

THE



INFORMER

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

Address all correspondence to

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HISPANIC MINISTRY BEGINS

Gerardo Antonio Rodriguez, with his wife, Maria, and Children, Lucas (6) and Franco (2) arrived June 4th in South Carolina to begin our state wide Hispanic Ministry sponsored by the South Carolina State Home Mission Board..

Brother Gerardo was saved 12 years ago and has been mentored by National Home Missions Hispanic Director, Rick Bowling. Sister Maria was raised in Paul Roberson's Church in Brazil.

This fine couple have moved into a rented home in Inman and plan to begin a work in the old Una FWB Church Building (Spartanburg) as soon as the new facility Una Facility is completed (July).

After they get settled in, brother Gerardo will begin visiting in our state to raise necessary funds and share his vision for the Hispanic work in South Carolina. Look for him at a Church or Conference near you soon.

Pastor Danny Keen, Landmark FWB Church, Anderson surprised his church with a "Surprise Sunday" on June 2nd. A Surprise gift was given to everyone, A plaque and roses were given to Mrs Betty Alexander for her faithful work, and the State Executive Secretary was the surprise speaker for the service (And Pastor Keen even had a surprise for me- A much desired food processor and a can of instant Slim Fast, !!) .

This former mission church is continuing to grow and have a great impact for Christ in this part of the state. They have beautiful facilities, in one of the fastest growing areas in our state, and have had a high attendance of over 200. Thank God Brother Danny's hard work; and for the State Home Mission Boards Vision in planting this Church.



SCFWB leads in giving to Benjamin Randall Offering



Rev Lilfus (Buck) Riffe and the Victory FWB Church,

Hanover PA [Member of the Palmetto Conference] again this year (and for the third year in a row!!) led all Free Will Baptists in giving to the National Benjamin Randall Offering with a gift in excess of \$15,000 (Glory!).

Rev Herman Hyman Hyman and Immanuel FWB Church, Santee were the number One giver to the Benjamin Randall Offering in Group "B" with a gift of nearly \$6,000 (Glory!).



Thank the Lord for the Faithful support of these churches; and for the difference they are making in spreading the Gospel all across America.

Missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna is due back in the states on June 19th for some rest and to participate in various Mission Conferences. In addition to his other activities, Brother Carlisle has recently led in the building of 2 more church building in India- Glory!



Missionary to Japan, Mirial Gainer is due back in the states in October. She is available for speaking engagements by contacting the SCFWB State Office.



Raising the Roof

(Submitted by Rev Ron Moore)

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord Eph 2:21



After nearly seven years off the field, I had the privilege of returning to Côte d'Ivoire for two weeks this past April. I was part of a ten-man team from Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina, that went to Bouaké to help construct a parsonage for Pastor and Madame George. During the first week of our trip, our team was able to literally "raise the roof" on this new mission work. What a joy it was to see the trusses, purlins, tin, ceilings and doors put in place piece by piece. With each passing day we saw the uninhabitable shell of a building that was exposed to the

harsh elements of the African climate transformed into a home that will now provide comfort and shelter for Pastor George and his family.

Toward the end of our trip, one of the team members asked me, "What has changed the most since you were here last?" I thought for a minute and then said, "Two things. First, the roads have gone to pot (*literally, there were pot-holes everywhere, often extending from one side of the road to the other*). Second, and more importantly, I have noticed a significant growth in the church and a remarkable maturation on the part of its African leadership."



As much as I enjoyed participating in the work project at Bouaké, the highlight of my trip was the opportunity to revisit many of the churches where I served as a missionary and to fellowship with many of the pastors who were once my students in the decentralized leadership training program (ETD). Pastor George at Bouaké, Pastor Kobena at Gouméré, and Pastor Théophile at Tanda are all examples of outstanding young preaches who not only participated in the ETD program but went on to further their training at the Bible Institute in Bouna. Another young man, Silas, was not only my student, he was my African colleague. He patiently helped me in translation and preparation of ETD materials. Silas went on to the Bible College at Yamassoukrou and is now the pastor of our church in Abidjan. He has led this congregation in a vision and burden to plant another church in a different section of the city. Two other pastors, Paul and Robert, were among the first graduates of our Bible Institute and are now attending seminary in Abidjan. They plan on returning to Bouna where they will head up the Bible Institute ministry.



The Finished Parsonage

The list could go on, for there are many African pastors who are now taking the reigns of leadership. They are, as it were, "raising the roof" on the church, a church that is built on a firm foundation and now stands tall with its imposing walls. This is not only a tribute to the rising leadership within the Ivorian Free Will Baptist Church, but also to the missionaries God has used to lay that foundation and erect those walls. The ones have enabled the others. The result is an emerging church that will provide comfort and shelter for all those who would seek refuge within her walls, and that for generations to come. Isn't that what missions is all about?

RADIO MINISTRY: Rev Todd Black, St John FWB Church, Patrick and Rev Mikell Edge, Unity FWB Church, Johnsonville both recently began Radio Ministries. It would be great to have a listing of ALL S. C. Free Will Baptists Radio Ministries. If you will send the information about your radio ministry to the SCFWB State Office (P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504) then we will compile a listing for a future "Informer".



Rev Buddy Seay, Missionary Bud Bivens, and Rev Allen Goodman plan the weeks activities.

RAISING THE ROOF in Puerto Rico

19 Men from Conway, SC, under the leadership of pastors Buddy Seay (White Savannah) and Allen Goodman (South Conway) traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico in Mid April to help missionary Bud Bivens in the construction of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Puerto Rico.



l-r: Allen Goodman, Bud Bivens, David Roy, Buddy Seay, and Danny Gerald.

When the men arrived they were met at the airport by missionaries Bud Bivens and David Roy. They then made the 45 minute trip over treacherous highways to the Biven's mountain home, located on the edge of the El Yunque National Park near the city of Rio Grande.

Housing provided for the men consisted of beds ranging from a room in a neighbor's house to beds in an almost finished guest house to cots in an empty house to foam mattresses on the floor of the open air loft above the Biven's home; complete with mosquitoes, lizards, and the Coqui (a tree Frog).

On Sunday, after worshipping in a rented chapel, the men were shown the nearby rain forrest where 1600 showers a year fall for a total of 70 inches of annual rainfall. They then went to a local nursing home where they sang and prayed for the residents.



Monday morning the men hit the road at 5:30am to arrive at the work site at daylight. The trusses had to be hand made and by Monday afternoon 18 had been made and the first one was in place. In spite of steady rain the work continued and by Thursday afternoon the wooden roof, 54 trusses, and decking stood as a testimony to their hard work.

When the men finally knelt and prayed with the missionaries they knew they had helped to make a place where people could come and hear the gospel and allow God to change their life. Those who participated in this wonderful work were: Rev Buddy Seay, Rev Allen Goodman, Gary Holt, Lerverne Martin, Bobby Causey, Don Squires, David Squires, Danny Gerald, DeWayne Milburn, Stevie Baker, Brad Wofford, Dennis Gore, Derrick Jordan, Joe Jordan, David Stevens, George Hearl, Buster Brown, Dennis White, and Hector De Los Santos.



Moore Mission News: April and May have been very busy months for Andy and Andrea Moore. They finally finished language school and moved to Uberlandia to begin their ministry in Brazil. Andy has had the opportunity to preach (in Portugues now) several time. He is also preaching at the Youth Meeting two Saturdays each month.



Another good news item is that Andy and Andrea are expecting their first child in December! They are excited; and learning to understand a lot more medical terms in Portugues now!

Prayer Request they want you to remember are:

- 1) Andy as he begins to preach more and more in Portuguese
- 2) Wisdom to help the church members take on more leadership responsibilities
- 3) That the pregnancy will go well and they will have a healthy baby.

BRAZIL TRIP: The State Executive Secretary plans to visit all three of our South Carolina supported Brazilian Missionaries during the last two weeks of August- Andy and Andrea Moore, David and Annette Aycock, and Bobby and Geneva Poole. Join with him in prayer that God will give opportunity to win people to a saving knowledge of Christ, that visa and travel plans can be completed, and that the necessary funds will come in.



Hallelujahs and Amens rang from the walls of Evergreen FWB Church, Conway on Wednesday, May 8th, 2002 as the Central Conference ordained another soldier into God's Army- **Rev Timmy Hodge**.

Pastor of Evergreen FWB Church and father in law of brother Timmy Hodge, Rev Billy Poe Jones, brought the message about "Desiring a Good Work". The Central Conference Ordaining Counsel, Rev Bill Jacobs, Rev Steward Norris, Rev Tony Miles, Rev Richard Huggins, and Rev Tom Hill then presented Brother Timmy with the ministry charge, a new Bible, and the laying on of hands to set him apart for God's work.

Brother Timmy is already hard at work as pastor of Rains FWB Church.



Rev Tony Lynch was ordained into the Gospel ministry during a special service on May 4th, 2002 at Gilead FWB Church. Rev Rickey Evans preached the ordination message on "What it takes to be a Man of God". Rev Murrell Young presented the charge. And Brother Tony's Pastor, Rev Larry McAlister, presented him with a Bible. Brother Tony is busy working in Gilead FWB Church as he awaits God's open door of service.

SCWAC Retreat-Sept 6-7, 2002 Lookup Lodge

This year's theme for the STATE WAC meeting will be FISH [Fellowship in Serving Him]. Your \$10 Registration fee needs to be sent to Mrs Gwen Hendrix (90 Blackstock Road, Inman, SC 29349) as soon as possible and you need to begin preparing for a great time of fun, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.



The NATIONAL WAC Retreat will be held 2 weeks following the State WAC Retreat.

Does your church have any old Song Books that are in good condition? Mission works and others call the State Office from time to time requesting Song Books to use as they begin their work. If you have Song Books you would like to donate to such causes then contact the State Office and we will be glad to pass along the information.

PRAY for our National Association of Free Will Baptists as it meets in Memphis, TN on July 21-25, 2002. Delegates will be voting on New Leadership in many departments, a \$22 million budget, and many other important items. Pray for the speakers that the Lord will use their messages in a mighty way.

ADVISOR ADDED. When the State Executive Committee meet after the State Association it realized that there was no one from the upstate area on the Committee. They decided to add former member at large, Rev Jimmy Sanders (First FWB Church, Chester) as an Advisor to the Committee and they are looking at more permanent changes to make sure the entire state is represented on this important Committee.





“General War” presents Grace Johnson with a medal for 14 trips to Russia to help minister to Russian People and everyone went away with a greater witness of God’s abilities to change even the most adamant enemy of God into one of His Children.

Beulah FWB Church hosted a mission conference with “General War” of the Russian Army (General Vycheslav Borisov) on Thursday, April 18, 2002. Over 150 people from many different churches turned out for this special service and they were stirred by the General as he described how God had miraculously saved him during the war in Afghanistan and enabled him to become a soldier for the Lord.

\$1500 was raised to purchase Bibles for the Russian people and everyone went away with a greater witness of God’s abilities to change even the most adamant enemy of God into one of His Children.



General Borisov makes Pastor Elro Driggers a “Colonel” in the Russian Christian Army.

NEW PASTORS

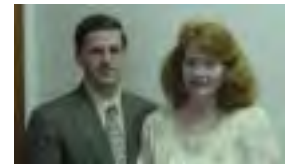
Rev Lee Patrick is the new Pastor of First FWB Church, Florence. He is the former Assistant Pastor who had been acting as Interim Pastor since the death of Brother Mike Creech. The Church voted to call him as their regular Pastor in May.



Rev Lamar Smith is the new Pastor of New Town FWB Church, Lake City. He has filled in as Interim Pastor for several months and the Church voted to call him as their regular Pastor the first of June.

Rev Steve Satterfield is the new Pastor of New Covenant FWB Church, Spartanburg.

Rev Rusty Conyers became the new Pastor of Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter on the First Sunday in June. This is Brother Rusty’s home church and he is looking for God to greatly bless.



Rev Rusty and Maria Conyers

Although it is not a FWB Church, we have considered it a close associate for many years- The Prospect Independent Methodist Church recently called **David Jeremiah** as their new Pastor.



New Prospect Youth sing during Revival at Unity FWB Church

NEW PROSPECT YOUTH: Pastor Phil Tipton has the Youth of New Prospect FWB Church busy doing work for the Lord. They have sang at a large number of Revivals in the past months and continue to look for opportunities to use their talents for the Lord.

They have also changed from trying to raise money to go skiing or white water rafting and instead are raising money to purchase a new sound system for the church and to help with some other repairs.



Mrs Everett Ard, Mrs Sandy Prosser, and Jimmy Stone help the Youth of New Prospect sing about Jesus

5% - 6.5% INTEREST that will help build Free Will Baptist Churches.

The Free Will Baptist Home Missions Church Extensions Loan Fund pays good rates of Interest on money that can be used by Free Will Baptist Churches to buy land or build their first unit.

You invest any amount over \$500 in the program. The churches then borrow that money at a reduced rate than that they could get at a bank. You get a better rate, the church gets a better rate, and God’s work goes forward. Sounds like a Winner!

There is no penalty for early withdrawal and your money draws interest from the day the check is received. A Great investment plan for individuals and for Church Building Funds.

Current Rates: 5% for \$500 to \$24,999 5.5% for \$25,000 to \$49,999
6% for \$50,000 to \$99,999 6.5% for \$100,000 and over

Contact Rev Richard Adams at FWB Home Missions (P O Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011 or phone (615) 731-6812) for more Info.



The Gospeliers Quartet will celebrate their 52 years of singing together by conducting a Revival at Bay Branch FWB Church, Timmonsville, August 2-4, 2002.

Services Friday and Saturday will be at 7:30pm and Sunday at 10:30am and 6:30pm.

Members of the Gospeliers are Eugen Waddell, Bobby Jackson, Robert Picirilli, and James Raper.



Rev Johnathan Kell, Missionary Todd Smith, and Pastor Jackie Creech rejoice in the pounding given to Brother Todd's Family at the end of Revival services Brother Todd conducted for the Horse Branch FWB Church.

They also give him their old Sanctuary lights; which will still shine brightly in the Aiken Church.

TREES FOR AIKEN: The Road is Open! Glory! The four lane road in front of Southside FWB Church in Aiken is finally open and people can actually get into the Church! That is the good news. The bad news is that Aiken County requires a buffer road of trees and shrubs to now be planted- a \$3,000 job.



But God always plans ahead. Billy Powell, who owns a nursery in Edgefield, SC, has been attending the Southside Church and he is going to donate the trees and shrubs to the church. (Is there a "Glory" anywhere in the house?). The people of the Church are going to do most of the work- installing drain and sprinkler pipes, etc., and this \$3,000 project will cost very little.

Missionary Todd Smith reports that they have already had a great VBS and that several youth groups will be helping with various activities this summer. Another Growing work for God in South Carolina.



Rev Elro Driggers enjoys his new job as "Fashion Model"

Sometimes losing is winning. During March Sunday School enlargement Beulah FWB Church and Camp Branch FWB Church engaged in some good natured competition to see who could have the largest attendance in Sunday School. Pastor Elro Driggers and Beulah FWB Church managed to beat Camp Branch FWB Church and Pastor John Driggers in the number attending



Pastor John Driggers admires his unexpected new suit.

but 3 precious souls were saved at Camp Branch during the campaign so everyone considered themselves winners.

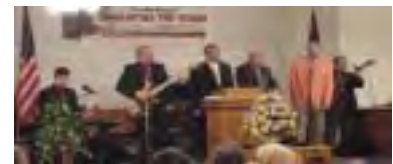
Sunday night, April 28th, the two churches met at Camp Branch FWB Church for a celebration, a song service, and some good eating provided by the Camp Branch Church. Camp Branch had given Brother Elro Driggers a Suit, shirt, and tie as a congratulation to Beulah for achieving the highest attendance but Beulah surprised Pastor John Driggers by returning the favor. This was one of those win-win situations for everyone involved.

Fellowship FWB Church and Pastor I. Bennie Turner use the last Sunday of each



Pastor Turner thanks his Pianist for faithful service

quarter to have a singing service, a celebration of all birthdays and anniversaries during the quarter, and a fellowship meal together. Sunday, April 28th they welcomed the Bible Tones Quartet to sing during the 10am service and again at 1:30pm. During the Morning Worship Service the State Executive Secretary preached and 2 people came forward



The Bible Tones Quartet

to join the church. A delicious meal was then served before the afternoon sing.

Fellowship FWB Church is in its 17th year as a tent maker mission church and they have recently added a new sign and other improvements that lead Pastor I Bennie Turner to believe that it will not be long before they can be come a self supporting church.



Pastor Turner stands with the members who have joined the church in April- l-r: Lynn Matias, Victoria Matias, Nancy Osborne, Vinson Hyman, Mike Hyatt, Karla Hyatt.

Hours of Operation

The SCFWB State Office is open Monday - Friday from 8:30am - 5:30pm. The FWB Christian Book Store is open Monday - Thursday from Noon- 5:00pm



CTS Contestants and Sponsors from the Upstate District

2002 STATE CTS WINNERS

The State CTS Convention met with the First FWB Church of Greenville on April 20th. The Hospitality was excellent and the performances and abilities of the state's young people was simply

amazing. The Pastors and sponsors are to be commended for their great work in instilling Christian character and Biblical knowledge into these young people.

Congratulations to the Winners who will represent South Carolina at the National Meeting in Memphis.

BIBLE MEMORIZATION: Janie Bowers 1st Grade Greenville First; Whitney Thigpen 2nd Grade Horse Branch; David Bowers 5th Grade Greenville First

SWORD DRILL

Tyler Donaldson 4th Grade Florence First.

Maggie Driggers 5th Grade Horse Branch

Brandi Floyd 6th Grade Horse Branch

TIC TAC TOE: Florence First- David Gibson -Andy Donaldson -Jessie Eaddy

BIBLE BOWL: First Florence- Hannah Postlewaite, Ginny Hill, Julie Hughes, Heather Trehern

MUSIC & ARTS

GRADES 1-3

Emily Parrish 1.1 Vocal Solo Temple

Horse Branch Duet 2.2 Vocal Duet Horse Branch

Emily Parrish 5.1 Keyboard Temple

GRADES 4-6

Horse Branch Drama 6.5 Group Drama Horse Branch

Temple Trio 1.3 Vocal Trio Temple

Maggie Driggers 1.1 Vocal Solo Horse Branch

Tyler Donaldson 5.1 Keyboard Florence First \$15.00

Horse Branch Chorale 2.5 Small Ensemble Horse Branch

GRADES 7-9

Mary Kathryn Driggers 1.3 Vocal Solo Horse Branch

David Gibson 5.1 Keyboard Florence First

Horse Branch Trio 2.3 Vocal Trio Horse Branch

Horse Branch Duet 2.2 Vocal Duet Horse Branch

Temple Trumpets 4.1 Inst. Ensemble Temple

Landmark Girls Group 2.5 Small Ensemble Landmark

Bryce Mims 1.2 Vocal Solo Horse Branch

Horse Branch Drama 6.5 Group Drama Horse Branch

GRADES 10-12

Florence Ensemble 2.5 Small Ensemble Florence First

The Temple Troupe 6.5 Group Drama Temple

Hannah Creech 5.1 Keyboard Florence First

Kara Battista 9.2 Graphics Temple

Florence Quartet 2.4 Vocal Quartet Florence First

Rebekah Player 1.3 Vocal Solo Temple

Jackson Watts 6.3 Individual Drama Horse Branch

Gibson -Postlewaite Duet 5.2 Keyboard Duet Florence First

Florence Ensemble 2.6 Large Ensemble Florence First



CTS Contestants and Sponsors from the Lower State District



Nominees to the State: CTS Director- Rev Tim Bowers, Board Members: Jay Poston and Rev Todd Parrish.



2002-03 CTS Officers: 1-r: Gloria Oneal (Youth Chairman), Rev Jonathan Kell (Assistant Director), Rev Timothy Bowers (Director), Eddie Hobbs (Treasurer), Donna Porter (Secretary)

2002 Free Will Baptists YOUTH CAMP

Junior Days: July 28th - July 31st

Teen Days: July 31st - August 3rd

Cost: (Includes an \$8.00 Canteen Ticket)

Early Bird Special: Full Payment by June 15th \$60.00

\$25.00 Deposit by June 15th \$65.00

Payment after June 15th \$70.00

Applications and Medical Forms have been mailed to all Pastors (and are available on the web at www.SCFWB.com).

NOTE: A Doctor's Health Exam is NOT required to attend Camp. Ignore this part of the Medical Form.



North Spartanburg FWB Church (Pastor Joe Moore) recently added **Rev David Laws** as Youth Pastor. Brother David has served as an Intern Youth Pastor at several churches while attending Southeastern FWB College and he was also a summer missionary to Moldova. He, his wife, Erica, and brand new baby, Stephen are excited about seeing God use them to reach many souls in Spartanburg.

Volunteers Needed for National Convention: The National Youth Conference this summer in Memphis has several openings for adult volunteers in the Bible, Music and Art Competitions. The competition program depends on the good people of our denomination to run smoothly. Judges are needed in vocal and instrumental categories, Bible competition such as Bible Memorization.



There are also over 1000 opportunities for service for teenagers to perform while in Memphis this July. The Reach That Guy program is designed to help students give back to the community that is hosting the convention.

Opportunities to work with children, shut-ins and homeless people will be numerous. There is also a clothing drive planned for convention attendees including adults. Collection points will be in place in the Registration area.

If you would like more information about these and other opportunities this summer, please call Steve Greenwood toll-free at 1-800-877-7030, ext. 346.

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, SC, wishes to invite you to a summer celebration. Realizing that many will be with their own families on the 4th of July, **Fellowship will be sponsoring a cookout and youth rally on July 1st. The Rejoice! Ministry Team from Free Will Baptist Bible College will be leading the service**, with all the food and refreshments that Free Will Baptists love to enjoy following. Come “fellowship” with us as we celebrate our nations birthday. All ages are invited to attend. If you have a large group planning to come, please contact Jonathan McKnight at (843) 662-1303.

Pastors, Teachers, laymen, students, and others are invited to submit papers to be read at the annual meeting of the Free Will Baptists Theological Symposium at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nov 4-5, 2002. The symposium is sponsored by the commission for Theological Integrity of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Papers should be 10-15 pages, double spaced, and should relate to the Bible, Theology, Christian culture, and related Topics. They should be submitted by August 1, 2002 to: President Matthew Pinson 3606 West End Ave Nashville, TN 37205



Rev. David Williford, a veteran Free Will Baptist pastor and an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, will be the new Director of Institutional Advancement, according to President J. Matthew Pinson. He replaces Rev. Roy Harris who, after 17 years at the college, has been called to the pastorate of Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. Rev. Williford has broad denominational experience. Over a span of nearly 30 years, he has pastored churches in Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, and Arkansas. He has been at his present pastorate in Chipley, Florida, for 12 years. He has been a member of the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board since 1996 and has served as Executive Secretary of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists for the past two years. Rev. Williford will move to Nashville in June to assume his new duties.



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