

# 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. Email scfwb@aol.com

## State Executive Committee to Hold Special Session

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists has called a special session to be held at the **Columbia Original Free Will Baptist Church on Tuesday, August 17, at 7:00 P.M.** According to **Rev. Sherwood Lee**, moderator of the State Association, this extraordinary action is being taken in an effort to educate, organize and motivate South Carolina Free Will Baptists to vote against the November 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum on video poker. "Video gambling is a sin against God and a curse upon the moral fiber and economic health of South Carolina," says Brother Lee. "Only time will reveal the staggering costs, in terms of lost human dignity and squandered financial resources, that have been inflicted upon this state so that greedy businessmen can reap their riches. . . . Citizens of South Carolina have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to remove video gambling from our state via the November 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum. We must act quickly and decisively," he continues, "if Free Will Baptists are to do their part. Our people must be educated, motivated and mobilized. **Because time is short and the stakes are so high, urgency is required.**"

The **Executive Committees** of the seven conferences/associations in the South Carolina State Association are requested to attend along with Free Will Baptist **pastors, preachers and other interested persons.** Brother Lee says, "Qualified men who are already involved in the struggle to defeat video gambling at the poles will share information and strategies that can save valuable preparation time. Packets containing information and ideas that can be utilized on the local church level will be distributed."



**ATTENTION** all Free Will Baptist pastors and people in South Carolina, as Brother Lee has said, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference

in the quality of life among South Carolinians by **voting "NO" on the**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum** on video poker. I urge you to attend the Executive Committee's special session to be held in Columbia on August 17, 1999.

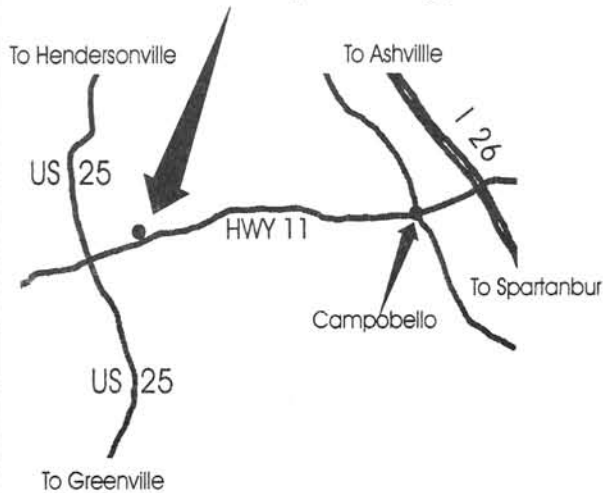
If there was ever a **clear-cut moral issue** on the ballot that Christians should vote against, South Carolina's referendum on video poker is certainly it. **Your presence and participation** in this special session is not only **requested**, it is **required** if we are going to mobilize our people in an effort to defeat it and rid our state of this devastating vice. Consider the following facts:\*

- ★ Though video poker is a \$2 billion industry in South Carolina and has grown over 40% in the last year, "The society and economy of South Carolina loses over \$424 million each year because of the [collective social and economic cost of these] machines."
- ★ Twenty percent of all video gambling players in South Carolina are problem gamblers; 33% have spent the last dollar in their pocket on these games; 19% have thought about ways to get more money; 28% of players feel guilty about playing the games; and, 5% have considered suicide.

The economic and human costs of video poker are high. God has given us an opportunity to stand against it. Help us mobilize our people to defeat the referendum!

\*Taken from the **Palmetto Perspective**, Research Report, July 1999, Palmetto Family Council.

## Don't Miss the Annual SCWAC Retreat at Lookup Lodge



The SCWAC will hold its annual retreat at Lookup Lodge on **August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**. Cost for the two-day event es \$49 per lady. The theme for this year's retreat is "**South of the Border**" to go along with the auxiliary's project of building a church in Mexico ("**Pesos for Mexico**"). Come wearing bright and loud "**South of the Border**" colors and be prepared to have a good time!

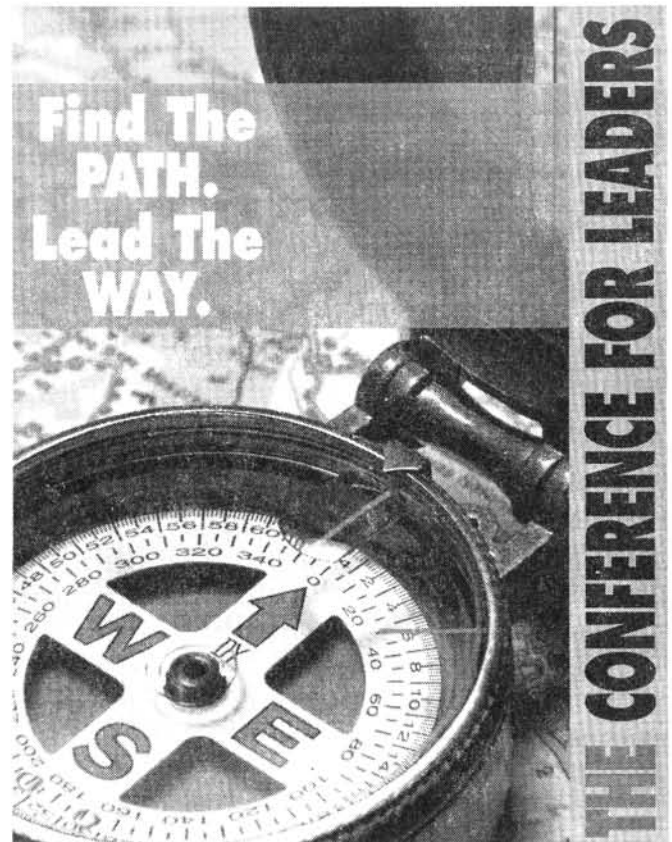
### *Southoak Changes Name to Grace Fellowship*

In a recent business meeting, the congregation of Southoak Free Will Baptist Church voted unanimously to change its name to **Grace Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church**. According to Pastor Ron Moore, the congregation wanted a name that had a biblical significance and yet said something about the congregation's values. "*Grace Fellowship* was a perfect choice," said Brother Moore. "The new name emphasizes the abundant grace of God through which we have fellowship with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior," he continued. Their new motto is, "Grace Fellowship, a church where grace abounds and fellowship thrives." Brother Ron was called as pastor of Grace Fellowship in June of this year. Because of his responsibilities as Promotional Director, is unable to attend most Sunday morning services.

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for Christian Leaders  
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**Dr. John C. Maxwell**

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In an effort to partner with South Carolina Free Will Baptists, money has been raised to **provide free scholarships for small church pastors** (under 100 in worship attendance) to the *Leadership '99* conference; and, those who register from larger churches (over 100 in worship attendance), will receive a special rate of only \$115 (normally \$175). **Pastors, this is your chance to attend one of the best conferences on leadership in America!** Dr. Maxwell will teach pastors how to apply the "21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" from a biblical perspective, make the tough decisions, motivate people, and raise up the top 20% of leaders around them. For more information about how to register for this exciting conference and take advantage of this special offer, **contact Ron Moore in the Promotional Office.**

## ***Sand Hill Erects New Church Sign***



Sand Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Coward, South Carolina, recently erected a beautiful new church sign. The church and its new sign are located on highway 4, a much traveled road between highways 301 and 52. According to pastor Sherwood Lee, the sign was erected in appreciation of family members as well as in memory of others. "We have had many positive comments—even people stopping to read our sayings," he said. "It has had a very positive effect on the community," he added. Brother Lee concluded by thanking the Sand Hill church family and friends.

## ***Jody Wynn New Assistant at Grace Fellowship***

Rev. Jody Wynn has been called to serve Grace Fellowship FWB Church as assistant pastor. Since Brother Ron Moore, pastor of the church, has continuing duties with the Promotional



Office through the end of 1999, he is unable to be present for most Sunday morning services. Brother Jody will fill in during the absence of the pastor. In addition, he will direct the music program and head up the outreach ministry of the church. Before joining the staff at Grace Fellowship, Brother Jody preached at Hickory Hill FWB Church in Gresham.

Brother Jody, his wife Kristy, and their two sons Joseph and Jacob are pictured above.

## ***Chad Watson Licensed To Preach***

Chad Watson, a member of St. John Free Will Baptist Church in Patrick, South Carolina, was licensed to preach by the South Carolina Conference on June 25, 1999. Brother Chad and his wife Cheryl have been married since 1995. They came to know the Lord in July 1996. He answered the call to preach in March of last year.

Brother Chad is currently a student at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College in Wendell, North Carolina. He has served as interim pastor of Mount Olive FWB Church in Mount Olive, North Carolina since February of this year. He plans to graduate in 2002 and asks that we pray for God's direction in his life, whether it be the pastorate or the mission field.

## ***Rev. Elro Driggers New Pastor at Beulah***



Beulah Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico, SC, has called Rev. Elro Driggers as their new pastor. Brother Driggers is well known among South Carolina Free Will Baptists. He was born in Clarendon County, has served several of our churches as pastor (most recently, Bethany and High Hill), and has spent the last few years supply preaching in many of our pulpits.

Brother Driggers is shown above with his wife Nancy. They have three children (Tim, Mary, and John), all married and living in South Carolina. John, the youngest, is pastor of Camp Branch FWB Church in Scranton. The folks at Beulah are certainly blessed to have such an outstanding preacher as their pastor. May the Lord bless their ministry together and give them much fruit for their labors.

## ***New Covenant Church Dedicates New Facilities***



New Covenant FWB dedicated its new facility located at 350 Garner Road in Spartanburg June 12, 1999. The two-story facility was purchased from another church group and is fully functional—having restrooms, a nursery, baptistry, five Sunday school rooms, a kitchen, and a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 125.

Rev. Calvin Turner is the pastor. Rev. Johnnie Bullman preached the dedicatory message. Congratulations to this fine congregation. May the Lord bless your ministry at this new location.

## ***Beulah Hosts Children's Day***



Beulah FWB Church in Pamplico recently hosted a Children's Home Day. Rev. James Wilhide, director of the home in Turbeville, was the special speaker. The children delighted the congregation with special singing. After the service, they all enjoyed a great meal prepared by the church family.

## ***Mt. Elon VBS Raises \$1,175 for Dr. Chang***

According to Deborah Poston, VBS director for Mt. Elon FWB Church in Pamplico, the children raised \$1,175 for Dr. John Chang, missionary to South Korea. There were 65 attendees and 18 staff members, which, according to Sister Poston, "hit the top of the charts."



**Mt. Elon VBS, continued**

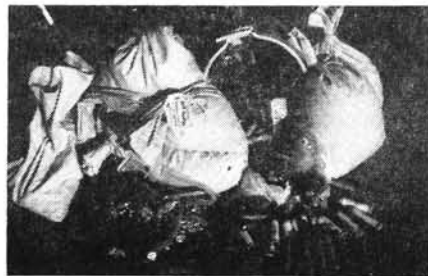
The VBS program was complete with broadcasts, games, singing, crafts, and full course meals. In an effort to help evangelize Korea with their giving, the boys and girls competed against one another in a "Super Bowl" contest to raise money. Though the boys won two nights, the girls took the week-long match by \$75. Along with the \$1,175 raised, the staff and children of Mt. Elon's VBS '99 program sent the following message: "Thank you, Dr. Chang, for your work. With this money and our prayers, we hope the Korean people can say with us, 'WE SHINE FOR JESUS!'"

**Faith Raises \$1,079  
for Aiken**



Faith FWB Church in Darlington, SC, held their VBS June 14-18, 1999. Their theme for week was "SONCASTLE" and their goal was to teach children how to use their talents for their Lord and King. All the rooms were painted as various rooms in a castle, and there was a giant KNIGHT on the front lawn.

Their special project was to help build the church in Aiken, SC. They had a contest between the girls and the boys to raise \$250 from each group. Pastor Cyrus Shoffner constructed two miniature churches with 25 pieces, each piece representing \$10. Each night they built the girls and boys church piece by piece. The VBS collected 465 pounds of money. Though the girls won the contest, all were winners in serving others with their gifts!



On Friday night, home missionary Todd Smith joined them and the children presented him with \$1079 for the Aiken building fund.

VBS directors were Cheree James and Wendy McElveen. They and all the workers deserve a special thanks for their hard work.

**Audry Gaskins  
Wins Grand Prize**



Audry Gaskins, a member of Bethel FWB Church in Florence, SC, won the grand prize during the Grand Opening of Free Will Baptist Christian Book and Supply, also in Florence. According to bookstore manager Eddie Hobbs, the grand prize winner's name was drawn randomly from the 26 daily winners. Mrs. Gaskins won over \$250 in books, a Bible and study helps. Congratulations Mrs. Gaskins!



**Honor Roll Students**

Seventy-six students made the Dean's List at FWBCC; three from South Carolina made the "B" Roll. They are,

- Darla Kirby, Timmonsville
- Walt Lee, Florence
- Darin Miles, Florence

Joey Postlewaite (Florence First FWB Church) was awarded the first Heritage Scholarship. The award was made in chapel May 11 and was given in honor of Rev. Robert Crawford.

**Sixty-four graduate in Class of '99**

Among the graduates are three students from South Carolina. They are,

- Eric Levern Brown, Darlington, Bachelor of Arts
- Darla Ray Kirby, Timmonsville, Bachelor of Arts
- Willis Monte McKenzie, Lake City, Bachelor of Science

During the graduation ceremonies, several South Carolina students received honors. Included were . . .

- Darla Kirby, Lumen Editors Medal and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges
- Shiloh Hackett, Student Body Presidents Medal and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

The FWBCC student body elected Darin Miles (Peace, Florence), who is majoring in Missions, as their 1999-2000 student body president.

**Commissioning Service  
Held for Todd Smith**

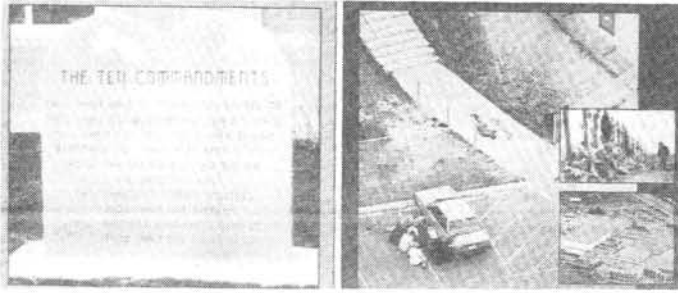
The Home Mission Board of the South Carolina State Association held a commissioning service for their new appointee to Aiken on June 26, 1999 at Hillside FWB Church in Florence. Among those participating in the ceremony were the Reverends Ron Moore, Promotional Director, Sherwood Lee, Moderator, F. Buddy Seay, Jr., Assistant Moderator, Larry McAlister, board member, and Sigbee Dilda. Brother Seay brought the message and Brother McAlister delivered the missionary charge. Special music was provided by Danny Stone and Jean Williams.

**Medical Updates**

Rev. Earl Hendrix, pastor of First FWB Church in Inman, is recovering well from open heart surgery. He sends his greetings and thanks to all who prayed for him and sent cards and flowers.

Geneva Poole, missionary to Brazil, continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments and will have a series of radiation treatments in the near future. She is having some problems with her eyes, but plans to teach in the Seminary this Fall.

## The Choice Is Ours: This or This?



*(The following is an article by Rev. Joe Cagle, pastor of New Prospect FWB Church in Pamplico)*

Deuteronomy 30:19 says, *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”*

As I was observing some boys and girls recently at a fast food restaurant playground, I thought of the recent death and destruction that is occurring in America’s schools. I wondered, “Dear God, what is ahead for these children? Is there a way, is there something we can do to give them a chance in life? Will they grow up to believe that fornication and adultery is an acceptable way of life and that there is nothing sacred or holy about marriage? Will they believe that alcoholic beverages are okay and that homosexuality is an acceptable, respected lifestyle?”

We must find a way to deliver our children from the heathenistic and satanic influences of a godless society so that we can make a better future for them. That is where Christian schools can provide help. Yes, the financial burden of a Christian school is great; yet, so is the need. Maybe, just maybe, by laboring together with the same type of support system that we use to fund other ministries, we could influence many boys and girls for Jesus. With each church supporting a Christian school in its area – whether it be Mullins-Marion, Maranatha (Florence), Inman Christian Academy, Calvary Christian (Georgetown), or New Prospect Christian (Pamplico) – we could influence these children to make a difference in our communities. Many believe that education with God and His Word honored in Christian schools along with the church is the hope of America, and our children.

The story is told of a wise old man sitting on the porch who always seemed to have the right answer. Some boys decided to trick him and prove him wrong. One of the boys asked, “Sir, is the bird in my hand alive?” The boy thought that if the wise man said “Yes,” he would crush the bird and let it fall to the ground; but, if he said “No,” he would open his hand and let it go. The old man paused a moment and answered, “It’s up to you, lad, it’s up to you.”

## Carlisle Hanna Returns To US For Furlough



Veteran missionary Carlisle Hanna returned to the states for a short furlough. When he arrived at the airport in Charleston, SC (where he makes his home) on June 10, he was greeted by family and friends. Brother Hanna was suffering from pneumonia upon his arrival. Though he has continued to have some chronic congestion, we praise the Lord that the pneumonia has cleared. Please pray for Brother Hanna and the Indian churches during his absence. A return date has not yet been set.

## Low Country Mission Making Progress



As you can tell from the picture above, Low Country FWB Mission in North Charleston is making progress on its new building. Much of the lot has been cleared, the four mobile units set in place, and the new roof sheeted (the above picture only shows the trusses). The work is slow, because of limited funds and time, but it is steadily moving forward. Please continue to pray for Brother Phillip Jones, mission pastor, and the congregation as they labor together for the Lord. If you would like to support this ministry, please send your gifts to the Promotional Office designated for “Low Country Mission.”

*Aiken Building Project  
Nears Completion*



Though construction on the first phase of the mission building in Aiken is nearing completion, several major projects are hindering occupancy. For example,

**Outside**

- Building a portico at the front entrance
- Landscaping
- Preparation of the parking lot

**Inside**

- Installation of doors and hardware
- Trim work
- Painting
- Hang ceiling tile and lights
- Restrooms fixtures
- Flooring

At this writing, it is difficult to project a completion date, which depends a lot on the availability of funds and work crews from some of our skilled Free Will Baptists around the state. If you are able to help in any of these areas, please contact Rev. Todd Smith, missionary pastor in Aiken, at 803-644-3771. Some funds are coming in to help finish this project and we thank you for your support. If your church has not yet received a special offering to help meet this need, please consider doing so this month. You may send your gift to the Promotional Office, designated for "Aiken Building Fund."

We want to extend a special thanks to Robert Shelly, a retired contractor and a member of the First FWB Church in Myrtle Beach, who is working with Brother Smith to coordinate the completion of the building and get the mission congregation out of its present rented facilities as soon as possible. We also want to thank Howard Ward, an active contractor and member of Grace Fellowship FWB Church in Florence, who is heading up a crew to hang doors and trim out windows.

**August**

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