

THE



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INFORMER

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66th Annual Session of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association Meeting

The Sixty-Sixth annual session of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association meeting was held on Thursday and Friday, February 28-29, 2008, at Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Turbeville, SC. The Executive Committee and the General Board met on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. The Executive Committee and General Board made a recommendation to give \$75,000.00 from the funds left over from the sale and relocation of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Office to be applied to the debt at the Free Will Baptist Home for Children. This motion was ratified by the state body in the Thursday morning session. It was noted that once the \$75,000.00 was applied to the debt and once the \$20,000.00 from the sale of two acres to the East Clarendon County School District Office was applied to the debt, then the debt at the Children's Home would be brought down to around \$100,000.00. Reverend Roy Roach, the FWB Home for Children Director, shared that the debt had decreased from \$493,000.00 to \$193,824.27 in just three years, averaging almost \$100,000.00 a year in debt reduction.

The theme for this year's state meeting was "Holding Forth the Word of Life." The theme verse was Philippians 2:16, "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." Bruce Kimbrell led the music during the state meeting, and Mark and Myra Leonard provided instrumental music during the meeting for congregational singing. It was recognized that Rev. Bobby Bowers was attending his 44th annual South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association meeting. Rev. Chad West (BC), pastor of the Northgate FWB Church in Spartanburg, brought the Thursday morning devotion from Philippians 2:15-16. Rev. Wayland Owens, pastor at First FWB Church in Kingstree, brought the morning message. He announced that 20 years ago, when the state meeting was held at Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, he announced his call into the ministry. All reports included in the 2008 Digest of Reports were given and accepted by the state body. The following missionaries were present at the meeting and gave reports on their various works and fields of service: Gerardo Rodrigues (Una), Fernando Bustamante (Effingham), Jim Fairchild (Aiken), and Tim Johnson (Spain). On Thursday afternoon, Todd Smith, the SC FWB Executive Secretary, shared the following report and a brief history of the SC FWB State Office: "In February 1979, the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association elected Rev. Norwood Gibson as the Promotional Secretary for a two year term, in

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South Carolina Women Active for Christ News By Pam Hackett, SC WAC State Coordinator

The SC State WAC Meeting came in like a breath of spring and brought new freshness to our hearts stirred by reports given by our new Home Missionary to Aiken, Reverend Jim Fairchild and our own Kristi Johnson, foreign missionary to Spain. Kristi revealed her heart as she spoke about "Traveling Light" from Psalms 119:105. Over the past year, **Temple FWB Church in Darlington** was the highest giving WAC group to give to Foreign Missions, and **First FWB Church in Darlington** was the highest giving WAC group for Home Missions. We commend both of these WAC groups for their hard work and labor of love.

At the State WAC meeting we discovered the need to give our yearly state project a permanent name due to the confusion some WAC groups are experiencing. Every year as a state we have a goal to meet for the Foreign Missionaries from our state in the amount of \$12,000. In conjunction with this goal we have a set amount to give to our Home Missionaries \$2,000. The special State Project that we vote on each year to raise money for is above these two amounts from our state. We have experienced reaching the challenging goals set for these State Projects in the past and even have raised above and beyond the set amount. But over the course of the last two years, we have seen a decline in our giving for these projects.

The new title for our State Projects will be "**Operation H.E.L.P. Offering.**" The letters HELP are an acronym for "**Helping Evangelize Lost People**". It does not matter what project we are focused on year after year the main goal is still to help spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Operation

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Pictured: SC WAC Ladies singing at the annual meeting at Temple FWBC

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66th Annual Session of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association Meeting Continued

which he was to develop that position into a full-time position. The great task of this challenge was presented in Reverend Norwood's own words: "When I began the work of this office and set out to accomplish the task given me I was not sure how, nor how quickly, it could be done." It was in August 1980, a little over a year later, that Rev. Norwood Gibson resigned his pastorate and assumed the position as Promotional Secretary on a full-time basis. Rev. Gibson started out with just a type writer and a burden for Free Will Baptist in SC. Rev. Gibson personally sacrificed (as reported in the 1980 minutes) as only an amount of \$3,003.37 was collected from various churches across the state that first year. This amount would grow to \$441,951.21 in 1995. In 1989, it was also under his leadership that the State Association voted to authorize a General Board form of government which would provide board budgets and a structure to our state organization. In 1992, under his leadership and sacrifice, the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association purchased property in Florence, SC. The amount of this property purchase was \$100,000.00. This property would house the State Office and Christian Book and Supply until 2007. In 1995, Rev. Norwood Gibson resigned his post as Promotional Secretary, and Rev. Ron Moore assumed this position. However, Rev. Norwood would stay on as a staff member of the State Office for the purpose of developing the bookstore as a ministry of the office. Under the leadership of Rev. Ron Moore, a new plan of support called the "South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support" (SCPS) would be developed on a more strategic level. The giving through the state office would grow to \$719,287.65 during his term in office. In 1999, Rev. Ron Moore resigned as Promotional Director, and Rev. Mike Jones assumed the position as Promotional Secretary. During Rev. Jones' term, the title of Promotional Secretary would be changed to Executive Secretary. During Rev. Mike Jones' eight years in office, the giving through the state office would increase to \$1.2 million dollars. During this time, the \$30,000.00 remodel debt would be paid off, a South Carolina Free Will Baptist web site would be developed (www.scfwb.com) providing a great wealth of knowledge and resources for our conferences, churches, and ministers, and a vision would be cast for relocating our state office to Turbeville, SC, to be located on our Children's Home property. In 2007, Rev. Todd Smith assumed the position as Executive Secretary. It was in 2007 that the Florence property at 1705 S. Irby Street in Florence was sold for \$285,000.00, and a new state office was built at 1169 Atkinson Street in Turbeville, SC, on the Free Will Baptist Home for Children's campus. The South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Office continues to serve the needs of our conferences, churches, pastors, Women Active for Christ, Free Will Baptist church members, and lay leadership. The Christian Book Store continues to meet the needs of churches and individuals by providing Sunday School literature, church supplies, Vacation Bible School materials, books, and many other needs. The Informer, the South Carolina Free Will Baptist state paper, continues to be published to almost 4,000 individuals or churches in South Carolina and in other parts of the country."

The meeting was recessed, and everyone was welcomed to

attend the State Office dedication on Atkinson Street. At the dedication of the State Office building, the following Turbeville city leadership were in attendance: Mrs. Ginnie Turbeville, Mayor of Turbeville; Pat Goodwin, Turbeville City Administrator; and Town Council Members, Dr. Kate Smith and Marion Dukes. The SC FWB Executive Committee members and Turbeville town leadership assisted in the ribbon cutting ceremony. The prayer of dedication was given by Moderator Sherwood Lee. Everyone was welcomed to the tour the state office building after the dedication.

During the Thursday evening session, a plaque for being the top giving church in the state was given to Pastor Mike Edwards on behalf of Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville. The Horse Branch praise team provided special music for the evening worship service. Dr. Matt Pinson, the Free Will Baptist Bible College President, shared the message for the evening worship service from Galatians 3.

On Friday morning, February 29, 2009, Rev. Jody Wynn, pastor at the Free Will Baptist Bible Church, shared the morning devotion. Final reports were received from Free Will Baptist colleges and National Association of Free Will Baptist representatives. Dr. Don Hanna (son of Carlisle Hanna, missionary to India) shared a report on behalf of his father's ministry in India. The morning message was preached by Rev. Johnny Evans, Interim Pastor at St. John FWB Church in Pamplico, SC. This year's state meeting had an attendance of 145, including 84 ministers, 15 delegates, and 46 visitors. The 2009 state meeting will be held on February 26-27, 2009, and will be hosted by the Beaver Creek Association. The General Board will meet on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 10:00 AM at a place to be set by the Beaver Creek Association.

SC FWB Youth Ministries News



Summer is fast approaching! The SC FWB Youth Ministries Board wants to encourage pastors, youth pastors, and parents to send their youth to summer camp. The dates for youth camp are listed as follows:

- 1) Teen Camp, June 9-14, 2008, at Camp Anchorage in Waccamaw, NC. The cost is \$205 per camper,
- 2) Junior Camp, July 28-August 1, 2008, at Camp Pee Dee in Marion, SC. The cost is \$125 per camper.

*A \$50 deposit is required for both camps by May 15, 2008.

A completed application, deposit payment, and medical release form need to be sent to the following address: Rev. Cyrus Shoffner, 1237 Vance Drive, Darlington, SC 29540. You may obtain a copy of the camp application and medical release form at www.scfwb.com. On the web site, under "State Ministries," click on "Youth Ministries" to download the necessary forms.

Churches, groups, Sunday school classes, and individuals are needed to sponsor camp meals. A \$100 per meal is needed. If you would like to send a contribution toward a meal sponsorship, please send your gift to "SCFWB Youth Ministries," c/o Marty Cox, 1782 Barnhill Rd, Galivants Ferry, SC 29544. Also, the annual SC FWB Teen Retreat will take place October 24-26, 2008 at Myrtle Beach, SC. For questions, about any of the above information, feel free to contact Youth Ministries Director Cyrus Shoffner at 843-858-0195.

66th Annual Session of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association Meeting Continued



Pictured Far Left: Rev. Jody Wynn shares the Friday morning devotion. Pictured Left: Keith Burden, NAFWB Executive Secretary, shares a report at the state meeting. Pictured Right: Pastor Mike Edwards receives the number one church giving plaque on behalf of Horse Branch FWB Church from Executive Secretary, Todd Smith.



Pictured Left: Dr. Matt Pinson, FWBBC President, shares the Thursday evening message.

Pictured Right: Rev. Wayland Owens preaches from Philippians 2:15-16 regarding "Holding Forth the Word of Life." Pictured Far Right: Rev. Chad West shares the Thursday morning devotion.



Pictured Left: The SC FWB Executive Committee and Turbeville Town leadership participate in the "Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" during the State Office dedication. Pictured Right: Mayor Ginnie Turbeville, Moderator Sherwood Lee, and Executive Secretary Todd Smith at the State Office Dedication.



18th Annual Myrtle Beach Couples Retreat



The annual couples retreat sponsored by Peace FWB Church was held February 8-9, 2008, at the Hilton

Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. Rev. Donnie Miles and his wife Trudy did a fantastic job in planning this event. The weekend began with 125 couples enjoying a buffet meal at Bennett's Seafood. The evening continued with singing by Reverend Kevin Woolard. An entertaining and informative program was presented by Bill Evans, retired Director of the FWB Foundation Board, on being good stewards of our money and the importance of estate planning. Saturday began with a beautiful sunrise over the ocean while enjoying a delicious breakfast buffet. Singing, fun, and fellowship was enjoyed. The retreat ended around noon on Saturday. The final door prize was the drawing for \$100 off of next year's retreat, with Rodney and Gay Dawn Gibbs being the recipients of this prize. Make plans now to attend next year's retreat!



Johnson's on Stateside Assignment

We're often asked the question, "What do you DO while you're home on Stateside Assignment?" So we thought some of you out there might be interested in the answer. 1) We visit churches to share about the ministry in Spain. Each week we try to be in at least two different churches. With the help of a Powerpoint presentation, we describe the Church and Outreach Center in Alpedrete. Sometimes our kids sing in Spanish during the services. 2) We speak at ladies' WAC meetings. This gives us an opportunity to be with many ladies that are consistently praying and working for missions. 3) Tim attends prayer breakfasts to have fellowship with local pastors here in South Carolina. 4) We try to be involved as much as possible in our home churches (Westside FWB in South Carolina and North Warren FWB in Michigan). This spring our kids were able to participate in an Easter Program at Westside. 5) We stay connected with the work in Spain. Daily e-mails from our teammates keep us "in the know" about the work. We are also pleasantly surprised to be able to talk to many of our Spanish contacts and friends via the Internet and e-mails. 6) During the week, we keep busy preparing lessons, sermons, hand-outs, and Powerpoint presentations for our various meetings. We have our day-to-day influx of e-mails and correspondence. And, of course, we have our daily activities with Alejandro and Ana. 7) We also try to make spending time with our families a priority when we are home. After three years of being away from their grandparents, it's always good for our kids to see them and get to know them better. So, there you have it! We hope this will enlighten you a little more about what missionaries do while they are back in the states. - Article Submitted by Kristi Johnson

SC WAC News Continued

HELP Offering” is the term your WAC group should use when submitting funds through your local district. The 2008 “Operation HELP Offering” is \$20,000 for the ministries in the state of South Carolina. Please do not designate these monies to a specific ministry. This will make it easier for the monies to be divided up evenly among the four specific categories at the end of the year. Please remember the amount of \$20,000 is a goal set above the Foreign Missions monies of \$12,000 and the Home Missions monies of \$2,000. I pray this information will be beneficial as we strive to do our best to glorify the Lord in our giving. The **State SC Retreat** will be September 5th and 6th at White Oaks in Winnsboro. Our theme this year is “Be a Good Soldier of Jesus Christ,” II Timothy 2:3b. Everyone is encouraged to come dressed as a soldier ready to stand at ‘ATTENTION’ (listen prayerfully) and ‘AT EASE’ (relax and enjoy). We will have two special ‘secret’ speakers, and the Unknown Soldier and the Unsung Hero will share from God’s Word. There will be two “break-away” sessions at this year’s retreat. The sessions are ‘Decorating the Barracks’ (home) and ‘Building an Army’ (local WAC). We will also include the craft booths for those that want to participate. If you are interested in having a table set up for your WAC please call me 864-599-9512, and I will put your name on the list. Remember you can sell cookbooks, cutlery, flavoring, used Christian books, etc. Your table does not have to contain strictly crafts. Two WAC groups made \$300 or more last year for their MISSIONS project. There will be a lot of fun games and we will meet around the bonfire on Friday evening for singing, prayer, fellowship and last but not least – roasting marshmallows!! So bring your hangers and marshmallows and come on! We are asking the ladies to bring large canned goods for KP duty for the Children’s Home, and we also request that some ladies bring Walmart gift cards for the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute students. During our retreat we would like to honor and pay tribute to those that are serving in the military or lost their lives while serving our country fighting for freedom. Please send these pictures to Mona Dukes, 251 S. Persimmon Ford Rd., PO Box 685, Johnsonville, 29555. If you enjoyed the retreat last year, I am sure you will receive a blessing at this retreat as we come together to “Be a Good Soldier of Jesus Christ.” Send your registration money of \$20 to Patty Newton, 90 Blackstock Rd., Inman, SC 29349. Make checks payable to SC State WAC. The remaining fee will be \$39 for a 2 person room, \$32 for a 3 person room, \$30 for a 4 person room. Registration will begin 4:30, Friday, Sept. 5th. Plan to come and bring your friends for an explosive time of growing in our faith, having fun and enjoying one another’s fellowship. Flyers can be made and copied from the scwac.org website for advertising. See you at White Oaks!

Paul Childers Accepts Pastorate at Calvary



Rev. Paul Childers, member of the Beaver Creek Association has accepted the pastorate at Calvary FWB Church in Union, SC. Rev. Childers accepted the pastorate on March 9, 2008. He and his wife Sarah reside in Lockhart, SC. Please remember Rev. Childers as he ministers at Calvary Church.

St. John, Patrick, Celebrates Big Day



On Sunday, March 30, 2008, St. John FWB Church in Patrick, SC, celebrated a “Bring Them In Sunday” with 175 in attendance. Pastor Jerry Johnson (pictured left) encouraged everyone to invite several visitors. It had been announced that a meal certificate would be provided to the

person with the most visitors. Mr. Cecil McLain, a long standing member of the church, had the most visitors with 41 in attendance. However, he had a close match with 10 year old Gavin Bailey bringing 29 visitors. Due to the hard work of Gavin, Mr. Cecil gave the winning certificate to Gavin for being faithful in inviting people to church. Rev. Todd Smith, SC FWB Executive Secretary, brought the morning message. There was a delicious meal in the fellowship hall following the morning worship service. The St. John Church sanctuary has been recently remodeled. We commend this church for their faithfulness in the Lord’s work. (Pictured Right: Mr. Cecil presents Davin with the winning certificate.)



Oak Grove Deacon Ordination

Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Conway recently ordained Brother Dalton Evans as a deacon on Sunday, January 20, 2008. Dalton and his wife Sabrina have one child, Aaron. Pastor Dr. Tommy Bryson, Jr. said, “Brother Dalton is a very dependable and a hard worker in the church.” Dalton’s parents, Barry and Becky Dalton, were present at the service. His dad presented him with the ordination certificate. Everyone had an opportunity of fellowship after the ordination service as the ladies provided refreshments. Dr. Tommy Bryson, Jr. said that he looks forward to working with Brother Dalton and the other deacons in taking the church to higher

heights and deeper depths for God’s honor and glory. (Pictured: Dr. Tommy Bryson, Jr., Sabrina and Dalton Evans, Danny Hyman, and Donald Jordan)



Lighthouse, Florence Reports Growth

Lighthouse FWB Church has been blessed these past few months. Pastor Brian Tolliver started off the New Year baptizing 4 and 7 joining the church. Their youth were also busy having 3 fundraisers (all thanks to Schoolhouse BBQ!) to raise over \$5,200 to send them to Pigeon Forge, TN to a youth revival. They were able to charter a 52 passenger bus!! God blessed with a renewed spirit and enthusiasm for the Lord’s work. We thank the Lord for continued spiritual and numerical growth in this wonderful church.

Memorial to Molly Gibson



Molly Gibson passed away Thursday morning, February 21, 2008, at Bethea Nursing Home in Darlington, SC. Born on April 13, 1928, Mrs. Molly was the faithful wife of 54 years to Norwood Gibson, the first full-time South Carolina Free Will Baptist Promotional Director. She was a member at Peace FWB Church in Florence. She is survived by two children, Allen Gibson and Debbie Scott, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. The visitation took

place on Saturday, February 23, 2008, at Stoudenmire-Dowling Funeral home. The funeral took place on Sunday, February 24, 2008, at 3:00 PM at Peace FWB Church in Florence, SC. The graveside service was held at Florence Memorial Gardens. Pastor Donnie Miles brought the funeral message. Mrs. Bernice Hanna, a dear friend, shared remarks about her friendship with Mrs. Molly. David Gibson, Mrs. Molly's grandon, was the pianist soloist for the service. Special music was provided by the Peace FWB Church choir. Randy Scott, Mrs. Molly's son-in-law, also shared remarks at the funeral service. Before her death, Mrs. Molly had planned her funeral service with Pastor Donnie Miles. It was requested by her that the congregation sing two of her favorite hymns: "What a Day That Will Be" and "I'll Fly Away." Mrs. Molly Gibson will be missed dearly.

Christian Book & Supply and

Randall House Publications Partner Together

The following Randall House Publication materials are available at your South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Office Christian Book & Supply. Feel free to stop by or call us to order these or other Randall House materials. We are here to assist you in any way that we can!



The choice is CLEAR. Order your Randall House CLEAR Sunday School literature for every age group in the family today! Call toll-free **800-319-2346** or **843-657-2091** to order any of these materials, or feel free to stop by at 1169 Atkinson Street, Turbeville, SC. We are located just behind IGA off Hwy 378 in Turbeville.

Do you want to start a Wednesday night Bible study for your church teaching Free Will Baptist Doctrine? We suggest using J. D. O'Donnell's book *Free Will Baptist Doctrines*. The cost is \$12.99. An optional student workbook with questions and fill in the blank answers is also available for \$3.99.



In his most recent book, *First Aid for Emotional Hurts*, Edward Moody, pastor at Tippet's Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, NC, provides pastors and laypeople with the tools and knowledge needed to help the hurting through significant issues of life.

Memorial to Rev. "Bob" Shockey



Reverend Robert L. "Bob" Shockey, one of the greatest soul winners and a true servant of God, went home to be with the Lord on March 7, 2008. Brother Shockey made a tremendous mark in history for the Lord's work and for Free Will Baptists during the twentieth century and well into the twenty-first. He was saved at the age of 27 in 1954, and that began an energetic and soul-stirring ministry for the Lord that carried him through to the day God called him home. He answered the call to preach and

was ordained at 29. He then headed off to Free Will Baptist Bible College for training. From there his ministry included 20+ years in seven pastorates served in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. Bob Shockey served as a member of the Home Mission Board from 1961-1966. Later he stepped into the position of promotional secretary for four years and spent countless days and nights on the road raising funds to support the programs of Home Missions. In 1973 he accepted the assignment of general director and served in that capacity from 1973-1978. He had a burden for planting churches in the states. In 1978, Brother Bob headed out to plant the Heritage Temple FWB Church in Ashland, Kentucky, where he remained until 1984. His career with Free Will Baptist Bible College began in 1984 where he served as campus pastor, Christian service director, ministerial fellowship director, and director of student support for the next 11 years. Bob Shockey will be missed by all who knew him, but his influence on lives for the Lord will be felt throughout time.

Memorial to Rev. Herman Hersey



Herman Hersey was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 1, 1926. He accepted Christ at age five, was ordained in 1949, and served as a minister of the Gospel for 58 years. He became an accomplished classical and sacred concert pianist, but in 1945 God led him into full-time ministry rather than a musical career. He graduated from Bob Jones University in 1949. He was instrumental in organizing the Fifth

Avenue Free Will Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC. He helped reopen and reorganize the First FWB Church, Raleigh, NC. In 1965, Herman accepted the pastorate at Garner Free Will Baptist Church, North Carolina. During this time, Herman was elected to the Sunday School Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. In 1967, he was elected to the North Carolina Free Will Baptist State Board of Superannuation. He along with Board members and others prepared a retirement plan for pastors. It was adopted by the North Carolina Association. In 1969 the National Association adopted it as the National Department of Retirement and Insurance. Herman was chosen as the General Director. In 1980, the Free Will Baptist Foundation was established. Herman served as the General Director until his retirement in 1993. During his years in the ministry, God gave Herman many opportunities to serve with a host of Free Will Baptist believers as starters of ministries. Herman died at home January 24, 2008, faithful in the Lord and he now rests from his earthly ministry.

Maranatha Christian School Educating for 36 Years

Maranatha Christian School is in the midst of its 36th year of making a difference in the lives of young people! We are excited about what God has done and is doing on our campus. We have been entrusted with 300 students this year and we are making the most of the opportunity to touch each one of their lives.

“Why have a Christian school?” or “Why send children to a Christian school?” are questions that we are often asked.

1. Spiritual Reason - We teach and preach salvation. Each year, we are able to lead young people to the Lord. This is done in chapel, our curriculum is geared around it, and our teachers are encouraged to be evangelistic. We also strongly emphasize the Bible. The Bible is where we get our morality and rules for living. We seek to build character. We teach the accountability of sin. We have rules and regulations. We are different on purpose.

2. Scholastic Reason - We begin each class with prayer and teach each subject from a Biblical perspective. We seek to properly teach and train each student to prepare them for the direction that God chooses in their lives.

3. Service Reason - Our goal from the beginning has been to prepare students to serve God. “Careers”, “Scholarships”, or “going where the pay is best” is secondary to doing the will of God.

4. Separation Reason - Young people are affected by the home, church, and school. It is our goal to compliment what is being taught at church and in the home. We believe that children respond better when every area of their life is being pulled in the same direction.

Please pray for this ministry. Those interested in learning more may contact our school office at 843-665-6395.

- submitted by Mrs. Julie Patrick, First FWB Church, Florence.

Westgate in Arcadia Celebrates 400 in Attendance



On Sunday, March 23, 2008, Westgate FWB Church in Arcadia, SC, celebrated Easter with almost 400 in attendance. Pastor Kevin Smith and his wife Tanya have been ministering at Westgate for almost ten years. They have two children, Morgan (9) and Madison (2). In 2007, Westgate Church completed their new 10,000 square foot Family Life Center with 10 additional Sunday school class rooms. The church has also recently purchased property adjacent to the church and converted it into a ball field and playground area. Pastor Kevin Smith reported that since May of 2007, 48 teens have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and 100 people have joined the church. At the beginning of April 2007, the church held it's annual “Spring Jubilee” with great preaching, included Reverend James Sanders, Reverend Thad Jacobs, Reverend Buddy Seay, and Reverend Mitch Ingram. The concluding service for the “Spring Jubilee” was held on Sunday, April 6, 2007, with Executive Secretary Todd Smith preaching the morning message. After the morning worship service, the church provided a wonderful meal in the new Family Life Center located behind the church.



Larrimore Ordained into the Gospel Ministry

On Wednesday, February 6, 2008, Kenny Larrimore, son of Reverend Leroy Larrimore, was ordained into the Gospel ministry. Reverend Leroy Larrimore has served for many years as the pastor at Pee Dee Free Will Baptist Church in Conway, SC. Reverend Leroy Larrimore has served his church faithfully; however, due to failing health, he has been unable to serve in the full duties and capacity of the pastorate. His son Kenny Larrimore has come along side of his father and is assisting in the ministry at Pee Dee FWB Church. During his ordination service, Reverend Steward Norris, pastor at Cornerstone FWB Church in Whiteville, NC, and chairman of the ordaining council for the Central Association, preached the ordination message. Reverend Tommy Hill, pastor at the First FWB Church in Hamlet, NC, and also a member of the Central Association ordaining council, preached the ordination charge. The ordination service was held at Pee Dee Original FWB Church in Conway, SC. Brother Kenny Larrimore was presented with a Bible from the Central Association as a token of remembrance of his ordination and for use in preaching the Gospel of Christ.

Pictured L to R: Ordaining Council Members, Rev. Tommy Hill and Rev. Steward Norris, Rev. Kenny Larrimore and wife, and Ordaining Council members, Rev. Tony Miles and Dr. Tommy Bryson, Jr.



Overseas Apprentice

Two South Carolina individuals will be serving as “Overseas Apprentice” this summer under Free Will Baptist International Missions:

1) Halie Garrison from Temple FWB in Darlington will be going to Sao Paulo, Brazil from May 13 - July 1, 2008. She will be working with Jim and Shirley Combs at the Lar Nova FWB Home for Children, and will be involved with the local churches. Her trip will cost \$3,200.00, and right now she only has \$300.00.

2) David Gibson, from First FWB in Florence, will be going to Southern France from May 12 - August 10, 2008. David will be working with Clint and Lynette Morgan, Darin and Dana Portell, and Shane and Joy Davison, who are all apart of the France M-TEAM. For the first seven weeks, David will be living in the Aix Provence working with the M-TEAM, and the last 5 weeks, he will be moving to Marseille which is on the coast of Southern France to work in a port where North African immigrants migrate. His trip will cost \$4,900.00, and right now David only has about \$300.00 in his account. Feel free to visit David's website blog at www.davidgibson00.blogspot.com.

Feel free to designate your gifts to these two individuals by sending your gift to the “SC FWB State Office,” c/o Overseas Apprentice, PO Box 9, Turbeville, SC 29162. In advance, thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

Hispanic Ministry Continues Growth



Missionary Fernando Bustamante and his wife Reyna and daughter Meyan have been ministering as a part of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist Hispanic ministry for several years now. Reverend Bustamante has started three Hispanic churches in South Carolina, including mission works in Effingham, Conway, and Columbia. He has also discipled many men who have been trained at the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute that have been sent

forth to preach gospel and start other Hispanic mission works across the United States. Part of his ministry is distributing Hispanic Bibles and tracts in cities that have Free Will Baptist Hispanic mission church. In their 2007 Christmas service, they had 120 in attendance, including 50 people that were lost and without Christ. In addition to his many responsibilities, Reverend Bustamante also has a Sunday morning radio ministry. The newest mission work in Conway already is running an average of 45 in attendance. Most recently, seven people from the Conway Hispanic mission work were baptized. Antonio Jimenez, who Reverend Bustamante discipled is now serving as the pastor at the Columbia FWB Hispanic Church with an average attendance of 55 each Sunday. Please continue to pray for Missionary Fernando Bustamante and his family as they continue serving as a joint project between the state of South Carolina and the National Association of Free Will Baptist Home Missions Board under the Hispanic ministry.

Una, SC Hispanic Mission



Hispanic missionary Gerardo Rodriguez is continuing to minister in Una, SC. Reverend Gerardo is also involved in the teaching ministry of the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute in Inman, SC. The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic

Institute is an institute

that is apart of the National Association of Free Will Baptist Home Mission Hispanic ministry. Gerardo and Maria Rodriguez are joint project missionaries with the state of South Carolina. Many years ago, Gerardo and his wife Maria came from Uruguay to work with Hispanics in South Carolina. They were both saved under the ministries of Free Will Baptist foreign missionaries in South America. Gerardo and Maria have two sons, Lucas and Franco. Most recently, on Easter Sunday, they celebrated with a very large attendance with five individuals surrendering their life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, on Easter Sunday, Reverend Gerardo shared together in celebrating the Lord's supper with the Una Free Will Baptist Hispanic Church. Please continue to pray for this family as they continue to minister in Spartanburg County.

Aiken Mission Surpasses Highest Attendance



Missionary Jim Fairchild recently moved to Aiken, SC, with his family to continue the mission work in Aiken. Jim and his wife Kim have five children, Courtney (18), Austin (12), Tyler (10), Caleb (7), and Reagan (4). Jim most recently reported that the Southside FWB Mission Church in Aiken had a record high attendance of 147 on Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008. Also on Easter Sunday, 10 adults and 4 children came to a saving

knowledge of Jesus Christ. With the high attendance on Easter Sunday, the church averaged 66 in attendance during the month of March. Tyler plays ball with the city of Aiken and his coach's family has started attending the Southside Mission Church. There are many needs in Aiken. First of all, the original debt of \$230,000.00 has been reduced to approximately \$78,500.00. Feel free to send a designated gift to the "Aiken Loan Fund" to help reduce this debt. However, the greatest need is an increase in monthly support. We encourage churches and individuals to add the Jim Fairchild family to their monthly support. We encourage you to send your designated gift to the SC FWB State Office, PO Box 9, Turbeville, SC. In advance, thank you for your prayers and support of Jim Fairchild and his family and the Aiken mission work.

Bobby and Geneva Poole Report

During the days of Carnival (Feb. 4-6) the churches in our area, Ribeirão Preto, Jaboticabal and Uberlandia met at the Youth Camp in Jaboticabal for the 34th Family Retreat. Some 300 people gathered for the opening service and some 250 were fed each day in the newly remodeled kitchen and dining hall. At the same time our churches celebrated our region's 50th year Celebration of the FWB work in Brazil. Bobby was privileged to give the opening message. The Pooles have been there for 47 of those 50 years.

During the Easter weekend, representatives from almost all of our FWB churches met in Campinas for the 50 Year Celebration of FWB in Brazil. Dave Franks first arrived in Brazil on the January 1, 1958. It was a blessing to see the people that have been won to the Lord because we as FWB obeyed the command of our Lord Jesus, to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Thousands have heard the Gospel, churches have been built, hundreds have been trained as teachers, soul winners, church workers and quite a few as pastors and missionaries. Our Church building plans are still waiting to be approved.

The state of our Mission Account is also an event. A bad one, but yet a reality. Last week the dollar fell to the lowest level it has been in NINE YEARS! This hurts all of us working in Brazil. Our account is in the RED, and we should be returning to the states in 3 months for stateside assignment. God has been so good to us. We praise Him each day! We are thankful for you who stand with us and make our ministry here in Brazil possible.

- submitted by Bobby and Geneva



Heb. 6:19

The 72nd Annual NAFWB Convention



The 2008 annual National Association of Free Will Baptist Convention will take place July 20-23, 2008, in Charleston, WV. If you have not already made your convention reservations, feel free to visit www.nafwb.org for further details and registration

information. If you plan to pre-register for the convention, you must do so by June 15, 2008.

The Executive Office of Free Will Baptists, in cooperation with the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptists, recently announced plans for IMPACT West Virginia, Saturday, July 19, 2008. The one-day evangelistic campaign will target churches and neighborhoods in the Greater Charleston area. Free Will Baptists from across the nation are encouraged to arrive at the convention a day early to participate in this unified effort. From door-to-door evangelism, to work projects at homes and local churches, Free Will Baptists will flood West Virginia with the Love of Christ. Churches and organizations interested in participating should contact IMPACT Coordinator Burt Hall at (304) 343-2599 or burthall@hughes.net for more information. Pastor Hall will put volunteers in touch with pastors or contact persons from local churches hosting the event. For more information about IMPACT West Virginia, visit www.nafwb.org/impact.

International World Mission Offering Update



Over 500 churches have already signed up to take part in the coin bank project and World Missions Offering (WMO) this year. The Lord is moving amongst Free Will Baptist people to accomplish great things for His glory. Thanks to everyone for taking the initiative to participate in changing the lives of people worldwide.

This year, the WMO goal is \$750,000. Funds collected will continue to underwrite four Bible institutes in Cuba, India, Côte d'Ivoire, and Russia. To alleviate some of the financial pressures our missionaries face, the money will also be utilized to place \$5,000 into each missionary account.

Once the \$750,000 goal is surpassed, the excess funds will be used to expedite the return of stateside missionaries to the field.

The Informer is a bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Office located at 1169 Atkinson Street, Turbeville, SC 29162. The Informer is distributed in the second month of each publication. The purpose of the Informer is to share news and events relating to South Carolina Free Will Baptist churches and their ministries that are a part of the National Association of Free Will Baptist located in Antioch, TN. Any suggested news worthy articles and pictures are encouraged to be submitted to Executive Secretary Todd Smith by the 15th day of the 1st month of each publication. Please forward all information to ToddSmith@scfwb.com. All articles are subject to editing and exclusion based on content and space availability.

Executive Secretary Todd Smith's Schedule

April

- 4 SC Conference Meeting, Faith FWB Church
- 5 Bobby and Joyce Bowers 50th Anniversary Celebration
- 6 Westgate FWB Church, Arcadia, SC, Spring Jubilee
- 8 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 11 State CTS Run-Offs - Horse Branch FWB Church
- 12 Central Association Meeting, South Conway FWBC
- 13 Hickory Hill FWB Church, Gresham, SC
- 15 SC FWB Home Mission Board Meeting, Columbia
- 20-23 Revival - Whitney FWB Church, Spartanburg
- 26 Beaver Creek Conference Meeting, Turning Point
- 27 Temple FWB Church, Darlington, SC
- 27 Socastee FWB Church, Socastee, SC

May

- 4 First, Simpsonville - Homecoming
- 5-12 Family Vacation
- 13 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 17 True Life Conference Meeting -
- 18 FWB Bible Church, Darlington - Homecoming
- 18 Unity FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC
- 20 Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast
- 25 First FWB Church, Greenwood, SC

June

- 1 First FWB Church, Chester, SC - Baccalaureate
- 3 Conway Minister's Breakfast
- 7 Gold City Benefit for Children's Home
- 8 Freedom FWB Church, Ladson, SC - Camp Meeting
- 10 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 15 Father's Day with Family
- 17 Lake City Minister's Breakfast
- 27 SC Conference Meeting - Fellowship FWB Church
- 28 Eastern Conference Meeting

July

- 1 Conway Minister's Breakfast
- 8 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 12 Central Association Meeting, Sweet Home FWBC
- 15 Lake City Minister's Breakfast
- 19-24 NAFWB Convention, Charleston, WV
- 26 Beaver Creek Conference Meeting, Arcadia, SC

August

- 5 Conway Minister's Breakfast
- 12 Florence Area Minister's Breakfast
- 19 Lake City Minister's Breakfast
- 23 Eastern Conference Meeting
- 24-27 Revival - Black River FWB Church, Andrews, SC