

THE



INFORMER

December
2003

The Informer is the official publication of the
South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc.

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REJOICE- GOD BECAME A MAN SO THAT MAN COULD COME TO GOD



CHRISTMAS

The Wise Men followed a Star and it lead them to the SON! That is what South Carolina Free Will Baptists are all about- Finding ways to point men to the only hope this sin cursed world has: Faith in Jesus Christ. Politicians, prosperity, and pleasures all fall short when families are falling apart, when serious sickness comes, or when the death angel knocks on your door. It is our great privilege to tell men that God became flesh and dwelt among men to live and die so our sin debt could be paid and we could spend eternity with Him. There is no greater job; nor any greater joy!

We not only rejoice in the great gift of salvation this Christmas but also in the way Free Will Baptists in South Carolina have used their time, talents, and tithes to advance the work of God. I think of Pastor Herman Hyman and Immanuel Church of Santee who, though small in number, raised over \$13,000 for the Benjamin Randall Day Offering. And of Victory Church in Hanover, PA (Pastor Jason Myers)- They lost their founding pastor to cancer this year and still will be the number one giver in the nation to the Benjamin Randall Day Offering for the fifth year in a row. Or how about Pastor Larry McAlister and Gilead FWB Church? A country church that first gave 13 Bikes to India and then accepted the challenge to give an extra \$12,000 to build a church in India.

Don't forget our laymen. Ask Pastor Mike Gerald of Riverside Church in Conway or Pastor Tim Hackett of Fairview Church in Spartanburg. Both of these men have seen their men work many hard and long nights and Saturdays this year as they complete their new buildings. On and on I could go as all across South Carolina Pastors and people work together to build God's Kingdom. God is doing a great thing and we get to be part of it- Glory!



Rev. Oscar Tedder graduates to glory.

On Friday, Dec 5th, Rev. Oscar Tedder succumbed to complications from cancer at the age of 69.

Brother Oscar was a Free Will Baptist Minister for 40 years and served in a number of different churches until he became disabled. He also worked at the school bus maintenance department where he retired after 30 years on the job.

Surviving are his wife, Iva Nell, and two sons, Ronnie and Dean. Brother Oscar was a member of Happy Home Free Will Baptist Church of Andrews.

SCFWB STATE ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting

February 26-27, 2004

First FWB Church, Greenville, SC

Motels:

Fairfield Inn (60 Roper Mountain Road)- \$49

Phone (864) 297-9996

Comfort Inn (831 Congaree Road)- \$39

Phone (864) 288-6221

MERRY CHRISTMAS! What a joy to see the good work that God has done among South Carolina Free Will Baptists in 2003.

Thank You for our support of God's work in South Carolina; and around the world. It is one of life's great privileges to be able to serve the Lord as we serve the best people in all the world- South Carolina Free Will Baptists.

Rev. Mike Jones, Executive Secretary

Rev. Rickey Evans, Assistant Director and Book Store Manager

Rev. Gowdy Cannon was ordained into the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, December 7, 2003 at Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, SC. Although a member of Horse Branch FWB Church, Brother Gowdy is presently the assistant pastor of Northwest FWB Church in Chicago, Ill.

The Ordination message was brought by Rev. Stanley Coker, the charge was given by Rev. James Earl Raper, the Bible, was presented by brother Gowdy's father, and the commissioning prayer was given by Rev. David Potete, Pastor of Northwest FWB Church, Chicago, Ill. Brother Gowdy looks forward to God's blessings as he continues his work for the Lord.



l-r: Rev David Potete and Rev. Gowdy Cannon



L-r: Trustee Bo Turner, Pastor Brian Tolliver, Dr. Richard Adams, Treasurer Merle Marsee, Deacon Tandy Tapp

Lighthouse FWB Church received extra blessings in the month of October. On October 20th, 2003, God allowed the congregation to become owners of the land and building where they have been meeting. They held a celebration dinner on this night to meet and thank Dr. Richard Adams from the National Home Missions church extension department for his help in making this dream a reality.

They also held their first Home Coming service on Sunday, October 26th with 89 in attendance. Special music was provided by the Singletary Family of Bay Branch FWB Church and a wonderful meal was served afterward in the fellowship building.

Forty-eight sponsors and 268 prospective students attended Free Will Baptist Bible College's fall **Welcome Days**, November 13-15, 2003, for a total of 316 guests. This is the highest attendance in recent years, according to Matt Markins, Director of Enrollment Management, perhaps, the all-time record for the event.

Visitors came from 17 states, with North Carolina leading the way with 65. Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas and South Carolina also had strong representations. The largest church group was 27 from First Free Will Baptist Church, Seffner, Florida.

After visiting classes and enjoying numerous special events planned for the occasion, a number of prospective students declared their intentions to enroll at FWBBC. Their comments included:

"I have never had another experience like Welcome Days; it is wonderful. I am looking forward to coming here as a student"

"Welcome Days is a great way to experience college and meet new people"

"Welcome Days was really fun this year! And it's one of the main reasons I am considering coming to FWBBC."

The next campus Welcome Days will be March 25-27, 2004. For information on how to attend, call 1-800-76-FWBBC or email recruit@fwbbc.edu.



Rev. Shiloh Hackett shows a group of young people from Fairview FWB Church the many opportunities available at FWBBC.

2003 STATE OFFICERS

Moderator	Sherwood Lee (SC)
Assistant Moderator	Buddy Seay (CA)
Clerk	Todd Smith(BC)
Assistant Clerk	Marty Cox (CA)
Treasurer	Joe McKnight (SC)
Assistant Treasurer	Wayne Snipes (EC)
Member at Large (Lower State)	Doug Mathis (EC)
Member at Large (Upper State)	James Sanders (BC)

Pastor Carroll Bazen leads in the dedication of **Elijah Hayes Purvis** at Grace FWB Church on Sunday, November 23, 2003. This dedication is noteworthy because the Child was adopted instead of aborted and now will have Christian parents and family to raise it in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.





The Staff and Children of the SCFWB Home for Children
Wish you a **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



James & Carolyn Wilhide have been the directors of the home since September 1992. They are members of Horse Branch FWB Church and are the proud parents of 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 23 children of the home



Rev Steve Pryor is the new volunteer Field Representative for the Home for the North Carolina, Upper SC State Region. He plans to travel extensively as he shares the ministry of the Home



Tracey Culick is the very competent secretary of the home. She lives in Turbeville and is married to Mr. Tony Culick. They have 2 boys Josh and Gabe, ages 11 and 4, and are members of Spring Pond PH.



Steve & Donna Effler are from Newport News, VA and are members of Faith FWB Church, Newport News. God called them to the home through our "Children's Life" newsletter. They have been at the home since May of this year, and are dorm parents in the big Girl's Dorm. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Their youngest daughter Mary is a sophomore at Free Will Baptist Bible College



Charles & Debra Poston came to the Children's Home in August of 1999. They have 2 married sons and 1 grandson and are dorm parents in the bigger Boy's Dorm. Charles & Debra are from Pamplico and are members of Beulah FWB Church.



Tim & Wendy Snipes have been dorm parents in the Little People's Dorm since March of 2000. They came to the home from Lancaster, SC and are members of Liberty FWB Church. They are the parents of Dustin age 14 and Lauren age 12. Dustin and Lauren are very good with the children and have accepted them as their family.



Sherry Lee has been our dietician since July of 1998. She is married to Mr. Trader Lee, has a daughter, and is a member of the Great Commission Church near Lake City



Shannon Shady does a tremendous job at keeping the Dining Hall, Administration building, and etc. pretty and always clean. She takes care of all of our donations, putting them where they belong and keeping our storage all inventoried. She is married to Mr. Chuck Shady, has 1 son, Dustin, and is a member of Floyd's Chapel PH.

The Children presently at the Home
[Justin has recently arrived and no picture is presently available]



STEVIE



TREY



ANNA



BEKA



BRANDON



BRITTANY



CASSIE



CHAZ



CHELSEA



DUSTIN



ELIZABETH



JACOB



JASIME



JOHN



KENNY



LAUREN



LIZ



MICHAEL



MIMI



NICK



ROBBIE



SCOTTY

POOLE REPORT- Please praise the Lord with us for the 13 first time decisions made recently at the First FWB Church of Ribeirão Preto. The Drama class of the Seminary/Bible Institute gave a drama presentation called the "Challenge of the Cross". At the invitation 13 precious souls came forward to accept the Lord Jesus. A good number of others (someone said it looked like half of the more than 200 present) stood to rededicate their lives to serve the Lord. God is working in the First Church. Pray for John, Renata, and the leadership of the Church.



Worship Service at First FWB Church

How important is prayer? John (Pastor of the First FWB Church of Ribeirão Preto) and I just got back from a meeting with the mayor of our city. John and two other pastors have been going and praying with the mayor one time a week for a number of weeks. The mayor remembered me from contacts when he was about 15 years old. His wife was there and two other members of his office staff. The Gospel was presented and we prayed for the city, the mayor, the decisions he had to make, for the needs in the area of education and health. We prayed that God would



give him wisdom to lead our city and make the right decisions. We prayed for the city council. A number of churches are praying daily for the leadership of the city. And God has worked: the city has been able to get its finances in order; killings have dropped off; just a number of things have fallen into place. On a TV talk show the mayor gave credit to prayer (he mentioned pastors coming and praying for him) for the reason things are going like they are. Praise the Lord!

Please continue to pray for a mightily moving of the Holy Spirit throughout our city, our nation and the world. We thank the Lord for you - our prayer partners.

Rejoicing in Christ, Bobby and Geneva Poole

P.S. Our new email address is bobgeni@uol.com.br or bpoole@nafwb.org .

Some GOOD NEWS from Tim and Kristi Johnson in Spain:

...Tim and Anthony met with Pedro (from Alpedrete) this past week. He is definitely "searching" for the truth, but is looking in many different places. They were able to share with him and decided to try to get together again if possible. Continue to pray that God would work in Pedro's heart.

...Kristi went CAMPING with the kids from church Friday night. (Yes, you heard that right!) But, there was one wist...they went camping inside the church. They set up tents, ate hot dogs, played games, had activities, and even went (pretend) fishing. We are thankful for the eleven children, ages 5 to 12, who attended, and Kristi says she's also thankful they didn't have to worry about bugs, snakes, or no running water!

...Continue to pray for God's leadership as we seek to expand our Outreach in Spain. Tim, Kristi, Alejandro, and Ana



Andy and Andrea Moore report that the church in Uberlandia, Brazil where they minister is continuing to grow. So far this year they have averaged a first time decision for Christ each month of the year. Andy is leading the new convert lessons as well as taking increasing responsibilities in the Church as his Portuguese improves.

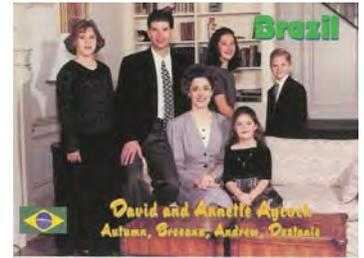
Levi is doing well as he recently celebrated his first birthday. Continue to pray for God to lead as we seek His perfect will for our ministry. Thank you for your prayers and support. The harvest truly is plenteous. Let's continue to work together to reach Brazilians with the gospel and build His church here in Brazil.

In Christ....Andry, Andrea, and Levi Moore

[The Following in an article written by Autumn Aycock, daughter of missionary to Brazil, David Aycock. In many cultures when a girl reaches her 15th birthday she is "Presented" to the public in a special ceremony. This is the record of such an event].

Dear Friends,

I wonder, did Jesus ever have birthday parties? You know...with streamers, balloons, a cake and candles, party hats, with a lot of friends present, and a choir to present the Birthday Theme Song? We all know there was special rejoicing for Him, when He was born. The choir of angels sang: "Glory in the Highest"; then the Shepherd's ran to the party to see the promised One, and God even hung a special star in the sky to celebrate the beginning of the first step of saving the world from sin. But the Bible doesn't mention much about His birthdays after that. I'm sure Mary and Joseph planned something special each year, with His favorite foods. Maybe His younger brothers and sisters colored a picture with much love and care, to give to Jesus...I wonder.



Last night (Saturday, November 22nd), I had a huge birthday party! There were over 150 people present! Six churches were represented, that was the most special thing about it for me. I was surprised, but overjoyed that so many people showed up. There were several unsaved there, and my prayer is that they were touched by what they saw.

My day started at 6:00, well, actually 8:00 a.m.. (That was when I finally got up) I made up my bed, cleaned my room...unfortunately, special days don't erase regular chores. At 8:30, one of the preachers wives, Fabiana, gave me a manicure and pedicure. She did a great job, and yes, my nails are shining! Then I ate lunch. My favorite: Chicken Stroganoff with rice(a Brazilian specialty). At 3:40 a hair dresser from 1st church, Virginia, fixed my hair. I had it all in curls. Then, for the last detail, Fabiana came over and did my makeup. It all was so much fun, and not to brag or anything, but I looked great!

7:30: Starting time. Yes, we ran a little late. This did frustrate me a little because I had been anxiously waiting for the service to start for days! But, as duty calls, we had to be Brazilians! As the guitar played, my grandparents, Bobby and Sue Aycock, and then my parents, David and Annette Aycock, walked in. Then came eight of my closest friends, all dressed in black and white, and carrying bouquets of white roses. After this, Andrew walked me down the aisle up to the "stage area", kissed me on the cheek, (I could picture all the mothers present going "awww..."), and waited 'till I sat down to then go to his seat. It was so cute!

7:35 Service begins. The congregation sang Great is Thy Faithfulness, one of my favorite hymns, and two of my favorite Brazilian choruses. The choir sang a song, thanking God for the gift of life, I sang a solo, six of the young women who have most influenced my Christian walk sang a song, a violin and piano duet was presented, and then "He who Began a Good Work in You", was sung in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish, and English. All of the music was beautiful! My mom made a 10 min. video showing scenes of when I was little. It was funny, and everyone enjoyed it. I was encouraged to grow in four areas: Intellectual, Physical, Spiritual, and Social growth, by four of the preachers. Then, my dad and mom, gave me advice and encouragement. My dad explained the meaning behind my "True Love Waits" ring, and they presented it to me again. I signed a promise, regarding various commandments from God, that I am to keep, and everyone signed a mat that will be framed as my witnesses. It was all very special!

Then came the party time. Brazilian finger foods were served, until everyone couldn't eat anymore. We still have some left over if any of you would like to stop by and get some. There was a beautiful cake, but most importantly, it was good! The inside was filled with chocolate brigadeiro! Since six churches were represented, it was a great time for fellowship. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

How did I feel about all of this? Blessed to be a child of the King! God has been so good to me and my family. That was evident last night, as we reflected on past years. I could feel His presence at my birthday party, and I hope He was happy with what He saw. I feel hopeful, that my unsaved friends saw how great it is to have Jesus Christ as Lord, and that they will desire to become a part of the family of God. I feel special, because I have the greatest parents in the world. They absolutely went beyond my expectations and made everything happen, so that it would be one the most important days of my life. I feel encouraged by everything presented. And I feel satisfied to be here in Brazil, on the mission field, with the Brazilian people that I love so dearly.

There will come a day when we will be with Him in heaven. When that day comes, I want you all to know that I am planning a BIG birthday party for Him. Want to participate? First of all, you have to bring your ticket. It's free, because it was already paid for with the blood of Christ. But you have to receive it. How? All you have to do is believe that Jesus died on the cross for YOU, ask Him to come into your heart, and you will be saved, and boarded on to the glory-bound train. Everyone is invited. I'm not going to ask anyone to bring a drink, or some food, because I don't know what Heaven's grocery will hold, but we will have a meeting up there, and plan everything. Jesus deserves all the glory, and the best Birthday party ever! I hope you'll be there! Serving our God in Brazil, Autumn :) :))

FROM YOUR HISPANIC MISSIONARIES IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF SPARTANBURG

Dear Friends:

We send this bulletin with Joyous Greetings! We are grateful for God's Goodness to us. The Hispanic Community Free Will Baptist Church continues to grow little by little. We have seen the enemy rise strongly against us and against the Mexican People as they come seeking God with great Spiritual Needs.

We very sure that the form in which we express ourselves on the printed page is far from what we would want to transmit in relating to you what we live, see, and confront as Missionaries. In living everyday with the Hispanic People, we have seen their fights, dramas, and tragedies. There is very little happiness in their Lives... Many single mothers work eighteen hour days just to make ends meet.

Recently, a family of two adults and three children were separated during their reentry from Mexico into the United States. The adults were caught by Immigration Officers as they attempted to cross the border. These are difficult situations that we try to give close attention to because ninety percent of our church congregation do not have legal documentation to work or live in the United States. Last Sunday there was a driver's license check point set up right in front of our church building. This check point caused our congregation to worry and become nervous with fear that one of them might be caught without legal documents and fined.

The average attendance of our church congregation is fifty-five to sixty people. We had as many as ninety-nine people attend a special church service a few Sundays ago.

When you become a missionary to the Hispanic People, you should be prepared to confront diverse situations. These are the most unusual tasks we have encountered thus far: translating, nurse, Sociologist, Physician, mother, father, taxi driver, employment officer, Etc. In a little over a year, We have experienced all of the above mentioned tasks and more! God has shown us more in our ministry this year than in the last three years...



The Gerardo Rodriguez Family
Spartanburg, South Carolina

We covet your prayers for the new Hispanic Mission in Pamplico at the Beulah Fwb Church. Our first service consisted of sixteen adults and twenty children.

Thank You for all your moral, spiritual and financial Support. We are thankful to God for your generous hearts in giving to our cause.

Many times we have felt like foreign missionaries in the United States! There is so much to tell, we could write a Book... Thank You Lord for sustaining your work!!

United in Him, Pastor Gerardo,
Maria, Lucas and Franco

Please Pray for Brother Gerardo's Mother. She had cancer but was doing well but now must face more cancer surgery in January. Brother Gerardo is the only son and his mother is in Uruguay.



The **Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute** will be dedicated during a special service at First FWB Church, Inman on Saturday, JANUARY 10, 2004. This project of the National Home Mission Department will train Hispanic Workers to assist in reaching our booming Hispanic population in America