

Missionaries In Greer, South Carolina



REV. JAMES B. RICE AND FAMILY

James B. Rice, Jr., wife Jo Anne, son and daughter left the Lockhart Free Will Baptist Church in Lockhart, S. C., middle of August 1972 to go to Greer, S. C., as missionaries. This mission is a joint effort between the Beaver Creek Association Home Mission Board and the Home Mission-Church Extension Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists of Nashville, Tenn. This will be a joint effort for one year, during which time the National Home Mission Board will help in several ways.

The Beaver Creek Association owns a Mobile Chapel, from which three churches, located at Greenville, Inman and Union, S. C., have been started. Plans were to purchase 2-3 acres and use the Mobile Chapel for 1-2 years in Greer before building a building. However, due to zoning laws in Greenville County we have been unable to use the Mobile Chapel for services where the Mobile Chapel is presently located.

Due to the extreme high prices of land in the area, the Mission Board has not been able to find small tracts of land suitable for a church in the area, but continued efforts are being made to find land for location of a church or mobile chapel in an area not affected by zoning laws.

The Rice family moved to Greer the middle of August, but with no place to hold services. Decision was made to start holding services in living room of the home on first Sunday of September 1972. Morning preaching services were started in the home with nine people in attendance at the first meeting. Services were held in the home until the middle of October with high number in attendance of 17.

The owner of the Greer Laundry offered the use of a room in an underground basement of the laundry at no cost to the congregation.

The mission then held its first morning and night services in the basement of the laundry on the third Sunday of October, 1972, and immediately the Lord blessed with larger attendance. Services are still being held in the basement of the Greer Laundry located at 203 E. Poinsett Street. Sunday School was started the first Sunday in November with attendance

(Continued on Page 4)

A Message From The Moderator

First, I would like to thank you for the privilege you have given me to serve as your moderator. I appreciate the confidence you have shown in me, and with your prayers and God's help I will serve you faithfully. Also, I would like to express my appreciation for the good job our past moderator, Rev. Norwood Gibson, has done during the four years he served. During the past four years our State Association has made the most forward progress it has ever made in any four-year period. With your help and cooperation, I think we are in good shape to advance at even a faster pace during the next few years.

I think the areas we have made progress that has helped us the most are love, trust, and fellowship between the four conferences. This is where we will need to continue to improve if we want to continue to move forward in a cooperative effort. If we don't love, trust, and fellowship with one another, we will never be able to build a State Organization that will be strong enough to build Free Will Baptist Churches throughout our State that will evangelize and win our State to Christ.

Another area we have made some wonderful progress is our vision and concern for the total needs of our own



Rev. Ansel Smith

State. We need a stronger State organization, with more support and cooperation from each of the four conferences, each church and pastor in each conference. We only have churches organized throughout half of our State, and then most of our churches are small and far apart. We

(Continued on Page 4)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Rev. Smith

And the snow came tumbling down. The State Ministers' Fellowship Conference had to be postponed because of all the snow during the week of February 11-17. Would you believe that some of the churches on the other side of the river (you know, the Lockhart River) didn't know it was snowing? I understand the First Free Will Baptist Church in Inman had over 200 in Sunday School February 11.

The Ministers' Fellowship has been rescheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1-2. The meeting place will

be the First Free Will Baptist Church, Inman, S. C. As far as we know the program will be the same. You should be receiving a reminder in the mail. Just in case you do not receive a reminder, be sure to mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

PASTOR, LAYMAN AND CHURCH OF THE YEAR:

We would like very much for each conference to send a picture and article of the pastor, layman and church of the year from your conference. We would like to get this information as soon as possible.

NOTICE:

I understand that some of the last Informers were printed with the same information on the inside as the outside. If you received any like this please send me the number you received. We need to know how many were printed like this.

Supporters Of The Informer

If you don't read any news in The Informer about you or your church, it may be because you haven't sent any news to The Informer. We would like to hear from your church. We would like to have 25 churches to send \$100.00 to the Promotional Secretary's office for promotion this year. Can we count on you to be a member of the 25 Club? Below is a list of the Supporters of The Informer from December 15 through February 20:

Lebanon - - - - -	\$15.00	Bible Church - - - - -	\$ 15.00
Sumter Mission - - - - -	10.00	Mt. Elon - - - - -	10.00
Valley Falls - - - - -	20.00	First Florence - - - - -	20.00
Columbia Original - - - - -	10.00	Fairview - - - - -	15.00
First Chester - - - - -	30.00	Horse Branch - - - - -	10.00
Rock Hill - - - - -	10.00	Lockhart - - - - -	5.00
Liberty - - - - -	10.00	State Association - - - - -	176.00
Total Received - - - - -	\$356.12		

Leaders Attend Seminar

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Forty-four Free Will Baptist state and national leaders representing 16 states participated in the annual Promotional Meeting, January 8-11, at Hillmont Retreat near Nashville.

Highlighting the program was Dr. Olan Hendrix, Director of American Sunday School Union, who conducted a seminar on "Management Skills." A workshop on "News Writing" was conducted by Eugene Workman, Administrative Assistant in the Executive Of-

fice, and a discussion of state problems was led by Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, Moderator of the National Association.

This annual meeting is sponsored by the Executive Office in cooperation with the various national departments. The purpose of the meeting, according to Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey, is "the promotion of better communications correlating the state and national ministries, exchanging ideas and fostering a greater degree of understanding and cooperation."

National Home Missions Dept.

The National Home Missions Department would like to thank the people of South Carolina for what they gave to Home Missions in 1972.

South Carolina gave \$7,719.83, exceeding its quota of \$4,500.00 by \$3,219.83. This is wonderful and we thank you for your faithfulness.

Twenty-five states exceeded their quotas, enabling the National Home Missions Department to exceed its quota of \$225,000.00 for 1972 by \$56,204.90.

May we remember that the money is the means used to send missionaries with the gospel so that souls can be saved and churches can be established.

Keep up the good work.

Letters

St. John's FWB Church
Patrick, S. C.

Rev. Smith:

The church voted to give \$60.00 per year to "The Informer."

In the future, we will give this each October in one check unless another vote is taken to change this.

We also plan to send some of our church news to be printed.

Thank You,
Kathy Gainey
Treasurer

A LETTER FROM A FORMER SOUTH CAROLINA PASTOR

Dear J. B.,

Receiving The Informer in the mail demands my immediate attention. Thank you for sending it to me. After eight years of pastoring at Charleston, I find South Carolina news extremely interesting.

Let me commend you for a fine job in editing the newsletter. South Carolina is a "sleeping giant" and it is encouraging to see the state becoming stronger in evangelism, edification, and Christian education.

We are enjoying the blessings of the Lord here. Our church has begun a Christian school, grades 1 through 6. My what a blessing and a challenge!

Dennis P. Wiggs

(Bro. Wiggs is now pastoring the First Free Will Baptist Church in Beaufort, N. C.)

First Church, Chester Sends Pastor To Holy Land

The Reverend J. B. Smith, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church on Elliott Street, Chester, S. C., really has something to look forward to, thanks to the church congregation who presented him with a rather unusual Christmas present recently. The gift? A paid trip to the Holy Land and other Mid-East countries.

Rev. Smith related that he was totally unaware of the gift, which was presented to him by Mrs. Mary Flynn, president of the women's auxiliary, during Sunday services Christmas Eve. According to the Rev. Smith, the church had been working for several months in various projects to raise the money to send him on the 10-day tour, which will include visits to Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. "I always knew they were working on some type of project, although I didn't have the least idea as to what the project was for," he said.

According to a travel brochure, supplied by Wholesale Tours International, Inc., the 10-day tour will begin March 19th, when the Rev. Smith will board a flight in New York to the island of Cyprus. Upon reaching Cyprus, the Rev. Smith, and two other ministers from the Greenville area who will be in the tour party, will be transferred to Salamis, where Paul, Mark, and Barnabas landed after leaving the Holy Land. Other main features of the tour will include visiting the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry, the Mount of Beatitudes, and the ancient cities of Shechem, Modern Balatah, Nablus, and Sebastia.

In Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the group will visit Calvary, Mt. Moriah, the site of Solomon's Temple, and the Mt. of Olives.

Other stops will be at Mt. Zion, the Room of the Last Supper, King David's Tomb, Caesarea, and other ancient Roman ruins. Following a tour of the modern city of Tel Aviv, the tour party will return to their ship and head for Cyprus, where they will board a jet for the United States and home.

Prior to Rev. Smith's receiving the travel certificate, he was presented with a piece of Samsonite luggage from Mr. Herb Taylor, chairman of the church Board of Deacons.

"After almost eight years as minister here, I felt that the congregation



was trying to tell me something by giving me that luggage. But after Mrs. Flynn presented me with the trip, I realized that the tickets were two-way," he said with a smile.

Others going on this trip March 19 from the Beaver Creek Association will be: Rev. Ansel Smith, South Avenue

Free Will Baptist Church, Lancaster, S. C.; Rev. and Mrs. Earl Hendrix, First Free Will Baptist Church, Inman, S. C.; Rev. Bobby Bowers, First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C.

(Picture and news article furnished by The Chester News and Reporter, Chester, S. C.)

CONVERSE, S. C.:

Another month has passed and Converse Free Will Baptist Church is still progressing. We're still counting our blessings every day for the work that has been done through the help of the Lord.

We're almost ready to put down the carpet in the auditorium. The Sunday School rooms are almost completed and we're very proud.

We are now in the process of starting a Youth Fellowship Club for our young people and a Youth Choir. We're expecting a large turnout for our singing this month. We always have a wonderful time. Remember us in your prayers.

Reporter: Georgia Fay.

Pastor: Rev. Troy Baldwin.

PRAY

Pray for the physical health of all our missionaries. Several have been ill

in recent months, but according to reports all are doing well now.

Jerry and Barbara Gibbs, missionary interns, request prayer for an effective youth ministry in the church where they are working.

1972 Minutes Mailed

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Copies of the 1972 Minutes of the National Association of Free Will Baptists will be mailed from the Executive Office in February to district clerks.

Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey stated that the minutes were being mailed directly to each district clerk so that they may be distributed at the local level more rapidly and widely than in times past. This method of distribution was well received last year.

Any interested Free Will Baptist may obtain a copy at the next meeting of his local association.

Missionaries -

(Continued From Page 1)

of 25.

The Mission averaged 11.8 people for preaching services in September, 15 for October and November morning preaching services have averaged 25, with night services averaging 20, and with Sunday School averaging 25, and for December, Sunday School and preaching attendance in the morning has been 26. Prayer meetings were started three weeks ago with high attendance of 15 so far. Offerings have averaged \$65.00 per week for the past six weeks and there have been three decisions for the Lord made.

The Lord has blessed although the location of our church is not where we had planned. We do solicit your prayers and support for the mission. Any support for the mission can be sent to Beaver Creek Home Mission Board, 78 Brooklyn Avenue, Lancaster, S. C. 29720, or to the Rice Account, Board of Home Missions, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tenn. 37202, or to J. B. Rice, Jr., 500 Ridgewood Dr., Greer, S. C. 29651.

The Greer Mission is the first joint effort of the National Home Mission Board and an Association in the state of South Carolina among Free Will Baptists, and the third such effort in the United States.

(Note: Since receiving this information, Bro. Rice gave me a report that they have purchased three acres of land. As soon as the weather clears up the Mobile Chapel will be moved on the land. If you would like to be a part in the souls won to the Lord in Greer, you are encouraged to remember this family in prayer and send any financial support to the addresses given above. — Editor.)



BIBLE COLLEGE CHOIR TO VISIT SOUTH CAROLINA CHURCHES

The 36-voice College Choir, under the direction of David Randlett, with a special accompaniment of a 5-piece brass ensemble, will visit the following churches in South Carolina:

- March 23: First FWB, Darlington, S. C.
- March 24: Bible FWB, Florence, S. C.
- March 25: (AM) Horse Branch FWB, Turbeville, S. C.
- March 25: (PM) Mt. Elon FWB, Pamplico, S. C.
- March 25: (PM) Bethany FWB, Timmonsville, S. C.

BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS LEAD 549 TO CHRIST

Dr. Joseph Ange, Director of Religious Activities for Free Will Baptist Bible College, reports that students led more than 500 people to Christ during the first 14 weeks of school this year. The report did not include December and the months following. Totals released by the school's Christian Service Department were:

Messages Preached - - - - -	929	Persons Saved - - - - -	549
Classes Taught - - - - -	1,173	Other Decisions - - - - -	606
Persons Dealt With - - - - -	6,051	Tracts Distributed - - - - -	7,701

MINISTER'S FELLOWSHIP MAY 1 - 2 FIRST FWB CHURCH, INMAN, S. C.

THE INFORMER
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208½ WEST ELLIOTT STREET
CHESTER, S. C. 29706

From The Moderator -

(Continued From Page 1)

have whole counties without a Free Will Baptist Church, and in several cases there is only one church in an entire county. We need stronger Home Mission organizations in each conference, and the only way we can have this is for each church and pastor to pray and support their mission boards better. We also need more preachers that are willing to go out by faith and organize churches. Let's adopt this theme for the year 1973, "Three More in '73."

—Ansel Smith