

THE INFORMER

Vol. 1 — No. 5
September, 1972

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

Sumter Original Free Will Baptist Mission



Rev. Fred Kirby

Poplar Hill Breaks Ground

The Poplar Hill Free Will Baptist Church of Hemingway, S. C., held groundbreaking ceremonies at 12:00 o'clock Sunday, June 18, 1972. Members of the Building Committee participating were: Alford Baxley, Herman Parker, and Glen Ard.

Members of the church are to do part of the construction. The Sanctuary will have a seating capacity of approximately 300 with Sunday School rooms, nursery, and office facilities. We praise the Lord for everything that is being done. Pastor: Rev. Mike Jones.

Revivals

The Almetta Church in Jefferson will be in Revival Sept. 10-16. Rev. Ansel Smith will be the evangelist. Rev. Joe Myers is the pastor.

The Beaverdam Church in North Carolina will be in Revival Sept. 25-Oct. 1. Rev. Ansel Smith will be the evangelist. Rev. J. A. Hucks is the pastor.

On October 17, 1971, services were held in the Optimist International's Recreation Gymnasium in Sumter, S. C., marking the beginning of a new work for the Lord in this city of about 35,000 population and near one of our largest Air Force bases. Leading in this work, under the sponsorship of the S. C. Conference, was Rev. Fred Kirby, who had organized the Calvary F.W.B. Church in Georgetown about nine years ago and had served as pastor there until coming to Sumter. He is not new at this type of work, having also organized a church in Oklahoma before coming back east in 1960.

From the outset, a regular schedule of services was begun with prayer meetings being held in the homes. Since then, the prayer meetings have grown in attendance from about 12 to 60. This number being too many to meet in the homes, we have recently been able to rent the gymnasium for our prayer meetings on Thursday nights. Our first Sunday's attendance was 27 and the average for the first three months was 35. This increased steadily, reaching a peak of 143 on the last Sunday in February which was the ending of a special drive we had for that month.

Our average has leveled off at 75-85 for Sunday School with our enrollment now at 106 and CTS enrollment at 67. We recently had our first scheduled revival services with Bro. Guy Owens as the evangelist, during which time we were blessed to see several profess

Christ as their personal Saviour and also many rededications.

We have eight classes and you can imagine what it is like during Sunday School with only two of these classes held in separate rooms! Truthfully, we are blessed of the Lord! Please remember to pray for us to know the Lord's will in the purchase of land and later in the building for His Kingdom's work in the future. The Mission is already supporting the Children's Home at Turbeville, and both Home and Foreign Missions.

We have purchased a piano, typewriter, mimeograph machine, and 105 folding chairs. We have plenty of seating capacity, so you will be very welcomed any time you can stop and worship with us. The Optimist Gymnasium is located at the corner of Church and Pine Streets. We can truthfully say, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Continue to pray for us that more souls will come to the Lord through the efforts of the work right here in this town.

(Since the above writing, the Mission was notified by the National Sunday School Department that they won first place in Division H of the Spring Enlargement Campaign, for which a beautiful plaque was awarded. Also, we began a bond issue on June 18 for \$80,000 for purchase of 5½ acres of land on which to build a church and parsonage within a few weeks, the Lord willing.)



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Rev. Smith

Vacation time is gone, and it's school time again. That is just another sign how quickly time is passing away. It ought to remind us of the words of Jesus, in John 4:35, "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, lift you your eyes, and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest." We need to make every day count for the Lord.

I have had the privilege to be in some wonderful services since the last issue of The Informer. The Crusade meeting in Union, S. C., sponsored by

the Beaver Creek Association, was a real blessing. Also the week of "Old Camp Meeting," at the Arthur Lawter Tabernacle, at Mt. Lakes, here in Chester, was a treat. The trip to the National Association, in Fort Worth, Texas, was also a blessing. We hope to have an article in the next issue of The Informer sharing the victories of our young people. We are proud of them. They did a fine job in youth competition.

The State Association is closer than you think! It is time to start finalizing your plans to be present. We are looking for the largest number of delegates, visitors and ministers ever to attend. The program committee has a wonderful program lined up. The Thursday evening services will be a highlight for everyone. It will be Special Missions Night, with a dutch supper before the evening service. There will be slides shown of the different missions work in the state. Rev. Van Kluyve, the Director of Deputation of Foreign Missions, will bring the evening message.

We are looking forward to seeing all our churches in the state represented with delegates and fees. This surely would be a wonderful accomplishment. It can be done. Let's work at it.

Supporters Of The Informer

We have set another record. We received the largest gift, from any supporter of The Informer, for any single gift. The credit goes to the New Prospect Church in Pamplico. We received a check from this fine church in July for \$100.00. Below is a list of the members of the "Supporters of The Informer" from June 15th through August 15th. If your church is not listed, we encourage you to be listed by the next issue of The Informer.

Fairview Church, Spartanburg - \$ 10.00	Columbia Original, Columbia - \$ 15.00
Lockhart Church, Lockhart - - 10.00	Horse Branch Ch., Turbeville - 10.00
First Church, Chester - - - - 5.00	Grace Mission, Fort Mill - - - 8.00
Little Bethel, Johnsonville - - - 3.15	Sumter Mission, Sumter - - - - 15.00
St. John, Patrick - - - - - - 16.39	F.W.B. Bible Church, Florence. - 10.00
New Prospect, Pamplico - - - - 100.00	First Church, Greenville - - - - 10.00
First Church, Florence - - - - 10.00	Almetta, Jefferson - - - - - - 5.00
Mary Alice Mahoney, Manning - 2.00	Mr. Lewis Phillips, Chester - - - 10.00
Total Received - - - - - \$249.54	

THE INFORMER

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

EDITOR

REV. J. B. SMITH

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STATE ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 16-17

Remarks From Moderator For State

From The State Moderator:

The Original Free Will Baptists of South Carolina are more united in oneness in labor for the cause of Christ than ever before. For this we are thankful to our Lord. I believe we have a greater vision for the lost of our state and the world. This is evidenced by the increased activity in organizing new churches in the state and the increased giving to Foreign Missions. However, we need a greater vision of the needs of Home Missions work in our state. We need to accelerate our efforts to begin new mission churches. I personally want to challenge each conference Home Mission Board to endeavor to begin a new work this coming year.

The Thursday night program of our State Association this year is designed to emphasize missions and that it will cause us to become more mission minded. At the Thursday night dutch supper we will have each conference give a slide presentation of their present mission works. At the Thursday night service Brother Henry Van Klieve will bring the message. There will also be special music and testimonies. We are asking the pastors and other leaders to get behind this particular event and help us promote it. We have set an offering goal of \$1,500 at this service. You will be receiving further information and promotional material about this in the mail. Please work with us, and in your local church, raise as much money as you can in any way that is pleasing to the Lord. Do this between now and State Convention time and have someone designated to present the offering at the service. I believe we can far exceed the \$1,500 goal.

The money will be divided six ways. The four Conferences will receive a sixth part; the State Promotional Secretary's Office will receive a sixth part; and the Foreign Missions Department will receive a sixth part.

Let's show ourselves what God can do for us if we truly trust Him.

See you at the State Association November 16-17 at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Conway.

—Norwood Gibson



Conduct Bible School: Other Summer Work

The Gospel Messengers evangelistic team — Jim Cowart and Ed Green — students of Free Will Baptist Bible College — conducted the daily Vacation Bible School at the Free Will Baptist Church of Columbia, July 24-30.

Ed Green is from Aberdeen, Md. Jim is a member of the Columbia church. He is originally from Florida and was saved at the Columbia church while in training at Fort Jackson. Last year he was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor in combat in Vietnam.

The boys have had a full summer of evangelistic work in church revivals, Bible school work, and youth camps. The pastor, Carroll G. Alexander, reports that the fellows did an excellent job of singing, preaching, and chalk drawing. There were 22 decisions for the Lord — 18 of which were first-time decisions. Pastor: Carroll G. Alexander.

PRAISE:

Emma Ruth Willey continues to improve following major surgery in June.

Bill Fulcher reports much growth in the Agua Buena Church in Panama. Souls are being saved and attendance records are being broken almost every Sunday.

Jimmy Aldridge sends news of their first Moslem convert in Bondoukou. Also, the Ivory Coast annual association licensed their sixth national preacher recently.

PRAY:

Bobby and Geneva Poole arrived safely in Brazil and are seeking the Lord's guidance concerning the area in which He would have them work.

The necessary papers for Jim and Vickie Sturgill to enter Brazil have still not arrived. If the Sturgills are to begin language school this term, they must depart within the next couple of weeks. Pray that God would open doors and eliminate the "red tape" that they might soon be on their way.

Pray for Carlisle and Marie Hanna and family as they are left with sole responsibility for the work in North India while the Cronks are home on furlough.

Pray for the five new appointees who begin Missionary Internship the end of this month.

More Revivals

The First Church in Greenville will be in Revival Oct. 1-7. The pastor, Rev. Bobby Bowers, will be doing the preaching. This church just recently raised the money to purchase their second bus.

The First Church in Inman will be in Revival Sept. 24-30. Time 7:30. Rev. Paul Shehan, Superintendent of the F.W.B. Children's Home, Turbeville, will be the evangelist. Rev. Earl Hendrix is the pastor.

STATE ASSOCIATION DATES
NOVEMBER 16-17, 1972
OAK GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST
CONWAY, S. C.

CHURCH NEWS

CONVERSE, S. C.:

Converse Free Will Baptist Church has really been on fire for the Lord since our revival. I believe every church member has been revived. Even the Ladies' Auxillary is working harder than ever to do the Lord's work. On August 5th, the ladies prepared a hot dog and hamburger sale at the church and with the wonderful cooperation from the ladies we cleared a profit of \$50.00. We plan to buy carpet for our church in the near future.

Our singing, which is held the first Saturday night of each month, has proved to be a success. We've had a wonderful turn out. Souls have been saved and Christians have become closer to the Lord.

Please remember us in your prayers that we will strive even harder to keep on the firing line for God. Remember our wonderful pastor for his great work. He is truly a man of God.

Reporter: Georgia Fay

Pastor: Rev. Troy Baldwin

JOHNSONVILLE, S. C.:

Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church members honored great-great-grandfather, Mr. J. R. Poston. He is the father of 13 sons. Twelve are still living. He has 43 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. Nine of his sons are members of the church here. God has richly blessed "Uncle Chuck," as he is known. We all love him very much.

Rev. Paul Clayton gave a prayer of thanks for all fathers and asked God to give strength and guidance to all the young fathers to raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Rev. Ronnie Jones was the youngest father, and Rev. LeWayne Poston had the youngest child, who was only two weeks old. The young boys and girls gave a short program in honor of fathers.

Reporter: T. M. Jones

Pastor: Rev. Paul Clayton

GREENVILLE, S. C.:

The First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville had as their guest on Sunday, July 9th, Rev. Winford Floyd. Bro. Floyd brought two wonderful messages. The church was blessed by having him with us.

The church reports that they are sending their pastor, Rev. Bobby Bowers, on a trip to the Holy Land in March of next year.

The church is planning to begin a Christian Day Center in the near future. They hope to begin with about 20 children.

Enclosed you will find our gift for The Informer. We wish to thank you for the good job you are doing with The Informer.

Pastor: Rev. Bobby Bowers

PAMPLICO, S. C.:

Please find enclosed our check for \$100.00 for "The Informer." May God add His blessings to you in your continued effort to inform the Free Will Baptists of our state. A better informed Christian should be a better Christian.

(Note: We wish to give thanks to the New Prospect Church for the largest single gift received to date for "The Informer.")

Reporter: Carlisle Jones

HEMINGWAY, S. C.:

The children of Poplar Hill Free Will Baptist Church completed their week of Bible School June 11, with all the ice cream they could eat on Friday. The commencement was held Sunday night with certificates being presented to each child. The average attendance for the week was 83.

Pastor: Rev. Mike Jones

CHESTER, S. C.:

The annual week of Old Camp Meeting, held at the Arthur Lawter Tabernacle, at Mt. Lakes in Chester, proved to be a blessing to all that attended. The theme this year was "With Christ After the Lost." The speakers were: Monday — Rev. J. B. Smith, "The Winner's Soul and Life"; Tuesday — Rev. Harold Haynes, "The Winner's Prayer

Life;" Wednesday — Rev. Mitchell Davis, "The Winner's Faith and Convictions;" Thursday — Rev. J. B. Rice, "The Youth Organized To Win;" Friday — Rev. H. J. Sawyer, "The Winner's Heavenly Unction."

Brown Named Supt. Of Year

Mr. Ronnie H. Brown of Cowarts, Alabama, has been named Sunday School Superintendent of the year for 1971. Mr. Brown is Superintendent of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Dothan, Alabama, where the Rev. Robert Shockey serves as pastor.

Mr. Brown is employed by Sears, Roebuck and Company of Dothan, where he serves as manager of the men's wear department. He and his wife, Elaine, were recently blessed with the arrival of their first child.

Ronnie has been instrumental in initiating a bus ministry in his church. He is active on two different visitation teams and promotes teacher training for his teaching staff.

During the course of the year 1971, the church was without a pastor for five months. In this period the Sunday School experienced a sizeable increase in Sunday School attendance.

On a recent Sunday there were 372 present in the main sanctuary with 102 in attendance for Junior church.

With dedicated, soul winning, superintendents like Ronnie Brown who support denominational ministries, we shall continue to experience growth.

THE INFORMER

REV. J. B. SMITH, Editor

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