

## **SC FWB Update, Vol. 1, No. 41, Friday, December 7, 2007**

### **OPENING REMARKS:**

Participants from 22 states gathered at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel, December 3-4, for the 2007 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference. The annual meeting explored the theme, "Blueprint for Leadership."

Keynote speakers Garnett Reid, Jack Williams, and Jeff Manning approached leadership from unique perspectives. Using Moses as an Old Testament example, Reid listed 10 characteristics of a godly leader. Williams, member of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission, gave listeners a "tour" of denominational leadership, highlighting lessons learned along the way. Jeff Manning based his message on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, citing the life of Paul as a New Testament example of positive leadership.

Denominational leaders handled a lengthy slate of business at the conference. The Nominating Committee of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met Tuesday afternoon to recommend nominees for board and commission vacancies to be filled at the 2008 convention in Charleston, West Virginia. Will Harmon (AR) chairs the seven-person committee.

Other national boards and committees met in conjunction with the conference including the Executive Committee, Home Missions Board, International Missions Board, the Board of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, the Board of Retirement and Insurance, Randall House Publications Board, and the boards of Master's Men and Women Nationally Active for Christ.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- 1) **Rev. I. Bennie Turner** was re-admitted to MUSC in Charleston this week due to acute renal failure. Please remember him in prayer during this time. He is still recovering from a recent aneurysm surgery.
- 2) Please remember the **family of Maria Rodriguez** in prayer. Maria is the wife of Hispanic missionary Gerardo Rodriguez in Una, SC. Maria's father in Brazil went to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 6 AM.
- 3) **Congratulations for Rev. Tim and Mrs. Pam Hackett** on the birth of their grandchild. Rev. Shiloh and Nicole Hackett had a baby boy, on Thursday, November 29, 2007 at 3:15 PM. Nicole is the daughter of Rev. David Crowe, Director of Church Growth in the NAFWB Home Missions office. Please remember Shiloh and Nicole as they began their journey as parents.

### **MINISTER NEWS:**

- 1) **Florence and surrounding areas...Christmas Fellowship Supper for Ministers and Wives:** Tuesday evening, December 11, 2007 at 7 PM at Horne's Restaurant on Irby Street in Florence, SC. All ministers and wives are welcome to attend. This will replace the regularly December scheduled minister's breakfast for the Florence area.
- 2) **Central Association Ministers and Wives Christmas Fellowship Supper:** Tuesday evening, December 11, 2007 at 7 PM at Dale's Seafood Restaurant, 100 S US Hwy 701 Bypass, Tabor City, NC. All ministers and wives are welcome to attend. This will replace the regularly December scheduled minister's breakfast for the Conway area.

### **CHURCH NEWS:**

**Pastor Donnie and Mrs. Trudy Miles at Peace FWB Church in Florence, SC**, will be hosting their 18th annual couples retreat to be held on Friday and Saturday, February 8-9, 2008, at the Hilton Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC. The cost is \$155 per couple. A \$100 deposit is due by December 12, 2007. The guest speaker will be Rev. Bill Evans, former FWB Board of Retirement Director. For more information, feel free to contact Trudy Miles at 843-667-6285 (church) or 843-667-8798 (home).

\*Please send church news announcements via email to [ToddSmith@scfwb.com](mailto:ToddSmith@scfwb.com) by Wednesday of each week for the following SC FWB Update. THANKS!

### **STATE NEWS:**

1) The **Eastern Conference meeting** will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at Prospect FWB Church.

2) The **Central Association meeting** will take place on Saturday, January 12, 2008, at Socastee FWB Church.

\*Be sure to visit the SC FWB web site for all upcoming conference meeting dates and places. Also, feel free to visit the SC WAC web site at [www.scwac.org](http://www.scwac.org) for upcoming ladies auxiliary events.

### **DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:**

Two **FWB IM luncheons** will be held in South Carolina to discuss the newly proposed refunding FWB IM projected plan:

- 1) East side of the state - Peace FWB Church, Florence, on January 11, 2008 at 12 noon, and
- 2) West side of the state - Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs, on January 12, 2008, at 12 noon.

Lunch will be furnished, so reservations are requested.

Please RSVP to April Bybee in the Mission office ([april@fwbgo.com](mailto:april@fwbgo.com) or toll-free 1-877-767-7736).

Also, **Randall House** Director Ron Hunter along with the Randall House Board will be meeting with state promotional directors and state bookstore managers in Nashville, TN, on Monday and Tuesday, February 4-5, 2008, in accordance with a motion passed at the July 2007 FWB Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, in order to collaborate together on the best effective means to make Randall House and our state bookstores succeed in providing the best Christian education for our churches.

### **CLOSING REMARKS:**

This weeks closing remarks are taken from *The Book of 750 Bible and Gospel Studies*, 1909, George W. Noble, Chicago:

"What We Should Keep

- Keep the sayings of Christ John 8:51-2
- Keep the commandments of Christ John 14:15
- Keep the unity of the spirit Ephesians 4:3
- Keep unspotted from the world James 1:27
- Keep in the love of God Jude 21

- Keep the faith 2 Timothy 4:7
- Keep pure 1 Timothy 5:22
- Keep yourself from idols 1 John 5:21
- Keep the body under 1 Corinthians 9:27
- Keep the heart diligently Proverbs 4:23
- Keep from the paths of the destroyer Psalm 17:4"

It is a great honor to serve you. If we can ever help you in any way, please don't hesitate to let us know.

May the Lord bless you during this Christmas season,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary  
SC Free Will Baptist State Office  
1169 Atkinson Str / PO Box 9  
Turbeville, SC 29162  
(843) 657-2091

## SC FWB Update, Vol. 1, No. 41, Thursday, December 13, 2007

### OPENING REMARKS:

With heart felt gratitude, we extend a thank you to our churches for being faithful stewards this past year in supporting missions and causes around the world. The year is almost over, and thus far, individuals and churches have sent in designated giving through our state office in the amount of \$1,232,919.74, of which 100% has been forwarded to the causes for which it was designated. We also share our gratitude with those churches who have faithfully supported our State Office on a monthly or quarterly basis. We appreciate our SC Women Active for Christ in their role of supporting missions around the world and ministries within our state. It is with great appreciation that we extend thanks to church treasurers, Sunday school superintendents, deacons, and other church leaders for utilizing our SC FWB State Office and Christian Bookstore for meeting ministry needs. Words cannot express our gratitude to our ministers who have faithfully served this year in their various positions in churches and in positions of leadership in our state. And last of all, but not the least, we thank all of our SC FWB church members for being faithful to their local church which is one of God's greatest institutions in all the world! Without God, we can do nothing, but with God, we can accomplish the impossible. It has been a great year, and I look forward to the continued blessings of what God has in store as we continue serving Him on this Heaven-ward journey!

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1) **Paul Johnson, father of John Johnson**, pastor at Hillside FWB Church in Florence, SC, was diagnosed with cancer. It is in his lymph nodes and is inoperable. Mr. Paul will begin chemo treatments tomorrow. Please remember the Johnson family in your prayers.
- 2) **Robbie Hiott's wife Tammy** had surgery on Wednesday of this week. Robbie is the pastor at First FWB Church in Charleston, SC. Tammy came home from the hospital today but will be out of work for a few weeks. Please remember Tammy in your prayers as she recovers.
- 3) **Mrs. Linda Tanner**, our FWB Christian Book & Supply Bookstore Manager at our State Office, had an MRI today to try and find the cause of severe pain in her shoulder. Please remember her in prayer.
- 4) **Mrs. Everett Ard**, grandmother of Sandy Prosser, School Administrator at Prospect Christian School, has been in the hospital recently. Please remember Mrs. Ard in prayer.

### MINISTER NEWS:

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### CHURCH NEWS:

- 1) **Pastor Donnie and Mrs. Trudy Miles at Peace FWB Church in Florence, SC**, will be hosting their 18th annual couples retreat to be held on Friday and Saturday, February 8-9, 2008, at the Hilton Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC. The cost is \$155 per couple. A \$100 deposit is due by December 12,

2007. The guest speaker will be Rev. Bill Evans, former FWB Board of Retirement Director. For more information, feel free to contact Trudy Miles at 843-667-6285 (church) or 843-667-8798 (home).

\*Please send church news announcements via email to ToddSmith@scfwb.com by Wednesday of each week for the following SC FWB Update. THANKS.

2) **Westgate FWB Church in Arcadia, SC**, will be having a "Sportsman Banquet" on Saturday, January 12, 2008, at 6:30 PM. Pastor Kevin Smith said the menu will include "deer hash, duck, quail, and more." Please call 864-574-5904 for more information.

**DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:**

Two **FWB IM luncheons** will be held in South Carolina to discuss the newly proposed refunding FWB IM projected plan:

- 1) East side of the state - Peace FWB Church, Florence, on January 11, 2008 at 12 noon, and
  - 2) West side of the state - Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs, on January 12, 2008, at 12 noon.
- Lunch will be furnished, so reservations are requested.

Please RSVP to April Bybee in the Mission office (april@fwbgo.com or toll-free 1-877-767-7736).

Also, **Randall House** Director Ron Hunter along with the Randall House Board will be meeting with state promotional directors and state bookstore managers in Nashville, TN, on Monday and Tuesday, February 4-5, 2008, in accordance with a motion passed at the July 2007 FWB Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, in order to collaborate together on the best effective means to make Randall House and our state bookstores succeed in providing the best Christian education for our churches.

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

We received a book in this week at our FWB Christian Book and Supply entitled *The Power of Suffering* by John MacArthur, Jr. As I glanced through its contents to prepare it for inventory for our bookstore shelves, I noticed the power of its contents. MacArthur shares how our faith can be strengthened when we go through the refiner's fire of suffering. All of us at some point in our life will face suffering. This is an especially difficult time of the year for those who have lost loved ones over the past year. MacArthur points out that "God often sends suffering our way to drive us to Him and compel us to look away from ourselves." He also points out that "there is always a corresponding relationship between present suffering and future glory....To the degree that we as believers suffer now, we will rejoice when we arrive in heaven because we will see the reward of our suffering (I Peter 4:13)."

As we go through this Christmas season of joy and happiness, may we remember to pray for those who are facing suffering here at home and abroad. God's grace is sufficient. God very well may use our intercessory prayer to give strength and grace in time of need in the life of another individual!

You are a blessing,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary  
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## SC FWB Update, Vol. 1, No. 42, Thursday, December 20, 2007

### OPENING REMARKS:

ATTENTION CHURCH TREASURERS: In order to give church treasurers time to submit their December giving to the state office, we will be closing out our books on Thursday, January 3, 2008. Please have all giving in to the state office by 12 noon on that Thursday in order for the giving to count in the 2007 year. Thank you for your help in this matter. You are greatly appreciated.

BOOKSTORE NOTE: The SC FWB Christian Book & Supply will be closed December 24-28, 2007 in observation of Christmas Week. Feel free to leave a message with us as messages will be checked on a frequent basis, and we will reply to the messages in a timely fashion. Thank you for your support! We wish you and your family and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

STATE OFFICE: The new State Office sign and flag poles have been installed on the State Office property. A new picture of the state office with sign and flag poles has been posted on the our web site at [www.scfwb.com](http://www.scfwb.com). Tonight, we will enjoy a Christmas supper with families and individuals that have been a part of serving at the State Office over the past year. Throughout the busyness of the Christmas season, we pray that you and your family will find the solitude of enjoying fellowship with one another in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

### PRAYER & PRAISE:

- 1) **Rebekah Bragan** recently returned from Vanderbilt for her six month follow-up. Rebekah is the wife of Robert Bragan, pastor at Beulah FWB Church, in Pamplico, SC. Bro. Robert reported that her checkup results were completely negative. Please keep her in your prayers, and we praise the Lord for this wonderful report. Also, their son, Christopher, recently underwent a minor surgery and is home and doing well.
- 2) **Rev. Bobby Bowers** recently had surgery and is steadily recovering. Bro. Bobby has been a faithful FWB minister in SC having served as pastor at First FWB Church, Greenville, SC and also serving in various national, state, and conference level positions. He now preaches in various churches during his retirement years and is still a vital part of the ministry of our state.
- 3) Continue to pray for **Paul Johnson**, father of Rev. John Johnson, pastor at Hillside FWB Church in Florence, SC. Mr. Paul was diagnosed with cancer that is inoperable.

### MINISTER NEWS:

- 1) The **Central Association meeting** will take place on Saturday, January 12, 2008, at Socastee FWB Church.
- 2) **NO Conway Area Minister's Breakfast in January** due to the fact that their normal breakfast fellowship day falls on New Year's Day. The next Conway area minister's Breakfast will be on February 5, 2007.
- 3) **Florence Area Minister's Breakfast**, Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at Bazen's Restaurant in Florence, at 8:30 AM.
- 4) Two **FWB IM luncheons** will be held in South Carolina to discuss the newly proposed refunding FWB IM projected plan:
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#### **CLOSING REMARKS:**

Larry King, the CNN talk show host, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. He said, "Jesus Christ." The questioner said, "And what would you like to ask Him?" King replied, "I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me." As a Christian, we know the answer to that question is "YES!" Jesus Christ did indeed change the history of mankind for eternity.

Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man. Receiving Christ as one's personal Savior is the greatest gift of all! We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

You are Greatly Loved,

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