

THE INFORMER

VOL. 1 - NO. 1

JAN. 1972

OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF S. C.



Officers of The State Association

The Officers of the State Association are as following: Front row from left to right, Rev. Norwood Gibson, Moderator and pastor of the Free Will Baptist Bible Church, Florence, S. C. Assistant Moderator: Rev. Hoyt Powell, Manning, S. C. Clerk: Rev. Ansel Smith, pastor of South Avenue Free Will Baptist Church, Lancaster, and Assistant Clerk: Rev. Van Powell, pastor of Little Star Free Will Baptist Church, Johnsonville, S. C.

Back row, State Promotional Secretary, Rev. J. B. Smith, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Chester, S. C. Treasurer: Mr. Joe Lynch of Scranton, S. C. Speaker at the session, Rev. J. B. Rice, pastor of Lockhart Free Will Baptist Church, Lockhart, S. C. and Rev. Earl Hendrix pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Inman, S. C., host pastor.

State Association

From all the reports we enjoyed one of the best State meetings we have had. The preaching was superb, the fellowship was grand, and the business was even good. The opening devotion by Rev. James A. Hucks, Jr. Pastor of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Conway, was from the Psalms 133. He spoke on unity. He said "We must have unity in our churches, Conferences, to have unity in our State." The Moderators message by Rev. Norwood Gibson, was very timely. He spoke on the subject, "Makes full proof of thy ministry" from II Timothy 4th Chapter. He said "It's high time that we evangelized the State of South Carolina." The keynote speakers for the session was the Reverend J. B. Rice, pastor of the Lockhart Church, Reverend E. B. Ledlow, from the National Home Missions Department, and Rev. Hoyt Powell pastor

of First Free Will Baptist Church, Manning, S. C.

The Dutch supper on Thursday evening was enjoyed by all who was present. Reverend Guy Owens, Foreign Mission Board member and pastor of the First Free Will Baptist, Florence, presented a very interested presentation of slides he took while on a trip to the Foreign Missions field.

Visiting with us from the National Departments from Nashville were: Reverend Rufus Coffey, Executive Dept.; Reverend E. B. Ledlow, Home Missions Dept.; Reverend Roger Reeds, Sunday School Dept.; Mr. Gred Green, C. T. S. Dept.

We had two visitors from the North Carolina State Association. They were:

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Moderators Comments

I came home from the State Meeting with a joyful assurance that God had really met with us. Every devotion and message was exciting, thrilling and challenging. The spirit of unity in fellowship, and in our responsibility to Jesus Christ and our State was experienced by all. How I do praise God for what He is doing for us in these days.

The one thing that thrilled my heart above all is the spirit of concern for the evangelization of our State. I think the map, which Brother Kirby displayed, showing how much of the State of South Carolina is with out a Free Will Baptist

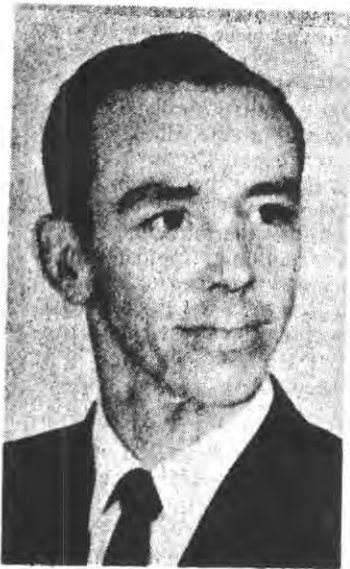
Church shook the foundation of our souls. I believe it awakened us to a new vision of the needs that are before us. I also believe that God used the host church to challenge us. The First Free Will Baptist Church in

Inman is a young church and is the product of the Beaver Creek Home Mission Board. It is an example of what God will do for His people when they will obey the great commission, and take steps of faith so that the Lord can fulfill His will and purpose.

As I viewed the accomplishments of this church I was reminded afresh of the greatness and faithfulness of God. Where His Son is lifted up He will draw all men unto Him and meet our every need. The reports of other mission works was an added blessing and challenge.

The State voted unanimously to the recommendation that each Conference in our State conduct at least one Crusade for Christ this year. These Crusades are to be conducted outside the local church buildings in order that it might have an area wide reach and effect. Let me encourage each Conference to follow through on this. It might be something small in the beginning, but please start. We should keep our eyes on what this type ministry

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Rev. Smith

From The Editor's Desk

The year 1971 is history. It is gone forever. We cannot call back any opportunity we had to do good. That which we left undone that should have been done in 1971, is lost forever....So as we face another brand new year, 1972, let's determine to make the best of every opportunity that may be ours.

One opportunity that needs the attention of every Free Will Baptist in the State of South Carolina, is the need of evangelizing every city, and town in our State. One church, or one Conference, can do so much, but no one church or Conference can evangelize the whole State. If each church in each conference will support Home Missions in their conference, we can build Free Will Baptist churches in every City and Town in our State. Let's set this as our goal for the year of 1972. If your conference does not have a mission work, support a conference that does have one.

It was moved second and adopted at the State Association that each church and each conference elect a reporter to report any news from their church or conference to the INFORMER. It was also passed that each conference elect a Pastor, Laymen and church of the year. I need a picture of the pastor, laymen and church, with a writeup concerning each as soon as possible. Please get this information to me as soon as you can. If our State INFORMER is to be informative, we must have your news. News you would like to have in the March issue, have in my office by February 15th.

LETTERS

Bible Book Store
Durham, N. C. 27703
December 7, 1971

should share in the distribution and profits of our Sunday School literature program. It is now a reality! Praise God!

Our National Sunday School Department has entered into contract with our store, and the other states that have stores also, for the distribution of our own Sunday

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Dear Friends:

I do not know when I was ever as thrilled to send out a letter as I am this one. I have felt for over five years that our states

THE INFORMER

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF
THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EDITOR.....REV. J. B. SMITH

Beaver Creek Quarterly Meet

The Beaver Creek held it's Quarterly Conference in Greenville, S.C. with the First Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. Bobby Bowers was host pastor. There were 22 churches reporting to the meeting. With 4 absent. The keynote speaker for the meeting was the Rev. Walter Ramsey, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Rock Hill, S.C. He spoke on the topic "Let's Go To Calvary". A wonderful message. Lunch was served in the new fellowship building of the host church.

The minister's Conference met following lunch. Devotion was given by the newly elected pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C. Rev. Howard Messer. The scripture was taken from I Samuel and His topic was "Men Whose Hearts Was Touched By God". This was a wonderful quarterly meeting and well attended.

Rev. James Childers, Jr.
Beaver Creek, Reporter

C.T.S. Rally Held

The Beaver Creek Association held its quarterly CTS Rally at Lancaster, S.C. on Nov. 6, 1971. Attendance for the rally was 165 with South Ave. Church in Lancaster

winning the banner for attendance with 81. Winners in the competitive games were Sword Drill by Spartanburg First Church; Tic Tac Toe, Lockhart FWB; and Bible

Bowl, by Spartanburg First Church. Messengers for the day were Rev. Howard Messer and Bobby Bowers. Next rally to be held at Greenville FWB Jan. 9th, 1972.

J.B. Rice, Lockhart

Revival Services To Be Held

Rev. Paul Butler, pastor of the Patrick Free Will Baptist Church in Patrick S.C. announces revival services January 5-8 with Rev. Benny Turner as the Evangelist. Rev. Turner is from Erwin Tenn.

News From Foreign Missions

Praise Sheet and Prayer Guide

PRAISE:

God is continuing to bless our foreign missions department with outstanding financial receipts. October receipts totaled \$63,513.05, bringing offerings for the year to \$661,891.24. This is less than \$13,000.00 from the total annual budget. Several states have exceeded their quotas, and two states are expected to top the \$100,000.00 mark.

Lonnie Sparks recently experienced evidence of the Lord's protection when, on a family outing, he was attacked by two men who apparently intended to rob him. He and Anita were able to defend themselves, and the men fled.

Eddie and Sandra Payne plan to return to Africa in December following an ex-

tended medical furlough. Praise God for His healing power!

PRAY:

Dr. LaVerne Miley writes, "The clinic work has really kept us busy. For the first sixteen days in October we had a total of 2,145 patient visits, and two of those days were Sundays. One day we registered about 230 patients." Remember to pray for Dr. Miley and Sherwood Lee, who assists at the clinic, as they minister to these Africans.

Thirty thousand college kids from around the world are the burden of Joe Haas's heart. The University of Rennes, France, is the home of these students, thousands of whom have never heard the gospel. Pray that more laborers may be called forth minister to these souls.

On his return to Panama, Tom Willey, Jr. was encouraged to find that many of the works there had maintained their witness during the year they had been without a resident missionary. The newer missions and those more distant ones have been more or less abandoned, but the Willeys and Fulchers have immediate plans for resuming services in these areas. Pray for this effort.

Pray for Earnie Deeds and the church in Jaboticabal, Brazil. Earnie reports, "The church sold the lot it owned and is buying another on which they plan to build immediately....They voted to meet in the homes of the members....We have had

several unsaved to attend every service and consequently we are making new contacts."

Letters

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School literature. We will ship from Durham during December for the January, February and March quarter. Now, let me say a number of things:

1. The literature will be the same price as if it still came from Nashville.

2. We do feel, by our store being closer to your church, we can give you quicker and better service. In fact, some of you will be so close, you can drive in to Durham and pick up your order.

3. The postage and handling will still be 5 percent.

4. We must know as early as possible what your order will be so that we will have ample stock to fill all orders as they come in. If we can be sufficiently ready for your order, we can give you faster and better service. An order blank is enclosed. Please fill it out and send it in quickly. Make it possible for us to give you excellent service! You are the only one who can help us at this point. There is no way we can know what your order will be until we receive it. Be an early-bird! Get your order in early and if we sell completely out of materials, your Sunday School will not be left out on any item! Our Sunday School Department is going to try to see to it that we have plenty - but remember - sometimes they have even sold out! The safe thing to do is be early. Get your order to us quickly.

5. I asked Brother Reeds specifically about our making contact with the Virginia, South Carolina and E. Tennessee churches to see if we could service them since we were closer. He said "Yes." To you churches in these areas, we would like to have your order, also.

We do want to give you first class service so help us all you can by getting your order in immediately. We could not even be in business were it not for you, our churches. We really appreciate your business. Let us serve you.

Sincerely,
Ronald Creech

Church News

The First Free Will Baptist Church in Chester reports a revival spirit in the church. There has been 24 additions to the church since September. Of this number, 12 have been baptized and 4 are candidates for baptism.

We set a new all time record December 19th in total offering received with a total offering of \$708.19. The Lord is blessing our church for which we give Him the praise and honor.

Rev. J.B. Smith, Pastor

Mrs. Rachel McMahan, Reporter

State Ministers Fellowship

The State Minister's fellowship conference will meet February, Tuesday and Wednesday on the 8th and 9th at the Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Turbeville. We will tour the Children's Home while we are there. You will be receiving a program soon giving the outlined program of the planned meeting. Be sure to make your plans to be present. This time of fellowship has served to be a great blessing to those attending.

WHO PRAYED?

Did you think of us this morning
As you breathed a word of prayer?
Did you ask for strength to help us
All our heavy burdens bear?

Someone prayed, and strength was given

For the long and weary road;
Someone prayed and faith grew stronger
As we bent beneath our load.

Someone prayed--the way grew brighter
As we walked all unafraid
In our heart a song of gladness--
Tell me, was it YOU who prayed?

(Taken from Maranatha!!!! Magazine)

Report From The State Association —

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Reverend Ronald Creech, Promotional Secretary, and Reverend Roger Tripp.

Churches that represented with delegates and fee were: eleven from the Beaver Creek Conference, six from the Central Conference, three from the Eastern Conference, and nineteen from S. C. Conference, for a total of 39. There was six represented with letter. There has been eleven churches to send in their letter and fee since the state meeting for a total of 56 churches that represented to the state meeting. The total fees received from the churches have exceeded \$1,000. There was 42 ministers that registered.

Reverend Rufus Coffey, Executive Secretary, reported that January 16-23, 1972 will be "FREE WILL BAPTIST

Home Missions

FROM: National Home Missions Department, Reverend Homer E. Willis, Director.

November 29, 1971, will be a day long remembered by the staff at the Home Mission Office! On this day, for the first time in history, gifts for National Home Missions in one year exceeded \$200,000. It took the Department 28 years to reach the first \$100,000 in gifts annually--and only eight years to reach the second \$100,000. In the past eight years, there has been a gain in gifts each year to average \$15,000!!!

The entire office staff was present for a special prayer meeting to give thanks to God for His blessings and to give thanks for all the wonderful people who made this victory possible.

Mr. Willis expressed thanks for all the pastors, churches and individuals who responded so well to the "Thanksgiving Offering". He also stated that it should only take about three years to reach the next \$100,000 milestone and that next year, total gifts should reach one quarter million dollars.

With several state mission boards actively supporting local mission work, it is probable that this ministry in total is being supported on a level with other national ministries.

HERITAGE WEEK". The purpose of this week is to offer tribute to God for our Christian and denominational heritage. In these days when the church is being downgraded, we need to exalt Christ, the head of the church, and to recognize the church as a divine institution for carrying out God's plan of world evangelism.

It is suggested that either January 16 or January 16 or January 23 be designated as "HONOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH DAY."

It would be well to recall the historical development of Free Will Baptists and the significant contribution made to the spiritual life of the community. We can be rightfully proud of our Free Will Baptist heritage and the blessings of God upon our movement since 1727. Let us therefore, plan to celebrate the richness and fullness of the ministry God has bestowed upon Free Will Baptists.

A report from the Foreign Missions Office shows the giving of our State over a period of the last five years:

1966, \$29,804.27; 1967, \$31,591.61; 1968, \$38,737.46; 1969, \$42,765.01; 1970, \$50,114.13; and 1971 (Thru Oct.), \$44,504.08.

We exceeded our quota for 1970 by \$11,114.13. We have exceeded our quota for 1971 through the month of October by \$2,504.08. Let's keep up the good work.

The Executive Committee's report that each conference in the state sponsor at least one evangelistic crusade during the year 1972, was accepted unanimously. We feel that this was a great step forward for

our state work.

Another step forward was a move and second to job out the INFORMER.

Rev. Wilburn, Field Director of Superannuation reports that the total receipts for 1971 was \$1,912.93. With a balance in the Treasury of \$2,564.65.

Reverend Fred Kirby, Field Director of Home Missions, gave a challenging report concerning the need for each conference to get busy in organizing Free Will Baptist Churches in our state. Brother Kirby is now pastoring the newly organized mission in Sumter, S. C.

To sum it up we had a very challenging State Associational Meeting.

Moderators

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can develop into. The State Association will fund each Conference that conducts a crusade an equal amount of money. The State Executive Committee will make known the amount which will be available to each Conference as soon as all State bills are paid.

Just a work to the ministers and churches that were not present and did not represent with the suggested representation fee. We need you to help us in this State Ministry. Let me encourage you to pray much for our State Work and begin now to make plans to attend the next State Meeting. We want you to share in these great blessings of God.

Rev. Norwood Gibson
State Moderator

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