

THE INFORMER

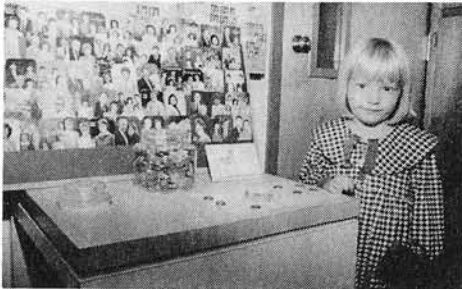


SEPTEMBER / DECEMBER
1994

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

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

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year



Amber Blackmon Placed Her
Offering In The Bowl

Maranatha Students Support Missions

The K-4 class at Maranatha Christian School taught by Cathy Poston has had an ongoing project to raise money for missionaries for the last several years.

When the children bring their "Missionary Money" each day, they get to pick a missionary prayer card from a pocket chart and pray for that missionary. So far this year Mrs. Postons K-4 Class has already raised nearly \$100.00. This will be given to Missionaries Jim and Karen Cowart, missionaries to Brazil.

Some children will not come in the classroom without depositing their missionary money each day. They are being taught faithfulness in their daily prayer life as well as in their giving.

The missionary prayer cards can be seen in the background of the above picture.

In past years Maranatha students have raised thousands of dollars for missions in their annual missionary project. The school staff, faculty and students are to be commended for this act of generosity and concern for the needs of our missionaries.

Project 42

Carlisle and Marie Hanna
Have Preached The Gospel
42 Years In India!! Would You
Give \$1 For Each Year????

*Since This Will Be
The Last Issue Of "THE
INFORMER" Before*

Christmas

We Wish Each
Of You A Very
Merry Christmas

*And A Happy
New Year*

**Karen Bazen
Has Released A New
Tape Of Keyboard
Instrumental
Christmas Music
Read On For Details On
How To Secure Them.**

Karen Bazen Christmas Tape
Karen Bazen, pianist and music teacher at First Free Will Baptist Church and Maranatha Christian School in Florence, SC has just completed a Christmas project entitled "A

Christmas Gift". The instrumental tape consist of ten Christmas songs arranged by Mrs. Bazen. This is her second project. Proceeds from this project will benefit the Maranatha Christian School Ball Field Fund and the expense fund for National Youth Conference participants of First FWB Church.

HOW TO ORDER

SEND \$11.00 TO: KAREN BAZEN,
222 CAROLYN AVE, FLORENCE, SC
29505 OR TO FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHRISTIAN BOOK STORE, PO BOX
13266, FLORENCE, SC 29504. THIS
INCLUDES THE POSTAGE AND
HANDLING FEE. YOU MAY CALL IN
YOUR ORDER TO 803/662-8682



Glenda Leatherbury

Free Will Baptist Missionary Departed For Heaven From Africa

Missionary nurse, Glenda Leatherbury, died of cardiac arrest on Saturday night, October 15 at the Free Will Baptist hospital in Doropo, Ivory Coast, West Africa. She had returned to her field of service in June after her furlough in America. Reports indicate Glenda had complained of dizziness the night before and again Saturday afternoon. Dr. Paul Gentuso examined her and encouraged her to stay at his house, but she chose
Continued To Page 2

South Carolina Home Mission News

AIKEN WORK. Two outstanding things have happened to the mission work in Aiken. Previously they had been meeting in a local public school facility, which is not the best facility to begin a church. A new meeting facility has been secured, which is more suitable for church services and it cost considerably less to rent. The other outstanding event is that a five acre tract of land is in the purchasing stage. When you read this article the purchase will be completed.

It is the understanding of this writer that the land is located near the current meeting place and in an area that has great development possibilities.

This is a joint mission work of the SC Free Will Baptist State Home Mission Board and the National Home Mission Board.

Mark Barber is the missionary pastor and he is very excited about the recent developments. This young church needs your prayers.

ANDERSON WORK. The Anderson mission work is a joint project of the Beaver Creek Association and the National Home Mission Department.

Danny Keen is the new missionary pastor and he reports that the work is progressing well. He and his folks have done a tremendous amount of work on the grounds and the buildings, even the removal of many trees that obscured the vision of the building from the highway.

The mission work was under the name of First FWB Church from its beginning, but it has been changed to **Landmark Free Will Baptist Church.** In a recent report from Brother Keen he stated that twelve people have been saved, and twelve have rededicated their lives. They have thirty members with new people coming in for the services. The Sunday morning attendance is between 40-50. Pray for Brother Danny and his people.

CHESNEE WORK. The Chesnee FWB Church, Chesnee, SC is a joint project of the Beaver Creek Home Mission Board and the National Home Mission Board. James Childers is the missionary pastor. Based on the latest report from this work it is still growing. Both spiritually and numerically. They have a problem that most pastors like to have and that is the need for more room. The mission church is in the process of raising funds to build. **PRAY FOR THEM.**

MANNING WORK. I. Bennie Turner is the missionary pastor of Fellowship FWB Mission Church, Manning, SC. It is a mission work of Brother Turner and his people. They have a new building under construction, located on highway 161 east of Manning. Pray for Brother Bennie and his folks as they work toward completing the building and reaching the people in Manning for Jesus Christ.

SANTEE WORK. Herman Hyman is the

pastor of this work, Immanuel FWB Church. It is a mission work of the SC Conference. It is in the "Tent Maker Program" of the National Home Mission Department. In the absence of recent news about the church it is assumed that the work is doing well. Pastor Hyman and his people covet your prayers.

ROCK HILL WORK. New Vision FWB Mission Church, Rock Hill, SC is a mission work of the Palmetto Conference. Daggett Duncan is the pastor. The last report from Pastor Duncan was that they are looking for land and making preparations to build a facility. It is possible that they are already involved in this project. An up-to-date report will be given in the next issue of The Informer. These folks request your prayers.

TRUE LIFE MISSION. Brother Phil Lemmons is the pastor of this work, Gloryland FWB Church. It is located on highway 5, about 5 miles west of Rock Hill, SC. At their association meeting recently Brother Lemmons stated that the work is doing well and that they are constructing a fellowship building. Please pray for them.

FWB BIBLE MISSION CHURCH. This mission work is a member of the South Carolina Conference. Larry Hughes is the establishing pastor. The last report received was that they had purchased an empty trailer to use for a meeting place. They are now looking for a tract of land to purchase to place the trailer on. If the information received is correct the congregation is meeting in the pastors home. Brother Larry and his people will appreciate your prayers for them.

South Carolina Foreign Mission Briefs

CARLISLE & MARIE HANNA-INDIA

Carlisle and Marie are home on a short furlough. They plan to return to India at the end of February 1995.

At this writing his account is \$26,000.00 in deficit. **"PROJECT 42", A FUND RAISING EFFORT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO SECURE NEEDED FUNDS. OUR PEOPLE ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER GIVING \$1.00 FOR EACH OF THE 42 YEARS THEY HAVE SERVED IN INDIA. AREA SERVICES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED OVER THE STATE AND YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ONE NEAREST YOU. BROTHER CARLISLE WILL BE SPEAKING; SHARING WITH YOU THE WORK THAT IS BEING BLESSED OF GOD.**

MIRIAL GAINER-JAPAN. Mirial succeeded in raising her support and has returned to Japan, her field of labor. She is grateful to all who prayed and gave to make this possible.

Leatherbury From Page 1

to return to her own home. Later that evening she sent a girl to call the doctor. When Dr. Gentuso arrived shortly thereafter, she had suffered cardiac arrest and was not breathing. He revived her through performing CPR.

Miss Leatherbury suffered a total of six episodes of cardiac arrest and was brought back five times. The sixth proved fatal.

The body was taken to Bondoukou for embalming and to be placed in cold storage until the funeral. Glenna had requested to be buried on the field. The funeral was scheduled for October 28 in Doropo.

Glenna's co-laborer and room mate, Jalayn Martens, was in the states due to her fathers death. Jalayn, Mrs. Mildred Leatherbury (Glenna's mother), and foreign missions director, Eugene Waddell were scheduled to attend the funeral.

Brother Waddell stated, "Glenna has given her life to serve others and especially those in the Doropo area where the next closest medical facilities are over 50 miles away. She has been a faithful servant of her Lord. Her friends and co-workers will miss her greatly".

The Call Of Russia

By Eddie
Hobbs



In the past few years we have heard and seen on television the conditions in Russia. We have witnessed the political unrest and the fall of Communism. Russia is in the process of changing from a socialistic to a capitalistic society.

Inflation has increased dramatically in the past two months since I have returned from Russia. The monetary exchange rate two months ago was two thousand rubals, equal to one U.S. dollar; now the same dollar is worth five thousand rubals.

Due to this inflation, the construction of churches has practically come to a stand still. As we traveled through some areas in Russia we saw a lot of churches that were started, but have not been completed. It was very disheartening and a great concern to those who are Christians trying to preach, teach and spread the gospel there. It should also concern us as Christians here in America. We should uplift them in prayer and ask ourselves what we can do to help them.

Russia has a big problem with alcoholism,
Continued To Page 3

Call To Russia From Page 2

drugs and suicide. These problems seem to stem from not being able to cope with the conditions they are faced with. These problems seem to affect young people eighteen years old or younger according to a recent news report on television. These young people see no hope or solution to their problem. A nurse being interviewed said, "at least four to five young people admitted into the hospital had tried to take their lives. They simply cannot cope with the dramatic changes in their lives and become depressed which eventually leads to suicide.

During my time in Russia as a short term missionary, I noticed that liquor was readily available to anyone who wanted to buy it. It is cheaper than a 12 ounce can of Pepsi so it is not uncommon to see old and young under the influence of alcohol. These same people live from day to day with the uncertainty of their country and their future. They live very simple lives. A life of style reflects one of simplicity and slow pace.

Because of their many changes people are looking for something that they can grasp, hold on to and give them hope. Something that can bring them out of the situation they are in. That hope, of course, is Jesus Christ. They are anxious and eager to hear about Jesus. A lot of false doctrines are coming into Russia and these people must be alerted to this fact. Some of these doctrines are Mormonism, Jehovah Witness, Orthodox, Charismatic and New Age. We must present the risen Savior to them. We must present the Christ that forgives sin, gives hope and everlasting life. We must tell them about the birth, death and resurrection of Christ. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christians should be faithful to their responsibility to go and tell them of the love of Jesus Christ for them and the hope of eternal life in Him.

I found that the Russian Christians have a desire to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. They can now openly proclaim the gospel without the fear of being prosecuted for their faith.

We might ask ourselves how can we help? Pray for them and especially for the national pastors as they go out into the remote areas to preach. They are in great need of teaching materials; Bibles, gospel literature, and song books. They would love to have people come to preach, teach and help with the young people. Listen real attentively as you read this article - God might speak to you about going to Russia to share Jesus Christ, and the hope of eternal life we have in Him.

ABOUT THE WRITER

(Eddie Hobbs is a native of South

Carolina. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible college in May of this year. He spent three months (June-August) as a summer missionary in Russia. He is currently employed by McLeod Regional Hospital in Florence, SC and serves as Youth Pastor at Bethany FWB Church, Timmonsville.



Presenting Check To Childers. LR Parkway's Pastor, Jim Miller, Charlotte Childers, Rev James Childers, Young Adult Teacher And Assistant Teacher.

Parkway Raises \$2,000.00 For Chesnee Mission Building Fund

Jimmy Miller, Pastor of Parkway Free Will Baptist Church, Spartanburg, SC led his flock in raising \$2,000.00 for the "Building Fund" of Chesnee FWB Mission Church in Chesnee, SC. James Childers is the Missionary Pastor.

The church raised this tremendous amount of money on a "Fun Day". They had a horse shoe contest, a soft ball game, a car wash and an auction sale.

The church is growing and they are in need of more facilities. Brother James and his wife Charlotte are grateful for this outstanding gift. Thanks Parkway!!

Temple Raised Nearly \$900 For Gainer

Mirial Gainer, is a FWB Missionary to Japan. Mirial has served many years under the Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board as a self supporting, associate missionary. She has

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been approved as a career missionary and she will return to Japan under full support of the board. She is currently on itinerant raising her monthly support and the required cash for her account. She was in a service at Temple FWB Church on Sunday night, September 18. Pastor Paul Collins and his fine folks presented Mirial with a check for \$870.00.

The Youth Church launched an M&M fund raising campaign and raised \$142.00. The Youth Church had raised a tidy sum of money previous to this for another need. The church was challenged to raise \$500.00. To reach this goal the adults were asked to give \$20.00 each. When all the money was in they had exceeded their goal by \$228.00. This made the grand total \$870.00.

Congratulations and a sincere appreciation is extended to Brother Paul and his fine people for a great victory; especially to the young people.

Bible College Makes Land Purchase For Future Location

Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN has purchased 122.8 acres of land at a cost of 265,000.00. It is located in the northwest part of Davidson County on the out skirt of Nashville, between interstate 24 and US 41-A (Clarksville, Tennessee Highway). The land is in the Joelton area of Nashville, about 16 miles from downtown. Residents of the Joelton area held a town meeting on August 30 to express their feelings about FWBBC locating in their area. The response was overwhelmingly favorable. "They understand the kind of college we are," says Dr. Malone.

The land was purchased for a future site for the Bible College. According to Dr. Tom Malone, president of the Bible College, the new site is ideal for a college complex.

The property will be either partially or totally paid for when four recent bequests to the college are settled. The college will not begin a fund-raising campaign to move or make a final decision concerning relocation without denominational approval. According to the news release several inquires have been made

Continued To Page - 4

about the purchase of the present campus. Pray for the board and the administration as they seek God's leading in this matter.

Enrollment up 6% At FWB Bible College

The college enrolled 354 students from 27 states and eight foreign countries for the fall semester. Among the student body there are 9 students from South Carolina. Tennessee has the greatest number of students with 75 enrolled. Illinois took second place with 33 enrolled.

South Carolina Students are: Priscilla Jane Barnes and Margaret Barnes Hampton, both from Midlands FWB Church, West Columbia; Eric Levern Brown, Faith FWB Church, Darlington; Kristi Marie Hanna, Westside FWB Church, Johnsonville; Stacey Lynn Driggers, David Eugene Jordan, Kevin Bradley Yarborough, all from Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville; Tracy Lynn Sims, Bethany FWB Church, Timmonsville and Jason B. Turner, Fellowship FWB Church, Manning.

Southeastern Free Will Baptist College News

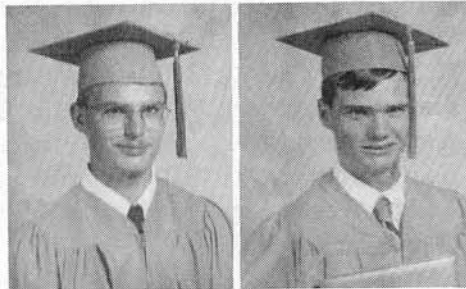
1994 FALL ENROLLMENT UP 13%. Southeastern is off to a great start this fall with a 13% increase in enrollment and a great spirit on campus. The Promotional Department, under the direction of Dr. Jack Lassiter, has worked diligently in recruitment and the results are already being seen.

The total enrollment for campus students is 108 with 51 new students. Southeastern also provides an Extension Studies Program. They have 74 enrolled in this program.

ENROLLMENT INCLUDES THREE SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENTS. Melissa Gilbert and Andrea Woodfin, First FWB Church, Inman and Lisa Hickman, First FWB Church, Florence.

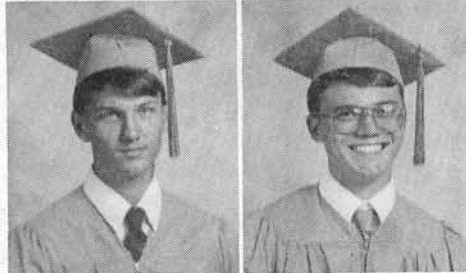
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT. Randall Owens, son of Rev. and Mrs. Guy Owens, graduated in May of 1986. Since January 1986 he has served in many capacities with First FWB Church, New Port News, Virginia. He currently serves as assistant pastor, with duties primarily in education and evangelism.

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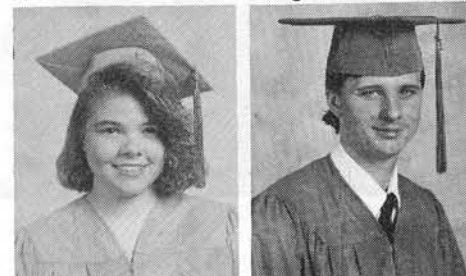
Quint Ard

Anthony Evans



Randall Gaskins

Dwight Gunter



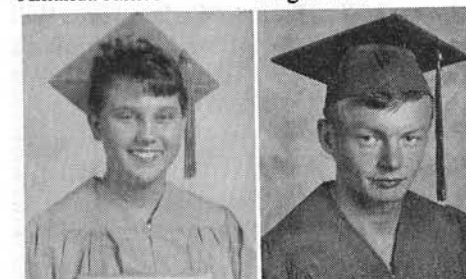
Tammy Howard

David Hyman



Amanda James

Angel Neil



Kymm Matthews

Ryan Stone

Eleven Graduates In Class Of 94 At New Prospect

Commencement service for the 1994 graduating class at New Prospect Christian School, Pamplico, SC was held on Friday night, May 27. Larry McAlister, pastor of Gilead FWB Church, Lake City, SC delivered the

commencement message. New Prospect Christian School is a ministry of New Prospect FWB Church. Joe Cagle is the pastor and school administrator.

The graduates are:

QUINT ARD. Quint enrolled in the school in August 1988, beginning in grade seven. He has entered the work force.

ANTHONY EVANS. Anthony was a student in the school from 5-K (Kindergarten) through grade 12. He is now attending Florence-Darlington Technical College.

RANDALL GASKINS. Randall entered the school as a K-5 student and remained through grade 12. He has entered the Armed Forces.

DWIGHT GUNTER. Dwight entered the school as a K-5 student and remained through grade 12. He is continuing his education at Williamsburg Technical College.

TAMMY HOWARD. Tammy entered the school in August 1984 beginning with grade 3. She is enrolled at Coastal Carolina College at Myrtle Beach, SC.

DAVID HYMAN. David enrolled in the school in August 1985 to begin grade 4. He is a student at Florence-Darlington Technical College.

AMANDA JAMES. Amanda entered the school in August 1983 to begin grade 3. She was Valedictorian of her graduating class and is enrolled at Frances Marion University in Florence.

KYMM MATTHEWS. Kymm enrolled in the school in August 1990 as a grade 9 student. She is attending Florence-Darlington Technical College.

ANGEL NEIL. Angel enrolled in the school for grade 3, in August 1984. She was the Salutatorian of her graduating class and is enrolled at Erskine College.

MISTY ARD ROBERTS. (Picture not available) Misty enrolled at the school in August 1985 to begin the 4th grade. She is married and entered the work force.

RYAN STONE. Ryan's education began at the school in August 1981 as a K-5 student. He has entered the work force.

Congratulations are extended to these students for their educational accomplishments. The only greater accomplishment they can achieve in this life is for them to continue to glorify the Lord.

Maranatha Observes 21st. Commencement

May 27, 1994 was a special time in the life of Maranatha Christian School, a ministry of First Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, SC. Mike Creech is the pastor.

The school held its twenty-first commencement exercise. Six seniors made

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1994 graduating class.

Among the lineup of speakers were Thomas E. Dowling, a former principal of the school; Gene Walters, a former teacher; Pastor Creech and Principal Dale Edwards. An Alumni Challenge was given by Wanda Lee (Class of 1974), one of Marantha's first graduates. Debbie Allen, Karen Thomas Bazen, and Ben Street, all members of the Class of '74, took part in the graduating ceremony. In her remarks, Miss Edwards emphasized that this graduation was a living object lesson—eighty percent of the class from twenty years ago was present and are still serving the Lord. The challenge was simply for the class of '94 to go and do likewise. Marshalls from the Junior class were Buffy Boatwright and Jennifer O'Neal. After a prayer of consecration by assistant principal, James Dorrell, Jr., the Class of '94 went forth into their future.

Those graduating were: **WILLIAM SHANE ARRINGTON, CHERYL JEAN CHAPMAN, NATALI NICHOLE JOHNSON, LISA ANN HICKMAN, ASHLY TODD HUDSON, AND DANNY LAVERNE POSTON, JR.** Danny Poston was the class valedictorian.

Lisa is attending Southeastern FWB College in Wendell, NC. **Ashley** is attending Columbia International University (formerly Columbia Bible College). **Natali** is attending Florence-Darlington Technical College. **Shane** and **Danny** plan to attend Francis Marion University. Cheryl recently married and is an employee of Echerds Drug Co.

Congratulations are extended to these young people for this fine accomplishment. May they continue to love and serve the Lord.

Nine S.C. Winners In NYC Competition

South Carolina had nine winners in the National Youth Conference competition at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Pamela Robinson; Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville took 3rd place in grade six Bible Sword Drill.

Neil Morgan; Pamplico FWBC Pamplico, 2nd Place, Turning Point. (Bible Quiz category)

Forrest Stanley; First Florence, Male Vocal Solo.

First Florence Quartet; Matthew Sarver, Jonathan Poston, Jay Poston and Forrest Stanley, Vocal Quartet.

Jay Poston and Stanley Forrest; First Florence, String (Fretted) Duet Ensemble.

Anna Bazen and Sarah Ange; First Florence, Duet Keyboard Ensemble.

Michelle Howell, Lisa Hickman, Amber Miller and Jay Poston; First Florence,

Keyboard Ensemble.

Chad Matthews; Sand Hill, Coward, Essay.
Christopher Cassady; First Chester, Video.

10 SC Churches In Top 100 93 "Ben Randall Day" Giving

South Carolina FWB Churches did well in giving to the November 1993 National Home Missions "Benjamin Randall Day Offering". A total of 32 churches gave with a total of \$15,195.80.

The top ten are: First Inman \$5,000.00; First Chester, \$2,614.91; North Spartanburg, \$1,268.12; Bethany, \$1,000.00; Tabernacle, \$743.26; Immanuel, Santee \$504.10; First Greenville, \$500.00; First Florence, \$500.00; Jefferson Road, \$347.59 and Lebanon, \$321.25.

The National Home Missions Department and your Promotional Office extends sincere gratitude to every church that gave.

The 1994 annual "Benjamin Randall Day" will be Sunday, November 20. The "Benjamin Randall Day Offering" honors the founder of the Free Will Baptist denomination, who was a great Free Will Baptist Church planter in America. It also affords our people to give to the National Home Missions general fund so that this national ministry can plant churches under its own wing and in cooperation with local conference/associations and state home mission boards.

A "Commitment Slip" was mailed to each church. Any pastor who fills in this slip stating that an offering will be taken on Benjamin Randall Day and sends it to the Promotional Office a free copy of the book, "Stones Of Remembrance" will be mailed to the church. **THIS BOOK WILL REVEAL TO YOU SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BENJAMIN RANDALL.** Every pastor needs a copy of this book and every church should have one in its library for the membership to read.

Pastor Appreciation Day At Fairview

The congregation at Fairview Free Will Baptist Church, Spartanburg, SC honored their pastor, Brother Tim Hackett, on Sunday, September 18. It was a surprise to Brother Hackett. He was shocked with 3600 volts; pardon me, it was \$3,600.00.

The members filed by and gave personal comments of appreciation for their pastor and placed cards in his hand. When the cards were opened and the gifts of money were counted

he had the amount stated.

They also prepared a delicious dinner in honor of he and his family.

Fairview, thanks for expressing your love to your pastor in this way.



Cameron Lloyd, Deacon (R) Presents Gifts To Pastor And Mrs. Leroy Lowery

Southside Honors Pastor

Sunday, March 20 was "Pastor Appreciation Day" at Southside Free Will Baptist, Darlington, SC. Deacon Cameron Lloyd spearheaded the event and it was a surprise to their pastor, Leroy Lowery. Brother Lowery has been with the church for two and one half years.

Pastor Lowery and his wife Peggy were asked to stand in front of the congregation, while their Deacon Lloyd Cameron presented them with a gift and a generous monetary gift. Afterwards the congregation filed by to personally express their love and appreciation for their pastor.

A reception was held in the church's fellowship facility. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.

"Pastor Appreciation Day" is on the increase among our Free Will Baptist Churches and that is encouraging. Pastoring a congregation has never been easy, but in our day it has become more difficult. At times it becomes an unpleasant and discouraging task. A pastor needs to know that he is really loved and cared for. It will make him a better pastor.

A Note of Thanks From Alabama

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your State Association for the gift given for flood victims in our area.

The money was given to Mrs. Pauline Benton and family who are members of Springhill Free Will Baptist Church in Gordon, AL. Mrs. Benton's family received flood water that reached 3-1/2 feet high in her home. They lost all of their furniture, appliances, carpet, and paneling. However, the frame of the home is ok and they will be able to repair the damages. Thank you again for the generosity and compassion from your people in South Carolina. John Edwards-Prom. Dir. Alabama.



Participating In The Service were: (LR) Melvin Pressley -Trustee, Randy Roof-Deacon, Pastor Jimmy Sanders, Johnny Austin-Deacon, Rev. Leroy Lowery-A Former Pastor.,Jackie Flynn-Deacon, Johnny Clack-Trustee ,and Sammy Hall-Deacon. Not In Picture Is George Stone, Trustee.

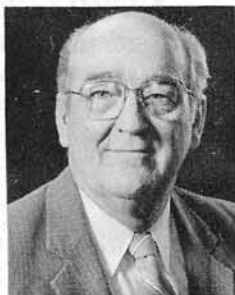
First Chester Burns Mortgage

First Free Will Baptist Church, Chester, SC held a mortgage burning service on Sunday, July 24, 1994. The mortgage was on the church's "Family Life Center" which was constructed in 1988-89 at approximately \$120,000.00. Pastor Leroy Lowery was pastor of the church at the time and led them through the building construction. He was among the special guest for the occasion and took part in the service.

Brother James Sanders is the pastor of the church. He and his folks are to be commended for this outstanding accomplishment. This is a tremendous amount of money to have been raised in about 5 years. In addition to paying off the mortgage the church has purchased a new van.

What can be said more than "To God Be The Glory" for great things He hath done.

Gibson Guest Speaker For Bethel Homecoming



The congregation of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Mill, SC celebrated their homecoming on Sunday, June 5. Norwood Gibson, State

Promotional Director, was the guest speaker for the occasion. Special singing was rendered by members of the church.

The ladies of the church had prepared a delicious dinner for the congregation and for those who came in to share in the food and fellowship. The ladies are to be commended for serving such a delicious meal.

Pastor Lester Hughes came to the church in May 1993 and the church has experienced tremendous growth. The average attendance in June 1993 was 20, with a weekly offering of about \$150. In June of 1994 they had an average attendance of 80 with an average weekly offering of \$1,000.00.

Renovating work has been done to the parsonage and church facilities, adding 4 classrooms. The parking lot has also been increased.

Brother Hughes stated that they have regular cottage prayer meetings, Monday and Friday visitation and a nursing home ministry. He has shared some of his desires for other ministries, which are needed and worthy ones.

Commendations are in order for Brother Hughes and his people. Pray for them.

Temple Celebrates 39th. Anniversary

Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Darlington, SC celebrated their 39th. anniversary

with homecoming services on Sunday, June 26, with 311 in attendance. Included on the special guest list for the day were Rev. and Mrs. James (Carolyn) Wilhide, a group of children from the Children's Home



in Turbeville, and Norwood and Molly Gibson. Guest speakers for the event were James Wilhide, Superintendent of FWB Children Home and Norwood Gibson, State Promotional Director.

Brother Wilhide preached in the Sunday School hour and Brother Gibson preached in 11-AM service. Special music was rendered by the church choir and soloist Naomi Player.

The congregation enjoyed a gospel singing in the evening service. The "Lighthouse Trio" from Florence was the featured gospel group. The Trio consist of

Doug Hines, his wife Janet and Joan Boiter.

Those attending the service, relatives and friends came for the "Homecoming Dinner." The serving tables were laden with a big variety of good country cooked food and desserts. It was a great time of feasting and fellowship.



Participants In The Note Burning: (LR) Rev. Darrell Cartrette, Rev. Marty Cox; Church Pastor-Douglas Pate holds Burning Note While Deacons Ronnie Baxley, Mert Poston and Randall Gunter Look On.

New Vision Celebrates 11th Anniversary With Homecoming-Note Burning

The congregation of New Vision Free Will Baptist Church, Hemingway, SC celebrated their 11th anniversary with homecoming services and a mortgage burning service, on Sunday, July 10, 1994

The church began with 29 charter members on July 3, 1983 in the home of Mert and Emma Poston. Carol Eury was called as their first pastor. Between July 10 and December 23 the congregation met in two separate facilities; The Prospect Community Center in Johnsonville and the Hemingway Senior Citizens Building in Hemingway. Land was purchased in July 1983 and in November 1983 a mobile building was purchased and set up on the site. The first service to be held in

New Vision From Page 6

the facility was the Christmas program, on December 23, 1983. On Sunday, May 31, 1987 the church burned the \$15,000.00 mortgage and set plans in motion to build a sanctuary. Construction began on this 2,600 square foot sanctuary in July 1988.

In December 1988 land was purchased in the city limits of Hemingway for a parsonage to be built. In 1990 a double wide trailer was purchased and set up on the lot.

On Sunday, July 10, 1994 a note burning ceremony was held to burn a \$55,000.00 mortgage on the church building and a \$19,317.60 mortgage on the parsonage. The church is now in the process of building an educational building which will include a fellowship hall.

Previous pastors of the church are Carol Eury, Odell Mouzon, John Suttles and Darrell Cartrette. In March 1992 Rev. Douglas Pate, a native of Lancaster, SC, was called as pastor and he has remained with the church since that time.

Former pastor, Darrell Cartrette, was guest speaker for the homecoming service. The church choir and various individuals from the church provided the special singing.

After the service the congregation enjoyed fellowship together and a good ole country dinner.



Gym Building Named In Honor Of Pastor Howell

Memorial Service Building Dedication At First Florence

A Memorial Service for the late Danny Howell, the former pastor of the church, and a dedication service for the newly completed Gym building and renovation work to the church facilities was held on Sunday

morning, March 13, 1994. It was in the construction of the Gym building that Pastor Howell fell from a ladder, which injuries resulted in his physical death and sent him to be with the Lord. The church choir, the teen choir and the New Covenant Quartet rendered special music for the occasion. Testimonies in memory of Brother Danny, as he was affectionately known, was given by Elwood Milligan, Richard Thomas, Cleo Lee and Norwood Gibson. On behalf of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptist, Promotional Director, Norwood Gibson, presented a beautiful plaque to Mrs. LaRue Howell, widow of Brother Danny. It was a token expression of South Carolina Free Will Baptists love, admiration and



Norwood Gibson Presenting Plaque To Mrs. Howell.

appreciation for the life and ministry of this dear brother. Mrs. LeRue Howell spoke to convey her heart of gratitude to the church and all of those who had contributed their kindness, sympathy and physical help during the time of Danny's illness and death. Mrs. Howell and her three children, Sherri, Michelle and Josh recently moved to Goldsboro, North Carolina, their home area.

Dedication Service. Prior to Brother Danny's death he had led the church in major renovations to the church facilities in addition to the construction of a regulation size gym building. The building that houses the sanctuary, classrooms, rest rooms, nursery, storage room, etc. received most of the renovation work. This included the installation of a celotex suspended ceiling in the sanctuary, new lighting and a new PA system.

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The "Dr. D.H. Howel Family Life Center" was named such in honor and memory of Pastor Howell.

Pastor Howell came to the church on January 3, 1988 and remained until his death on September 4, 1993.



McKnight Presents Plaque To Rev. Howle
**Newton Howle Honored
At Homecoming**

Brother J. Newton Howle, was honored during "Homecoming Services" at Free Will Baptist Bible Church, Darlington, SC on Sunday, May 15. Brother Howle founded the church in 1972 and pastored it through February 1993. Pastor Howle resigned the pastorate and Brother Joe McKnight became the new pastor in March 1993. Brother Howle is still active in the work of the church.

Brother McKnight read a letter of commendation from Dr. Melvin Worthington, a former pastor to Brother Howle when he was a member of the First FWB Church in Darlington. Norwood Gibson, State Promotional Director attended the service and was given the opportunity to share some honorable remarks about Brother Newton and his ministry. The two have been very close friends for some 25 years. The Church presented the former pastor with a plaque with words inscribed that are very fitting. "Presented To Rev. J. Newton Howle, Jr. By Free Will Baptist Bible Church With Love, Appreciation and gratitude for over 20 years Of Faithful Service And Spiritual Leadership".

Special music for the joyful event was rendered by Carmen McKnight, Ruth Loclair and the church choir. Brother Howle delivered the morning message and it was evident that he had not lost his ability to expound the scriptures.

Those attending the services and others who were invited to come for the "Home Coming Dinner" enjoyed a time of fellowship and a delicious meal provided by the church.

Those who know Brother Newton Howle will agree that he is a faithful servant of the Lord. The friendship of this man of God and his family is more valuable than silver and gold to this writer. One of the great blessings of God in this life is true friends.



Interior View Of Inman's Remodeled Sanctuary

First Inman Completes \$100,000 Church Renovations

Sunday, August 7th. was a special day at First FWB Church, Inman, SC. The congregation and a host of visitors shared in the morning dedication service of the recently completed renovations of the church sanctuary and educational facilities.

The more than \$100,000.00 project included redesigning the pulpit and choir area, a new paint job throughout the building, a new blown ceiling, installation of six 24 light brass chandeliers in the ceiling, installing brass sconce wall lights between each window, colonial wood trim on the baptismal pool window and the entrance doors from the sanctuary to the pool, a new baptistery curtain, new front entrance doors, a beautifully decorated vestibule; with beveled edge mirrors, 2 Princes Ann chairs, table and two sconce single light fixtures. There is new cranberry carpet throughout the building, and new furniture including 40 chairs for the choir. The pulpit furniture is white with a red mahogany wood trim. The pews have white ends and trimmed in red mahogany. All seating furniture is upholstered in a mauve fabric. The beautiful sanctuary has a seating capacity of 356 and the atmosphere is conducive for worship services. A complete new PA system was installed for better hearing by the congregation. In addition to the new paint and carpet in the educational section of the building both rest rooms were enlarged and renovated.

Special music for the occasion was rendered by the church choir, directed by Wray

Newton; soloist, D a n Campbell and a ladies trio; consisting of Gwen Hendrix, J o a n Emory and Sue Berry. Anyone who has heard these folk

sing will confess it tips the honey bucket in your soul.

The pastor, Brother Earl Hendrix, recognized all of those who contributed in any way for the success of this project. He shared with the congregation that the indebtedness on the renovation project was only \$15,000. He also noted that the relatively small balance was due to so many people giving so generously.

Charles Tapp, Chairman of the Deacon Board, and Mrs Rita Nichols presented Brother Earl and Sister Gwen with a decorated basket. One never knows what may be found in a basket. The Hendrix found in this one a note stating they had a three day vacation in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, a gift from the church.

This multi-ministry church operates a Christian school, Inman Christian Academy. The appraised value of all of the church's property and buildings is \$750,000.00.

Brother Earl and his folks are to be commended for faithfulness and allowing the Lord to work through them for this accomplishment. As long as the current members and leadership are there one can rest fully assured that all of these facilities will continue to be used to glorify God. "TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE."

Bethany Wins In National Sunday School Promotion

Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, Timmonsville, SC participated in the Randall House Fall Sunday School Campaign. They won "First Place" in Division E. They had a 4.5% increase over their previous average attendance. CONGRATULATIONS BETHANY!!



Rev. And Mrs. Jack Cotner

Cotner Available For Ministry

Jack Cotner, a native of Central, Pennsylvania, is available for supply preaching, interim pastor or a full time pastorate.

He is a graduate of Lewisburg High School, the class of June 1965. Brother Cotner attended the Nazarene Indian Bible College, Hope Sound Bible College and is a 1993 graduate of the Beaver Creek Bible Institute. Brother Jack stated he and his wife gave their lives totally to the Lord in 1977.

He has preached on the Navaho Indian Reservation and many other places. Brother Jack and his wife have a PUPPET MINISTRY.

In 1990 he and his wife, Kathy, joined the Gaffney Free Will Baptist Church, Gaffney, SC and have faithfully served the Lord and the church there.

They have three married children, two daughters and one son; also, four grandchildren who live in their home: Bryan, age 2-1/2; Amanda, age 5; Michael, age 7 and Nicole, age 8.

The Cotners reside at 404 Holmes Street, Gaffney, SC 29341. Brother Cotner can be contacted by writing to this address or calling him by telephone. The number is 803/489-9112.

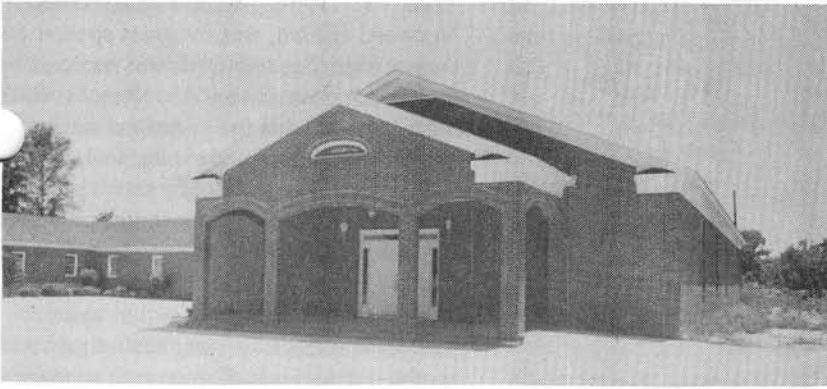
NOTICE

Rev. Jimmy Bell Is No Longer
Affiliated With The Eastern Conference
Of South Carolina Free Will Baptists
Churches

REMEMBER !!!

"Project 42"- A Fund Raising
Project To Get Carlisle And Marie
Hanna Back To India.

They have served 42 Years. Would you
give \$1 for Each Year They Have Served



New Sanctuary - Section To Left Is The Old Facility. Used For SS & Children's Church

Gilead Dedicates New Sanctuary

Sunday, May 1st. was a great day of rejoicing for the congregation of Gilead Free Will Baptist Church, Lake City, SC. They enjoyed the beauty and comfort of their new sanctuary. Dedication services were held to offer publicly their praise and thanksgiving for God's manifold blessing upon them as they labored together to accomplish this task. Larry McAlister, the church pastor, preached the dedicatory message. The church choir rendered the special music; a medley of songs about the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ.

Ground breaking service for the new, and greatly needed facility, was held on November 2, 1992. Construction of the 4,800 square foot building began in January 1993. It was completed in April 1994 at a cost of about \$142,000.00. Some of the work was contracted, but a great amount of the work and materials were donated by the members of the church and friends of the congregation. The glory of it is that when the construction was

rooms for candidates for baptism, a baptistery, two rest rooms, nursery, a foyer and the pastors study.

The ceiling is flat with a white blown finish and garnished with 26 light chandeliers. The upper wall area is finished with white paint. Wainscote paneling covers the lower section of the walls. All of the wood trim, including the dental crown molding, has a mahogany finish. A rose mauve carpet covers the floor area.

The church furniture, including the pews, are white and trimmed with a mahogany finished wood. The pews and chairs are upholstered in a fabric that blends with the carpet. The six stained glass windows with figures depicting the life of Christ caps the beauty of the sanctuary and gives it a good atmosphere that is conducive for worship.

A covered breezeway connects the old and new building. The old sanctuary will be used for children's church and classrooms.

The spacious parking lot is paved with concrete.

Brother Larry and his congregation are to be commended for submitting themselves to the Lord for His wisdom, leadership and power so

completed it was debt free. The building consists of a 400 seat sanctuary, two dual purpose rooms; for the choir to assemble in and dressing



Deacon Bill Smith (R) Presents Pastor Brown Keys To New Car

First Myrtle Beach Gives Pastor New Car

Sunday, October 9 was a very special day for pastor Jimmy Brown and his congregation at First Free Will Baptist Church, Myrtle Beach, SC. The congregation presented their pastor with a new 1995 Chevrolet Lumina, fully loaded. It was not quite a total surprise to Brother Jimmy because he had learned about it a few days earlier. However, he was none the less emotional and wet eyed when it was presented to him. Pastor Brown and his wife Peggy are grateful to the church for this very generous gift.

Taking care of the pastor is the responsibility of the local church. When this is done from a heart of love for the man of God, the Lord's blessings will be upon the congregation. Many Free Will Baptist Churches are expressing their love and appreciation for the pastor in a tangible way. Thank God for it!!!

Brother Brown has pastored the church on two occasions for a total of twelve years; the first tenure was for three years and he is in the 9th year of his second pastorate.

Jimmy and Peggy have three children; Mrs. Pat (Kim) B. Wilds of Andrews, SC; Mrs. Wally (Spring) B. Suttles of Charleston, West Virginia and Joel Brown of Myrtle Beach.

Mortgage Burning

Sunday, October 2 was another great day in the life of the church. The church paid off the mortgage on their parsonage five years early, and they celebrated the victory with a mortgage burning ceremony. Pastor Brown and his fine congregation are to be commended for permitting God to work through them for this outstanding success.

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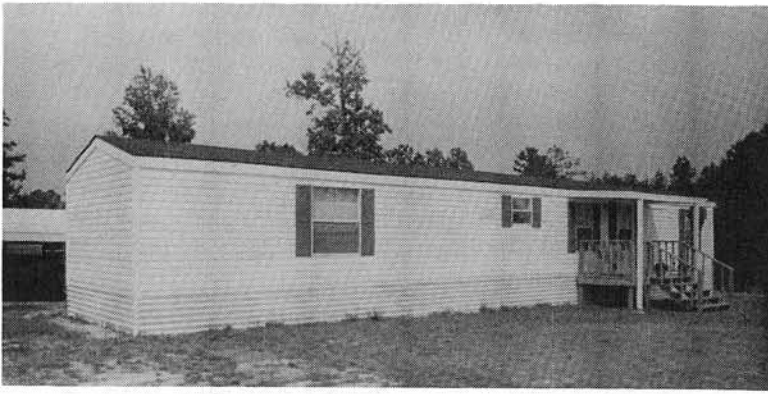


Interior Of The New Sanctuary

that He could accomplish this great work. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

Support Your State Ministries

Children' Home Home Missions Youth Camp



Canaan's New Parsonage

***Canaan Rejoicing
Over Progress***

Pastor Dale McCoy and his congregation are enjoying the progress that the Lord is showering upon them. Brother McCoy has been with the church just over one year and has led the church into great progress.

The church is in Lancaster, SC and for many years it was known as South Avenue FWB Church. It was named after the street it was located on. For many reasons it became evident that the church property and facilities would have to be sold and new facilities constructed at a new location. In January 1986 the church purchased 3-1/2 acres of land about 2 miles southeast of Lancaster on US Highway 521. In March of 1987 construction began on a gymnastic building on the property. This 3,200 Square foot building was used as a recreation and fellowship facility. It houses a full kitchen, pantry, rest rooms and a gym area. The South Avenue facility was put on the market for sale. Their plans were to build new facilities on the highway 521 property, as soon as the property was sold. In 1992 they purchased another 3-1/2 acre tract of land. This property joined the property they purchased in 1986 on the back side and fronted on US 521 by-pass.

Brother Dale McCoy came to the church in May 1993 as pastor and the congregation got excited about some new ideas in the relocating effort. The old property on South Avenue was sold in 1994 and the congregation began holding services in the gym building on US 521. On March, 27 1994 they had a note burning and officially chose a new name for the church, Canaan FWB Church. The \$57,750.00 note was paid off three and one half years early.

A "Ground Breaking" service was held, setting in motion the plans to construct a new 5,550 square foot building, which will house a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 250, office space, baptistery, nursery and rest

rooms, etc. At this point in time the stage of this project is not known.

When they sold the South Avenue property the parsonage was included. This meant that they would have to make provision for a place for the

pastor to live. This problem was solved by purchasing a manufactured home and putting it on the church property.

***First Greenville
Renovates Sanctuary***

First Free Will Baptist, Greenville, SC did extensive renovations to their sanctuary.

The ceiling was completely redesigned and garnished with 16 light brass chandeliers. The old carpet was replaced with a new cranberry colored carpet.

New pews, made of solid oak wood and upholstered with a fabric that blends with the carpet and a refinishing job was given to the pulpit furniture. The interior walls were given a fresh coat of oyster white paint and a complete new sound system was installed.

The exterior front of the building has a new look also. The roof was extended so that a porch could be added. The white columns supporting the roof and the block tile on the porch floor has added to the attractiveness of the building.

Dedication services were held on Sunday,



Interior View Of Remodeled Sanctuary

April 3, 1994. Promotional Director, Norwood Gibson, was the guest speaker for the occasion. Special music was rendered by the church choir, directed by Tony Smith. It must be stated that the music and singing this choir will bless and stir the soul. Special singing was also rendered by members of the church. Bobby Bowers, the church pastor for 29 years, led the church in a unison reading of a dedication commitment, which was followed by a prayer of dedication.

After the service the congregation gathered in the Family Life Center and enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the ladies and a time of good fellowship.

***Hillside
Calls
Smith
As Pastor***



Hillside Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, SC called Todd Smith as their pastor.

The Norfolk, VA native assumed his new pastorate on May 7, 1994.

He was saved at his home church Tabernacle Free Will Baptist, Kinston, N. He served his church as a youth worker and worked in the bus ministry.

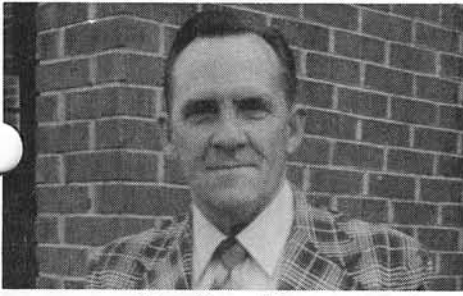
He is a 1992 graduate of Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC with a BA degree in Bible, and a 1994 graduate with a MA degree in pastoral studies.

Before coming to Florence Brother Todd served Whitney FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC as Youth Pastor and Interim Pastor.

Hillside is his first pastorate and his ministry is going well.

A cordial welcome is extended to Pastor Smith and his family to the Eastern Conference and to a full-time ministry in our state for the cause of Christ. May our precious Lord Jesus give this young preacher a long and fruitful ministry with Hillside.

He is married to the former Teresa Wallis of Peoria, Illinois. They have one child, Victoria Grace, age 9 months.



Rev. James Pierce

Lynches River Celebrated 20th Anniversary

Lynches River Free Will Baptist Church, located about six miles east of Lake City, SC on Highway 378, celebrated their 20th anniversary with "Homecoming" on Sunday, October 2, 1994.

The church began in 1974; holding services in a store building, donated by Sybil and Lavelle Caulder. In 1975 they completed their new building and since that time the building has undergone renovations and additions. They now enjoy the comfort and convenience of a very fine facility.

Former pastors are: James Pierce, Samuel Taylor, Ronnie Jones and Gerald Owens. Brother Gerald is the current pastor with 14 years service with the church.

Brother James Pierce was the guest speaker for the occasion. Brother Ronnie Jones and Brother Samuel Taylor shared some of their past memories of their service with the church. Special singing was rendered by Brother James Pierce and his wife Ruth, Mr. James Godwin, Samuel Taylor and his wife, Jeannie, and the church quartet. Brother Gerald Owens extended appreciation to all of the congregation that worked hard in preparation for the homecoming and those who so faithfully serve and support the church.

A delicious country dinner was served to the congregation and guest.

May the Lord continue to bless Brother Gerald Owens and his flock as they continue to serve Him. Thanks for permitting your promotional director to share in this service and fellowship.

Bryson Called To Lockhart

Tommy Bryson accepted the call to Lockhart Free



Will Baptist Church, Lockhart, SC. The Lancaster native surrendered to the call to preach in 1979 and was ordained by the Beaver Creek Association.

Brother Bryson stated that he and his family received a royal welcome when arriving at Lockhart. A good number of men from Lockhart met him at the parsonage when they arrived and unloaded their furniture. They delivered a pounding of food to the parsonage, gave them some money and had the evening meal prepared for them.

Both Tommy and his wife graduated from Liberty Home Bible Institute, Lynchburg, VA and they attended Beaver Creek Bible Institute.

Pastor Bryson came to Lockhart on July 1, 1994 and in a short time they had several saved and several to join the church.

Previous pastorates are: Faith FWB Church, Cheraw and Mill Branch FWB Church, both in South Carolina. North Carolina pastorates are: Oak Grove FWB Church, Elm City and Cypress Creek FWB Church, Whiteville. He served Cypress Creek on two separate occasions.

Brother Tommy is married to the former Wanda Causey, a native of Marion, SC. She lived most of her life in Lancaster, SC. They have two boys; Joshua, age 15 and Justin, age 12.

Tommy and his family are delighted to be back in South Carolina and especially pleased to be at Lockhart. Pastor Bryson stated that he was happy to be a part of the Beaver Creek Association again. A hearty, warm welcome back to South Carolina is extended to this fine family. May God give them a long and fruitful ministry at Lockhart.

McAuley Takes Darlington Pastorate

Michael R. McAuley, a native of Lee County, Sanford, NC assumed the

pastorate of First Free Will Baptist Church, Darlington, SC on July 24, 1994.

He was saved September 14, 1972 at his home church, Fellowship Free Will Baptist, Dunn, NC. He served there as adult Sunday school Teacher and the bus ministry.

Brother Mike was called to preach in 1973. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN in 1978, with a Bible Diploma.



Previous pastorates were with Light House FWB Church for 2 years and St. Johns FWB Church, Patrick, SC. He came to Darlington after 14 years of ministry at St. John Church.

He is married to the former Sheila Pipkin, a native of Harnett County, NC. They have one married daughter and one in the home, Kelly, age 15.

Brother Mike has been a faithful servant to his church and to his local conference and our State Association, especially in the area of working with the young people. May the Lord give him a long and fruitful ministry in his new pastorate.



Pastor Keen (Center) Receiving Members

Keen Takes Missionary Pastorate With Anderson Mission Church

Danny Keen, a North Carolina Native, became the missionary pastor of the Anderson Free Baptist Mission Church on June 6, 1994. The Anderson mission church a joint project of the Beaver Creek Association and the National Home Mission Department, Nashville, TN.

The work has progressed well, in the physical aspect and numerically. A great deal of clean up of the property and the facilities have been accomplished. Included in this clean up project a great number of trees were removed from the road frontage, making the church building more visible. A new attractive and visible church sign has been erected also.

The name of the church has been changed from First Free Will Baptist to Landmark Free Will Baptist. State Promotional Director, Norwood Gibson, visited with the church on Sunday, August 28, 1994 and had the joy of preaching for Brother Danny. On that Sunday he took in a large number of charter members and the reports since then reveal that a good number of folks have been saved and added to the church.

Brother Keen has been preaching since his teen years. He has had considerable experience in mission work and as pastor of organized churches. His ministry has been with churches in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. He came

to the mission work from a pastorate with Lockhart FWB Church in Lockhart, SC.

He is a 1971 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN with a BA Degree.

Brother Keen is married to the former Jane Smith, a Native of Goldsboro, NC. They have one son, John, who is a graduate of Southeastern FWB College, Wendell, NC. He is pastor of Camp Branch Free Will Baptist Church.

On behalf of the Beaver Creek Association we extend a warm welcome to Danny and his wife Jane. May their ministry there be a long and fruitful one.

Happy Home Host Eastern Conference Sunday School Convention

The annual session of the Eastern Conference Sunday School Convention was hosted by Happy Home Free Will Baptist Church, Andrews on Saturday, October 1.

Joe Timmons, Convention Superintendent, presided over the meeting.

The theme for the meeting was "Prepare Thy Heart To Seek God", taken from Second Chronicles 19:3. "Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God."

Jerry Franklin, host church pastor gave the welcome and Stacy Altman gave the morning devotion.

Each church in the convention is given the opportunity to take part in the program by special singing, skits, etc.

Mr. Joe Timmons has held the position of convention superintendent for a number years and Mrs. Evis Poston has served as secretary for many years. Both officers were elected to serve another term.

The spring session will be hosted by Hillside FWB Church in Florence.

In Memory Of Mrs. Alma Weatherford

By Dr. Robert Picirilli

Most people in South Carolina knew her as "Miss Alma"; Catherine and I knew her as Mother and Mom. She died July 10 of this year and was buried next to her husband in Mt. Elon FWB Church cemetery.

Alma Weatherford was born September 21, 1907, to Robert and Dillie Harrell. Until her marriage she lived in the Mars Bluff community near old Bethel Free Will Baptist Church. She was converted and joined Bethel as a child, becoming a Sunday school teacher as a teenager. After she married Oliver Weatherford, she and her husband located on a

farm near Mt. Elon, which remained her home, off and on, for the rest of her life.

Miss Alma was a teacher by nature and by profession. One wonders just how many students she influenced for mastery of the three R's, and for Christ. The first place I know she taught was in the two-room schoolhouse at Gibbs, which was where the Mt. Elon parsonage now sits. (I had her there in sixth and seventh grades, and she was rougher on me than on anyone else!) Later she taught at Friendfield, Oak Grove, Tans Bay, and Greenwood. She was stern and strict, but she would do anything to encourage a student who tried: ask missionary Sherwood Lee who had her in grade school at Oak Grove. She always kept Hurlburt's Story of the Bible on her desk, and she read the Bible stories regularly to her classes.

More than anything else, however, Mom was a teacher and tireless worker at church, wherever she lived. During the late 40's she devoted great energy to the cause of the Free Will Baptist League, as it was known at the time, going about from one church to another to encourage starting a league, and then working to get a district league convention organized. She was instrumental in helping Paul Ketteman, Luther Sanders, and others get the youth camp work started at Camp Forest, usually taking charge of the cooking. She was one of the founding members of the Pamplico FWB Church, where she spent many years teaching the young people, visiting and witnessing to the lost, and otherwise ministering to those in need. She conducted classes at several nursing homes, black and white. When she was 73 she spent a year in the Virgin Islands helping in our missionary church school there.

Not many people knew of her generous giving. Many years ago she started giving 20% instead of 10; at her death she was giving 30%. True to her life, in death she left everything to Christian causes- especially to Free Will Baptist Bible College, which she dearly loved.

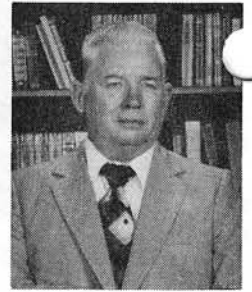
For the last 16 years, after the house near Mt. Elon burned she lived with us, and for most of that time ministered to my family as cook and housekeeper while Clara and I worked. During the last months she failed rapidly. Near the end, she didn't want to go to a nursing home or back to the hospital. We were able to keep her home, from where she went to be with the Lord whom she served faithfully all her life. Participating in her funeral were James Earl Raper, Bill Poteat, Sherwood Lee, and Robert Rose. I think Sherwood touched us all when he observed that she had graded her last papers and rung the school bell for the last recess. Her works of giving and teaching and witnessing remain as her testimony, and her children rise up and call her blessed.

But we would err to imply that she went to heaven because of her works. The truth is, like all the rest of us, she had her shortcomings. She was saved by the grace of God and her good works were nothing more than the fruit of His work

Promotional Office
South Carolina State Association Of
Free Will Baptist
1705 South Irby Street
PO Box 13266
Florence, SC 29504

within her. **WE GLORIFY GOD FOR HER MEMORY.**

In Memory Of Clyde Alvin McKnight



Mr. Clyde McKnight, a native of the Hebron Community of Williamsburg County, South Carolina, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, April 30, at age 66.

He is survived by his wife, the former Bernice Elizabeth Thornbrew; four sons, Keith McKnight, Phil McKnight, Fredis McKnight, all of Kingstree, SC; Rev. Joe McKnight of Darlington, SC. and seven grandchildren. One brother, Rev. L. J. McKnight and one sister, Mae Dell McClary, both of Kingstree.

Mr. McKnight served his country in the US armed forces during the Korean conflict. He was trained as an infantry scout and was later transferred to a heavy equipment company in the 291st Engineers. Due to injuries received in training, he was discharged as a corporal in December of 1952. He was a member of the Kingstree American Legion Post and served as a past Commander of the Chapter 56 of the Disabled American Veterans.

His vocation was full-time farming until 1960 and continued on a part-time for many years thereafter. In 1960 he entered the business world as a general building contractor and operated his own firm until 1974. Due to a heart attack in 1974 he became disabled.

He was a charter member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Kingstree, which had its beginning in 1969. He served the church in the office of deacon, trustee and Sunday School Superintendent. He became a charter member of Victory FWB Church in 1976 and served there as a deacon and trustee.

Brother McKnight was a compassionate and generous man; a faithful witness for Jesus Christ, a soul winner and he loved preachers. He was well loved by both white and black acquaintances.

Funeral services were held on Monday, May 2, 1994 at Williamsburg Funeral Home in Kingstree. Presiding were two of his former pastors; Rev. I. Bennie Turner and Rev. Washington Miles. Burial was in Kingstree Memorial Gardens.

He knew Jesus Christ as savior and Lord in the Biblical new birth experience. Brother Clyde is now in the presence of the Lord that he loved and served. The Bible clearly teaches that to be absent from this earthly body is to be present with the Lord. He too, like all Christians, will one day have a new body, likened to the glorious body of Jesus Christ and spend eternity in His glorious presence.

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