

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.

Horse Branch Honors Rev. Wilburn Beasley

Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church declared July 6, 1997 as "*Wilburn Beasley Day*" and honored this eighty year old preacher for his faithfulness in ministry. The gathering of family, friends and notable personalities was quite a surprise for Brother Beasley. Scattered throughout the two-hour ceremony were testimonials, songs, poems and presentations of gifts and plaques. Some of the presentations are noted below.

◆ Brother **Allen Coker**, chairman of the deacon board, presented Brother Beasley with a plaque which read, "In Recognition and with Grateful Appreciation for Your Loyal and Dedicated Service to Our Lord, Our Denomination, Our Church and Our Community."

◆ **Rev. Ron Moore**, Promotional Director, presented him with a Certificate of Special Recognition which honored his nearly fifty years of faithfully preaching the Gospel.

◆ **Turbeville** presented him a plaque which read, "The membership of the **Town Council**, acting in behalf of the residents of the Town of Turbeville, South Carolina, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 6, 1997 as Wilburn Beasley Day."

◆ **Rep. Pat Goodwin** presented Brother Beasley a copy of bill H.4336, A Concurrent Resolution of the South Carolina House and Senate which read, in part, "The members of the General Assembly hereby commend **Reverend Wilburn Beasley** of Turbeville, a legend in the Free Will Baptist Church, for a lifetime of service as a minister and community leader in South Carolina and the Southeast."



Rep. Goodwin with Rev. Beasley

Rev. Beasley has held many positions in local, state and national levels of the denomination. He served on the Board of Retirement and the General Board of the National. He served on the Children's Home and Home Mission Boards of the State Association.

Through his many years of faithful ministry, Brother Beasley has earned the love, respect and appreciation of Free Will Baptists everywhere. He is especially noted for his wisdom and humor.



One of the unique benefits of the newly adopted South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support is its **flexibility**. This is demonstrated in several ways. First, the plan allows for **annual adjustments** at the state level to help keep accounts from going in the red while our missionaries are on the field. If an account gets into trouble, we can adjust the percentages accordingly.

Secondly, every church can implement the plan as determined best by them. While respecting the **autonomy of the local church**, it builds cooperation between churches as we work toward a common goal--reaching a lost world with the gospel.

Thirdly, the plan allows churches and individuals to easily **convert their present gifts** to shares. For example, if a church is giving an average of \$155 per month to South Carolina missionaries, they are already underwriting 15 shares! If an individual is giving \$25 a month through designated faith promise giving, then they are already underwriting 2.3 annual shares!

The flexibility of this plan will allow us to **build on past and present giving practices** to challenge more of our people and churches to even higher levels of commitment!

Rev. Todd Smith Receives New Truck



The Todd Smith Family with New Truck

Hillside FWB Church, Florence, held Pastor's Appreciation Day on June 8, 1997 for Rev. Todd Smith and his wife Teresa. The church celebrated **Brother Todd's birthday and his third anniversary** as their pastor by presenting the couple with a 1995 Dodge Dakota Sport pickup truck, valued at \$9,000.

The congregation surprised the pastor with the presentation. The truck was parked out front and the key wrapped in a box on the front pew throughout the service. Brother Todd had no idea that it was for him.

Brother Todd and Sister Teresa wish to express their appreciation from the depths of their hearts for this demonstration of love by the fine members at Hillside.

Old Fashioned Sunday Peace FWB Church



Rev. Raper and Pastor Miles

Peace FWB Church, Florence, held **Old Fashioned Sunday** on June 1, 1997. Over 200 people attended the

festivities which included dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

After having shared various Free Will Baptist historical items (an old treatise, songbook, etc.) with the congregation, **Rev. James Earl Raper** preached an old time gospel message from Psalms 145:5.

One of the highlights of the annual celebration was when Brother Raper and his wife came to church riding in an old horse drawn buggy. They were accompanied by **Pastor Donnie Miles** who was riding a horse.

Children's Home Choir Sings at Temple Homecoming



The **children** of the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Turbeville, sang at the **annual Homecoming celebration of Temple FWB Church**, Darlington, on June 29, 1997. Rev. James Wilhide is the director of the home.

The church was "jam-packed full" as everyone enjoyed the singing, preaching, fellowship and food throughout the day. Promotional Director **Rev. Ron Moore** brought the message during the Sunday School hour and **Pastor Paul Collins** preached during the regular worship service time.

The deceased **Rev. Roy Player** founded the church in 1955. Rev. Paul Collins is only the second in the church's 42 year history! The pastor and people of this fine church are to be commended for their faithfulness over the years.

First Kingtree Recognizes Bible Readers



Members of the "66 Bible Club"

In 1986 the First FWB Church of Kingtree initiated a Bible reading club. Since that time 44 people have become members and read all 66 books of the Bible in one year. **Eric Adams**, a teenager, became the newest member of the club by completing the task along with **thirteen others** in 1996. They are: Susie Owens, Lynnette Ard, Jean Ann Mouzon, Ruby George, Letha Mouzon, Inez Mouzon, Floyd Lewis, Barbara Lewis, Juanita McClary, Sara Snipes, Elizabeth Bell, Betty Green and Oleta Rogers. Congratulations to these faithful Bible readers!

Family Life Center Nears Completion

The First FWB Church of Kingtree is getting close to completion of their new Family Life Center. The **80' by 100' building** will have a new nursery, two handicap accessible restrooms, kitchen facilities, a storage room, and a full size basketball court. An enclosed hallway connects the new building with the present church facility.

The **men of the church** are to be commended for their faithfulness. They have donated time and labor to this project, saving thousands of dollars in expenses. **Rev. Wayland Owens** is the pastor of this fine congregation.

