

THE INFORMER



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

September 1979

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

WHO OWNS CHILDREN?



If you were riding down Highway 378 about a mile east of Turheville, S. C. you would see the above attractive sign, FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDRENS HOME — the reality of some burdened, prayerful and concerned souls of more than thirty years ago. Free Will Baptist Childrens Home was established in 1949 and opened its doors to three Miles children. Since that time hundreds of children have been given a home for some part of their life. A home of Godly love and care with spiritual training being the emphasis. Only eternity will reveal the full extent of what Jesus Christ accomplished in the hearts and lives of these children. Because somebody cared the Lord took those concerned vessels and through Free Will Baptist provided this home. We may differ on what responsibility, if any, the government has in providing for homeless and parentless children, but we cannot deny the Church's responsibility. If the Church had been totally faithful in this ministry I doubt that there would have been a need for a government or civic institution for parentless child care. May our Lord's blessings ever abound on this home and that Free Will Baptist be faithful in support of it.

ITS PURPOSE: In the beginning the home was established as an orphanage to receive only children of deceased parents. However, due to the increased need for child care because of broken homes due to parent separation, divorce,

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The Child — Who Is Responsible?

By Robert Rose
Pastor, North Spartanburg
FWB Church

We are gradually seeing more and more government intervention into the lives of Americans. Little by little government is gaining more control over American life — even personal life. Government in its proper place and doing those things government is supposed to do is fine, but when it takes upon itself responsibilities God never intended it to have, the society over which it governs will inevitably suffer.

(Editor's Note)

For many years National and State Governments have made various legislative efforts to gain control over our children under the disguise of child protection, rights and benefits. The present effort — promoted by The United Nations — is The International Year Of The Child (IYC). This article by Robert Rose is timely and informative. Christians should be aware of these trends and oppose every unscriptural effort toward the training and development of the minds of our children. (Col. 2:8)

One such area in which government is making its presence known is in the education of children. American parents are having less and less control over this very important part of their children's growth and development. This is evidenced by several governmental efforts aimed at the "development" and "protection" (a very subtle choice of words which really mean "control") of the American child.

Government's intentions are clearly revealed in the promotional literature connected with the "International Year of the Child," which is being heavily promoted even by the President of the United States.

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Missionary Sherwood Lee

The Sherwood Lee's On Furlough From Africa

On Sunday night, July 8 — many hours behind schedule — the Lee's arrived at the Florence Municipal Airport. In spite of the delay in time of arrival many family members and friends were on hand to greet them. The Lee's, Sherwood, his wife Vada, children Robert and Kathryn returned from Ivory Coast West Africa from their second tenure of service.

Sherwood Lee is a native Florence Countian and a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, the class of 1964. During his Bible College days he met and married the former Vada Wilson of Searcy, Arkansas, in 1962.

After graduation from Bible College, Brother Sherwood pastored Tabernacle FWB Church in Coward, S. C. until 1966. The Lee's first applied as missionaries to serve in India. After a long effort to obtain a visa to enter that country failed they reapplied for service in Africa. 1967 was spent in deputation work raising their support. In 1968 they arrived in Switzerland for language study. 1969 found them in Ivory Coast West Africa. There they studied Lobi, the tribal language and did medical and general missionary work until they returned to the States in 1972.

The Lee's first furlough was an extended one. The first year was spent in deputation work for support. Brother

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**From
The
Editor**

LAST ISSUE OF THE INFORMER: The July issue was a little late getting to you and contained a few errors. This was due to the Promotional Secretary having had a light heart attack in mid-June. I hope you will be understanding about this. I am back at work now and on a near full schedule. This issue of THE INFORMER should be on time.

SUPPORT: It's a joy to inform you that the financial support has increased considerably. Some churches have increased their giving, others have begun to give for the first time. I have also had some pastors tell me that their church has voted to give support and it will be forth coming. Please accept my sincere thanks for your response to this need. My heart is really in the promotional work of our state and the publication of the INFORMER. I renew my commitment to you to do my best if you will support me and the office with your prayers and finances.

COMMENTS: I continue to receive favorable remarks about the content and quality of THE INFORMER. I'm always open for your suggestions and comments — favorable or unfavorable. I honestly want to produce a news media that will please the Lord, and be informative and helpful to you and our state. Your help is invited.

PROSPECTS FOR A FULL-TIME POSITION: In the beginning of my work with this office I had planned to visit each conference at least once this year during one of their conference meetings. However, this has proved to be impossible due to my pastoral responsibilities and the long hours of work that is involved in getting the content of THE INFORMER together, published, and mailed. Also, the time it takes to handle the record keeping of the finances. I believe it will take a full-time man to do what is really needed to help our state. The present financial response to this office certainly indicates our churches can, and will, support it.

Let's work together, promote the Lord's work in our state and see the Lord do great things for us. I thank you again for your present support. If your church is not giving — will you prayerfully consider it?

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1221 Gregg Ave., Florence, S.C.
Assistant Editor: Bill Potrat

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Oates FWB	\$ 10.00
First FWB, Florence	10.00
Mt. Ariel	10.00
Grace, Lake City	150.00
Lebanon	30.00
New Prospect	10.00
Lockhart	30.00
Horse Branch	30.00
Columbia FWB	20.00
Beulah FWB	10.00
Coastal FWB	15.00
Valley Falls	10.00
Pamplico FWB	15.00
Bible Church, Flo.	20.00
First, Rock Hill	5.00
First, Charleston	5.00
New Life	60.00
New Prospect	10.00
Lynches River	10.00
Jefferson Road	5.00
Faith Mission	40.00
First, Darlington	60.00



Carroll Alexander — Paul Clayton
Harry Cooper

State Executive Committee Meets To Plan 1980 Convention Program

The State Executive Committee — Moderator Carroll Alexander, Assistant Moderator Paul Clayton, and Clerk Harry Cooper, met in Florence Tuesday, July 10, to plan the 1980 Convention program and consider other business matters. An excellent program is in the making. Confirmed Keynote speakers are Dr. Charles Thigpen, President of FWB Bible College, and Brother Roy Thomas, Director of our National Home Missions Department. In addition to representing their departments, Dr. Thigpen will conduct a seminar on "Free Will Baptist Distinctives", and Brother Thomas will conduct a seminar on "Old Fashioned Bible Preaching" and then give a demonstration by preaching in the Thursday night service.

The 1980 State Convention of S. C. Free Will Baptist will be held February 14 - 15. The Central Conference will be the host and it will be held at the Pee Dee FWB Church in Conway, S. C. Pastors and laymen should make plans now to attend.

(continued from page 1 — Lee's)
Sherwood spent the following two years attending Nursing School at the Florence-Darlington Tee School of Nursing to obtain his RN Degree. After receiving his RN License from the State of S. C. in 1975 they returned to Africa. While in Africa this last tour Sherwood was awarded by the Minister of Health of Ivory Coast West Africa a license to practice nursing. He is one of only two missionaries to receive this award.

During their second tour on the field, Sherwood served as Director of Nursing at the FWB Medical Station in Doropo. He trained native women for nursing and African mid-wives. He also did medical consultation at the Medical Station, village evangelism on the week ends and established a prison ministry. Vada taught Bible classes in the public school and taught their daughter, Kathryn, school at home. During the school term Robert attended Ivory Coast Academy, a conservative Baptist Boarding School in Bouake — a five hour drive from their home in Doropo.

The Lee's plan to return to the field in early 1981. During their furlough time Sherwood will do deputation work and Vada will attend Francis Marion College in Florence to complete her education for a degree in Elementary Education. They will need \$25,000 in their account before they can return to Africa. Our churches can surely help in raising these funds. You can have Brother Sherwood in your church for a Sunday — several days or a week-long missionary conference and raise a cash gift and monthly support. If you would like to have Sherwood for services in your church you can contact your Promotional Secretary, Norwood Gibson, 1221 Gregg Avenue, Florence, S. C. or call 662-8682 or 669-1502. We extend a hearty welcome home to the Lees and commit ourselves to pray that their furlough will be a joyful and fruitful one.

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From the surface this whole thing may seem harmless or even helpful, as is the case with many government efforts. Careful examination, however, will reveal that quite the contrary is true. Actually, the effort is designed to bring about government influence and even control over America's most precious resource, its young people.

Literature on IYC advocates "special protection" for a child from birth to adulthood. But what it really means is "special protection" by the government. Proponents also say there should be "opportunities and facilities" to help a child develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially. But, again, they mean state-supplied "opportunities and facilities".

Simply stated, proponents of IYC want to shift child rearing responsibilities from the parent to the government. This, they say, is "for the good of the child".

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Beaver Creek Bible Institute Begins 13th Year

The Beaver Creek Bible Institute, which was established in 1967, will begin its 1979-80 school year September 29. The Institute has two locations. The East Branch meets in the facilities of First FWB Church in Chester, S. C. The West Branch meets in the facilities of the Whitney FWB Church in Spartanburg, S. C. Instructors for the East Branch are J. B. Smith and Howard Messer. Instructors for the West Branch are Robert Rose and Dave Nohles.

The Institute operates under a three year program of study for graduation, but each year will be a specified area of study. A certificate will be awarded for each course taken. Those who complete the three years of study will be awarded a Th. G. Degree. The department of studies for the 1979-80 year are:

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Commitment To Christ | 6. Yielding Rights |
| 2. Acceptance of Self | 7. Spirit Of Forgiveness |
| 3. Clearing Conscience | 8. Moral Freedom |
| 4. Harmony With Authority | 9. Purpose In Life and Success |
| 5. Home and Family | 10. How God uses Problems |

DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL STUDIES

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Systemics | 4. History of Free Will Baptist |
| 2. Biblical Ethics | 5. Financial Principals |
| 3. Methods Of Bible Study | |

DEPARTMENT OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Old Testament Studies | 3. Romans |
| 2. New Testament Studies | 4. Revelation |

Brother Earl Hendricks, Pastor of First FWB Church, Inman, S. C., and Chairman of the Institute Board, says they are excited about the new program and anticipating a great year. Other Board Members are Pastors L. H. Clayton, James B. Rice and Ansel Smith.



J. B. Smith, Instructor
East Branch
Pastor, First Church
Chester, S. C.



Howard Messer
Instructor, East Branch
Pastor, South Ave. FWB
Church, Lancaster, S. C.



Robert Rose, Instructor
West Branch, Pastor,
North Spartanburg
FWBC



Dave Nobles, Instructor
West Branch
Pastor, Hearon Circle
FWBC, Spartanburg



1979 Graduating Class of Beaver Creek Bible Institute

There were a total of 57 graduates. The graduating exercises were held April 7, 1979 at Lockhart FWB Church. The commencement speaker was L. H. Clayton, Pastor of New Life FWB Church, Lancaster, S. C., and an Institute Board Member.

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I think it is clear in Scripture that God has never authorized government to assume responsibility for the "development" and "protection" of children. This is the responsibility of the home and the church. In fact, these are the only two institutions God has brought into being with specific instructions for the salvation and development of the human spirit. And all training of the mind and spirit is to be conducted under the leadership of these two institutions. And because education deals primarily with the training of the human mind and spirit, it is a field into which government has no right to enter.

The Scriptures say that all souls belong to God (Ezekiel 18:4) and that "children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalms 127:3), i.e. every child is the personal property of the God who created him. But when God blesses a home with a child, the father of that child is then responsible to bring him up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). This would include the responsibility to win him to Christ and then lead him into spiritual development.

A father's responsibility for his children does not end when they finish their education or when they are married. His responsibility for his descendants continues when he is a grandfather

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(continued from page 1 — FWBC Home) delinquent support and child abandonment the home began to take and care for parentless children because of these circumstances.

WHAT AGE CHILDREN DO THEY ACCEPT? The requirement is 6 to 14 years. However, the rule is flexible enough that if the need requires it they will receive younger or older children until other care can be arranged. Aid is never denied the helpless child.

IS THE HOME FOR SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN ONLY? The home is owned and operated by the S. C. State Association of Free Will Baptist and an effort is made to always have room when the need arises for South Carolina children, especially Free Will Baptist, but children are received from any state. According to a recent brochure, published by the home, they had children from North Carolina, Florida, and California.

WHERE DOES SUPPORT COME FROM? It takes a tremendous amount of money to provide all the needs of these children. The Lord has supplied abundantly through many channels. South Carolina Free Will Baptist Churches give in many ways, as well as churches in other states. Other support comes from businesses and business men, civic organizations, and individuals. The Duke Endowment Fund contributes annually. They have a Foster Parent program whereby individuals, parents, Sunday School classes, churches and other groups can become a Foster Parent by taking a particular child and provide clothing, school expenses, birthday gifts, Christmas gifts and other needs as one would do for their own child. Other financial aid comes from children receiving Social Security benefits. They also provide for themselves through a large garden each year and caring for a good size flock of chicken hens which supply them with fresh eggs.

WHAT ABOUT CHURCH LIFE FOR THE CHILDREN? They are transported by bus to Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church, which is located a short distance east of the home on highway 378. They are active in all the activities of the church. They also visit other churches when invited for special occasions like homecomings and special fund raising days for the home.

DO THE CHILDREN HAVE RECREATIONAL AND TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES? The home provides good recreational activities through their own facilities. The Chapel By The Sea, a non-denominational organization, under the directorship and ministry of Hal Norton, located at Garden City, S. C. provides the children a free week at the beach each year and travel opportunities. This September Brother Norton will provide

the children a trip to Washington, D. C.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES: The children attend East Clarendon Public School. Children who stay in the home and graduate from High School and desire to further their education the home will aid them in going to college.

ARE THERE PRESENT IMMEDIATE NEEDS AT THE HOME? They have an urgent need for house parents for the boys. This can be a couple (man and wife), or an individual man or woman. If you would like to serve the Lord here or if you know of someone to fill this position, contact the home. They also need a dietician. Mrs. Dora Wilson, the present dietician, will retire soon after 15 years of service at the home. Don't forget the need of prayer. Put Free Will Baptist Childrens Home on your daily prayer list. Thank God for this place of love and care for precious children and ask Him to meet its many needs.



Mrs. Mae Sheehan

Mrs. Sheehan, who served the Home and children as mother for 15 years with her husband, Paul, before his recent death, is now serving as secretary. Of course this work is not new to her. It was a part of her work while laboring with her faithful husband.



Mrs. Dora Wilson

Mrs. Wilson is the dietician for the home and has served the home for 15 years. Mrs. Wilson will retire as soon as a replacement can be secured. She radiates a great love for her children and work. She was very pleased to have her picture taken in her kitchen.



Mr. Gene Tipton

Mr. Tipton is the Superintendent of the Home. He assumed this position of great responsibility after the recent death of the former Superintendent, Brother Paul Sheehan. Mr. Tipton, from Spartanburg, S. C., grew up attending the Whitney Free Will Baptist Church. He was saved at seventeen and served in the church faithfully as teacher, S. S. Superintendent, Deacon, and other offices. Brother Gene and his wife have served at the Children's Home under Brother Sheehan's leadership for eight years. His wife is the former Yvonne Sheehan. Brother Tipton is experienced and the Home will continue to prosper under his capable leadership.



Mrs. Gene (Yvonne) Tipton

Mrs. Tipton is the daughter of the late Rev. Paul Sheehan and Mrs. Mae Sheehan. Yvonne is House Mother for the children. She has served at the Home with her husband, Gene, for eight years. Her radiant personality, love for children, and the indwelling Holy Spirit enables her to be a Mother to so many.

Former Home Superintendents

The thirty year life of the Children's Home has been under the faithful leadership of six Godly men. They are in the order of their tenures, Rawleigh Miles, Julius Vause, Ed Miles, Eddie Corn, Hardy Richburg and Paul Sheehan.



The Children

There are presently 23 children in the home ranging in age from very young to the teens. When I see these children I think of what Jesus said, "Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come unto me for such is the Kingdom of God." Due to various reasons the number of children vary. The greatest number of children at the home in the past was 58.



**The First Board Of Trustees Of The Children's Home
And The First Three (Miles) Children
To Live In The Home**

Left to right: Clarence Baggett, Walter Miles, Pres Coker, Millard Mellette, Jim Thigpen, Paul Sheehan, Jessie Welburn and Julius Vause.

Present Board Members are Billy Poteat, A. C. Allen and Wilburn Beasley of the S.C. Conference. L. H. Clayton and Paul Reid of the Beaver Creek Assoc. Billy Collins and L. B. Hanna of the Central Conf. Hoyt Powell and Weldon Poston of the Eastern Conf.



Administration Building



Dining Hall



**Administration—Recreation Building
Girls Dormitory**



Boys Dormitory



The Original FW Baptist Childrens Home of 1949



The Two Major Hinderances To Revival

by Mike Jones, Pastor
Grace FWB Church
Lake City, S. C.

"... wherefore should they say among the people, where is their God?" (Joel 2:17). How God must hide His face in shame and humiliation as the forces of evil rampage over the earth while His paralyzed and powerless Church fights and bickers among itself as it tries to "hold its own". And the sad part is that the world is asking for our God because deep down inside they really want to see Him in His Stability and Strength. This is the reason the Antichrist will so easily gain world control in the very near future — men are looking for someone that they can trust to take control of the chaos.

The Church is aware of the situation. When members meet and ask "How are things at your Church?" and get the same "Oh, About as usual", they both shift their eyes and make a few lame excuses and go away with a longing deep in their heart for the breath of God to breathe afresh into the Body that is almost a corpse. Why is it this way and what can be done?

I'm going to list two major hinderances to Revival and I'd like you to understand that these aren't just something thought up to make up an article. I've had the misfortune of facing these hinderances in Church and have been blessed to see Real Revival when they were overcome.

The first hinderance was easy to figure out. I just went to Revelation Chapter 3 and looked for the problem of the Laodicean Church (The age we're in) and it was as simple as could be — SELF SATISFACTION ("I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing"). Somehow in days gone by we became more concerned with Goods than God, with Pleasures than Power, and with Substance than Souls. (If the average Church expended as much effort winning souls as they do raising money for carpet our altars wouldn't be barren!)

Revival can come only when we realize that we're Pilgrims and strangers here on a mission for God. Our job is not to settle down but to stir up. May God help

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us to become dissatisfied with the gold of this world and look for a city where the streets are made of gold — then God will not be ashamed to be called our God!! (Heb. 11:16)

The second Hinderance to Revival is not as easily identified and will shock some of you — it's WORK! Notice in Rev. 3:20 that Christ is standing outside the Church wanting to have Fellowship with the Church. The problem is that we're so busy until we don't have time to wait on God to learn of Him and renew our strength. It's the strange case of the "Bride" who spends so much time cooking and cleaning and getting pretty until she has no time for her husband — and wonders why the marriage is in trouble!

Revival can only come when we realize afresh that sinners are dead in trespasses and sins (Ep. 2:1) and no man made effort or organization can raise the dead. The real need is not more work but more waiting. And as we wait and renew our strength we are able to do much more work in much less time!

The Hinderances then to Revival are Self Satisfaction and ineffective Work. The answers are a burden for souls and a reliance upon God for Strength. This is not something for a one week a year undertaking. It demands a continual daily commitment — and that is Real Revival!

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and for as long as he lives. Although his children and grandchildren have become adults and are no longer under his authority, he should still be able to influence their lives through his prayers and his wise and godly counsel. It is very clear that a man's responsibility extends to his "sons and thy son's sons" (Deut. 4:9).

This does not mean that a father is to do all of the actual educating of a child, but rather that he is to be responsible to God for the quality of it. Few parents would actually be able to give their children the training they need today, especially in a more advanced education. But although someone other than the father is actually teaching the child, he is still responsible to God for the education of the child.

In order to do this, the father should check out very carefully, through a personal interview, the character and philosophy of the person who is teaching his child, regardless of what the subject in question may be; because a teacher, whether he be a Sunday School teacher or a teacher in the school system, is but an extension of the father's hands. He does not have the right to teach what he wants. Nor does he have the right to guide the child in the direction he wants him to go. Actually, a school or a school system's first responsibility is to parents, not children. It should not be its purpose to "reshape society" but to simply provide a service to parents in the area of education.

I realize that this is not presently the case. In the public school system the father has hardly anything to say about the philosophy that will be instilled in the mind of his child. And even in Christian schools and colleges, the goals of parents for their kids are not sought out and their wishes are either ignored or explained away. In fact, it is not uncommon for the faculty of these institutions to actually advise a student against the wishes of his father.

But what do we do about all of this? We can complain, blame the government, organize our protests or perhaps do other things to make known our disagreement. But I think it would be helpful to try to determine the cause for such a situation as has been described; because to correct a situation without correcting the cause for it will only permit it to occur again.

When there are things that must be done and the person responsible for doing them is not performing, then of necessity someone else has to take charge and assume responsibility. This, I believe, is what has happened in America. For too long, fathers have been all too willing to pass their responsibility regarding their children along to the school or to the church. For too long they have relied entirely on the teacher for the education of the child and on the preacher to do all those "spiritual" things. And because of their lack of interest in what's happening in the lives of their family members, even Christian fathers have handed their families over to the government and to Satan with no argument, no resistance, and no strings attached.

Fathers once again need to start gathering the manna for their family members. Every Christian father ought to have some program of training in his home. His wife and children should be his personal disciples. In fact, their spiritual growth should be at the top of his list of priorities. Christian men are often guilty of promoting the program of the church while their own families are in spiritual chaos.

I think pastors should emphasize the home as God's basic institution and seek to strengthen it as much as possible.

I do not believe we can have a strong church until we develop strong families, because our church is but the reflection of the quality of the families that make up its membership.

And instead of having the "International Year of the Child" (which is unscriptural) why couldn't we as a denomination, a state association, a district, or even a local congregation, proclaim and promote an "International Year of the Family" (which is scriptural)?

My prayer is that God will raise up men among us with the character to take the initiative in their homes and direct them in ways of righteousness; that God will give us men who will "build the old waste places" and "raise up the foundations (which are the homes) of many generations".