

January - February 1997

The Informer



The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Ron Moore, Editor, Post Office Box 13266, Florence, South Carolina, 29504 or call (803) 662-5010.

1997 Session
South Carolina State Association of
Free Will Baptists

Peace Free Will Baptist Church
Spartanburg, South Carolina

February 27 - 28

Speakers Include:

Rev. Sherwood Lee, State Moderator
Rev. David Crowe, National Home Missions
Rev. Robert Rose, Pastor, Mt. Elon, Pamplico
Rev. Harold Moore, Pastor, Victory, Jacksonville
Rev. Keith Bartlett, Pastor, North Spartanburg
Rev. John Cody, Pastor, Mt. Carmel, York
Rev. Billy Baker, Moderator, Central Association

Mortgage on State Property ***in Florence Paid Off***

The five-year project of purchasing property to house the Promotional Office and bookstore ministries has been completed! The final payment of \$14,300 was made on January 13, 1997. Though we were just over \$2,000 short in funds necessary to make the payment, monies were borrowed from other accounts. We are confident that by the annual session of the State Association the remaining \$2,000 will have come in. South Carolina Free Will Baptists have worked hard to purchase this property and are to be commended for their commitment to provide the State with adequate facilities.

'MOORE' THOUGHTS
From the Editor

We are entering a very busy time of the year for our state ministries. Throughout February and the first part of March we will have the WNAC District and State meetings. The 1997 session of the South Carolina State Association is the last of February. The last Sunday in March is Roll Call Sunday and the last Sunday in April is Foreign Missions Sunday.

As I look toward to the future, I sense an excitement, enthusiasm, and expectation for our state ministries: the ladies have been and will continue to be active in supporting home and foreign missions; the Children's Home has received many blessings from the Lord; the Aiken mission project is progressing; and God has blessed the State Office and bookstore.

I believe that this year's annual session of the State Association will be tremendous. As well as having good speakers, we will hear exciting reports from our state ministries. A new Foreign Mission Plan of Support will be presented for adoption. The mood of our people is that it's time we something about the cycle of mission account deficits and crisis fund raising.

The Promotional Office has had a good year. Our operational fund has finished in the black! The final property payment has also been made and the title is now lien free! The future looks very promising as well. We anticipate God's blessing as we develop a resource center, workshops and seminars.

We begin the new year with great expectations concerning the bookstore. We believe that 1997 will put this ministry in the black. We are also confident that God will send us the right person to work in the bookstore and help us develop the resource center and the teaching ministries.

We realize that God has used Free Will Baptist people all across the State to make these blessing possible. Thank you for your part—a willing heart! Your faithfulness to support these ministries in the past is encouraging as we prepare to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Let us all say with joy and thanksgiving,

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Community Gets Face Lift

Community Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina, has had major renovation projects completed during the past year. The congregation has added a new steeple (\$5,000) and a new 4' by 10' lighted sign (\$1,500). They have also installed new flooring in the fellowship hall, restrooms, nursery and pastor's study (\$3,000). Just before Thanksgiving, the church added a 54 car paved parking lot (\$14,580).



Indeed, the Lord has blessed Community in these and other ways. Since February 1996, over 100 people have been saved. Most of them have remained with the church. Since Rev. William Justice became pastor of the church in June 1994, the congregation has grown from an average attendance in the low twenties to the upper eighties.

First Greenwood Celebrates Homecoming

First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenwood, South Carolina, held its annual homecoming October 20, 1996. Promotional Director Ron Moore was the special speaker and the Southern Heart provided the special music. Dinner was served in the fellowship hall after the morning services.



Rev. Paul Reid

Rev. Paul Reid, pastor of the church, moved with his family to Greenwood in June 1974 to begin a Free Will Baptist Mission. Less than five years later, on February 25, 1979, the mission

held an organization meeting and the work became known as First FWB Church of Greenwood. The Greenwood ministry is one of several churches begun by the Beaver Creek Home Missions Board.

The original location of the mission was on East Cambridge Avenue. The organizational service for the church was held in a trailer-chapel located on East Durst Avenue, their present location. The first service in their new sanctuary-Sunday School facility was on Mother's Day 1984.

Mt. Elon Honors Pastor

Mt. Elon Free Will Baptist Church surprised their pastor, Rev. Robert Rose, by honoring him with a Pastor's Appreciation Day November 24, 1996. Family and friends from Timmonsville, Spartanburg, and as far a way as Gastonia and Maggie Valley joined in the celebration. Though the service was a real blessing to Brother Rose, there were a few embarrassing moments—especially when his family began sharing some of his childhood antics!

Many gifts and cards were presented to the pastor by the congregation. Promotional Director Ron Moore was brought in to preach. He spoke from

Exodus 17:8ff, sharing examples of how the congregation can express their appreciation for their pastor on a daily basis. After a special plaque was presented to Brother Rose and after a time of prayer for him and his family around the altar, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner in the fellowship hall.

Organizers of the event were Pearline Creel (who doubled as the Master of Ceremonies), Joanne Calcutt and Mary Ann Eaddy.

Brother Rose and his family begin their ministry at Mt. Elon in January 1984.



Bro. Rose with plaque

Rev. Bobby Bowers Receives Bachelor of Theology Degree

Rev. Bobby Bowers, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, South Carolina, was awarded the Bachelor of Theology by Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Camilla, Georgia in September 1996.



The diploma was presented posthumously by South Carolina Promotional Director Ron Moore on Sunday, January 3, 1997. This was a special day for Brother Bowers as it also marked the thirtieth anniversary of his ministry at the church in Greenville.

Congratulations to one of South Carolina's most faithful pastors!

