

THE



INFORMER

The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists.

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September - October, 2001

TERROR WAR

Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a day that will live in infamy. Terror and death arrived inside America. Our hearts "stood still" as our eyes found it difficult to believe what we were seeing. We were "at ease in Zion" when suddenly our world was rocked by evil on such a scale as is hard to even imagine. Our senses were assaulted as we observed over and over the unbelievable spectacle of planes plunging into buildings in the very heart of an American City. We looked in horror as people leaped to their death and as seemingly solid buildings collapsed into piles of death and debris. And we watched in amazement as prayer became popular again, as God's name was used for something besides a curse word, and as a nation shook itself for a moment and realized that games were just games and were not so important after all.



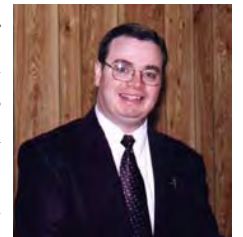
Where were Free Will Baptists during this time? Right where we have always been, holding high the banner of our Wonderful God. Many churches opened their doors for prayer and support. Pastor after Pastor informed me about programs and plans that allowed them to share God with a world that was desperately seeking answers- and hungrily seeking God. More than ever people realized they needed a church that is more than a social club where they went to be respectable; they needed a church that believed in the Bible, the new Birth, and the Blessed Hope of our soon coming Lord- in other words, a local Free Will Baptist Church!

Now the war has begun in earnest. Only God knows what awaits us in the days ahead. What should we do? Repent of our past failures, Remain faithful to God's word and His work, and Renew our efforts to reach a lost and dying world for Christ. God has put Free Will Baptists here "for such a time as this". May we be found faithfully doing our job until that great day that the Eastern Skies parts and our Lord returns for His People.

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Northgate Free Will Baptist Mission, Greer has begun to outgrow their store front location. Pastor Chad West began to pray and watch God Work. In a

marvelous turn of events, the Church was recently able to purchase 5 acres of land on Highway 358 in Lyman for \$90,000. \$16,000 had been saved to pay down on the land and they are trusting God to help them pay the remaining \$74,000 in a short time so they can begin building another Free Will Baptist Church to reach the World for Christ.



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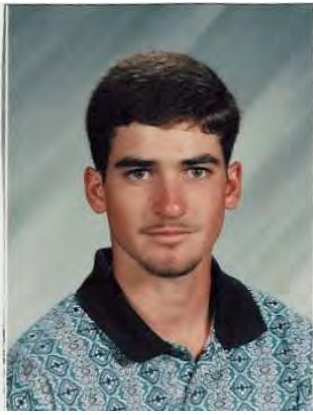
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SCFWB FINANCIAL FACTS

South Carolina Plan of Support for FOREIGN MISSIONS			
Missionary	Thru Sept 30, 2000	Thru Sept 30, 2001	2001 S C Support Goal
Aycok- Brazil	\$12,029.34	\$9,152.92	\$37,923.02
Gainer- Japan	\$22,829.83	\$23,027.38	\$78,844.06
Hanna- India	\$94,078.98	\$84,350.50	\$138,409.91
Johnson- Spain	\$23,558.63	\$17,745.53	\$39,807.83
Moore- Brazil	\$56,692.44	\$19,202.49	\$41,365.75
Poole- Brazil	\$22,828.98	\$21,909.81	\$60,814.54
TOTALS	\$232,018.20	\$175,388.63	\$397,165.11
Total ALL Foreign Missions*	\$299,798.06	\$265,707.74	

*Includes giving to projects like Brazil Children's Home and other designated Foreign Missionaries.

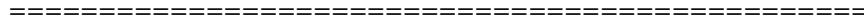
SCFWB DESIGNATED GIVING through the Promotional Office			
Thru Sept 30, 2000	\$669,327.59	Money given for all causes	
Thru Sept 30, 2001	\$693,363.55		
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS RECEIVED			
	Thru 9-30-2000	Thru 9-30-2001	
Special Projects	\$11,950.50	\$14,461.06*	*\$13,221.06-Summer Missionaries
Local Conference Projects	\$5,359.88	\$21,317.91	BC Bible Institute/Conf Missions
National Foreign Missions	\$299,798.06	\$265,707.74	
FWB Bible College	\$41,542.55	\$45,254.87	
National Home Missions	\$74,076.24	\$60,076.04	
Other National Ministries	\$5,434.74	\$5,682.92	
Other Foreign Missions	\$10,957.71	\$20,274.58	Non-NAFWB Missionaries
Southeastern College	\$20,538.64	\$15,610.72	
Other Ministries	\$9,970.93	\$8,350.94	
Children's Home	\$74,855.61	\$79,179.73	
Promotional Office	\$44,663.38	\$49,951.79	
State Home Missions	\$42,258.56	\$42,628.51	
WNAC Distribution	\$26,851.08	\$40,460.38	
Other State Ministries	\$1,069.71	\$24,406.36*	*\$22,963.28 P Jones Medical
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	\$669,327.59	\$693,363.55	100% given as designated



TRAVIS POSTON MEMORIAL FUND FOR MISSIONS: An early morning knock changed their world. A tragic accident had claimed the life of the only son of Terry and Cynthia Poston. Grief almost overwhelmed them but plans had to be made. During the planning, former pastor Ronnie Jones suggested that a memorial for missions be set up in lieu of so many flowers. A call was made to the SCFWB Promotional Office, a need was shared, and God began to work.

Missionary Carlisle Hanna had shared the need for land for Churches in India and it was decided to establish the "Travis Poston Memorial Fund for Missions" in order to purchase land in India. The original goal was \$6000- as of September 30th the fund stood at nearly \$15,000 (Glory!). Already an acre of land directly across from the University in Islampur has been obligated for and Brother Carlisle plans to purchase more on his upcoming November trip back to India.

Only God can take the darkest moment of a couples life and turn it into a means of bringing light to the lost in India (Contributions are still being accepted in order to purchase more land in India).



Ready to Saturate Aiken with the Gospel

OPERATION SATURATION SUCCESS: Missionary Pastor Todd Smith is rejoicing in God's Blessings during this year's effort to reach Aiken with the Gospel. 41 people came to Southside FWB Church early on a Saturday Morning (32 to knock doors and 9 to help with preparation and the meal) and in a few short hours were able to reach 1000 homes with the Gospel of Christ (The goal was 2000 homes but because of the recent events in America many people wanted to talk with us or thank us as we visited. We visited fewer homes but I believe we did more good!).



Door Knockers share a meal in the dining area of Southside FWB Church



Pastor Joe Moore is congratulated for bringing the most people to knock doors



Pastor Tony Trott is thanked by Missionary Todd Smith.



Pastor Rick Cason receives a gift for coming the greatest distance.

Visiting Churches that came to help were Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, N C (Pastor Rick Cason), North Spartanburg FWB Church (Pastor Joe Moore), S t John FWB Church, Pamplico (Pastor Ricky Evans), and Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter (Pastor Tony Trott).

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FAITH WORKS: The Ladies Auxiliary of Faith FWB Church, Darlington (Pastor Cyrus Shoffner) holds an annual yard sale for Missions. This year they raised \$2000 to assist Bobby and Geneva Poole with their work in Brazil (Is there a Glory anywhere out there?). These ladies turned "trash to cash" and helped reach souls in Brazil. That is a good day's work.

NEW PASTOR AT LESSLIE: Lesslie FWB Church, Rock Hill recently called Rev Douglas Western as Pastor. Brother Western expects to move soon and is looking for a great ministry at the Lesslie Church.

USED CHURCH FURNISHINGS: Grace FWB Church, Lake City is remodeling and enlarging their Church. The remodeling will include new Pews, Lights, Choir Chairs, and Pulpit Furniture . If you would like to obtain the ones they presently have then contact Pastor Carroll Bazen at (843) 394-3725



Pastor Donnie Miles accepts the keys to the new church.

DEDICATION DAY finally arrived for Peace FWB Church, Florence on Sunday, August 12th. One look inside this beautiful new facility and you will see that it was well worth the wait.

Former Pastor Danny Keen (now at Landmark FWB Church in Anderson) preached the final message in the old Sanctuary before the victory celebration in the new Sanctuary. Testimonies, soul stirring music, and a "right on target" message by Pastor Donnie Miles brought everyone to the realization that this congregation had many reasons to praise the Lord for His great provision.



The Spacious Sanctuary

(Many will get to experience this new facility as Peace hosts the SC Conference Annual Conference Jan 24-25, 2002 with special speaker- Rev Jerry Norris)

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Pastor Clay Cordell went all out for recent **Home Coming Services at Canaan FWB Church, Lancaster**. Special Music was provided by the Dixie Melody Boys during the 10am service. The Promotional Director preached at 11am and an all you can eat buffet of BBQ, Fried Catfish, Fried Flounder, Fried Perch, and all the trimmings highlighted the fellowship meal.



Princess Paula tries to decide what fish to pick.

There was even a giant ladder Fire Truck and Police Car for the kids to tour. This was one time it was good to see a Police Car at Church!

CHILDREN'S HOME NEWS:

Rev Pat Minihane Resigns- Rev. Pat Minihane came to the Children's Home 3 months ago to act as Promotional Director for the Home. During that time he worked to increase awareness of the needs of the Children's Home; He, along with our "Little People", shared the Gospel in several of our Free Will Baptist churches; and he made numerous contacts in search of grants that might benefit the Home. He was also active in seeking sponsors for the Children's Home benefit golf tournament. But it became increasingly clear to him that his heart was still in the Pastorate. After much prayer and soul searching he submitted his resignation to the Children's Home board.

Brother Pat has left the Children's Home but not the work of the Lord. He has accepted the call to pastor Antioch Baptist Church in Lancaster, South Carolina. We pray that God will richly bless Rev. Minihane's ministry in Lancaster.

We are still rejoicing over the huge success of the **7th Annual Golf Tournament** held September 8, 2001. Thanks to the hard work of many individuals, the enthusiastic response of the golfers, and the generous support of our sponsors, we exceeded our goal and were blessed with our best tournament to date. This year we grossed a little over \$41,000! Praise God!!! The Children's Home received a net donation of around \$33,500 after tournament expenses.



A much needed roof is installed on the Little People's dorm at the Children's Home by workers from White Savannah FWB Church, Oak Grove FWB Church, and North Conway Church of God

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all those who participated in the tournament. We also want to thank the men and women who give of their time and resources each year to organize the Golf Tournament. Our Golf Committee is made up of the following members: Mr./ Mrs. Ivan Miles, Mr. Ernest Broach, Mr./ Mrs. A.C. Allen, Mr. Larry Hawkins, Mr. Gerald Johnson, Rev. Mike McCauley, Mrs. Cynthia Crowe, Mr. Arris Morgan, Mr./ Mrs. Speedy Bazen, and Mr. Johnny Howle.



In a very stirring moment, the Ladies hold a candle light vigil for the 9-11 victims

STATE WAC RETREAT

When Mrs Gwen and the ladies of the state WAC get together anything can (and usually does!) happen. This years meeting while the dust was still settling in NY and Washington brought a somber reality into the usual time of fun and fellowship.

The Friday Night service packed the church as Ladies from all over the state joined in a time of fun, singing, and prayer for America- all Built around the Theme of "I Want that Mountain".

Hillbilly "bands" from several churches entertained, several contestants successfully played "Who wants to be a Mountaineer?", several skits were presented, and nearly \$2000 was raised in the "Manna for Hanna" offering to help the famine victims in India.

Saturday Morning services included prayer, songs of praise, a concert by Mrs Rhonda Freeman, and a message from Mrs Ashley Hartley. All of the ladies left saying they could hardly wait until next year for their annual get together.



Immanuel FWB Church Ladies Band



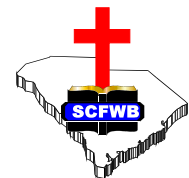
Valley Falls Ladies "Pick and Grin"

PRAYER REQUEST: Mrs Gwen Hendrix, beloved wife of Rev Earl Hendrix (First FWB Church, Inman) and president of the State WAC has been diagnosed with lymphoma cancer. She is presently undergoing treatment and we expect God to work in a mighty way. Please put her on your prayer list and undergird her with constant prayer during this difficult time.

HISTORY OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

S C Historical Commission Chairman, National Historical Commission Board Member, Rev Joe McKnight

The Augustine Wilson Saga: The Wilson, McKenzie, and Johnson families appear to have been closely linked with Redding Moore in his missionary endeavors. They migrated from eastern North Carolina to the Pee Dee region of South Carolina in the same time period as the Moore family. There are records of marriages between the families, and evidence of mutual involvement in the Old Mother Church and Piney Grove Church. In this article, and future articles, we will examine the historical records of these Free Will Baptist pioneers. The Wilson family provided two of the most colorful and intriguing characters in our early history. Though the record of Rev. John T. Wilson is more complete, we must begin with the story of his father, Augustin Wilson.



Augustin Wilson was born on August 4, 1755, in Lunenburg County, Virginia. By 1775 he was living in Dobbs County (now Greene County), North Carolina. In October, 1775 he joined the Continental Army to fight in the American Revolution. Augustin served as a private, sergeant and ensign in the First Regiment of Dobbs County, commanded by Colonel Peyton. His commission as an ensign was signed by Colonel Caswell and witnessed by North Carolina governor Richard Dobbs Speights. He saw military action in New Bern and Edenton areas of North Carolina, and the Norfolk and Great Bridge areas of Virginia.

After the war, he returned to Dobbs County. He received a grant of land, probably as a reward for his military service, on December 20, 1791. About 1805 he moved to what was then Sumter County (now Williamsburg County), South Carolina. Since there is no reference to his wife at any time, it is assumed she had died prior to the move. Sumter County records indicate that Augustin purchased land from John and Elizabeth McElveen in 1808, from Henry and Elizabeth Coker in 1812, and from Whitley Coker in 1819. This land was located near the Hebron community of Williamsburg County.

(Continued Next Edition)

BETHANY HONORS FAITHFUL SERVANTS: On Sunday, October 7th Bethany FWB Church, Timmonsville (Pastor Phil Bozeman) honored two men in the church for their years of faithful service. Brother Randall Kirby has served as Deacon for 48 years and Brother Rudolph Vause has served as Trustee for 33 years. Due to a new rotation program recently instituted by the Church they will rotate off the boards for a year and the Church wanted to recognize their years of continuous service. Certificates of Appreciation were given to each, as well as a standing ovation from an appreciative congregation. Faithfulness and dedication like this continue to be an inspiration to everyone!



Randall Kirby and Rudolph Vause

ST JOHN HOME COMING/ PASTOR APPRECIATION. The warmth of the Spirit and the kindness of the people dispelled the cool of the early fall day as the congregation of St John FWB Church, Patrick met together for their annual Home Coming Service. Sunday School was immediately followed by a soul stirring concert presented by Ricky and Beverly Tyner. The special speaker for this service, Rev Mitch Edge (Pastor of Parkway FWB Church, Spartanburg), then preached a powerful message on "Treasures".



At the conclusion of the service, a special offering was received and Pastor Todd Black was surprised with a wonderful Pastor Appreciation Gift- which will come in very handy since he and his lovely wife are expecting a new girl to be added to their family in the very near future.



Sunday, August 26th was a great day in the history of **Low Country FWB Church**. On that day the South Carolina Conference Executive Committee recognized the Church as being a full fledged church. Long days and night of hard work and extra effort had finally allowed this church to move from the front room of the Pastor's home into a beautiful building on a nice lot in North Charleston. Located "a stone's throw" from Trident Hospital and Charleston Southern University, this Church has an excellent opportunity to reach a fast growing area and minister to many health care professionals and impressionable young people. Pastor Phillip Jones is excited about going from building the physical building into building the spiritual church and we anticipate more good news from this church in the days to come.



L-r: Rev Tony Trott, Rev Todd Parrish, Pastor Phillip Jones, Rev Leroy Lowery, Rev Jason Miles



Rev Mike McAuley looks over the birthday cards from his members

Pastor Mike McAuley got a big surprise recently. He thought the Promotional Director was coming to tell his church about the Plan of Support for Foreign Missions but in actuality the Church was planning a Pastor Appreciation Night. After a very brief talk on Missions the Promotional Director turned the service over to Rev Sheldon Buck who led the Church in presenting several Skits about the Perfect Pastor, gave Brother Mike a nice gift from the Church (the last figure I had was over \$1000- Glory!), and then dismissed everyone to the Fellowship Building where a wonderful fellowship meal was enjoyed by all.



GOOD IDEA: Several Pastors have had a "Surprise Sunday" in the past year. The latest was Pastor Ricky Evans of St John FWB Church, Scranton. Pastor Wayland Owens (First FWB Church, Kingstree) was the surprise speaker, all the singers in the Church were combined into one group for the surprise singing, and shouts of victory could be heard all over as 170 people crowded into this country church!! One person was saved on this Sunday; and 4 more the next Sunday (Glory!). No wonder this church has recently asked Pastor Ricky to quit his secular job and become their full time pastor.



L-R: Rev Ansel Smith, Rev Carroll Edwards, Rev David Carter, Rev Richard Suttle

EDWARDS ORDAINED: Rev Carroll Edwards was ordained by the Great Commission Conference on Sunday, August 12th. Rev David Carter preached the charge and Rev Ansel Smith presented the certificate of ordination. Brother Carroll is presently the pastor of Greer FWB Church. He began his ministry there in 1999 as interim Pastor but became the official Pastor in 2000. He and his wife, Tabatha, have 3 children- Tiffany (14), Brandon (12), and Jonathan (2). This church has progressed well under Brother Carroll's leadership and we look for God to continue to bless.

TABERNACLE TEEN EVANGELISM:

The Youth of Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward (Pastor David Young) tried a unique way to reach their community for Christ recently. The church family was requested to bring Pepsi or Coke products for the Teens to give away (They didn't want off brand drinks since there was nothing imitation about Jesus).

The Teen set up their operation at a railway crossing in Coward and when cars would stop they would give them a cold drink, a tract about salvation, and a flyer about Tabernacle FWB Church. 628 Drinks and tracts were distributed and the Teens look expectantly to see the fruit of their labors in the near future.



Participating Teens: Jessica Jones, Davette Jones, Kirt Matthews, Brent Matthews, Ashley Anderson, David Jones, Jessica Fennell, Kelly McCutheon, Shannon Thomas, Paige Grooms



Rev and Mrs Robie Hiott

First FWB Church of Charleston recently welcomed Rev Robie Hiott as their new pastor. The church has made good progress under the leadership of Brother Robie, as exemplified by the 102 in service for Home Coming on his third Sunday at the Church. Several Decisions were made on this Home Coming Sunday and several people have recently joined the Church. They look forward to continued growth in the days to come under Brother Robie leadership.

Shouts of "Hello, Neighbor" and "So good to see you again" echoed thru the new church sanctuary on Home Coming Day at First FWB Church, Greenville. A year earlier the church was devastated with the news that their old sanctuary was experiencing aging problems and was no longer safe to occupy. But, as is always the case, God is never caught by surprise and the seldom used Gym in the family life center across the street was remodeled into a beautiful 250 seat sanctuary with a spacious vestibule (Construction continues on the upstairs sound room and 6 additional Sunday School Rooms).



The beautiful new sanctuary of First FWB Greenville.



Pastor Bobby Bowers becomes a "Money Tree" for his birthday

Home Coming Services welcomed a packed house (Had to put out chairs) and included special music by New Covenant as well as from members of the Church. Then Brother William Porter surprised the Pastor by asking him to stand down front as members of the congregation pinned cards and money on Him to show their appreciate for his 35 years of being their Pastor! (And to celebrate his birthday the next day).

Pastor Bobby Bowers then preached a Powerful Home Coming Sermon before everyone enjoyed a meal in the fellowship building next door. An afternoon singing concluded this great day.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

On October 1, 2001, Rev. Gary Fry, chairman of the Free Will Baptist Bible College board of trustees, announced that the board has selected James Matthew Pinson to serve as the college's fifth president. "The Board is certain that Matthew Pinson's dedication to the Lord, this college, and our denomination will result in our continuing to produce the leaders and workers our denomination needs," he said.

Rev. Pinson attended the Bible College in 1985-86 and graduated in 1990 from the University of West Florida, pursuing an interest in law. He later received his M.A. at the University of West Florida (1993) and his M.A.R. at Yale University (1994). He is currently completing Ph.D. studies at Florida State University.

Rev. Pinson stated: As president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, I am committed to service to our denomination. Our college must not only be interested in what the denomination can do for it. We must be concerned about what we can do for our denomination. We should strive to instill in our students loyalty to our denomination and our confession of faith. We must reaffirm our commitment to graduating, in large numbers, the best ministers and missionaries possible to serve Christ through our denomination.



Rev Matt Pinson

Since 1994, he has pastored Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church, Colquitt, Georgia. But his activities have taken him far from the south Georgia community where he pastors. He has taught at Bainbridge College in Bainbridge, Georgia, and at Florida State University. He has also been a featured speaker on the FWBBC campus and at ministers retreats in Michigan, Missouri, and Georgia.

As a fifth-generation Free Will Baptist, his interests in theology and history, especially Free Will Baptist history, run deep. Those interests have opened doors for him to both speak and write. He was featured speaker at the Bible College's 1996 Heritage Week series where he spoke on "Free Will Baptists before 1776." He also held a seminar entitled "A Christian Response to Postmodernism" for the Commission for Theological Integrity at the 1998 National Association of Free Will Baptists. His many articles for Contact magazine include "America's First Free Will Baptists," "Our Tradition of Feet Washing," and "Benjamin Laker: Layman for God." His published books are: A Free Will Baptist Handbook: Heritage, Beliefs, and Ministries (Randall House, 1998) and the forthcoming Four Views on Eternal Security (Zondervan, 2002).

When Rev. Pinson was pastoring in Alabama, he felt God calling him to bi-vocational ministry: to both pastor and teach. "Thus, I began preparing myself educationally for this dual role," he says. He will take his doctoral comprehensives in January or February, 2002, and plans to be at the college by the end of February. Matt will bring with him his wife, Melinda, and an 18-month-old daughter, Anna.

As he joins the college, he will be working near two former presidents, Dr. Charles Thigpen (the college's third president) and Dr. Tom Malone (its fourth president). Both maintain offices on the campus. Dr. Thigpen serves as promotional director of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists. Dr. Malone will continue to serve the college as chancellor. FWBBC's first president, Dr. L. C. Johnson, stops by frequently and can be counted on to keep his younger successors well aware of the college's roots.



L-r: Presidents Matt Pinson, L C Johnson, Tom Malone, Charles Thigpen

Board chairman Gary Fry says: We are grateful to the Lord for his provision for Free Will Baptist Bible College through the many years of our existence. It has been His hand that we have marked, especially in times of important decisions such as the selection of a new president. We are confident that His provision has continued our long line of able leadership at FWBBC

with the selection of Matthew Pinson as our fifth president.

During the October 5th meeting of the South Carolina Conference, Bruce Jones (Beulah FWB Church, Pamplico, S C - Pastor Elro Driggers) and Mark Stephen McCutcheon (Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward, S C- Pastor David Young) were given permission to be licensed by their local church. These young men are now anxious to speak at your church or men's group- check www.scfwb.com under available speakers for their contact information.