

THE INFORMER

July/Aug
74



COLUMBIA CHURCH DEDICATES NEW BUILDING

The Columbia Church enjoyed a wonderful revival May 24-26 with Rev. Robert L. Shockey, National Director of Free Will Baptist Home Missions, as evangelist. There were several decisions for the Lord. One of the highlights of the revival was the dedication of the new building located at 1230 S. Kilbourne Road.

Rev. Carroll G. Alexander has been pastor of the church for the past 12 years of its 13 year history. The church has experienced a good ministry but growth has been difficult due to the transient nature of the area. There has been an average turn-over of approximately 25-30 percent each year. Much of the ministry of the church has been with the military of Fort Jackson and their families.

The church has six sons in the active ministry or in training. The pastor and members view the new facilities as a reward of long years of hard work and an open door to greater days ahead.

(Note: Praise the Lord for this church and its ministries--Editor)

REVIEW OF 1974 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

WICHITA, KANSAS--In keeping with the convention theme, "Growing Toward Maturity," the 38th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists manifested a developing maturity in the preaching and business sessions. Meeting in the largest city of the sunflower state, July 15-18, some 4,000 conventioners attended this session. Many also participated in the National Youth Conference which registered a record number of 1,466 youths and sponsors, and the Women's National Auxiliary. Both were held concurrently with the national meeting.

The apathy in the business sessions which had been forecast by "self-appointed prophets" prior to the convention was not evidenced among the 916 duly registered delegates. Among the actions taken by delegates was the unprecedented filling of 56 positions on denominational boards and commissions, the approval of a recommendation for an Educational Study Committee for the denomination, and the adoption of a resolution concerning ministerial discipline.

Delegates voted to create a special committee to define for this Association the Biblical meaning and scope of Christian education and to gather and make available information to those states and local churches that request assistance in organizing Bible institutes and Christian day schools. The committee is allocated \$1,500 in funds to expedite the planned one-year project. Moderator J. D. O'Donnell appointed the following men to serve: Dr. Douglas J. Simpson, Chairman (Tennessee); Ansel Smith (South Carolina); Blaine Hughes (Virginia); Clarence Hearron (Oklahoma); Jack L. Williams (California).

CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS

For the second straight year, an increased interest in the business of the denomination was evidenced when 687 of the registered delegates cast their votes on one particular item facing the convention. Perhaps the interest was gendered because of the 56 positions that had to be filled on boards and commissions in compliance with the body's instructions in 1973 to increase each of the standing boards of the National Association to nine members this year. This was the largest number of vacancies ever to be filled by delegates in a single convention.

In a resolution concerning ministerial discipline, local churches, associations, and state bodies were forewarned that preachers too must come under subjection to discipline when circumstances demand such. Little discussion proceeded the approval of this warning.

The first definite project enroute to the production of a Free Will Baptist Encyclopedia was presented. Next year's goal is the

printing of booklet form a brief history of all active state associations. A call was issued for volunteers to form a network of workers across the denomination to facilitate the Historical Commission's goal.

The Treatise reference, "Most associations do not ordain women to the ministry," was deleted in deference to the motion from the Kentucky State Association tabled last year. This clause had been interpreted as officially approving the ordination of women to the ministry. The concensus was that if a stronger statement was not going to be made, the deletion of the sentence would satisfy those on both sides of the discussion. But this now leaves associations with no written guidelines at all and could be construed as a point in favor of the women's liberation movement.

Robert Edwards, pastor of First Church, Darlington was elected to the C.T.S. Board.

"ENLARGE YOUR VISION"

ENLARGE YOUR VISION is the theme for the 1974 Fall Sunday School Enlargement Campaign. This campaign will be of special value to the Sunday School which wants to promote not only a time of dramatic growth but also a time of spiritual growth for their students, and teachers. Witnessing and missionary vision are stressed in this program of involvement.

The Fall Enlargement Campaign will begin October 6, 1974 and end October 27, 1974. Sunday Schools in each division who experience the greatest percentage of gain over the thirteen weeks average attendance for April-May-June 1974 will be declared winners and presented appropriate awards denoting first or second place.

Sunday Schools will be arranged in accordance with the following table for competitive purposes.

- Division A over 500 average
- Division B 400-500 average
- Division C 300-399 average
- Division D 200-299 average
- Division E 150-199 average
- Division F 100-149 average
- Division H under 49 average

The present size of your Sunday School does not hinder you from being eligible to win in your division. Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School Department.

To be eligible for participation in this campaign entries should be in our hands by October 4, 1974.

LIST OF SUPPORTERS

Here is a list of supporters for June and July. Send all support and news to "The Informer", Route 4, Box 6, Inman, South Carolina 29349. Thank you for your support.

New Prospect Church, Pamplico	\$ 20.00
Pamplico Church, Pamplico	10.00
Lockhart Church, Lockhart	10.00
First Church, Rock Hill	5.00
Free Will Baptist Bible Church,	
Florence	5.00
Horse Branch Church, Turbeville	5.00
First Church, Inman	20.00
Little Bethel Church, Johnsonville	10.00
Sumter Original Mission, Sumter	5.00
Lebanon Church, Effingham	15.00
Total	\$105.00



Pictured above is Mrs. Earl Hendrix, Pastor Earl Hendrix, Charles Nodine, Phillip Ayers, and Robbie Hendrix. Pastor and Mrs. Earl Hendrix were presented a 1974 Oldsmobile as a birthday gift to Pastor Hendrix. Charles Nodine, owner of Nodine Wholesale Cars, was instrumental in getting the car from Detroit, Michigan. Phillip Ayers, Music Director, instituted, with the help of other members, the fund raising. Pastor Hendrix has served the First Church in Inman for

seven and a half years. The church was a mission in 1967 and now averages over 300 per Sunday. There have been 170 saved, 78 baptized and 80 joined the church this year.

First Church, Inman has opened the Free Will Baptist Day Care and Kindergarten. There is a total of 10 in the Kindergarten and 11 in the Day Care Center. "We are trusting the Lord that this may be the beginning of a Christian Day School," relates Pastor Hendrix.

Hemingway, S. C.

Poplar Hill reports they had an old fashioned Sunday on June 9th with members wearing long dresses, bonnets, overalls, etc. After morning services they had "dinner on the ground" with 135 present.

Elbert Richardson was presented a gift for bringing the most people and Mrs. Ruby Baxley was presented a gift for being the best dressed in an old fashioned way.

Rev. G. C. Jones brought the message with a text from Micah 6:6 and spoke on "Walk Humbly With Our God." A singing convention was held in the afternoon featuring The Bible Tones from Florence, The Singing Echoes from Lake City, Kathy Rogers from Florence and The Poplar Hill Quartet. The day was enjoyed by all who attended.

We completed our week of Bible School June 7. At commencement exercises that night certificates were presented to each child and all enjoyed ice cream. The average attendance was 73.

Mrs. W. R. Calcutt, reporter
Rev. Earl Johnson, pastor

National Home Missions

Forty-six adult Home Missionaries were introduced at the National Association.

The Mexican Association was held July 28-30 with over 300 attending.

We welcome three new missionary families. Tom Hunt is a joint Project Worker in Houston, Texas, and Paul Reid is a Joint Project Worker in Greenwood, South Carolina, and Jim Summerson is replacing Robert Clyatt at Emporia, Kansas.

Thanks for a job well done! Two churches have become self supporting- Wendell Walley in Greenville, Mississippi, and Ken Stephens in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Edd Green will move to Clovis, New Mexico in September!

Karel Smith has gone to Florence, Alabama where Tom Malone is pastor to do his internship.

Gary Watson is settled in Norfolk, Virginia, doing his internship under Pastor Dale Burden.

Bob Thomas has completed his itinerate and has moved to Greeley, Colorado.

Frank Cousineau left for Billings, Montana August 20.

Jim McKown has completed his itinerate and has gone to Puerto Rico.

Praise God for a record month! July receipts were in excess of \$54,000 to National

Home Missions!

1975 SESSION

Free Will Baptists of Ohio will host the 1975 session in Dayton, July 14-17. The 1976 convention will be in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The body selected Detroit, Michigan as the 1977 site.

Youth News

South Carolina was well represented at the National Youth Conference.

Crystal O'Neal from First Church, Charleston was first place in Bible Memorization (1st Grade). The Bible Bowl team from First Church, Darlington were first place winners. The Bible Tic-Tac-Toe team



Pictured is Crystal O'Neal.



Pictured is the Bible Tic-Tic-Toe team consisting of Ricky Edwards, Dale Rease, and Joni White.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Pre-service jitters by some who painfully remembered last year's rainy Sunday night in Georgia with Karate King Mike Crane proved to be unhappily founded for the keynote service of the 1974 National Youth Con-

ference. Dr. T. S. Rendall, Edinburg, Scotland native, disarmed the doubters with a witty, Scottish brogue. Mr. Rendall, who serves both as editor of the "Prairie Overcomer" and Vice-President of the Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada, expressed elation at the CTS theme, "Rooted and Built Up in Him" as he began to develop his evening message with systematic Bible exposition. He found eager learners in the crowd that night and throughout the week as he ministered to the youth in Bible studies each morning.

An unprecedented number of 1,466 youths and sponsors registered for the 1974 session,

July 14-18. Competitive activities gendared the normal excitement resulting in elation

and disappointment for those participating. The Music and Arts Festival proved to be

one of the most competitive events with over 90 entries. A new addition to the competitive activities this year was the Bible memorization which is conducted according to grade level for grades one, two and three.



Pictured is the Bible Bowl team consisting of Patricia Boyd, Sandra Weatherford, Wanda Rogers, and Eddie Truett.

from First, Charleston placed third. Also in the 1974 Music and Arts Festival, Scott Singletary won first place in the Herald Vocal Solo.

Congratulations to these fine young people who worked so hard to accomplish these honors.