

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 STATE ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

The 1997 session of the South Carolina State Association, meeting at Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg, February 27 and 28, was characterized by good preaching, excellent singing, and a spirit of unity and celebration.



Rev. Snowdon

Moderator Sherwood Lee set the tone for the entire session with a challenging message on "Going Forward" from 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6. Rev. Robert Rose, Mt. Elon FWB Church, continued the challenge from Revelation 1:4-8. Rev. Tommy Snowdon, youth pastor at Cardinal Village FWB Church, preached on "Do You Love Me More Than These," John 21:15-21. Rev. David Crowe, National

Home Missions, preached a stirring message Thursday evening titled "How to Keep the Fire Going," 2 Timothy 1:1-6. Rev. Keith Bartlett, pastor of North Spartanburg, began the Friday morning session with an inspirational devotion from Psalms 112:7. Rev. John Cody preached a vivid message on "How to Handle a Snake," Matthew 4:1-10. The final message, titled "Things we cannot afford to lose," Matthew 16:13-18, was preached by Rev. Billy Baker, moderator of the Central Association.



Rev. Cody

Excellent music characterized the entire session. It was coordinated by Rev. and Mrs. James Wilhide, directors of the FWB Home for Children, Turbeville.

Special music included numbers by Libby Thornton, Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg, and the New Covenant Trio, First FWB Church, Florence. Many would agree that it was some of the best music ever.



New Covenant Trio
Florence, SC

Other highlights included:

- ◆ Plaques presented to Rev. Earl Hendrix and to Rev. David Aycock for their years of service to the State Association;
- ◆ Former Promotional director Rev. Norwood Gibson and current director Rev. Ron Moore burning the mortgage on the Promotional Office property;
- ◆ Introduction of Eddie Hobbs as the new FWB Bookstore manager;
- ◆ Unanimous adoption of the South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support; and,
- ◆ Re-election of the present Executive Committee, with Rev. Todd Smith replacing outgoing clerk Rev. David Aycock.



Rev. Ron Moore, Rev. Norwood Gibson, Rev. Sherwood Lee
Mortgage Burning Ceremony

State Association Adopts New Foreign Missions Plan of Support

The 1997 Annual Session of the State Association adopted a new **South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support**. The Plan is designed to underwrite the support of Free Will Baptist foreign missionaries having strong residency ties to South Carolina. Missionaries and budgets adopted for 1997 are listed below.

	SC GOALS		Distribution
	%	Amount	%
Cowart	30	\$21,330.00	9.6
Gainer	75	\$40,645.00	18.3
Hanna	65	\$91,000.00	41.0
Johnson	50	\$35,000.00	15.7
Poole	50	\$34,255.00	15.4
1997 Total		\$222,230.00	100%

To understand the above chart, consider the Pooles, for example. The Poole's national budget for 1997 is \$68,510. South Carolina has adopted 50% of their support, which is \$34,255. When funds come in designated to the South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support, the Pooles will receive 15.4 cents of every dollar. All gifts designated for the Pooles (or other missionaries) will always go to their account.

The Plan is based on the **share concept**. The total projected budget for the year 2000 is \$264,000. That figure was divided into 2000 **annual shares of \$132 each**. Thus, to underwrite the 1997 budget of \$222,230, a total of 1,684 shares will have to be adopted. **The Plan's goal** is to raise all 2000 shares by the year 2000!

It will take most of 1997 to educate our people about the Plan and to implement it across the State. The National Foreign Missions Department is preparing the publicity

materials and Promotional Director **Ron Moore** is developing a study course on the Plan. A **Foreign Missions Task Force** will be assembled to promote the Plan, evaluate its effectiveness, and to recommend any changes at next year's Annual Session.

For more information about the Plan, or to schedule a service to explain the Plan to your congregation, please call Brother Ron Moore at the Promotional Office. The number is (803) 662-5010.

South Carolina Ranks 6th in Foreign Missions Giving

South Carolina gave \$252,241.77 toward their goal of \$263,670.68 in 1996. That is an increase of 1% over 1995. Our churches are to be commended for their efforts. South Carolina **ranked number six** among churches in the National Association.

Fifteen churches exceeded \$5,000 in giving. They are:

Horse Branch, Turveville	23,844.42
Bethany, Timmons ville	13,681.22
Darlington First	11,131.00
Florence First	10,564.72
Temple, Darlington	9,775.00
Westside, Johnsonville	9,288.04
North Spartanburg	8,144.39
Sand Hill, Coward	8,090.99
White Savannah, Conway	6,393.59
Parkway, Spartanburg	6,075.51
Lebanon, Effingham	6,066.77
Peace, Florence	6,031.76
Charleston First	5,884.03
Mt Elon, Pamlico	5,411.94
Grace, Lake City	5,303.47

An analysis of giving by churches shows that **90 churches in South Carolina gave to foreign missions** in 1996. Forty churches gave between \$1 and \$1,000; thirty-five gave between \$1,000 and \$5,000; and, as listed above, fifteen churches gave over \$5,000.

"Time Is Running Out!" A Poole Alert

Bobby and Geneva Poole report that the Marincek Church people are already dreading their upcoming furlough the last of June. But more than that, they say, is the weight of their possible retirement in the year 2000. "We realize the urgency of the hour," say Bobby and Geneva.

Please pray for the Marincek Church, the Pooles, their upcoming furlough, future retirement, and financial needs--furlough almost always places an immediate strain on a missionary's account.

The Poole's alert reminds us of an **aging missionary corps**, many of whom are facing retirement within a few years. Let us faithfully pray the Lord of Harvest that He would send forth labors into the harvest!

Free Will Baptist
Bible College



News

Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 364 students from 28 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and nine foreign countries for the 1996-97 school year. Ten students are enrolled from South Carolina. Eighty-one students completed the fall semester with grades averaging "B" or higher. Among those making the "B" Honor Roll is **Walter Lee** from Florence. Congratulations, Walter!

Free Will Baptist Bible College's

SUMMER CAMP

1997

June 22-28, 1997

- Basketball Camp
- Music Camp
- Missions Camp
- Drama Camp

\$175 per Camper
Registration by June 13

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
1-800-76-FWBC

