

The Informer



The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Ron Moore, Editor, Post Office Box 13266, Florence, South Carolina, 29504 or call (803) 662-5010.

Report of the 1997 National Association Cincinnati, Ohio

A total of 6,774 people registered in the three concurrent national conventions which met July 20-24 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The National Association registered 774 ordained ministers, 124 deacons, 60 local church delegates, 73 state delegates, 76 home missionaries and 38 foreign missionaries. The National Youth Conference registered 2,105 and the WNAC, 836.



missionary offering exceeded \$24,000. All undesignated gifts were divided between home and foreign missions.

Layman Tedford Rider of Desloge, Missouri, was named Layman of the Year. **Robbie Robinson**, a member of Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville, was named Runner-Up. Congratulations Brother Robbie!

Jackson Watts, Horse Branch, won first place in sixth grade Bible Sword Drill and the **Horse Branch Bible Bowl team** won third place during the NYC competition. Praise the Lord for these young people!

During its business session, the National Association of Free Will Baptists reaffirmed its traditional stand concerning ecclesiastical separation by voting 298-236 to oppose the Promise Keepers movement.

The 1998 session of the National Association will meet at the Tulsa Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on July 12-16.



Pastors, we need your help in implementing the newly adopted South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support. I am confident that this plan will work. But, as you know, even the best of plans will not work without key people to implement them.

That's where you fit in. To quote an old adage, "The pastor is key to promoting missions in the local church." Pastor, you are the key to the success of this plan! Why? Because only you can give us an opportunity to present the plan to your congregation and only you can keep the plan before your people with a year-round missions emphasis!

Pastor, this plan is a very simple one. It's simple in **purpose**--to meet the financial needs of South Carolina foreign missionaries. It's simple in **principle**--determines the total funds needed to meet the need, divides it into 2000 shares, and then challenges our people and churches to adopt those shares. It's simple in **practice**--using well established methods among Free Will Baptists (church budget, annual missions offering, faith promise giving, etc.).

Yes, Pastor, you are the key. Would you give us an opportunity to share this plan with your congregation?

A \$16 million denominational budget was adopted. It included \$5 million for foreign missions, \$3.8 million for the Bible College, \$3 million for Home Missions and \$2.9 million for Sunday School and Church Training.

The convention worship services featured messages from the Reverends Robert Prichard, Ohio; Matt Upton, California; **Earl Hendrix, South Carolina**; Melvin Worthington, Tennessee; and Jerry Norris, Missouri. The special music was, according to many attendees, some of the best ever. The traditional Wednesday evening

Highlights from the Highland

A Report of the South Carolina WNAC State Retreat

The South Carolina WNAC held its state retreat at Look Up Lodge August 22-23, 1997. Over 275 attended and enjoyed the Hawaiian theme. The good mixture of fun, food, fellowship, and feasting from God's Word made it a memorable event. The only thing missing was a good night's sleep Friday!



Friday night was, of course, the traditional "fun night." There were several highlights from the evening's activities. One was the parade of hats. Women from the various district auxiliaries competed in the home-made Hawaiian hat contest. All of the ladies did such a wonderful job that it was nearly impossible for the judges to declare winners.



Winners of the Hawaiian Hat Contest

After much deliberation, North Spartanburg (BCD) was awarded first place; New Vision (ED), second place; Westside (CD), third place; and Peace (SCD), fourth place. Congratulations to everyone!

Another highlight included a fashion show. Here the ladies demonstrated tremendous originality as various ones modeled outfits ranging from those with plunging necklines (complete with an actual plunger hanging from the neck) to a pop corn sweater, a tea length dress, and a travel jacket. Yes, you guessed it; they came with real pop corn, tea bags and road signs attached! Ladies, you looked great, but please don't wear those outfits in public!



The Fashion Show Models

Other hilarious events included the fruit basket and hula-hoop contests. In the fruit basket contest, each district auxiliary had to fill a basket by carrying fruit between their legs for a distance of over fifty feet. It was evident in the hula-hoop contest that the participants were a little out of practice! Emma Brown deserves special recognition, however, for her courageous participation in the event.

The greatest event of the evening, however, was the "Mission Possible" celebration. At the State WNAC in March, Gwen Hendrix challenged the auxiliaries to raise \$1,000 each for the Aycqcks, Johnsons and Barbers. What a joy it was when it was learned that the raised for these missionaries had exceeded \$7,000! Ladies, you've done it again. We praise the Lord for you all.



Kristi Johnson

Speakers for the event included Linda Moore, former missionary to Ivory Coast; Kristi Johnson, missionary appointee to Spain; and Joanne King, always a favorite with the ladies.



Linda Moore, Joanne King, Gwen Hendrix and Faye Hanna

Sister Linda gave an overview of Free Will Baptist work in Hawaii. Sister Kristy brought a devotion on the joy of doing God's will. Sister Joanne

brought the featured message on Saturday and spoke on the subject of love. As always, the program was well prepared and everyone had a wonderful time.



Mission Matters

Aycocks To Depart For Brazil

The David Aycocks are planning to go to Brazil to begin their two-year ministry in October. Please pray for them as they await visas and the remaining support needed to depart.

Pooles' Account in Red

As of July 31, the Bobby Pooles' account was just over \$3,000 in the red. Most of this is because of the expenses involved in returning to the States for furlough. Pray that this deficit will be erased and not hinder their plans to return to Brazil in January, 1998.

Tim and Kristi Johnson Begin Deputation

Tim and Kristi Johnson, appointed as missionaries to Spain in May, have begun deputational services in South Carolina and Michigan. Please pray for their support needs. They must raise \$5,600 in monthly support and \$60,000 in cash. As of August, they have only raised \$900 in monthly support and \$3,300 in cash. Since the Johnsons plan to leave for Spain in June, 1998, God's people will have to quickly respond to this need. We are confident that South Carolina Free Will Baptists will do their part in supporting this fine couple.



Southoak Sponsors Church in India



Rev. Norwood Gibson, Marie and Carlisle Hanna, Deacon Howard Ward

During Homecoming services on September 24, 1997, Southoak FWB Church presented Carlisle and Marie Hanna with two checks totaling \$8,096.85. The church raised \$7,596.85 to sponsor the building of a church in India. This is the second church they have sponsored in as many years. Both times they raised the funds through Saturday night special singings featuring the New Covenant and the In One Accord trio. The remaining \$500 check was given to help underwrite ministry expenses in India.



Praise the Lord for the committed efforts of the fine people at Southoak. Rev. Norwood Gibson is the pastor.

Aiken Mission Holds Ground Breaking Service

On August 3, 1997, Southside Free Will Baptist Church broke ground for their first church building. The Sunday School hour was special in that it was a time of praise and testimony for all that God has done for them. Hearts were overwhelmed with joy and thanksgiving.

During the worship service State Home Missions director, Rev. Earl Hendrix, was the guest speaker. Ninety-one people attended the special services.

Brother Mark and Sister Karon, speaking for themselves and for the members of the congregation, would like to thank all the churches for their prayer and financial support. "To have the land paid off in just over two years is a miracle from God," they said, "and it sure is a blessing to know that He used you to perform it!"

We praise the Lord for the Barbers' faithfulness at Aiken. Please continue praying for the mission work.

Mission Matters is a new page in *The Informer* beginning with this issue. The word "matters" has a double significance. As a noun it refers to the subject of missions. In this section we will provide reports and updates on our home and foreign missionaries. As a verb, however, it emphasizes the importance of missions. Indeed, the work of our missionaries is worthy of such a page.

Children's Home News
 November 1 is Children's Home Day
 November 8 is the Clarendon County
 Law Enforcement Golf Benefit
 Mark your calendars and
 and plan to participate!



For more information, call
 Rev. James Wilhide, Director
 FWB Home for Children
 803-659-2880

Benjamin Randall Day November 23, 1997

November is Home Missions month. This special emphasis is a part of the "Together Way Plan" adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

The Home Missions Department is committed to helping our *missionaries and chaplains, church planting and church growth, and the cross-cultural ministry.* The opportunities for Free Will Baptists to make an impact on our country for Jesus Christ are unlimited. Please join us in striving toward our goals in the work of the Lord.

Every church is urged to give a special offering for the National Home Missions General Fund. We need your help! Please make this your best gift yet!

Free materials to promote the *Benjamin Randall Day* may be obtained from the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



Southeastern FWB College, Wendell, NC began classes on August 27 for what many are expecting to be the most exciting year in its history. Students from 18 states across our nation have made their way to North Carolina to make up a student body of 150: 66 freshmen, 45 sophomores, 24 juniors, 15 seniors.

Construction on the college's new Student Activity Center has begun. The 21,000 square foot facility is presently at the "dry-in" stage. Completion is expected by mid-1998.

Fall "Get Acquainted Days" will be held on campus November 13-15, 1997. This program is open to high school students (grades 10 through 12). This year's fun time will provide the students with an opportunity to participate in a Fall Festival. Cost is \$20 per student and registration should be received by November 7. For additional information or registration forms, please call the college office at its toll-free number, 1-888-847-3922.

Free Will Baptist
 Bible College



News

Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 342 students from 27 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and nine foreign countries for the fall semester. There are 99 freshmen, 87 sophomores, 73 juniors, 74 seniors, and nine special students. We praise the Lord for the eleven students from South Carolina. They are:

Shannon Bazen	Pamplico	Beulah
Kristie Coker	Turbeville	Horse Branch
Shiloh Hackett	Boiling Springs	Fairview
John Hayes	Lake City	New Town
Darie Kirby	Timmonsville	Bethany
Jason Kirby	Timmonsville	Bethany
Lee Kirby	Timmonsville	Bethany
Walt Lee	Florence	Fellowship
Monte McKenzie	Lake City	Horse Branch
Darin Miles	Florence	Peace
Kimberlee Scott	Johnsonville	Westside

The college will hold its annual fall Welcome Days on November 13-15, according to Kenny Simpson, Recruitment Director. Welcome Days is an ideal time for prospective high school students to visit the college and sample what it has to offer. For more information you may call 1-800-76-FWBBC or e-mail ksimpson@fwbbc.edu.

Parkway Calls Rev. Mitchel Edge

Rev. Kenneth Mitchel Edge became the pastor of Parkway FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC, on March 23, 1997. Brother Edge and his wife, Sharon (Smith), are both natives of Spartanburg. Brother Edge is the grandson of former FWB minister Rev. Oliver West and Sharon is the daughter of Rev. Paul Smith, who lead Brother Edge to the Lord. Rev. and Mrs. Edge have three children: Ashley (14), Mitchel (13), and Krisi (12).

Brother Edge was licensed to preach by the Beaver Creek Association in 1988 and ordained at Una FWB Church by his pastor Rev. Kenneth Cash on March 24, 1996. He completed the Beaver Creek Bible Institute program in 1992 and did further studies in cults and church policies and procedures in 1993.

Before accepting his new pastorate at Parkway, Brother Edge was a dedicated member of Una FWB Church for 15 years. Among other duties, he has served the church as Sunday school teacher, member of the Trustee Board and as associate pastor. Let's all pray that the Lord will richly bless his ministry!

Rev. Stuart Snow Receives Degree

Rev. Stuart Snow, pastor of High Point FWB Church, received his Masters Degree in Religious Education from Andersonville Seminary in February, 1997. Congratulations, Brother Snow, and may the Lord bless!

Trinity Calls Rev. Jesse Smith

Trinity FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC, called Rev. Jesse L. Smith, Sr. to be their pastor in July, 1997.

Brother Smith is no stranger to the folks at Trinity. He was saved at the church in 1981 under the ministry of Rev. Jimmy Shipman. He was called to preach in 1983 and during the mid-80's, Brother Smith served the congregation as their pastor. Before coming to Trinity for his second tour of duty, he served Victory FWB Church, Spartanburg, as pastor.

Brother Smith is a native of Roanoke Rapids, NC. He is married to the former Barzilla Lloyd, also of Roanoke Rapids. We praise the Lord for this fine couple and pray they will have a good ministry at Trinity.

Rev. Don Craft is New Pastor at Calvary

Calvary FWB Church in Georgetown, SC called Rev. Don Craft to be their new pastor in February, 1997. Brother Craft is an experienced pastor who has served several churches in neighboring North Carolina. Before coming to Calvary, he served the New Hope FWB Church in Jacksonville for 6 1/2 years.



Brother Craft was saved under the ministry of Rev. Harley Brown and Parker's Chapel FWB Church, Greenville, NC. He was called to preach in 1971 and ordained the following year. He attended Free Will Baptist Bible College from 1973 to 1977.

Brother Craft is married to the former Faye Dixon, Greenville, NC. They have one son who continues to live and work in North Carolina.

Welcome to South Carolina, Brother and Sister Craft. May the Lord bless your ministry in Georgetown!

High Point Reports Conversions

High Point FWB Church, Lancaster, SC, reports that since the first of the year there have been 42 conversions and rededications. Thirteen have been baptized and 10 new members have joined the church. We rejoice with the this fine congregation over how the Lord has been working in their midst. Rev. Stuart Snow is the pastor.

First Hamlet Erects New Sign



First FWB Church, Hamlet, NC, erected a beautiful new sign earlier this year. First Church is located on a major four-lane highway east of Hamlet. The large sign gives the church greater visibility and can be easily read by passing traffic. Rev. Bud Hill is the pastor.

Arcadia Celebrates Homecoming

Arcadia FWB Church, Arcadia, SC, celebrated Homecoming on August 31, 1997. There was "food-a-plenty" with lots of great desserts (no calories, of course!).

Many former members joined in the event to help make it a great day. Among the members were Donnie and Patty Shook, children of the late Rev. Carl and Hazel Shook. Brother Donnie taught the 10:00 A.M. adult Sunday school in the auditorium.

Rev. Stuart Snow, pastor of High Point FWB Church, was the speaker for the 11:00 A.M. service. Everyone received a blessing from his message.

The Foundation Singers were featured during an afternoon singing. Indeed, it was a great way to end their 1997 Homecoming.

(Note: This report was submitted by Mrs. Inez R. Bagwell, clerk of Arcadia FWB Church)

**"I thank God for my handicaps;
for through them, I have found
myself, my work, and my God."
Helen Keller**

Saverances Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



The Rev. and Mrs. Hope Saverance celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married August 13, 1947, by the Rev. George Vause at his home near Timmonsville.

They were honored with a reception at Bay Branch FWB Church by their children. The Saverances have 15 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Rev. Saverance is pastor of Lebanon FWB Church, Effingham.

Bay Branch Holds Successful VBS

Bay Branch FWB Church, Timmonsville, SC, held a very successful VBS program in August, 1997. They averaged 77 children in attendance. Over half were non-members!



The children had a great time as they learned more about God and Jesus Christ. On Thursday night, Miss Bee, from the FWB Home for Children, led the children through a study on the "Romans Road." Activities for their Friday night "festival" included a dunking booth and a kid's jumping castle.

An offering contest resulted in the boys winning \$310.61 over the girl's \$225.38. The funds were designated to help purchase new windows at the Children's Home.

The workers for this VBS are to be commended for their hard work. Millie Cashwell served as director.

Four Weeks In China

by Darla Kirby

Hi! My name is Darla Kirby. I am a member of Bethany FWB Church in Timmonsville, SC. This summer I had the unique opportunity to teach English in the farming city of Dujiangyan in the Sichuan Province of the Peoples Republic of China. I heard about this exciting opportunity while attending Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN.

I went to China as part of a team of Christian young people. We were commissioned by the English Language Institute, China (ELIC), and interdenominational non-profit organization. ELIC places Christian teachers in China, Mongolia, and Vietnam. Its purpose is "service and witness to the glory of God in Asia."

My trip started when I flew to Los Angeles, CA, on June 24 for teacher training. I returned to LA about five weeks later on August 1, four of which were spent in China.



When I first arrived in China, I had a hard time adjusting. After a while, things started falling into place. I taught 15 students, ages 7 to 12. Most of them knew very little English. This communication barrier was very frustrating. Through it all, however, I learned that when I'm weak, He is

strong. God showed me His power in many ways. Several unexpected things happened that brought God glory. Indeed, I have been richly blessed by having this opportunity.

I want to challenge you to consider working cross-culturally. Please be sensitive to God's will for your life. The harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few!

(Note: Darla is Junior at Free Will Baptist Bible College majoring in Bible with double minors in missions and accounting. We praise the Lord for young people willing to put Him first and serve Him with their lives.)

Camp Branch Holds Youth Rally

Camp Branch FWB Church held a regional youth rally on July 12, 1997. The special guest speaker was Brother Dave Wensil, a senior at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. The evening started off with a devotion by Brother Eddie Hobbs,



Youth playing volley ball

leading in a time of fun and games. This was followed by a time of food and fellowship. The ladies of Camp Branch had prepared hotdogs served with Pepsi and other finger foods.

The evening concluded with a concert by Canaan Land and a message by Brother Wensil. He challenged the youth to be sure that they knew Jesus Christ and that they avoided what hell had to offer.

Four other churches participated in the rally: Beulah, Salem, Grace, and Gilead. There were approximately 40 youth and 20 adults for a total of 60 in attendance. Special thanks go to Brother Joe Moore, pastor of Camp Branch, and his members for all their hard work in making this rally a life changing experience for the youth in attendance.

**"Love is rarer than
genius itself. And
friendship is rarer still."**

Charles Peguy