

THE



SEPTEMBER 2005

INFORMER

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

Address all correspondence to

Rev Mike Jones P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504

(843) 662-5010 Email: Mike@scfwb.com

Rev. Rickey Evans has accepted the position as Pastor of Evergreen FWB Church, Conway, SC. He will be leaving his managerial position at the FWB Christian Book Store effective October 13, 2005. Brother Rickey has served our state faithfully and diligently as book store manager and he will be sorely missed. We are confident, however, that he will have tremendous success as Pastor of Evergreen FWB Church and we pray the very best for him. Arrangements are already underway to name his replacement.



State WAC Ladies Retreat will be September 23-24, 2005 at White Oak Conference Center, 633 Mobley Highway, Winnsboro, SC. (803-635-4685). All Reserved rooms are full (Linens and towels are furnished).

Several motels are available in the area: Fairfield Motel (803) 635-3458 and Ramada Inn at Exit 34 (803) 337-7575. Walk on fees are \$15 per person and each meal is \$5 for walk ons (You must contact Patty Newton by 9/15 if you plan to eat as a walk on).

Contact Patty Newton at (864) 472-3707 or (864) 472-

2863 for more info. Remember to bring your money for the India Church project.



Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund- In response to the great needs of the Hurricane Katrina victims, the National Association of



Free Will Baptists has started a Disaster Relief Fund. This fund will be administered by FWB in areas hit by disasters or it will be used to assist our National Master's Men Disaster Relief Team as they work in affected areas. Checks can be sent through the SCFWB State Office designed to Disaster Relief and they will then be forwarded to the National FWB Disaster Relief Fund.

According to NAFWB Executive Secretary, Keith Burden, our churches in Louisiana were located in the north of the state so they did not suffer major damage and the damage to our Alabama FWB Churches was minimal. Most of the damage was done in the South Mississippi area so most of the funds will be handled through a committee of Free Will Baptist leaders from Mississippi.

Many Free Will Baptist from South Carolina are involved in the clean up through their job (tree trimmers, utilities workers, etc.), through family (One church sent over \$6,000 worth of supplies with a man who had children in the area and was going to check on them!), and by helping with other organizations (Such as feeding workers and victims). Thank the Lord for faithful people who are willing to help at this time. (Up to date information is available by clicking the "disaster relief" button at www.scfwb.com)

TEAM Teacher Training Seminar is coming to South Carolina. TEAM is a ministry of Randall House Publications and will feature dynamic speakers and instructors sharing teaching information and inspiration in a format that will help all age groups.



In order to make it easier on people who attend we have planned two sessions- Saturday, October 1st at Peace FWB Church (897 3rd Loop Road, Florence) and Saturday, October 15th at Fairview FWB Church (2058 Chesnee Hwy, Spartanburg).

The cost is \$36.00 per person and will include a free lunch meal at the Church. Mail your registration to: SCFWB State Office; P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504. (Schedule of Seminars on Page 6)

Sunday, August 7th was a three fold blessing day at **Mt. Carmel FWB Church, York, SC**. It was Pastor Appreciation day for Pastor John Cody who celebrated 25 years as Pastor of this fine church. It was also close enough to the 40th wedding anniversary of Pastor Cody and wife, Sandy, until they could celebrate that also. Finally, it was a day for the Church to dedicate the new Rev. John and Sandra Cody Family Park located behind the Church (A Family Park that is being constructed for family get togethers and for out door singings).



The day began with a good Sunday School Class, ended with a great fellowship dinner, and put a lot of good singing and testimonies in between as the congregation worshipped the Lord and praised their Pastor. Special guest speaker was SCFWB Executive Secretary, Mike Jones.



SCFWB Assistant Director, Rickey Evans, was the guest speaker for Home Coming services at **First FWB Church of Hartsville** on Sunday, August 7th. The Bible Tones were the musical guests. One of the highlights of the service was the dedication of the Fellowship Building in honor of Pastor James Skipper. A beautiful portrait of the Pastor was presented by Johnny and Kathy Brown to hang in the entrance to the Fellowship Building. It was a great day of service with several rededication during the worship service.

First FWB Church of Hartsville was begun on April 26, 1964 with 30 charter members. Brother Skipper (with help from wife Irene and his children) has served as Pastor of the Church since its beginning.

Brother Skipper said the caring heart of his congregation was recently shown when the Air Conditioning unit went out at the Church. A new couple attending the Church helped on buying a new unit by abandoning their vacation and using that money to help purchase the new unit and the first person baptized at the Church heard of the need and sent a contribution- Glory! Isn't it wonderful to see how God uses FWB Churches to change lives.

Freedom FWB Church of Tabor City, NC held the dedication service for their new sanctuary on Sunday, September 4, 2005 with the SCFWB Executive Secretary as guest speaker. The church began 4 years ago and has been holding services in a rented store building for much of that time. Present pastor, Clifford Strickland, came to the church 2 years ago and has led the church to purchase 3 acres of land just outside of Tabor City where they have built a nice church building that will seat around 125- 150 people.



Pastor Cliff Strickland



A local singing group, "The Singing Echoes" got everyone in the mood for worship with their song service during the Sunday School hour and the preaching service was followed by a special dedication prayer for the Pastor and the Church by Rev. Mike Jones. The Church planned to put their new sanctuary to good use by beginning a Revival Sunday Night through Friday night with Rev. Ray Cribb as Evangelist. This church is a member of the Central Conference.



Rev Darwin Cook is the new pastor at Camp Branch FWB Church, Scranton, SC. Brother Darwin is married to Melissa and they have 2 sons- Brandon and Jacob.

Brother Darwin was saved on Oct 20, 1977 and surrendered to preach in 1995. He was Associate Pastor at West 5th Ave FWB Church before he came to Camp Branch. This is his first stint as senior Pastor.

Pastor Appreciation rolled around a bit early at **Gilead FWB Church**. The main reason was that the 20th anniversary of Rev. Larry McAlister's service to the Lord at Gilead was August 21. Since Bro. Larry is so good at finding out that surprises are coming – all plans were kept “under wraps” and there was a surprise “take over” of the services on Sunday night, August 28th, when four of the pastors who have come out of Bro. Larry's ministry approached the pulpit.

The Lord has blessed the ministry of Bro. McAlister in that several “preacher boys” have been birthed, raised up and released to minister throughout our state through his ministry at Gilead. Rev. Rickey Evans, presently working with our SCFWB State Office; Rev. Carroll Bazen, presently pastoring Grace FWB Church in Lake City, Rev. Tony Lynch, most recently serving High Hill FWB Church; and Rev. Teddy Rabon, the Youth Pastor serving at Gilead FWB Church. These men took the sermon notes from a message Bro. McAlister preached on March 17, 1991 called “Following in the Steps of Jesus” based on 1 Pet. 2:21 and each preached a point of the message.



At the close of the services Bro. Al Lawrence, a member of the Pastor Appreciation Committee, on behalf of the congregation, presented a vacation package which includes a five night Christian cruise to the Bahamas to Bro. Larry and his lovely wife, Sis. Retha. Bro. Teddy and his lovely wife, Sis Karen, were presented a check in appreciation of their following God's call and beginning a vibrant, growing ministry to the youth at Gilead.

Following the presentation of gifts, all were invited to enjoy cake and ice cream in the Fellowship Hall. A beautiful cake had been prepared by Sis. Mickey Evans displaying Bro. Larry's life verses from Psalm 40:2,3 and closed with “Forever Faithful”.

Perhaps this celebration by the folks at Gilead will fuel the fire of ideas for other churches in our state to show their appreciation for their pastors during Pastor Appreciation month in September. (Submitted by Mrs. Shelly McKnight)



Top Row l-r: Bradley Timmons, Tommy Long, Connie Long, Stephanie Timmons, Ben Timmons, Carolyn Baxley.
Bottom Row l-r: Matthew Willis, Travis Richardson, Scotty Wright, Stephanie Venters.

The New Vision FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC, sent 11 members to get some first hand experience on the mission field June 12 - 21. The group consisted of 7 youth and 4 adults who raised their own funds for the trip and who came away with a life changing knowledge of our work in Brazil and the ministry of missionaries Bobby and Geneva Poole. They spent one day at the Youth Camp mounting 24 bunk beds that had been ordered. They participated in prayer meetings, Sunday School, the Sunday night service, visited the Seminary, visited 6 homes in the Marincek area for prayer and made a lot of friends. They were also able to participate in an all day picnic at the Camp in Jaboticabal with the Marincek church (Where Brother Bobby and Mrs. Geneva minister).

Everyone said Brother Bobby and Sister Geneva were super hosts. The entire group came away tremendously impressed with the faith and dedication of the Brazilian people. Pastor Rodney Wilson said that every

person who attended commented on the powerful worship services- and that everyone would love to go back again next year.

Mrs. Geneva Poole, missionary to Brazil, has been experiencing some health problems recently. (No. We do not think it was due to the New Vision visit!!) Here is the latest update. First: It is hard for someone who is very active to do nothing for two weeks! Mrs Geneva is doing pretty well at this but she gets restless after a few hours of idleness. Secondly: She went back to her heart doctor September 6th. He cut out one medicine and added another. Thirdly: She seems to be getting stronger but hates to just sit around doing nothing all day. She is one that likes to fulfill her responsibilities. Continue to pray for her.



Thanks for the love and support everyone has given. Love in Christ, ... Bobby and Geneva

Some highlights from the 2005 National Association meeting in Louisville, Ky.

Registration-	Ordained ministers	668
	Licensed ministers	46
	Deacons	132
	Local church delegates	11
	State delegates	85
	Home missionaries	60
	Visitors	2,372
	National Youth Conf.	3,664
	WNAC	990
	Int'l Missionaries	26
	Board/Commission	<u>53</u>
	Total Registered	5,976



Wednesday Night Mission Service

2006 Budgets-	Executive Office	\$705,234
	FWB Bible College	\$5,903,402
	FWB Foundation	\$456,435
	Home Missions	\$4,500,000
	International Missions	\$7,152,122
	Master's Men	\$139,378
	Retirement & Insurance	\$499,108
	Sunday School	\$4,127,900
	Theological Commission	\$4,325
	Historical Commission	\$3,150
	Media Commission	\$4,000
	Music Commission	\$3,800
	Total 2006 Budget	\$23,498,854



Many decisions were made during the services

Rev. Donnie Miles, Pastor of Peace FWB Church of Florence was elected to the new FWB Foundation Board.

WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Convention Theme: Let Us Pursue, based on Hosea 6:3. Registered: 990.

New Officers- President: Debe Taylor, Vice-President: Rebecca Pugh, Secretary: Phyllis York, Members-at-large: Linda Harvey, Carolyn Hendrix, Shirley Jackson

WNAC Resolutions

1. We recommend that scholarships be given from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund as follows:

To continue the scholarship for Robert and Philippe in Cote d'Ivoire, for a total of \$1,2500.

To continue the scholarship for the Cuban Cedars of Lebanon Seminary for a total of \$500.

To continue the scholarship assistance for the five students at the Volena Wilson Bible Institute in Conoor, Tamil Nadu, South India, for a total of \$950.

To add a scholarship for a student at the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico, for a total of \$800.

2. We recommend the By-Laws, Article V, Fees and Reports,



WNAC Luncheon

be changed from: “Active members shall pay dues yearly as required by WNAC for membership fee. The dues and the annual reports must be in the national office before the WNAC convention in order for delegates to be seated at the WNAC convention.”

To read: “Active members shall pay membership fees yearly as required by WNAC. The membership fees and the annual reports must be in the national office before the WNAC convention in order for delegates to be seated at the WNAC convention.”

3. We recommend increasing dues (membership fees) from \$10 to \$15 effective immediately.
4. We recommend increasing the local delegate fee from \$5 to \$10.
5. Whereas it was through the ruling of un-elected liberal judges that prayer was removed from our schools and abortion was declared legal, and whereas now our nation is in danger of having civil unions in government buildings and government property, and the pledge of allegiance disallowed, be it resolved that we write or telephone our senators to stop judicial tyranny by demanding an up or down vote for the judges appointed by our President who are conservative in their

Congratulations to these NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE WINNERS from South Carolina:

Poetry (Grade 4-6)- 1st Kayla Kimbrel. (Grade 10-12) 1st Paige Ellis.

Photography (Grade 1-3) 3rd Ellen Parrish.

Fabricated Art (Grade 4-6) 3rd Emily Parrish.

Group Drama (Grade 1-3) 1st Horse Branch Drama Group.

Live Puppetry (Grade 4-6) 2nd Temple Kids.

Short Story (Grade 4-6) 3rd Kaylynn Wells.

Bible Memorization (Grade 11) 2nd Mary Kathryn Driggers.

Vocal Solo (Grade 1-3) 2nd Ellen Parrish.

Male Vocal Solo (Grade 10-12) 3rd Bryce Mims.

Female Vocal Solo (Grade 7-9) 3rd Maggie Driggers.

Vocal Duet (Grade 1-3) 2nd Horse Branch Duet.

Vocal Trio (Grade 10-12) 3rd Horse Branch Trio.

Keyboard Solo (Grade 10-12) 3rd David Gibson.

(These are the results available at the SCFWB State Office.

If anyone was missed then please send their information to the State Office.)



Sword Drill Competition



Kids Worship Service



Teen Worship Service

TEAM Teacher Training Seminar Schedule

Registration	8:00 - 8:45am
Opening Session	9:00 - 9:30am
Session 1	9:40 - 10:30am
Break	10:30 - 10:40am
Session 2	10:50 - 11:30am
Lunch (Provided)	11:30 - 1:00pm
Session 3	1:00 - 1:50pm
Break	1:50 - 2:00pm
Session 4	2:00 - 2:50pm
Closing Session	3:00 - 3:30pm

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).

Lebanon FWB Church's Women Active for Christ will host an ARTS and CRAFTS Festival on Saturday, September 24th from 8:00am - 2:00pm to benefit the FWB Home for Children at Turbeville. A large variety of arts and crafts for all ages will be available. Breakfast and Lunch will also be sold. The Church is located at 7001 Friendfield Road, Effingham, SC. Call (843) 665-7605 for more info



[I was saving room for a couple of articles that did not come in before press time so I decided to fill this space with some information about our denomination that may not be known by some people in the pews.]

FREE WILL BAPTIST HISTORY- The Free Will Baptist denomination is a fellowship of evangelical believers united in extending the witness of Christ and the building of His Church throughout the world. The rise of Free Will Baptists can be traced to the influence of Baptists of Arminian persuasion who settled in the colonies from England.

The denomination sprang up on two fronts at almost the same time. The southern line, or Palmer movement, traces its beginnings to the year 1727 when one Paul Palmer organized a church at Chowan, North Carolina. Palmer had previously ministered in New Jersey and Maryland, having been baptized in a congregation which had moved from Wales to a trace on the Delaware River in northern Pennsylvania.

The northern line, or Randall movement, had its beginnings with a congregation organized by Benjamin Randall June 30, 1780, in New Durham, New Hampshire. Both lines of Free Will Baptists taught the doctrines of free grace, free salvation and free will, although from the first there was no organizational connection between them.

The northern line expanded more rapidly in the beginning and extended its outreach into the West and Southwest. In 1910-1911 this body of Free Will Baptists merged with the Northern Baptist denomination, taking along more than half its 1,100 churches and all denominational property, including several major colleges. On December 28, 1916, at Pattonsburg, Missouri, representatives of remnant churches in the Randall movement reorganized into the Cooperative General Association of Free Will Baptists.

Free Will Baptists in the southeastern United States, having descended from the Palmer foundation, had often manifested fraternal relationships with Free Will Baptists of the Randall movement in the north and west; but the slavery question and the Civil War prevented formal union between them. The churches in the southern line were organized into various associations and conferences from the beginning and had finally organized into a General Conference by 1921. These congregations were not affected by the merger of the northern movement with the Northern Baptists.

Now that the remnants of the Randall movement had reorganized into the Cooperative General Association and the Palmer movement had organized into the General Conference, it was inevitable that fusion between these two groups of Free Will Baptists would finally come. In Nashville, Tennessee, on November 5, 1935, representatives of these two groups met and organized the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

This body adopted a *Treatise* which set forth the basic doctrines and described the faith and practice that had characterized Free Will Baptists through the years. Having been revised on several occasions, it serves as a guideline for a denominational fellowship which comprises more than 2,400 churches in 42 states and 14 foreign countries.

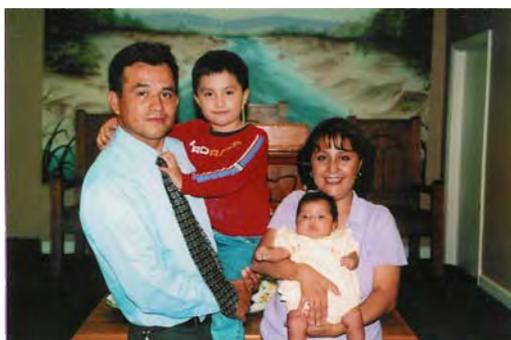


No Translation Needed - (By Mrs. Margaret Hampton, daughter of Rev. Ernest Barnes. She teaches music in Nashville, TN. where she, and husband Ken, work with Rev Clayton Hampton at the Two Rivers FWB Church in Clarksville, TN. They have 3 children: Michael (18), Nicholas (15), and Rachel (11)).

My father pastors Midlands Free Will Baptist Church in West Columbia, South Carolina. He first went there in October of 1983 as a state home missionary. I love to visit there because I enjoy the services and fellowship with the people that are a part of Midlands FWB Church. I have been to revivals, VBS, singings, and fellowship meals. I have played piano, sang specials, and taught children's stories.

On July 2, 2005, I attended a different kind of service at Midlands. I did not play or sing or teach. I sat and listened and did not understand what I was hearing. Pastor Enrique was leading the service for the Hispanic Free Will Baptist Mission. This was their fourth service. Pastor Enrique started the service by playing the piano and singing praise songs. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as the congregation sang about our precious Lord and raised their hands in honor to the risen Savior.

Pastor Enrique announced different scriptures and waited while the congregation found them in their Bibles. If someone was struggling to find the reference, one of the men would get up and go to that person and help them locate the verse. Pastor Enrique would very slowly say the scripture reference again in English so that my sister, brother-in-law, and I would understand. After 2-3 times of this happening, Julio (works with Pastor Enrique) looked at us and in very clear English said "John 3: 17--find it!".



I did not know all that Pastor Enrique said that night but I do know that he read II Corinthians 9:7 , II Peter 3 :8, II Peter 2:2, Psalms 1 , John 3: 16-17 , John 7:16 and John 8: 31-32. He spoke of needing to feed on the meat of the word and not just the "leche", or milk of the word. He spoke of how the truth will make you free and that salvation was not about Pastor Enrique but only Jesus. At one point, I could tell he was telling how the Lord brought him to Columbia. I could figure out that he was telling how he gave excuses--no English, a family with him and he was broke ("I'm broke" sounds the same in any language!!). He then asked some very serious questions of the people which I did not understand but you could tell they were listening and thinking.

I did understand when he said that they must think the Pastor was "loco," (crazy)!!

I was trying hard to understand what Pastor Enrique was talking about but it was difficult. No translator was needed, however, when he touched the center of his hands and with much emotion got down on one knee. I knew at that point, Pastor Enrique was telling of the awesome sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He was sharing with his congregation how our Savior died for all and that Jesus is our only way to eternal life.

That night I experienced, first hand, the touch of the Holy Spirit. I determined right there that my salvation was nothing to take for granted. I know that Christ died for ALL and I should be out telling others about Him. I may not speak Spanish but that night I heard the message of Christ in a whole new way and I did NOT need a translator.

Missionaries to the Ivory Coast, **Jerry and Carol Pinkerton**, visited in South Carolina for two weeks in August. They spoke at several minister's meetings and joint church services as well as greeted many of the churches who had supported them through the years. Their goal was to raise funds to help finance construction of the Third FWB Church in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. They were please to leave South Carolina with nearly \$9,000 in gifts to help on this new Church



The Pinkertons shared their burden to a full house at Southside FWB Church as Darlington area church came together for a joint service.

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.**





South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists
Rev Mike Jones, Executive Secretary
P O Box 13266 Florence, SC 29504
WWW. SCFWB.Com (843) 662-5010

Each One Bring One

One of the most difficult times in the life of a Church is when the Pastor resigns. Here are a few guidelines that may help during this transition time.

When a Pastor resigns.

- 1) His resignation should be submitted in writing to the deacon board of the Church prior to being announced to the Church.
- 2) Written resignations should be short. They should contain a brief reason (health, feel you are at end of your ministry there, God has called to another ministry, etc). A resignation should not include any accusations or condemnations as they will be a part of the official church minutes.
- 3) Almost all Pastors enter into a verbal contract when they accept a church stating that they will give 30 days (or 60 or 90 depending on the church) notice upon resignation. Unless the church releases them from this contract they are honor bound to fulfill the time of this contract. They bring a reproach on the ministry if they fail to honor this time. In the same way churches are honor bound to pay a Pastor for the time of his contract even if they ask him to leave immediately.
- 4) The resigning Pastor should submit a list of planned activities with scheduled speakers (Revivals, home comings, etc) to the chairman of the Deacon Board.
- 5) A pulpit committee should be elected as soon as possible. The name of the chairman of that committee should be submitted to the SCFWB State Office in order to obtain available resumes and to provide a contact person for the State Executive Secretary and for publication on the state web site.
- 6) The Pastor and the church should work together during this transition time to ensure that the Pastor is able to be away for trial sermons and that the church is able to listen to potential Pastor speakers.
- 7) This should be a time of much prayer and little gossip as people seek God's will in the selection of another shepherd for God's flock.

SCFWB Youth Ministries director,

Rev. Cyrus Shoffner, wanted to publish the following "wish list". Anyone who wants to help with this list can contact brother Cyrus at Faith FWB Church, 1237 Vance Drive, Darlington, S C 29540. Church-(843) 393-7436. Home- (843) 398-9923



- Laptop Computer (for Registration)
- Enclosed Trailer (Storage and transportation of youth recreational equipment)
- Portable Sound System.
- Various Inflatables (Moonwalk, Water Slide, etc)
- 40 acres of land (to build our own camp/youth retreat center on).

Up Coming Conference Meetings:

Beaver Creek Conference- Saturday, Oct. 29th at Liberty FWB Church, Lancaster.

Central Association- Saturday, Oct. 8th at Little Bethel FWB Church, Johnsonville.

Eastern Conference- Saturday, Oct. 22nd at Olanta FWB Church, Olanta

Palmetto Conference- Saturday, Feb 25, 2006

South Carolina Conference- Friday, Oct 7th at Peace FWB Church, Florence

True Life Conference- Saturday, Sept. 17th at Cornerstone FWB Church, Chester.

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.