \$10 - \$25 will get the job done. Mail your support to Norwood Gibson, Promotional Secretary, 1221 Gregg Avenue, Florence, S. C. 29501. Thank you for what you are going to do.

Income Received May - June

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Beulah	10.00
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New Prospect	30.00
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First, Flo.	40.00
Columbia	10.00
Victory	5.00
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	585.00

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usefulness for God, of an individual or a group of people. This awakening is stirred by God as a person humbles himself.

Humbleness is a must when we approach the high and lofty One, for sin paralyzed man and rendered him useless for God. But God expressed His Ultimate Character, by providing a way for mankind to again be useful to Him. Through Jesus Christ we may dwell again in high and holy places with God, if we will be of a contrite and humble spirit. I'm sure you will readily agree, that the majority of the world has not so humbled themselves, as stated in Isaiah 57:15. Therefore, the world is in desperate need of a Spiritual revival, by the blood of Jesus Christ.

II. DOES THE CHURCH OR CHRISTIANS NEED REVIVAL?

In Isaiah 57:15 we see the exalted sphere of God and the requirements for communion with Him. Indications from reading the entire chapter, is that this verse includes the wicked, as well as the righteous, all must come, and continue to come before Him the same way.

A Christian should continually examine himself concerning his relationship to God (II Cor. 13:5). I believe that it is vitally important for a Christian, as well as a local church, to be constantly in communion with God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus instructed His disciples in the Word of God, teaching them how to pray and exhorting them over and over to watch and pray. This is why the apostle Paul wrote in I Thes. 5:17, to "Pray without ceasing". You see the inward man is renewed day by day (II Cor. 4:16), according to the riches of His glory, by His Spirit (Eph. 3:15). Christians are transformed, to the image of Christ, by the renewing of their minds (Rom. 12:2), as they receive and are obedient to the Word of God. The church, made up of redeemed believers, is sanctified and cleansed by the washing of water by the Word (Eph. 5:26), this we refer to as progressive sanctification. Only according to the degree of this cleansing, will the Holy Spirit fill ones heart and empower ones life for Christ (Luke 24:49).

It appears that today, the majority of Christians are more concerned about their relationship with the world, than with their relationship to God. General observations indicate that humble, Spirit filled Christians are getting fewer and fewer, as well as powerful churches harder to find.

As a concerned Free Will Baptist, I honestly feel that more and more of our people and churches are becoming indifferent and complacent, with hearts growing harder instead of broken and humble. Where once Saints of God knelt on an old fashion mourners bench with humble, broken spirits, today among many of our people and churches the altars are forsaken. And because of proud spirits, seldom without persuasion, do you see the altars full of people weeping and praying for revival.

This is not to say that we don't have any dedicated people in our ranks, for we do. God still has hard working, yet humble people with the proper motives and power of the Spirit. However indications are that these are in a minority, as was the case with the church at Sardis in Rev. 3.

Though there has been a general increase of intellectual knowledge in recent years, even of God's Word, which has brought about more organization and even a greater commitment, as far as church membership is concerned. Yet there is a decrease of humbleness, and a shortage of revival power. Paul knew what he was talking about when he told the Corinthians "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." (I Cor. 8:1)

My friends, whether you realize it or not, we are living in the last days, days of perilous times, which the apostle Paul spoke about in II Timothy 3. I am convinced that the Christian church as a whole is guilty of "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof". We Free Will Baptist like to think, that we are not among this group, but if God would see fit to correspond in writing, with our churches today, as he did the seven churches of Asia, would His words be any different to the majority, than they were to the Laodiceans, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot - " (Rev. 3:15). Yes, I'm convinced that Christians need reviving. Yes, I feel the churches need revival. I exhort you be humble before God.

III. RESULT OF REVIVAL

The result we see from Isaiah 57:15, is an intimate relationship with God Almighty in the high and holy place. What more could one desire, than an unbroken fellowship with the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity. Of course this communion would strengthen, by His Spirit, the inner man, which would begin to be rooted and grounded in love, as Paul related in Eph. 3. This would create a greater interest and care for the deeper things of God Eph. 3:18. Then our churches would benefit from the awakening and restoration to use of careless and complacent Christians. Surely genuine revival, brought about by the conditions of Isaiah 57:15, would solve many of the problems existing among our churches and Christians today. Then, I believe the most pleasing result to God, would be the manifestation of His power through us, as revived hearts began to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Those already involved would be greater witnesses and Acts 1:8 would become a reality in the lives of those who theretofore had been barren. Individual Christians and churches would have joy unspeakable and full of glory, because of the overwhelming presence of God's Spirit, as well as the souls that would be won to Christ. God wants to dwell in the high and holy place with each of us. The condition is exceptionally simple, a contrite and humble spirit. Will you be revived?

(continued from page 1, Sheehan)
 pastored Homers Chapel, Black Mountain, N. C.; He pastored Caroleen FWB Church, Caroleen, N. C.; First FWB Church, Marshall, N. C.; Saxon Ave. FWB Church, North Spartanburg, S. C.; Whitney FWB Church, Spartanburg; Arcadia FWB Church, Spartanburg; Little Bethel FWB Church, Johnsonville; Williams Hill FWB Church, Johnsonville; Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews; Grace FWB Church, Manning, S. C. He also served as Moderator of the Beaver Creek Association and Vice Moderator of the S. C. State Association of Free Will Baptists. He was a charter member of the Board of Trustees for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Turbeville before his appointment as Superintendent.

For the past fifteen years Brother Sheehan served as Superintendent of the FWB Children's Home in Turbeville, S.C. During this time he, with the faithful help of his wife, Mae, served as Daddy and MaMa to over 200 homeless and parentless children. He was deeply loved by all the children who called him "Daddy Paul." In addition to caring for the children during those years he raised the funds and supervised the building of new dormitories and dining hall. The labor of this dear faithful servant of God is an outstanding example of our Lord's work through Free Will Baptists of South Carolina. His departure is our loss — but Heaven's gain.

The funeral services for Brother Sheehan were held on Friday, May 26, at Horse Branch FWB Church and on Saturday, May 27, at Whitney FWB Church in Spartanburg, with burial at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens.



Pastor Bruce Elliott

New Church In Central Conference

The Floyd Township, a community about seven miles east of Nichols on Highway Nine, has a new and growing Free Will Baptist Church. It is known as Floyd's Free Will Baptist Church and is named after the Township. This church was organized by its Pastor, Brother

Bruce Elliott on Easter Sunday 1977. The congregation of about 35-40 people are presently meeting in the facilities of the American Legion Post in Duford just a few miles from the future location of the church.

The new church building is already under construction. It will have an auditorium seating capacity of 325, 10 classrooms, two dressing rooms, restrooms, nursery and a baptistry. It is being built on a one acre land site with access for more when expansion is needed. Brother Elliott says they are hopeful for a late fall occupancy.

Brother Elliott was saved in 1970 and grew up under the ministry of Brother Bill Jacobs in the Mullins-Marion FWB Church, which was a newly organized church at that time. Brother Bill was a good teacher and Brother Elliott is now putting into practice the experience he gained from his work in his former enthusiastic soul winning church. The Pastor is hopeful that they will be able to establish a Christian School in the near future. He asked that you pray for them and send any financial support you can.



New Facility Floyd's FWB Church

Competition Winners State C.T.S. Rally



Sword Drill — Sherry Doster



BR — Kevin Smith, Susan Lee
 FR — Rhett Floyd, Dora Robinson

Homecoming At Grace

Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Manning held Homecoming services Sunday, July 8. There was a guest speaker for the 11:00 A. M. worship service. After the service dinner was served at the church. Two groups provided special singing at the 2:00 P. M. service. The church had the children from the Children's Home in Turbeville as their special guests. All former members and friends were invited to attend.



Pastor Bill Vanderford

Guest Speaker South Carolina State CTS Rally

Bill Vanderford, Pastor of Fairview FWB Church in Spartanburg, was the keynote speaker for the South Carolina State CTS Rally. His message was entitled, "A Young Man With Purpose" taken from Daniel 1:8. It was a timely, stirring and challenging message on the need for Christians to consecrate themselves to Godly behavior and service. Brother Vanderford stated that it's time to quit tip-toeing through the tulips and get down to straight Biblical preaching and obedience to the Word of God. (Thanks, Brother, for the good message. — Editor)



Trio — Mario Selander
 Stan Coker, Teresa Westbrooks



Horse Branch Church Host State CTS Convention

David Hutchinson
State C.T.S. Director

The S. C. State CTS Convention activities got under way at 9:30 A. M. Saturday, May 19, under the capable leadership of Pastor David Hutchinson, Director. The program was packed with singing, preaching, business, and youth competitive events. The competitive participants were greater in number and keener in quality than ever before. This made the decisions of the judges more difficult. South Carolina Free Will Baptists can be proud of the winners of the State level competition as they go to the National Youth Conference in Charlotte, N. C. beginning July 15 to compete with the youth from other states. We indeed have a great number of talented young people and we can expect some National winners. Among other business the CTS Convention voted to become a part of the S. C. State Association of FWB. At the next State Association meeting the State will elect a CTS Director and a five man board. The Director and board members will be recommended by the CTS Convention.

Listed below are the various competitive divisions, the winners and their conference:

LEARNER DIVISION

Vocal Solo
Dramatic Reading
Memorization:
1st grade
2nd grade
3rd grade

WINNER
Jenifer Reed
Amee Floyd

CONFERENCE
S. C.
Central

Lee Hanna
Kip Gray
Laurie Welch

Central
S. C.
S. C.

JUNIOR ADVENTURER DIVISION

Vocal Solo
Keyboard Solo

Melanee Reed
Crystal O'Neal

S. C.
S. C.

HEARLD DIVISION

Declamation
Keyboard Solo
Vocal Solo
Instrumental Solo

Lynn Roof
Karen Floyd
Timmy Langston
Timmy Langston

B. C.
Central
S. C.
S. C.

CRUSADER DIVISION

Keyboard Solo
Vocal Solo
Instrumental Solo
Creative Arts

Kelvin Smith
Kelvin Smith
Dora Robinson
Rhett Floyd

B. C.
B. C.
S. C.
Central

COMBINATION AGE GROUPS

Youth Chorale
Youth Choir
Trio

B. C.
B. C.

Marie Selander
Stan Coker
Theresa West Brooks
Sandra Smith
Sheila Brunet

S. C.
B. C.

Duet

Sherry Doster

B. C.

SWORD DRILL

TIC TAC TOE TEAM

Lynn Welch
Angie Driggers
Rhoda Driggers
Kim Huggins

S. C.

BIBLE BOWL

Stan Coker
Clay Thigpen
Marie Selander
Teresa Westbrook

S. C.



Beaver Creek Chorale-Choir



BR — Lee Hanna, Aimee Floyd
FR — Laurie Welch, Kipp Gray,
Jenifer Reed



Crystal O'Neal, Melanee Reed



Sandra Smith, Sheila Brunet



Lynn Roof, Timmy Langston, Karen Floyd



Bible Bowl Team

(continued from page 1, Floyd)

"Lord, send us a revival," we plead as we plan a week of services and hope that "revival" will come. Many physical preparations have been made. Months beforehand the pastor has made contact with an evangelist whom he feels is the right man for his people at this particular time. The pastor's wife has a part in revival, too. Oh, yes! Most of our pastors house the evangelist in the parsonage and it is the responsibility of the pastor's wife to make things as comfortable as possible for him and to see that things run smoothly at home that week. The women in the church who prepare meals during the week and entertain the evangelist in their homes (he is, after all, the guest of the church) play a valuable role in revival. These and many more physical preparations must be made and negligence in even one area can seriously hinder the spirit of revival. However, as important as these things are, all the planning and organizing in the world will not bring revival. What, then, can be done?

The answer, obviously, is a spiritual one. When we pray the Lord of Harvests to send revival, we are acknowledging a great truth — only God can send revival. If we know anything of the nature of God, we know that He wants to send revival. Why, then, this yearning in our hearts when we read of the great revival in Wales at the turn of the century, the revival fires that swept the country during the Moody era, the spiritual awakening under Whitfield, Sam Jones, etc.? Why does revival effort after effort appear to be so fruitless? Please do not misunderstand me. I would never underestimate the value of that one rededication or that one child's conversion, but I know that most pastors long to see once in their lifetime the kind of revival that our fathers spoke of when the flames of revival were so intense that the services were prolonged for weeks and the impact of revival was felt by the entire community.

Why does revival not come? It is true that revival must be God-sent; however, man has always been God's method. We can safely assert that God will send revival when man has met the conditions. R. A. Torrey, that great man of God who witnessed revivals the like of which most of us have never seen, gave the following "prescription for revival".

"First, let a few Christians (they need not be many) get thoroughly right with God themselves. This is the prime essential. If this is not done, the rest that I am to say will come

to nothing.

Second, let them bind themselves together in a prayer group to pray for a revival until God opens the heavens and comes down.

Third, let them put themselves at the disposal of God for Him to use as He sees fit in winning others to Christ. That is all!

This is sure to bring a revival to any church or community. I have given this prescription around the world. It has been taken by many churches and many communities, and in no instance has it ever failed; and it cannot fail." (Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations)

God's "prescription" as recorded in II Chronicles 7:14 is very similar. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

There we have it — revival will come when "my people" pray, confess sin, and seek God. That is where revival fire starts — in the hearts of God's people. We may conclude then that revival in a few saints, in some instances only one saint, must precede church-wide or community-wide revival. It is reasonable to expect the pastor to lead the way, but the responsibility of revival should not rest on him alone. Every member of the congregation should look upon revival as his own personal responsibility. Someone has said that tears, sweat, and blood are the price of revival. Are you willing to pay that price? Will you meet the conditions so that God can use YOU to fan the flames of revival in your church?

REVIVAL — whose responsibility? Yours . . . and mine!

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee." Psalm 85:6

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FLORENCE, S. C. 29501



New Facilities For FFWB, Florence



Pastor Willie Justice

First Church Florence Re-Locating

The first phase of the new facilities of First Free Will Baptist Church in Florence is under construction. The new location is a 12½ acre choice site about three miles west of their present location on U.S. Highway 76. The 17,589 sq. ft. building now under construction will consist of a temporary auditorium with a seating capacity of 500, 20 rooms for Sunday School and Church offices and adequate bathrooms for future expansion. The present building will also house the Nursery School during the week. Maranatha Christian School, a ministry of the church, will continue to use the present facilities on King Avenue. The School offers a Nursery School ages 2-3, Academic Kindergarten 4-5, Conventional Classrooms grades 1-4, using A-Beka curriculum and ACE curriculum for grades 5-12. Future plans are to erect at least two buildings for school facilities as soon as their present property is sold. They now have a track and ball field located on the new property. Future plans also includes a permanent auditorium and Sunday School rooms. At that time the present auditorium will be converted to a gym. The church now has 5 bus routes, a Men's Fisherman Fleet, and a Ladies' Phoster Club. These are all soul winning groups going out each week to fulfill the Lord's command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Brother Willie Justice, Pastor, says, "We are the church with Acts 20-20 vision."

Young Folk's — It's **YOUTH CAMP TIME**



South Carolina State
Free Will Baptist Youth Camp
will be held at Camp Forest
Cheraw, S. C.

Senior Camp — 13 - up
July 30th - August 4

Junior Camp — Ages 6 - 12
August 6 - 11

FOR NEEDED INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR PASTOR
OR MR. A. C. ALLEN, ROUTE 2, BOX 750, EFFINGHAM, S. C.

Beaver Creek Youth Camp
will be held at Camp Fellowship
near Greenwood, S. C.
Ages 8 - 18
July 30 - August 4



Bible Studies — Outdoor Preaching — Swimming — Boating —
Many Outdoor Sports — Night Fun Time — Canteen

FOR NEEDED INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR PASTOR
OR BOBBY BOWERS, 241 OLD GROVE ROAD, GREENVILLE, S. C.