

THE



INFORMER

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

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ALL RELOCATION COMMITTEES APPROVE SENDING THE RELOCATION PLAN TO THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR APPROVAL



The Research and Groundwork Committee and the Relocation Committee appointed by the State at the 2006 State Association have both met and have unanimously voted to recommend the following three items to the 2007 State Association Meeting:

- 1) That the Present State Office be sold at or above its appraised price.
- 2) That Architectural Plans be drawn up for a new State Ministries Complex to include a full size gym as well as the State Office and Christian Book Store- total building size: 100 ft by 110 ft.
- 3) That the Budget for the new State Ministries Complex not exceed the selling price of the present State Office.

If this proposal is approved by the State Association then a lot of prayers, "penny pinching", and perspiration will be required to bring it to completion. It will take a total team effort (and we are counting on YOUR help) but it will make a difference for almost every ministry in our State-Glory!



Would your Trust your Children with these people? Many of you did at Junior Camp and they ended up sharing the gospel and a good time with 105 campers. (More info on page 6)



Would you Trust this man with your Children? He is Rev. Danny Conn and he is the new National Student and Children's Ministry Director for Free Will Baptists. (More on Page 2)

Would you Play Golf to Help Children? The 12th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the SCFWB Home for Children will be Saturday, September 9, 2006 at the Players Course at Wyboo and Wyboo Plantation, Manning, SC. Check in time is 7:00am. Tee Time is 8:00am. 3 man teams- Shot Gun Start- Captain's Choice (Whatever all that means). Lunch and an Auction will be held at the Children's Home after the Tournament. The entry fee is \$50 per person and applications must be turned into the Children's Home (P O Box 229, Turbeville, SC 29162) by August 28th, 2006.

The 65th Annual Session of the S C State Association of Free Will Baptists will meet February 22-23, 2007 at Temple FWB Church in Darlington. The Host Conference is the South Carolina Conference and the theme is "Arise and Build God's Work" (Neh 2:18). Speakers are:
Rev. Paul Lambert (CA), Rev. Brian Tolliver (EC), Rev. Mitch Edge (BC), Rev. Jason Myers (PC), Rev. Todd Parrish (SC), and Rev. Buddy Seay (CA). [Note that an extra speaker has been added to the Thursday Morning service- We are trying to accent preaching more in the services].
The Thursday Night Speaker will be Rev. Keith Burden (NAFWB Executive Secretary) and the Thursday Night Offering will be divided between S C Foreign and Home Mission Deficit Accounts.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. If you have not already done so, plan a special appreciation day for your Pastor and let he and his family know how grateful you are that God has provided him to be your spiritual leader.

The congregation of Black River FWB Church recently honored Pastor Jeff Cockrell by presenting him a 2005 Ford Taurus SEL- Glory! Brother Jeff is shown in front of the car receiving the keys from chairman of the deacons, Homer Floyd.



Brother Jeff serves our state on the Conference level as the clerk for the South Carolina Conference and on the National level as a member of the NAFWB Historical Commission. We appreciate all he does for the Lord.

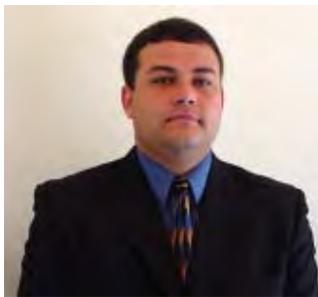


Celebration and thankfulness were the order of the day at Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville on Sunday, July 30th. The Westside congregation surprised Pastor Theron Scott during the morning service with a special Pastor Appreciation Day. The celebration was two-fold – it was the 20th anniversary of Brother Scott’s ministry at Westside, and Monday, July 31st was his birthday! He and his wife Camille were sitting about three rows back ready to worship in the fifth Sunday youth service. As planned, the youth began the service with a guitar prelude by Garrett Powell, welcome and prayer by Taylor Powell, little children singing, offering with offertory by C.J. Joye - then the fun began! The youth choir came forward, got their mikes, and began a specially written song – about the Pastor! He was taken totally by

surprise. Brother Van Powell then shared thoughts and scripture, and one by one the members came forward to express their thankfulness for a special Pastor and his wife who have given tirelessly over the years to share God’s word and minister through music to Westsiders and the community of Johnsonville.

The Scotts were presented with a monetary gift from the Church with a suggestion to plan a special vacation to Spain with accommodations provided by Kristi and Tim Johnson. A beautifully decorated Family Life Center provided a warm welcome to all who stayed for the dinner and fellowship. Special guests for the day included the Pastor’s mother, stepfather, brother and sister-in-law. (Submitted by Mrs. Faye Hanna).

Rev. Stephen Hyman (wife-Dessie, daughter- Stephanie) is the new Pastor at Mt. Ariel FWB Church, Conway. He is the grandson of Rev. J W Hyman and the great grandson of Edwin Bright Hyman. This is his first stint as a Pastor and we look forward to God doing great things for him. He was formerly principal at Mullins-Marion Christian School.



(Danny Conn-Continued from Front Page)

Dr. Conn’s primary duties will focus on logistical coordination, rather than extensive direct contact with the children and students. He will secure and direct leaders for specific programs, as well as supervise promotions, budgetary matters, and general content.

His responsibilities will include directing the National Youth Conference (NYC), Truth and Peace, and the National YETeam. He will use youth leaders from the field as program coordinators for Truth and Peace as well as the National YETeam. Danny, in concert with the General Director of Randall House, will appoint a National Youth and Children’s Advisory Council for incubation of fresh ideas and strategic planning.

Danny completed his doctorate (Ed.D.) at Pensacola Christian College after earning an M.A. degree at the Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduate School (1984) and a B.A. degree at Hillsdale FWB College (1982). He is presently pastor of Soul’s Harbor FWB Church in Pensacola



The SCFWB Children’s Home is happy to welcome at “Little People” Dorm Parents Nathan and Tracy (Kailon and Nathan II) Saverance. This couple had recently attended Lebanon FWB Church. They began their duties August 1.

Gilead FWB Church in Scranton had an exciting VBS this year. They went "all out", decorating sites, crafts, and music for "Time-Stone Travelers, the Quest for God's Ten Commandments". Finnegan the Time-Stone Traveler pup appeared in skits in the opening and closing assemblies, with some seriousness and laughs. He conveyed the importance of the 10 Commandments and just how they apply to our everyday lives. There were 90 students participating along with approximately 50 adults.

In addition to learning the 10 Commandments, the children also went on a very special "quest". They collected pennies to send to missionaries. . . .LOTS of them! The boys battled the girls, collecting a total of \$804.00! (The boys ended up with 216 lbs. of pennies and the girls collected 167lbs.) These funds were divided between Foreign Missionary Carlisle Hannah in India and Home Missionary Chris Fannin in Arizona.

The best news coming from VBS was that there were 18 children who gave their hearts to Jesus! The memories and lessons of VBS can change lives forever! God bless all of those who work so hard to provide wonderful programs such as these which impact both children and adults!

Submitted by- Rev. Teddy Rabon, Gilead Youth Pastor



I scrolled quickly through my ledger and found these recent VBS Gifts. If you had a special project for VBS then let us know . I love to brag on what young people are doing for the Lord.

Socastee	\$12.00 for Carlisle Hanna
Bethany	\$550.00 for Bustamante project
St John (Pamplico)	\$160.00 for Chris Fannin
Lighthouse	\$300.00 for Children's Home Debt
Horse Branch	\$907.00 for Bikes for India

Dr. David Gibbs had to cancel all his August Seminars. They called the day after the information was mailed to all the Pastors. Please Disregard the seminar notice you received about a Christian Law Seminar in Columbia.

ROLL CALL SUNDAY: The National Home Mission Department is NO LONGER SPONSORING ROLL CALL SUNDAY. In order to continue to have a measure of the growth of our SCFWB Churches the SCFWB Executive Secretary is asking that Pastors plan a big day in October this year (2006) and report to the SCFWB State Office the largest attendance you have at a single Sunday Morning Service in October (Any one of the 5 Sunday Morning Services in October will be acceptable).

Report your attendance the week following your big day (Don't put it off!!). You can submit it via email- mike@scfwb.com , phone- 843-662-5010, or in a letter to SCFWB State Office, P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504. The results will be compiled and published in the "Informer" as well as on the state web site- www.scfwb.com.

Mark your Calendar- On Sunday Sept. 17th Turning Point FWB Church (Formerly Converse) will celebrate its 50th Home Coming. Bro. Bill Vanderford will bring the Home Coming message and Bro. Billy Fields will be providing the special music. Special worship service time is 10:30 am.

Our 4th Annual Fall Jubilee will follow from September 18th-September 22nd. This week has always been a wonderful week of refreshing preaching and singing. Service times each night is 7pm. Our guest Evangelist will be Bro. Billy Fields from Indiana. And our special singers will be The Galloways- Nashville Tn., The Dosses- Denton, NC., The McNeil Indian Family- Lumberton, NC. Of course, Bro. Fields who is a very talented singer and song writer will be providing special music all week. Submitted by Pastor Todd Black

Rev. Jacob Creech has "retired" as a Pastor (but plans to keep on working hard as a Preacher!). His new address is 1156 Mossy Creek Circle, Turbeville, SC 29162. His new phone number is (843) 659-4752

Attendees to the 70th Annual Free Will Baptist National Convention in Birmingham left knowing that our denomination continues to grow and move forward. Almost all departments are reporting financial stability (the convention approved budgets of over \$24 Million dollars for the coming year) and numerical growth.

It is an exciting time to be a Free Will Baptist- reports showed an increase of nearly 5,000 members in 2005, taking the membership of the National Association to 308,000. The denomination now supports 96 foreign missionaries in 20 international locations and 68 home missionaries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Below are some of the highlights from this years convention:

- We did more than meet, we reached out: On Saturday, July 15, nearly 400 Free Will Baptists from across the nation gathered at churches and homes for Impact Birmingham, a one-day evangelistic campaign. Volunteers came armed with Bibles, hammers, and chainsaws. Before the day ended, 390 volunteers provided more than 1,000 hours of service, visited 508 homes, distributed more than 800 flyers, shared the gospel 33 times, and rejoiced as six people made professions of faith.

- Executive Secretary Keith Burden introduced Roy Harris as executive administrator of his office. Harris brings to the position the broad experience of a senior staff member. A veteran pastor with a background in administration, he will represent the executive office at state meetings, coordinate stewardship and leadership training, organize disaster relief, and oversee the creation and maintenance of fwbpastor.com, a website dedicated to providing resources for pastors.

- Ray Lewis, recently appointed director of the Board of Retirement, gave his first report to convention delegates, and the news was good. Lewis reported a record \$2.7 million in new contributions in 2005 with 72 new participants enrolled. The Retirement Program now has more than 1,400 participants and \$35 million in funds.

- Bill Evans, director of the FWB Foundation, told delegates he will retire after the 2007 convention. The Foundation manages over \$35 million in funds and announced \$5.9 million in new contributions in 2005.

- Disaster Relief- In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, convention delegates adopted a disaster relief plan to coordinate the distribution of funds in the case of a similar catastrophe. The move came after Katrina prompted \$206,000 in donations. The plan requests that each state appoint a representative to communicate disaster-related information in the event of an emergency. The Executive Office will act as a channel for collecting and distributing donations to affected areas through the State Associations. The move will extend the ability of the National Association to provide effective relief on a much larger scale.

- ONE Magazine: The fledgling magazine continues to meet with widespread denominational acceptance. Since the first day of publication, an average of nine new subscribers have been added to the mailing list daily. The magazine now goes into more than 60,000 homes. Many new subscribers are Free Will Baptists who have never received any denominational publications.

- Randall House—After a tough year in 2004, Randall House created a \$165,000 turnaround in the last six quarters with the combined sales of curriculum and books. With more than \$3 million in curriculum sales in 2005, CLEAR has shown remarkable growth, earning industry recognition along the way. CLEAR Horizon magazine won the 2006 award of excellence from the Evangelical Press Association, with competitors like Focus on the Family Magazine and Christianity Today.

Randall House Director Ron Hunter announced the creation of a digital publishing division headed by Creative Director Keith Fletcher. Hunter states, “The new division will effectively replace the shrinking CTS market and place materials in the hands of users more effectively.”

- Home Missions—the department commissioned missionaries to seven new locations in 2005. Three churches achieved self-supporting status, and cross-cultural ministries continue to flourish. Director Larry Powell told delegates that the agency is expanding to the

Attendance:	
Board members	51
Home missionaries	62
International missionaries	35
Licensed ministers	42
Local church delegates	10
Ordained deacons	130
Ordained ministers	616
Staff	54
State Delegates	78
WNAC	953
Youth Conference	1,747
Visitors	2,361
Total	5,913

2007 Budgets	
Executive Office	\$782,862
Bible College	\$6,173,364
FWB Foundation	\$430,264
Home Missions	\$4,800,000
International Missions	\$7,598,041
Master’s Men	\$144,747
Retirement	\$492,063
Randall House	\$4,207,000
Theological Commission	\$4,025
Historical Commission	\$3,100
Media Commission	\$3,600
Music Commission	\$5,025
Total	\$24,644,091



State Moderator, Sherwood Lee, and Pastor Jacob Creech talk with National Moderator, Tim York

North and West, specifically the states of New York and Colorado.

- International Missions—In order to avert a funding shortfall, International Missions Director James Forlines told delegates that it is time to return to undesignated giving, the standard when the denomination first began sending missionaries. International Missions has experienced significant growth, with 535 new mission works in 10 years, nearly 200% increase in international church attendance (29,000), and 1,441 conversions in 2005.

- Master’s Men: After watching numbers decline for some time, Master’s Men rebounded dramatically in 2005, adding 10 new chapters. Master’s Men disaster response efforts sent more than 50 workers to the hurricane-ravaged

Gulf Coast in the weeks following Katrina. The agency also partnered with Home Missions for Operation Saturation in Green Bay, WI, and hosted the third Marriage Enrichment Conference with the Women Nationally Active for Christ.

- FWBBC- NEW CAMPUS: Calling it the “most significant decision since its founding in 1942,” Free Will Baptist Bible College President J. Matthew Pinson told convention delegates that the Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to sell the current nine-acre campus in Nashville, TN, secure a new site, and build a new campus by 2008. The Board’s vote came on the heels of an offer to purchase the campus for \$16 million, the sale of 123 acres in Joelton, TN (\$820,000), and the positive results of a six-month feasibility study headed by Colonel Mark Johnson, son of former president, L.C. Johnson.

Early estimates place the cost of construction around \$30 million. The college expects to begin relocation with approximately \$24 million—\$18 million generated by the sales mentioned above and \$6 million in long-term loans. The final \$6 million will be generated by a capital campaign.

The 71st Annual FWB National Convention will be held on July 15-18, 2007 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Make plans to attend.

(Thanks to Eric Thomsen of “One” Magazine for providing much of the material for this National Association review) {Want to see more National Coverage? go to www.onemag.org and you can even view archives of previous issues. If it is going in FWB Circles you can find out about it at onemag.org }

Elected:	
FWBBC Board	Mr. AC Allen- 2012
Historical Commission	Rev. Jeff Cockrell- 2011
General Board	Rev. Mike Jones- 2009
NAFWB General Officers for 2007:	
Moderator	Rev. Tim York, TN
Assist Moderator	Rev. William Smith, GA
Clerk	Rev. Randy Bryant, FL
Assistant Clerk	Rev. Ernie Lewis, IL



SCFWB Children’s Home Director, Roy Roach stays busy even at the National (I think he was ordering a Pizza!!)

Randall House Publications won five Premier Print Awards in 2006 regional competition sponsored by Printing Industries of America / Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (PIA/GATF), according to Randall House CEO Ron Hunter. Mr. Hunter said, “This is another major step upward in the tradition of printing excellence for Randall House. Earlier this year, we were delighted to win first place in publication design at the 2006 Evangelical Press Association. The 2006 PIA/GATF awards place Randall House alongside the best secular pieces in competition with the whole universe of print professionals in the South. Believe me, this was a total team effort and team victory, and we’re proud of the first-rate Randall House team.”

The Premier Print Awards covers work done by printers, trade binderies and other finishing craftsmen, prepress specialists, and everyone involved in the production of an outstanding printed piece. PIA/GATF is the world’s largest graphic arts trade association representing an industry with \$16.1 billion in revenue and 1.2 million employees.

The five Premier Print Awards reflect the rapid advances that Randall House has made in professional design and graphics with CLEAR curriculum and other products, including small group resources and books.

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|---------------------|---|
| Award of Excellence | CLEAR Horizon: On a Mission from God |
| Award of Excellence | Explorer’s Guide 2: The Gift of Grace |
| Award of Excellence | CLEAR Horizon: The Darkness of Pain |
| Award of Merit | My Cuddle Time Storybook: I Believe in God! |
| Best of Division | CLEAR Living: Character of Christ |



When you cannot find a place to park anywhere around a church on at Tuesday night then you know something special is taking place. And when you finally get into the Church and the overflow rooms are already full then you realize this is not your normal church gathering.

This was what happened on Tuesday, July 25th as Happy Home FWB Church of Andrews hosted **Rev. David Ring** for a service. The sermon was entitled “How to be a Champion for God” and the church echoed with shouts of “Amen” or rocked with laughter as God used the message to speak to many of the hearts of those present. For two and a half hours people sat in intense heat (Air Conditioners could not keep up with that big a crowd!) and listened as Brother David Ring shared how God used him in spite of his Cerebral Palsy.

Several quotes are worth repeating- “God created me the way I am and God has never said, “Oops!””. “The dictionary says I am a cripple but the Bible says I am a conqueror”. “A champion always says, ‘I can’ and ‘I will’”. And one of my favorite, “Christians are supposed to shine and not whine!”.

Pastor Ron Ogle was the man who put all this together so people could have this special opportunity.



Rev David Ring speaks as he is surrounded by the Choir and numerous preachers who were invited to sit on the platform during the service

Beaver Creek Bible Institute will begin their Fall session, Monday, September 25, 2006 with classes meeting at Liberty FWB Church, Lancaster, First FWB Church, Chester, and Una FWB Church, Spartanburg. The Beaver Creek Bible Institute is a ministry of the Beaver Creek Conference. It has played a leading role in the stability and growth of the Beaver Creek Conference over the years. Rev. James Sanders is the overall director (803-377-8235)

Pee Dee Bible Institute will conduct their Fall Semester September 11- November 27, 2006. Courses offered will be Old Testament Survey I (Genesis- Esther) and Spiritual Maturity. The Pee Dee Bible Institute is a ministry of Southside FWB Church, Darlington and meets at the Church. Pastor Leroy Lowery is the director (843-395-1981).

Ran out of Room:

Rev. Joe Cagle submitted a full page editorial in support of Christian Education. We were unable to publish it due to lack of room. It can be found in its entirety at www.scfwb.com. Click on the “Informer” link and then the “Joe Cagle” link under additional material.

2006 Junior Camp (Continued from Front)



Youth Camp Director, Cyrus Shoffner, has a “discussion” with the boys while the girls are at breakfast.



The Campers really enjoyed the water slide (especially when you put lots of soap on it!). They also enjoyed jumping in the carousel because it was in an air conditioned building!



The Water Slide (\$50 per day) and the Carousel (\$75 per day) can be rented from the Youth Camp Board. Names and phone numbers are on the state web site.

Meet your missionary:

Just the Facts:

Fernando- born June 5

Reyna- born September 19

Mayan- born Sept 12, 1992

Mailing Address:

P O Box 613

Effingham, SC 29541

(843) 319-8390

Brother Bustamante recently began a Weekly Radio Program called "Reflections". It airs each Sunday from 10:00am - 10:40am over 1230am and covers much of eastern South Carolina. He has already received numerous comments from people in the area who have heard the broadcast.

Rev. Fernando and Reyna (Daughter- Mayan) Bustamante are the Hispanic Missionaries to Eastern South Carolina. They officially began their ministry in South Carolina on January 1, 2005 and have had great success in establishing Hispanic Free Will Baptist Churches in Eastern South Carolina.



They began their ministry by conducting services in the sanctuary of Lebanon FWB Church of Effingham on Sunday afternoon and on Thursday night (These services continue to function as Brother Fernando reaches out to the Hispanic Community in the area and then trains the people who become followers of Jesus Christ. If you are in the area at 3:00pm on Sunday afternoon or 7:00pm on Thursday night then stop by. You may not be able to understand the language but you will definitely see the love of God in the songs and sermon.). This Church is called "Roca de Salvacion" (Rock of Salvation) FWB Church.

Soon after getting the work in Effingham established Brother Bustamante began to expand the ministry by opening (May 14, 2005) a Hispanic Church in the Columbia area (Using the facilities of Midland's Free Will Baptist Church) and appointing one of his co-workers, Brother Enrique Pireda (Wife- Erendira and 2 children), as Pastor. This work is also showing progress.



Another work was then begun in Darlington using the facilities of Faith FWB Church as a meeting place and a rental home provided by FWB Bible Church of Darlington as a parsonage. The Pastor is Josue (Joshua) Rivera (Wife- Christina with 1 child).

Support for Brother Bustamante's works can be designated to "Bustamante Account" and sent to the SCFWB State Office (P O Box 13266, Florence, SC 29504)

Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez, Hispanic Missionary to the Spartanburg area has recently begun a new work at Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs. (This in addition to his original work in the old Una FWB Church building). Francisco Arias is helping minister to this new flock at Parkway.

Several months ago Brother Gerardo was greatly saddened to lose one of his newly converted family as they moved back to Mexico. Little did he know what God had in store.

When this family moved back they wanted to share their new faith so they began inviting others to meet with them on Sunday for a worship service. The Lord began to move under the shade of the tree where these people were meeting and more people trusted Christ. Soon it became obvious that they needed a church (There is no church of any kind in this town).

Brother Rodriguez visited the work and he found that they can build the building they need for \$15,000. He is praying for God to meet that need.

Contributions can be sent to "Rodriguez Mexico Church" at the SCFWB State Office.



The couple who were saved and are now sharing their faith with their village



Church service under the trees- in the heat and the bugs - but still praising God.



Land that was donated for a new Church building.

Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez submitted a number of pictures of the "Mexico Church Project". They can be viewed on the "Mexico Church Project" link on the "Informer" page.



South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists
 Rev. Mike Jones, Executive Secretary
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Thy word is a lamp
 unto my feet, and a
 light unto my path.
 (Psalms 119:105)



Rev. Tommy Bryson is the Pastor of Oak Grove FWB Church, Conway. He served as interim Pastor for awhile and we failed to publish it when he became the official Pastor. Brother Tommy is an asset to our state and we are excited about his work at Oak Grove.



Rev Phil Tipton moved off to Georgia but he continues to remember the hard work of Missionaries from South Carolina. Here he, and the deacon board of Piney Grove FWB Church of Bristol, GA, present Missionary Carlisle Hanna a check for over \$16,000 to help build a church in India (Glory!).



Brother Phil's Father in Law, Rev. Nathan Barrington of Philadelphia FWB Church of Folkston, Ga. also helped in this endeavor as his church raised over \$15,000 for India. Thank the Lord for the giving heart of these Georgia Friends.

CORRECTION- Rev. John Cody, Pastor of Mt. Carmel FWB Church, sent the following information about the beginning of the Faith FWB Church in Blacksburg. **Brother Leroy Sexton** has been, and remains, a faithful worker for the Lord and we are delighted to honor him as the founder of Faith FWB Church.

Faith FWB Church started in Blacksburg in 1985 under the leadership of Rev. Leroy Sexton as a mission work of the Mt. Carmel FWB Church. Rev. Sexton and his wife, Lula Mae, worked at the Pine Street, Blacksburg location until September of 1989 when the church moved to Smyrna.

Rev. Marshall Nichols became the pastor of the church in 1989. Rev Marshall Nichols helped lead the church to remodel an old barn into a usable facility and eventually acquired the property where the church now stands. Both Rev. Sexton and Rev. Nichols helped the church develop into the work that exists today.

As reported in the October, 2003 "Informer", South Carolina's Constitution already prohibiting same sex marriages. Some other states do not have the same biblical standards as South Carolina and allow such marriages. In order to assure that the People of South Carolina are able to maintain their Biblical View of marriage you are encouraged to vote **YES** to the following amendment to the State Constitution in the November election.

"Must Article XVII of the Constitution of this State be amended by adding Section 15 so as to provide that in this State and its political subdivisions, a marriage between one man and one woman is the only lawful domestic union that shall be valid or recognized; that this State and its political subdivisions shall not create, recognize or give effect to a legal status, right or claim created by another jurisdiction respecting any other domestic union, however denominated; that this amendment shall not impair any right or benefit extended by the state or its political subdivisions other than a right or benefit arising from a domestic union that is not valid or recognized in this State; and that this amendment shall not prohibit or limit the ability of parties other than the state or its political subdivisions from entering into contracts or other legal instruments?"

