

THE



INFORMER

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2005

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

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BETHANY BLESSING

Bethany FWB Church of Timmons ville recently voted to give \$25,000 to help purchase a church in South India and \$25,000 to help erase the loan debt at the SCFWB Children's Home- Glory! Pastor Phil Bozeman said he was extremely proud of his congregation and hoped their giving would be an example for many other churches across our state.



Pastor Phil Bozeman and layman, Barry Crocker, present Missionary Carlisle Hanna a check for \$25,000 just before his return to India.



SCFWB Children's Home director, Roy Roach rejoices to receive a check for \$25,000 to help erase the loan debt of the Children's Home. (l-r) Tommy McGee, Pastor Phil Bozeman, Director Roy Roach, Carlton Langston)

The SCFWB State Office and Christian Book and Supply wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Joyous Christmas. Thank you for the privilege of serving such wonderful people.

NEW BOOK STORE MANAGER

Mrs Linda Tanner has been named the new manager of the SCFWB Book Store. She previously worked part time at the store helping with Sunday School Literature distribution and standing in for Rev. Rickey Evans when he needed to be away. She is well versed in book keeping and shipping having served as a customer service manager at Lazy Boy manufacturing for many years.



She is married (Husband: Dexter, Son: Scott) and faithfully attends St John FWB Church of Pamplico where she has served as Church Treasurer for many years. She will be paid an hourly wage (\$12 per hour) instead of a set salary which will allow us to better maintain the Book Store budget. We are excited about her joining our team and expect her to do a great job of serving our churches as Book Store Manager.



State WAC Director, Mrs. Faye Hanna, joins with Mrs. Brenda Kaye Roach, daughter of Missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna in praising the Lord that the Ladies of the state exceeded their goal of \$20,000 to help build a church in India by over \$10,000!!- Glory! More photos and additional information on page 5.

Director Roy Roach reacts in amazement during the Children's Home Home Coming Celebration when he receives a check for \$20,000 from a Sumter businessmen as a result of their annual auction for the Children's Home. **Total offering for the day** (including this gift and the Bethany gift) **was over \$70,000- Glory!** Around 275 people attended this special day. Additional pictures on page 5.



Longest continuous serving Pastor in the State Retires- Rev. Bobby Bowers ended his nearly 38 years of service as pastor of First FWB Church of Greenville on Sunday, September 11, 2005. All of the Church parking lots were filled as family, friends, and past and present church members attended this special day. It was a day filled with tears and testimonies, singing and preaching, and hugs and fellowship.

Brother Bobby's Wife, Joyce, said she had lived with Brother Bobby when he was fat and had lived with him when he lost a lot of weight so she could honestly say she had struck with him through "thick and thin" as they had built and maintained this work for God in Greenville. The church honored Brother Bobby's 38 years of service by presenting him with a check for \$3800 (\$100 for each year of service). He also received many cards from individuals and announced that someone had given he and his wife an expensed paid trip to Hawaii as part of the 2006 Home Mission tour!



It was marvelous to hear the many testimonies of Brother Bobby's influence

in the lives of people and when he preached his final message as Pastor you could see that the fire still burned in his heart for a lost and dying world. A fellowship meal followed the service in which something happened that had seldom if ever happened in 38 years; Brother Bobby and Sister Joyce were the first ones in line to be served. Brother Bobby is still available to preach and he still plans to do as much for the Lord's work as possible.



The congregation of Black River Free Will Baptist Church honored their pastor, Jeff Cockrell, and his family, Sunday, Oct. 23. Bro. Jeff was surprised during the service when the choir sang, "Pastor, We Appreciate You." The chairman of the deacons, Homer Floyd, presented Bro. Jeff with a check from the church and a gift certificate to an area restaurant for the pastoral family.



The SCFWB Executive Secretary was guest speaker at Home Coming at **Lynches River FWB Church** on Sunday, Oct 16th. It was a great day of friends, food, and fellowship around the word of God. Rev. Jason Miles is Pastor of this fine congregation.

Low Country FWB Church had a Pastor Appreciation WEEK for Pastor Phillip Jones and wife, Dessie. Every night they were taken out somewhere to eat, ranging from home cooking, to restaurant cooking, to Japanese cooking, to seafood cooking, to country barbecue cooking. Then on Sunday it was lunch at the church.

As a special gift the Church gave the Pastor and his wife (for the 2nd year in a row!) airline tickets to Cincinnati to visit their daughter, Teresa (Husband Daniel), and their six grandchildren during the Christmas Holidays. Mrs. Dessie said this was the most wonderful church congregation they have ever been a part of!



Mrs. Dessie Jones also submitted this report- Women Active for Christ at Low County F.W.B. Church adopted the street in front of the church about three years ago for cleaning. This past cleanup, Jessica Jones brought several of her Psi Delta Phi sisters from Charleston Southern University to help. They were so enthusiastic and eager to work. All of us were grateful for their support and help in our project. They also volunteered their services at our annual Fall Festival on October 29, which is open to the neighborhood. They worked with the small children in their games and activities. Psi Delta Phi is a service-oriented sorority at Charleston Southern University.

Pastor Kevin Smith submitted this report- **Westgate FWB Church** in Spartanburg, SC has truly been blessed by the Lord in 2005. Since January of this year God has allowed us to purchase 4.84 acres across the road from our current location, plans have already been drawn up for a new softball field and play ground. We have also been blessed to see nearly 50 souls saved and added to the family of God. We have also had over 40 new members to join our church. Westgate has truly seen the hand of God move on us this year and we expect him to continue to bless in the future!



Pastor Doug Western submitted this report- To make homecoming a little more interesting this year, the folks at Lesslie FWB, Rock Hill, and the folks at St. John FWB, Patrick, decided to have a friendly competition. The goal was simple, who could have the most people for these special days. St. John FWB held homecoming on October 2nd and they had 118 people in attendance. Lesslie FWB held their homecoming a week later on October 9th and came in just a little short with 99 people. As part of the agreement Pastor Doug Western, Lesslie, and his wife Angie treated Pastor Jerry Johnson, St. John, and his wife Pat to a victory dinner and also relinquished the possession of the High Attendance Trophy. This was a wonderful day for both churches as the altars were full and God was glorified. Though they lost the competition, Lesslie set a new attendance record for the four years that Pastor Western has been with the church. Pastor Western has vowed to bring the trophy back home next time.



Several classes at **St. John FWB Church of Patrick** combined during the summer to teach about the Armor of God. The teachers of these classes- Ms. Judith, Ms. Diana, and Ms. Donna, traced their student's bodies on poster board. As they taught about each part of the whole armor of God they would dress these silhouette bodies accordingly. At the end of the summer they presented a program to the church about what they had learned. Pastor Jerry Johnson is the pastor of this innovative group.



Pastor Frank Sedgwick and the congregation of **Hickory Hill FWB Church of Gresham** had a great day of victory and celebration on Sunday, September 18th as they burned their mortgage and then dedicated their new Fellowship Building. The SCFWB Executive Secretary was the guest speaker before Pastor Sedgwick asked the charter members to assist him as they celebrated paying off all their debts and burning the mortgage.

Following this ceremony the entire congregation adjourned to the new fellowship building where everyone joined hands around the building and dedicated it to the Lord. And what better way to use this dedicated building than to join together in a wonderful fellowship meal

30 Years of Christian Education and Teaching Salvation- Submitted by Mrs. Gwen Ard of New Prospect Christian School,

New Prospect Christian School started on its journey on September 7, 1976. Rev. Joe Cagle, along with many others, stepped out on faith and started this great ministry. The first year, the school consisted of daycare, 4-K, and 5-K. An additional grade was consistently added each year until finally they reached the 12th Grade. NPCS started out with only eleven students enrolled, but "Little is much when God is in it." Now, thank the Lord, the school has truly blossomed and in its 30th year with 159 students enrolled. The Lord has truly blessed NPCS over the years.



This year's K-5 graduation at New Prospect Christian School.



Lebanon FWB Church had Pastor Appreciation on Sunday, October 30th. with the State Executive Secretary as special speaker. Pictured is Church Treasurer, Charles Gray presenting the Pastor with a special gift from the church. They also received a special offering from the congregation for the Pastor and his family.

The WAC of Lebanon FWB Church held their annual Craft show to benefit the FWB Home for Children on Saturday, Sept. 24th and raised \$7,222.50- Glory!

Rev. Rickey Evans was the guest speaker at the Pastor Appreciation service at Liberty FWB Church of Lancaster on Sunday, Sept. 18th. This was also Brother Tim Larrimore's 5th anniversary as Pastor. There were 323 in attendance with special music provided by 8th Day. In addition to many special gifts for the family, the Church gave the Pastor a leather jacket to wear when he rode his motorcycle. Pictured are the Pastor, his family, and the Church Deacons.



Pastor Larry McAlister and **Gilead FWB Church** dedicated their newly remodeled Children's Church building (the old church sanctuary) on Sunday, September 11th with a special worship service that packed out the old sanctuary and reminded people why they had built a new larger Church sanctuary. The remodeled Children's Church is beautifully painted and has a mural on the wall depicting Noah's ark and all sorts of animals.

Westside FWB Church of Johnsonville celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a special Jubilee service on Sunday, Nov 6th. Nearly 300 people packed the Church for this great service that included special singing, recognition of Charter Members, and a message from the first Pastor of the Church, Rev Carroll Alexander. A delicious meal was served in the Fellowship Building which was followed with more singing and testimonies from former Pastors and from Westside member and Missionary to Spain, Kristi Johnson (vis long distance from Spain). Rev Theron Scott is the Pastor.



Church Pastors who could attend this service- Rev. I. Bennie Turner, Rev Carroll Alexander, Pastor Theron Scott, Rev Reedy Saverance, Rev Paul Reid

Thanks to the South Carolina Ladies! By Kristi Johnson As I write, I just got off of the phone with four ladies who were on their way home from the State WAC retreat at White Oak. They were on their cell phone barreling down I-77 at breakneck speeds, but their raving over the retreat was even faster and more vivacious. They loved the food! They loved the new location! They loved the speakers! (But they didn't say too much about the beds. I don't think they slept very much anyway!) One of the most exciting things they told me was how the South Carolina ladies raised MORE than their goal of \$20,000 for a new church in India. How exciting! We are so thankful for all that the SC ladies have done for us since we've been in Spain. (This month makes seven years for us!) During that time, you have encouraged us through your prayers, e-mails, letters, and care packages. We hope that one day soon we will be able to send photos of the people in Alpedrete who have accepted Christ because of your commitment to support us. GRACIAS, Ladies



Ladies filled the seating (left) for this year's Retreat. It was the first year to use the White Oak Conference Center and everyone seemed to like the new arrangements. The Friday night fun time was exciting (as always) because it gave so many of the ladies a chance to "dress up" (right) again.



But the ladies were very serious also as they shared and sang and gave over \$30,000 to help the mission work in India. Praise the Lord for the good work of our State WAC.

Children's Home Home Coming Day Photos



l-r: Director Roy Roach presented plaques of appreciation to the Children's Home Board members present on Home coming Day- Rev. I Bennie Turner, Chariman Tim Hackett, Rev Paul Childers, Rev Allen Goodman.

Over 100 people attended the first **TEAM** Church Seminar this year at Peace FWB Church of Florence. The participants all agreed they learned a lot and look forward to next year's seminar. (Oct 7, 2006)



The singing group "Sacred Ground" from New Life FWB Church, Conway blessed the Home Coming service with great music.

Pastor Jacob Creech delivered a stirring message at CH Home Coming. He also declared Sunday, Nov 6th as Children's Home day at Horse Branch FWB Church during which 5 of the children will be baptized and a special offering received for the Home.



Missionary News:

Spain- Permission has been given to open a store front church in Alpedrete when Tim and Kristi Johnson serve. They hope this will eventually turn into the first protestant church in this town in over 500 years.

India- Missionary Carlisle Hanna has arrived safely back on the field and is already hard at work on the projects that S C Churches and WAC helped to sponsor.

Japan- Missionary Mirial Gainer underwent successful back surgery in mid October and hopes to be released from the hospital in Tokyo in late November. She is still having some pain but the doctors think this will go away with time. Her hospital stay has allowed her the opportunity to share her faith with many people in the hospital and on staff.



l-r: Matt Morrell, Bass, Spartanburg, Robbie Smith, Lead, Turbeville, David Gibson, Piano, Florence.

Three South Carolina Students have been chosen to be part of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Ministry Team. Pray for them as they travel to represent the Lord and the College.

**2006 STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING,
February 23-24, 2006
Gilead FWB Church, Lake City, SC**

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Holiday Inn Express- 202 N Ron McNair Blvd, Lake City 843-394-8400 (\$57.99- all rooms)
- Days Inn- 170 S. Ron McNair Blvd, Lake City 843-394-3269 (\$55.99 King. \$59.99 Double).



Liberty FWB Church of Orangeburg surprised Pastor Roger Tripp (and wife, Sybil) with a special celebration for their 40th anniversary on September 17th. Mrs. Elizebeth Berry planned the special service by inviting the congregation of the Church and family and friends of the Tripps. A special movie that highlighted the 40 years of the Tripp marriage was shown and the Church presented a special love offering to the Pastor. Other guests gave special gifts and the ladies of the Church provided a fellowship meal. In addition, the Church surprised Pastor Tripp with a Birthday Party after Prayer Meeting on Wednesday, October 5th.

Sunday, September 18th was **Old Fashion Day at Poplar Hill FWB Church** as people dressed in overalls, long dresses, bonnets, with a host of old fashion items on display. Unknown to Pastor Harry Cooper, however, was the fact that the Church had also planned a Pastor Appreciation day for this Sunday. The congregation presented Brother Harry and wife, Carolyn, with a card and gift and various members of the Congregation also presented cards and gifts. Naturally, an old fashion dinner on the grounds followed these special activities.



Poplar Hill FWB Church of Hemingway celebrated **Home Coming** on Sunday, Oct 9th with the SCFWB Executive Secretary as guest speaker. Wonderful singing by various groups of church members or families of church members preceeded the worship service. To get a permanent record of those who attended everyone was asked to go out onto the front porch of the Church during the break between the singing service and the preaching service for a group photo. Of course, a great fellowship meal followed all these activities. Rev. Harry Cooper is the pastor of this great group.

CHURCH TREASURERS: The SCFWB State Office will end its year at 10am on Friday, December 30, 2005. Anything received after that date will be applied to your 2006 contributions. Thank you for all you do for your church and for the work of God.

A Dream Come True- By Missionary to Brazil, David Aycock. I was privileged to grow up in a close knit neighborhood in the city of Barbacena. With several kids on the block there was a lot of activity - games, sports, celebrations and occasional fights! Those years are long gone now. Those neighborhood kids are now grown with children of their own. Some have moved away, others are raising their own families in the same neighborhood. But one thing has endured through the years – a desire to build a church in this close knit neighborhood.

Up to this point we had been filling the gaps in our area churches (First Church in Barbacena, Carandaí and then Nova Cidade). Now our dream is coming to pass. On August 7, 2005 we began a new mission work in our home. We have been able to take this step since **Andy and Andrea Moore's** move to Barbacena at the end of May. They have joined our "Church Builders" team. They **have taken over the work in Nova Cidade** and will continue to work toward a self supporting church.



Aycock Home in Brazil

On our first Sunday we had 14 present in Sunday School and 20 for our Sunday service. For our second Sunday we had 18 in Sunday School and 22 for service. Our area of town is generally considered lower to upper middle class but they are tied to family traditions and leery of "new religions". Currently we are meeting in the veranda of our home. Annette has a big heart for hospitality! We hope to run out of space soon and be forced to find a larger meeting place.

We are working on two tracks: 1) build a congregation and 2) build the church building. We have started a discipleship class and Lord willing we will baptizing four people in September. The church constitution is being written and we hope to organize the church in October. In our last service we had a gentleman named Sebastião (Sebastian) to visit our service. We are grateful that our visitation efforts are beginning to produce results.

The blueprint for the new church is being finalized and we hope to begin building in the coming weeks. We need \$110,000.00 to build our facilities. The church will seat about 160 people. The plans are to build a sanctuary, 8 classrooms, a fellowship hall and kitchen. Will you help us in this endeavor? Designate your gifts to the David Aycock Vision Fund and mail to the FWBIM, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



Hispanic Missionary, Fernando Bustamante, had the pleasure of **baptizing 12 new converts** on Saturday, September 10th. These converts all joined the new Hispanic mission meeting at Lebanon FWB Church in Effingham.

Brother Bustamante has also begun works in Columbia and Darlington (Each one with a training pastor in place). Support from our churches continues to fall far short of the need for our State Hispanic Ministry. Send your gifts to SCFWB, PO Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504 designated for State Hispanic Ministry.

Hispanic Missionary to the Upstate, **Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez** recently celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the Hispanic work in Una with 101 in attendance (A full house!). The service included testimonies, special singers, the preaching of God's Word and a time of fellowship. Most importantly of all, 7 people accepted Jesus as Savior during this special service- Glory!

Brother Gerardo is also beginning a mission work among the Hispanic population of Greer with help from the students of the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute located at Inman, SC.



Remember The
Benjamin Randall Day Offering
 NOVEMBER 20, 2005

National Home Missions Sunday

**Your gift will help us reach
 North America and U.S. Territories
 with the Gospel.**

**Please give generously on
 Sunday, November 20, 2005.**

AIM
 ADVANCING IN MISSIONS 



South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists
 Rev Mike Jones, Executive Secretary
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NEW PASTORS



Rev. Bruce Jones (wife- Joanne, children: Amber and Sarah) is the new Pastor of St John FWB Church of Pamplico. Brother Bruce is a native of the Pamplico area but he was most recently pastor of Baxley FWB Church (Ga).



Rev Brian Bishop (wife-An-gela, Children: Joshua, Rebekah, Bethany) is the new Pastor of Lockhart FWB Church. He comes to this position from being pastor of Fellowship FWB Church of Richton, Miss.



Rev Earl Stanley is the pastor of a new FWB Church located between Chester and Rock Hill. The Bride of Christ FWB Church is located at 4880 Saludia Road, Rock Hill, SC and is a member of the True Life Conference. This is Brother Earl's first time as Pastor.



Rev Reedy Saverance is the new Pastor at High Hill FWB Church. Brother Reedy had retired from the Pastorate but couldn't resist the opportunity to once again lead a flock. He is pictured her with Rev. Elro Driggers (left) at the dedication service for the new stained glass windows that were recently installed at High Hill.

This is the **Church building and land in South India** that many of our S. C. Churches helped raise the money to purchase. It was a tremendous opportunity to advance the work of FWB in South India and we appreciate everyone who gave to make this dream a reality.



Total Cost of land and Church- \$50,000.
 Bethany- \$25,000 Mill Branch- \$12,302
 Little Bethel- \$10,000 Williams Hill- \$1,000
 Eastern Conference- \$1,000
 S C Conference- \$940
 New Prospect- \$500
 First Charleston- \$207 Various- \$87.88

Gulf Shores FWB Church was severely damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Generous gifts from SCFWB (over \$43,000- Glory!) plus giving from FWB across our nation helped get it back up and running



Publication Deadlines. The "Informer" is published 7 times per year- January 1st, March 1st, April 1st, June 1st, August 1st, October 1st, and December 1st. Articles for publication need to be submitted 5 days prior to the publication date. Submit pictures as a separate file (in .jpeg or .tif format). All articles are subject to editing and exclusion based on content and space availabilities.