

September- October
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South Carolina State Association of
Free Will Baptists
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The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Rev Mike Jones, Editor, P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504 or call (843) 662-5010.

GLORY!!



FWB Book Store Manager, Eddie Hobbs, and chief assistant, Ada Miles rejoice that they no longer charge State Sales Tax.

Your Free Will Baptist **BOOK STORE** is **NOW SALES TAX EXEMPT!** This means you will no longer have to pay the 6% state sales tax on items you purchase through your book store. Almost \$12,000 in sales tax was collected in 1999. Nearly \$8,000 has been collected so far this year. Thank the Lord, from now on Free Will Baptist Churches, Pastors, and People can keep this money and use it to advance the work of God in our churches, our state, and around the world.

Not only will you save money through a sales tax exemption but the Free Will Baptist Book Store give a standard 5% discount to churches and a 10% discount to ordained ministers- add in the 6% sales tax savings and that is an 11% savings for churches and a 16% savings for ministers. Just another way your Book Store is trying to help the Churches and Ministers in our state.

Sunday night, September 24th is a night that will be long remembered by **REV CYRUS SHOFFNER** (If he can still remember things at his old age!). That is when the good people of Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington gave their pastor a surprise birthday party. No one wanted to say how old he was but the phrase, "old as dirt" got a lot of use.



When Brother Cyrus arrived for the Sunday Night Service he found the doors locked and someone directing everyone over to the fellowship building. A devotion by the State Promotional Director, a Meal provided by the ladies, and skits (that are best not described!) by each of the Sunday School Classes were all followed by poems and various presentations. Then Brother Cyrus was blindfolded and led out of the Fellowship Building where his church presented him with a **BRAND NEW 2001 NISSAN FRONTIER TRUCK** (Glory!). What a glorious night; and what a thoughtful church.



Pastor Jakie Creech was recently surprised by the members of Horse Branch FWB Church of Turbeville. His members gave him a special basket full of cards that contained a "special" offering and then the church as a whole presented him with a **BRAND NEW COMPUTER**.

Pastor Richard Conyers recently purchased a 97 Pontiac. The following Sunday his church (Lockhart FWB Church) gave him a check that covered the entire cost (including sales tax!). Isn't that great!



VOTE NO on the LOTTERY



Free Will Baptist join with other Pastors at our State Capitol in standing against the Lottery.

VOTE NO on the LOTTERY issue on Nov 7th. EVERY religious group in South Carolina has made a stand against the Lottery. Only the Governor and the gamblers are for it. Honor God by standing for the right- - and against the Lottery.

There are 4 reasons I think it is wrong to put South Carolina into the Gambling Business:

1) It **CAPTURES** those who play. Oh, the heartache and pain I have witnessed when people began with a "little innocent fun" that developed into a debt developing, family destroying habit. They would soon beg, borrow, or steal to get just one more dollar; convinced that the "next" dollar would be the one that hit the jackpot and made up for all their previous losses.

2) It **CORRUPTS** the Government officials who promote it. The profits are so enormous and the temptation to "compromise" just a little for your piece of the pot is so great until it is extremely hard to avoid entanglement. And a little thread soon leads to a steel rope that controls the actions and attitudes of many.

3) It **CIRCUMVENTS** the plan of God that men would earn his living by the sweat of his brow. If no one farms than a million dollars would not buy a loaf of bread!

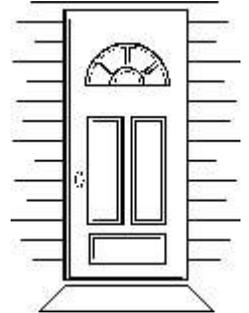
4) It **CONDITIONS** men to look to "luck" to meet their needs instead of trusting in the Lord. Father God is replaced with "lady luck"; and she is a hard woman to live with, and extremely fickle. The only "sure bet" is to trust God for daily bread. That way you will always be a winner.

SOUTH CAROLINA IS WELL ON THE WAY TO REACHING OUR PART OF A MILLION IN THE MILLENNIUM (100,001). Have YOU joined this exciting program yet?? It is one of the most motivating and far reaching programs we have attempted in a long time - **AND IT DOES GET RESULTS!**

*Pastor Daggett Duncan and New Vision FWB Church started out to reach 1000. So far they have reached over 750 - saw their attendance double! - and have now set their goal for 2000.

*Pastor Larry McAlister and Gilead FWB Church started with a goal of 1000 in a year but when they saw the excitement and the results they moved their goal to TWO in TWO (2000 in 2 months!).

* Home Mission Churches, Tent Maker Mission churches, Country churches, City Churches; all have seen God use this program to reach new families for Christ. Call the FWB Book store today to order your witness bags for distribution- 843-662-8682.



Pastor Stuart Snow and the good people of High Point FWB Church in Lancaster surprised Home Missionary Todd and Teresa Smith with a love offering of \$1274 at the beginning of the Sunday night service on October 8th to help with the mission work in Aiken. What a blessing to see how God is working to meet the needs of this mission work.



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP- Generous Free Will Baptist have given nearly \$6000 to help repay the \$30,000 Renovation Loan for the Promotion Office. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Poplar Hill, Hemingway-\$ 300; Faith, Smyrna- \$100; Cornerstone, Whiteville, NC-\$358.28; Walker's Chapel, Sumter- \$500; Lynches River, Coward-

\$122; Mt Ariel, Conway- \$500; St John, Patrick- \$228; Bay Branch, Timmons-ville- \$300; Bethany, Timmons-ville- \$1000; Mill Branch, Johnsonville- \$2500; Louise Saverance- \$80= \$5988.28 !! (Glory!) (Lebanon, Effingham gave \$1000 in 1999 that helped during the building)

TRIPLE TREATS

South Carolina Free Will Baptist are blessed to have several Men of God who have had at least two of their sons to follow them into the ministry. What a heritage and blessing it is to see servants of God passing the "Mantle" to generation after generation.



THE HACKETT FAMILY: Pastor Tim and Pam Hackett have two sons in the Gospel ministry. Brother Tim is the pastor of **Fairview FWB Church** in Spartanburg, SC. This growing church voted on May 21, 2000 to purchase 17 acres of land on highway 221 (North of Spartanburg). This land has nearly 500 feet of frontage on this four lane highway. The Church also voted to sell its present facilities- and (surprise) they sold within 3 weeks! Until they can build on their new property they will be meeting in the Whitney FWB Church facilities.

Shawn Hackett is the pastor of **Whitney FWB Church** in Spartanburg. He was ordained in a joint service with Fairview FWB Church and the Whitney FWB Church on October 17, 1999. Shawn is married to Crissy Horne of Campobello and has attended Southeastern FWB Bible College and Free Will Baptist Bible College. He was the Assistant Pastor and Youth Director at Fairview before he assumed the pastorate at Whitney.



Shiloh Hackett was ordained into the Gospel Ministry on August 22, 1999 at Fairview FWB Church. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College and served for a time as Youth Director in Missouri. He presently is serving as **Youth Director of Fairview FWB Church** while teaching and coaching the basketball team at Inman Christian Academy.



THE HILL FAMILY: Pastor Reddin (Buddy) and Evelyn Hill also have 2 sons in the gospel ministry. Brother Hill is the pastor (and has been for 26 years!) of First FWB Church in Hamlet, NC. Rev Tom Hill (Wife, Maryglenn) was ordained in April of this year. He is presently serving as Assistant pastor of First FWB Church, Hamlet. Rev Michael Hill was ordained on Wed, Aug 30, 2000 at First FWB Church, Hamlet. It was a stormy rainy night and brother Michael's wife, Candace was still recovering from the lost of an infant son 4 days previous but God moved in a special way during the service. And to show this family is all involved in the Lord's work- Brother Buddy Oldest Son (Bobby) is a

Deacon and his Daughter (Michele) is married to a Deacon!

THE DRIGGERS FAMILY: Pastor Elro and Nancy Driggers also are blessed with 2 sons in the ministry. Brother Elro is doing a wonderful work as Pastor of **Beulah FWB Church**, Pamplico. This church is growing and progressing under his ministry and brother Elro has retired from retiring!

Rev John Driggers is the pastor of **Camp Branch FWB Church**, Lake City. God has blessed in his ministry in one of our oldest Churches and he has seen good progress in the work.

Brother Tim Driggers is the Minister of music, and his wife, Cynthia, is pianist, at **Bethany FWB Church**, Timmonsville.



Thank God that He calls families to minister to the family of God. May it be a common occurrence in our ranks.

NEW PASTORS:



Rev. Robert Bragan was elected as the new pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church of North Charleston on August 27th. He comes from the position of resident director of the Free Will Baptist Bible College & he was pastor of Fernvale Community Church in

Fernvale, TN from 1998-2000. He is married to Rebekah and has three children: Christopher, Caitlyn, & Caleb. We welcome Brother Bobby and his family to South Carolina and look for God to Bless his work in the Charleston area.

Bethany FWB Church of Timmonsville welcomed new pastor **Rev Phil Bozeman** the last week in September. He comes from a work in Russelville, Arkansas. He and his wife, Lydia, have 3 children, Katie (15) , Stephen (8), and Amy (3). We are excited to have them in South Carolina.



Liberty FWB Church of Lancaster called **Rev Tim Larrimore** as their new pastor on Sunday, Aug 20th. Brother Tim, his wife, Jowand, and children, Heather and Blake are looking forward to a fruitful ministry (They have already had a high day of 190!) at this fine church. Brother Tim comes to Liberty from the pastorate at South Conway FWB Church.



King's Way FWB Church of Enoree recently called **Rev Pete Bove** as Pastor. Brother Pete, his wife, Annette, and children, come to this ministry from attending Southeastern FWB College and assisting with the work at First FWB Church, Raleigh. He is happy to report that the church is growing and souls are being saved.



Rev Clifford Strickland was ordained into the Gospel ministry on Wednesday, August 16th at South Conway FWB Church.

Brother Strickland, his wife, Quanita, and children, Brandon and Alysha, are presently looking for God's place of service.



Rev Larry McAlister is a "phone person". He likes to call and converse on the phone. The Promotional Office is taking advantage of this talent by volunteering Brother Larry to come in one day a week and contact Pastors across the state. He will be seeking to encourage our Pastors, find out if they have prayer needs, and obtain information about activities going on at our churches so they can be publicized and attended.



Rev James Earl Raper is a "much retired man". He retired from the pastorate and then began filling in at churches. This lead many times to his acting as interim Pastor. So far he has "retired" 5 times! And he is back at it again as he helps out Fellowship FWB Church in Florence during the sickness of Pastor, Joe McKnight.



Before he preached the ordination service for Rev Michael Hill, **Pastor Bill Jacobs** did two things. He surprised his wife Arlis by calling her to the front and letting everyone sing Happy Birthday- and he made a statement I will never forget- "If I were not a Free Will Baptist, I know exactly what I would be- Ashamed!" Amen, Brother, Preach it.



VICTORY IN ANDERSON- The state of South Carolina extends a big **THANK YOU to Pastor Danny Keen**. Under God's Blessings, He has been able to lead the congregation of Landmark FWB Church in Anderson to Self Supporting Status. And they celebrated this with a big "Victory Weekend".

They led into the "Victory Weekend" with a week of revival preached by brother Danny's twin brother, Dennis (Pastor of Mt Calvary FWB Church in Aberdeen Maryland). Then on Saturday, September 30, Landmark FWB Church used its last official act as a mission church to take part in "Operation Saturation". 21 pastors and 53



Pastor Danny Keen commends Pastor Norris Hawkins and his family for their work in beginning the mission work in Anderson

people from other churches brought over \$2000 to assist in the expenses of the packets and then assisted the members of Landmark FWB Church in distributing 4700 (Glory!) gospel packets to homes in the Anderson area. And when they returned from tramping the streets of Anderson, the good people of Landmark had prepared a barbeque hog with all the trimmings dinner for them.



Pastor Donnie Miles of Peace FWB Church of Florence is recognized for bring the most people to help in Operation Saturation.

Immediately following dinner the church had a special service to **DEDICATE** their new facilities (as nice as any you have seen) to the glory of God. Numerous people were recognized for their part in helping bring the church to this day and then Home Mission Board Chairman, Rev Earl Hendrix preached a powerful message on the work of the Church.

Sunday, October 1st, the no longer a Home Mission but now a church celebrated Home Coming. The singing group "Heart Song" ministered during the 10am service and Rev Dennis Keen preached a stirring message during the 11am service. Then, you knew this was coming!, we had a wonderful dinner.

Many of brother Danny's family members attended this great "Victory Weekend" and we are glad they could be

part of this great celebration. Thank the Lord for brother Danny, Mrs Jane, and all the congregation of Landmark FWB Church. We appreciate all their hard work and look forward to God greatly blessing in the days to come.



Operation Saturation was a grand success at **Southside FWB Church in Aiken** also. Home Missionary Todd Smith reported that over 50 people participated and distributed 1500 gospel packets. The following churches participated- Camp Branch, Scranton; White Savannah, Conway; Peace, Florence; Gilead, Lake City; and Jefferson Road, Sumter. Also assisting were Bro. Eddie Hobbs from the FWB Book Store and Bro. Tom Dooley (from Master's Men).

State Home Mission Chairman, Rev Earl Hendrix leads in congratulating Pastor Danny Keen and his wife, Jane on their good work in leading our Anderson Mission to Self supporting status.

Following the distribution of the tracts everyone gathered for a time of fellowship and food (You know Free Will Baptist will be in charge of the marriage supper of the Lamb!) and brother Todd gave gifts to those who had made a special effort to bring people to help in this effort.

EASTERN CONFERENCE REVIVAL with REV DAVID CROWE to benefit the Aiken Work will be hosted by Gilead FWB Church, Scranton on October 23-26 at 7:00pm each night. Brother David is Director of Missionary Assistance with our National Home Mission Department and a wonderful preacher. He will also be speaking at the Eastern Conference Quarterly Meeting (St John FWB Church, Lake City) on Saturday, Oct 21st and will be ministering at Southside FWB Church in Aiken on Sunday, Oct 22nd.



Assistant Pastor, Mike Bishop of Gilead FWB Church, Scranton is honored for bringing people to help pass out Tracts.

The **S. C. State Home Mission Board** requests your prayers as they seek God's Will in beginning a new work for God in South Carolina. They hope to have a recommendation to present at the state meeting in February (22-23) at Gilead FWB Church.

In the mean time they ask that you continue to send support to the Mission work in Aiken as well as the Home Mission Board in order that they might have the funds necessary to do the ground work for a new mission and put a down payment on land on which to build a new church.





“Assistant Pastor” **Mrs. Doris Bullman** was surprised by a 70th birthday party at Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg on Sunday night, August 20th. Pastor (and husband) Johnnie Bullman led in the festivities. Mrs. Doris’ family sat on the front seat of the Church as Mrs. Doris was

honored with testimonies; both in person and via video. She then received gifts totaling over \$2000 and was honored at a reception in the fellowship building afterwards.

Mrs. Doris is called the “Assistant Pastor” because she normally does much of the work at Peace FWB Church during the week while Brother Johnnie is gone with his evangelistic ministry. She is a wonderful lady who is tremendously loved in the Church and in the community.



Pastor Leroy Lowery and the congregation of Southside FWB Church, Darlington celebrated the move into their **NEW SANCTUARY** on Sunday, September

24th. The new Sanctuary is over 3200 square feet and will seat 250-275. They plan to turn the old Sanctuary into a much needed Fellowship Building.



Southside Church is the home of Pee Dee Bible Institute, a growing Day Care Ministry, and some very friendly people. Thank the Lord for their growth- part of a pattern of growth for Free Will Baptist in the Darlington area.



Pastor Steward Norris and the congregation of Cornerstone FWB Church, Whiteville, NC are facing a “Baby Boom”. They had 65 babies born in the church during the last 4 years! Add those to the

growing list of new converts and you will understand their need of building more rooms onto the Church and adding more pew to the Sanctuary.

This great congregation is also blessed with much musical talent. They have so many musicians until I



First place Golf Team: Buddy Tanner and Larry Broach (not pictured- Don Stegall)

could not get them all in the picture I took! They have a great Spirit and a friendly atmosphere and we are thankful for their part in building the kingdom of God

TERMITE TROUBLE. That is what happened at New Town FWB Church. But God took a problem and made it into a plus! Pastor Roger Tripp said that the congregation used this problem as an excuse to remodel the Sanctuary and it came out looking better than ever.

They even took the original bricks used to under pin the sanctuary, cleaned them up, put a plaque on each, and sold them to help pay for the expense of remodeling. And the ended up with an almost new sanctuary that has very little debt. How wonderfully God works.



G O L F DAY at the FWB Children’s Home was another great



success. Over \$34,000 was raised in the golf tournament and auction to benefit the home; and a lot of fun was had by all.

Over 230 golfers joined in the action this year. This event involves a lot of work and coordination and everyone who takes part is to be commended.

MIRACLE DAY at the Home is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th. On this day the home hopes to finish paying off the debt on the boys dorm so they can begin work on the new girl’s dorm. Tours will begin at 10am. There will be a program at 11am and lunch will be served at noon.



Mack Atchinson looks at the \$1000 cake he just purchased to benefit the Children’s Home.

Pastor Bill Jacobs announces that Billy Fields will be at Marion-Mullins FWB Church on Sunday, November 5th during their morning and evening service. This will kick off their **fall revival with evangelist, Rev Roger Duncan** (Nov 6-10)



Part of the over 300 ladies who attended the WAC ladies Retreat at Lookup Lodge Sept 29-30. I won't tell you WHY THEY ARE STANDING but their Pastors should get a very good altar call response if he preaches on GOSSIP.



The Speaker at the WAC Retreat, Mrs Ann Truett and Mrs Joanne King, stirred hearts and tears with their timely messages.



Head "Frog", Mrs Gwen Hendrix, was surprised by Birthday wishes.

Pastor Mike McAuley helps WAC president, Mrs Mary Byrd, present a check to



Missionaries Andy and Andrea Moore for \$2500 from the Ladies Auxiliary of the First FWB Church of Darlington. These ladies raised this money by selling cookbooks that they put together themselves. They began with 100 and the Lord blesses so greatly until they sold over 500!! And the sales continue.

Pastor McAuley also told the Moores that First FWB Church would begin including them in their budget from now on.



L-r: Fastine Lloyd, Linda Marotta, Sara Davis, Rudey Sansbury, Iva Nell Ruthven, Dorothy Sanders, Dorothy Skinner, Sharon Shoffner, Chloris Woodham, Brenda Blackman, Jill Norwood

Winners in the **Most Creative Costume** were Grace Auxiliary, Lake City; Inman Auxiliary, Inman; and Arcadia Auxiliary, Spartanburg but they should have had 50 winners because of the work and effort that went into EVERY groups costume. Way to go, Ladies, You impressed me.



Westside FWB Church, Johnsonville, will have a "Relay For Missions" on Saturday, Oct 28th at Johnsonville High School with a Hamburger Supper afterward. Missionary to Spain, Susan Turnbough will be their Special Guest

The Ladies Auxiliary of Faith FWB Church in Darlington held their annual **YARD SALE** for Missions on Saturday, September 9th. They were happy to present to "Princess Paula" (acting for the Promotional Office) a check for **\$2000** (Glory!) for Missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole. What an inspiration these hard working ladies are.

Beulah FWB Church, Pamplico raised \$525 for Andy Moore during their VBS. The Children were all given prayer cards for the Moores and learned about life in Brazil.

A local race driver, Robert Ard, brought his truck for the Children to see as they learned how to "Race for Jesus".





NORTHGATE Free Will Baptist Church held its inaugural service on Sunday, October 15, 2000. This new mission Church is a ministry of First Free Will Baptist Church of Inman (Pastor Earl Hendrix). **Rev Chad West is the pastor** of this new work. It is located in the Country Plaza Shopping center (1300 E Wade Hampton Blvd) in Greer, SC.

Since his ordination on Feb 6th of this year Brother Chad has received an Associate of Theology Degree from the Beaver Creek Bible Institute and has taken some external studies from Southeastern FWB Bible College to prepare him for this work. He, his wife Sherrie, and their children, Cody, Austin, and Travis are excited about the work and look for God to use them in a mighty way in Greer.

FOREIGN MISSION NEWS:

- **Carlisle Hanna** has shown improvement in health since coming off some of his medicine. He is planning to return to India January 4, 2001 to minister and prepare for the Golden Jubilee Celebration of 50 years of FWB Mission work in India (Several of our state pastors plan to attend this special service- early March.) Pray for God to provide health, direction, and strength.



- **Andy and Andrea Moore** continue their stateside work as they look forward to their Commissioning Service on Dec 2nd at Pleasant Acres FWB Church in New Bern, NC (Pastor Dean Dobbs). They plan to leave for Brazil in early January of 2001.

- **Mirial Gainer** continues to recuperate from a sprained ankle as she goes about her work in Japan. Pray for God to help her during this difficult time.

- The **David Aycock** family continue to prepare for their return to Brazil in early January of 2001. Packing for a 4 year stay can be taxing for anyone so pray for them as they make final preparations

- The **Jim Cowart** Family is back in Brazil where Jim is assuming his full duties as a Missionary and Field Counsel Chairman. Pray for God to guide in decisions and adjustments.



- **Tim, Kristi, and Alejandro Johnson** are hard at work in establishing a work for God in Spain. They have a very busy schedule so pray for God to give them strength and wisdom as they continue to adapt to Spain; and a new member of the family

- **Bobby and Geneva Poole** are still hard at work. Duties at the Seminary, the church, and other activities keep them very busy. Remember that they are entering their “spring” as we enter our fall. Pray for Health and strength as they begin their 41st year of service.

Pastor Mitch Edge and the Parkway FWB Church of Spartanburg are rejoicing in



God's blessings on their ministry. They have excellent facilities, a huge choir that is filled to overflowing with VERY talented people, and a preacher who is not half bad (!). Another place where God is mightily at work among Free Will Baptist in South Carolina.



Fellowship FWB Church of Florence celebrated their HOME COMING on Sunday, Sept 17th. Rev James Earl Raper was



the special guest Adult Sunday School Teacher. “Puppets of Praise” performed several skits and **Pastor Joe McKnight** brought the Morning Message- and then we ate! It was a good day of fellowship and celebration. Brother Joe was so excited about all this until several weeks latter he had a heart attack! But he is recovering nicely from his surgery and can hardly wait to get back in the pulpit and share how God worked in supernatural ways during this crisis time in his life.



WILL THERE BE ANYONE IN HEAVEN BECAUSE OF YOUR EFFORTS??