

SCFWB Update Vol. 1, No. 20

Opening Remarks:

I pray you had an enjoyable July 4th with your family and church. It was an enjoyable day to remember our freedom in this great land, and yet it was also a reminder of the freedom we enjoy in Christ.

This week has been a busy week of compiling beginning of the month reports from having closed out the books for the month. It has also been a busy week of getting bids and meeting with individuals regarding the construction of our new state office in Turbeville, SC. Things are progressing along with the construction. Attached is a picture that I took this morning around 7:30. The outside appearance of the building will not change much next week; however, there will many things accomplished on the inside of the building next week, such as electrical work, plumbing, and installation of the heating and air unit.

This coming Sunday, I'll be preaching at Mt. Ariel FWB Church in Conway, SC with Pastor Stephen Hyman. I'll be in Columbia on Tuesday of next week for a SC Home Mission Board meeting. My family and I leave on Friday of next week to head to Little Rock, Arkansas, for the National Association of FWB Convention meeting.

For those who will not be attending the FWB Convention, our bookstore will be open during that week. Mrs. Linda Tanner, our bookstore manager will be glad to assist you in any way possible.

THANK YOU so much for utilizing the Christian Bookstore at our State Office for your church and personal needs. It helps us tremendously. Even if you do not live close by, feel free to give us a call. We specialize in shipping out products for churches and individuals, and in the mean time, you're helping a worthy cause.

Prayer Request:

- 1) Please pray for **Crystal Kimbrel**, wife of Bruce Kimbrel, music director at Temple FWB Church in Darlington, SC. Crystal was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She will most likely have surgery in the near future. Further test will be run in July to determine further details. They both have requested your prayers.
- 2) Please pray for the **many pastors and church lay people** who will be traveling to Little Rock, Arkansas for the FWB National Convention, which will take place July 15-18th.
- 3) Please remember **Rev. Paul Smith** in prayer. Bro. Paul is Mitch Edge's father in law. Bro. Mitch Edge serves as the pastor at Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs, SC. Bro. Paul is very sick and has been for quite some time. He is under Hospice care. Please remember his family in prayer as well.
- 4) Please remember **Rev. Bennie Turner** in prayer. He will have a CAT scan performed Monday to determine if the previously found aneurysm has enlarged or not.

Announcements:

- 1) **Florence Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, July 10th, 8:30 AM, Bazen's Restaurant, Florence, SC
- 2) **Central Association Meeting** - Saturday, July 14th, 9 AM, Pee Dee FWB Church, Conway, SC
- 3) The **Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast** will be held on Tuesday, July 17th at 8:30 AM at Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City for those who will not be attending the National Association of FWB Convention meeting.
- 4) **Eastern Conference Meeting** - Saturday, July 21st, 9 AM, Lighthouse FWB Church, Florence, SC

5) **Beaver Creek Association Meeting** - Saturday, July 28th, 9 AM, Southside FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC

*Denotes an announcement sent via email, verbal, or flyer request.

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FWB DENOMINATION EVENTS:

FWB Annual Convention - July 15-18, Little Rock, Arkansas

Closing Remarks:

Why is it that we tend to put off until tomorrow that which we need to be doing today? Procrastination is like a credit call. It's a lot of fun, until you get the bill. People put off studying the Word of God, studying their Sunday school lesson, having family devotions, setting aside time for prayer, spending time with their children, and many other things along this journey in life. I've often heard it said that we can play now, and pay later, or we can pay now, and play later. There is a lot of truth to that statement.

On May 27, 1998, Michael Fortier was sentenced to twelve years in prison for being passive. Fortier was the key witness whose testimony helped convict Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols in the Oklahoma City bombing. Fortier knew about the extensive plans of his two former Army buddies, but failed to warn the authorities. In a courtroom adjacent to where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood, Fortier begged for the forgiveness of those who had lost loved ones. Because of this crime, 168 lives were lost, including nineteen children, and five hundred others were injured on that morning of April 19, 1995. Upon reflection, Fortier said, "I thought his (McVeigh) plan would never bear fruit. I was terribly wrong." He went on to describe his desire for things to be different: "I sometimes daydream that I told the police and I became a hero. But in reality I'm not." The courtroom's judgment on Fortier's procrastination should speak to our tendencies toward spiritual passivity. Jesus condemned the servant who passively buried his talent. Spiritual passivity denies the importance and urgency of man's greatest need—salvation through Jesus Christ. Michael Fortier failed to speak up and thousands of lives were shattered. If Christians procrastinate and remain silent, far greater destruction will occur.

Who should you be witnessing to today? Let us not put off until tomorrow what we truly need to be doing today.

You are loved and greatly appreciated,

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SCFWB Update Vol. 1, No. 21

Opening Remarks:

In the midst of a busy summer, I pray you are aware of the blessings and provisions of God in your life. It is so easy to get busy in "well doing" that we forget about the small blessings along this journey of life. God has certainly blessed us here at our SC FWB State Office in many ways, and I'm sure that God has also blessed you in your life in many ways.

Progression is being made on the new state office. This week, the Heating and A/C unit was installed. Also, electrical wiring was brought to the point that sheet rock workers can begin their work next week. Computer network and phone system wiring will be completed Saturday of this week. The bricks are being delivered this week, and brick layers will begin their work next week as well. Also, the porch on the front of the building was built this week.

My family and I will be leaving tomorrow to drive to Little Rock, Arkansas, in order to attend the National Association of Free Will Baptist Convention, which will take place at the Statehouse Convention Center. I will be out of the office next week; however, our bookstore will be open, and Mrs. Linda Tanner will be here to serve any needs that you might have regarding the bookstore or Sunday school literature.

Due to attending the convention, I'll not be sending out a SCFWB Update next week. When I get back from the National Convention, I'll be busy compiling the next issue of the Informer and also closing out the books for the month of July. I look forward to the opportunity next week of fellowship with other Free Will Baptist all over the world. For those who will be going, we pray you have a safe trip. For those who will not be attending, please pray for the safety of those who will be attending, and pray for God's wisdom in making important decisions regarding the Lord's work.

Prayer Request:

- 1) **Rev. Cliff Strickland**, who is one of our Central Association ministers, needs our prayers, along with his family. His mother passed away this week, and the funeral was yesterday.
- 2) Please pray for **Ed Corn**, the father in law of Rev. Buddy Seay, pastor at White Savannah FWB Church, Conway, SC. Mr. Corn was admitted to the hospital this week with congestive heart failure.

Announcements:

- 1) **Central Association Meeting** - Saturday, July 14th, 9 AM, Pee Dee FWB Church, Conway, SC
- 2) **NAFWB Convention** - July 15-18th - Little Rock, Arkansas
- 3) The **Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast** will be held on Tuesday, July 17th at 8:30 AM at Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City for those who will not be attending the National Association of FWB Convention meeting.
- 4) **Eastern Conference Meeting** - Saturday, July 21st, 9 AM, **Lighthouse FWB Church**, Florence, SC

5) Beaver Creek Association Meeting - Saturday, July 28th, 9 AM, Promise FWB Church, Monroe, NC

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Closing Remarks:

In closing, I'd like to leave you some words from F.B. Meyer, who was a pastor, author, evangelist, and Bible teacher. He passed away in 1929. Although, for the most part, his pastorates were in England, Dr. Meyer was a frequent visitor to the United States and Canada. At the age of 80, he conducted his twelfth American preaching campaign, traveling more than 15,000 miles and addressing over 300 meetings. Listen to his words regarding where God has placed you in life:

"God seeks to mold us by circumstances, and you must believe that God has put you down just where you are because your present position is the very best place in the universe to make you what He wants you to become. He could have made you a king or a bishop, a millionaire or a statesman; but He passed all these by, and has put you just where you are. You may be a stableman, a cook, or a housemaid; but God had the whole universe to choose from, and He wanted to do His best for you and He put your soul just where it is, because He knew that there you would be surrounded by the best conditions to make you what He wanted you to become."

May we each serve Him to the best of our ability right where He has placed us!

You are loved and greatly appreciated,

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SCFWB Update Vol. 1, No. 22

Opening Remarks:

It's nice to be home from a long but joyous trip to Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend the NAFWB annual convention. My family and I arrived home late Friday evening. On Saturday, I had the opportunity of fellowship with our Eastern Conference ministers at their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Mrs Linda Tanner, our bookstore manager, is on a much deserved vacation this week. My wife and I have been working diligently this week to catch up on all the work from having been out of town last week. I'm sure many of our pastors and lay people that attended the convention are busy this week doing the same. While away, I started having back pain. My physician ordered an IVP test due to results of lab test from my doctor's visit on Monday. I'll get the results back tomorrow.

The July/August issue of the *Informer* is due back from the press on Thursday of this week, and it will be distributed to individuals and churches on Friday. If on Friday, you are trying to find something to do to no avail, feel free to drop by the state office, and we'll be glad to let you help us count out almost 4,000 *Informer* publications for distribution. Some of the most encouraging words come from individuals who are thankful for the distribution of the *Informer*. It takes a lot of work, but it is well worth the effort of keeping our churches connected through our state paper.

The current July/August issue of the *Informer* is available to view on our SC FWB web site at www.scfwb.com/informer.html

Construction continues on our new SC FWB State Office in Turbeville. This week, the bricklayers will finish their job, and the sheet rock workers will finish as well. Next week, painters are due to start painting. Thank you for your support and prayers as we continue this project for the Lord's work.

Prayer Request:

- 1) Please pray for **Rev. Leroy Larrimore**, pastor at Pee Dee Free Will Baptist Church, Conway, SC. Rev. Larrimore had open heart surgery at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence on Wednesday of this week. After surgery, he started hemorrhaging and had to be taken back into surgery. Please remember him in prayer.
- 2) Please remember the **family of Quint Coker** in prayer. Quint Coker, 31 years of age, passed away suddenly on Wednesday of this week. Quint was a Sunday School Superintendent and faithful member at Horsebranch Free Will Baptist Church in Turbeville. He leaves behind a wife and two small children. Please remember this family in prayer.
- 3) We have several SC FWB churches seeking pastors, and I've received several calls this week from ministers seeking churches. Please pray for these ministers and churches that God will give them wisdom in making the right decisions.

Announcements:

- 1) **Beaver Creek Association Quarterly Meeting** - Saturday, July 28th, 9 AM, **Promise FWB Church**, Monroe, NC
- 2) **Conway Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, August 7th, 8:30 AM, **Shoney's Restaurant**, Conway, SC
- 3) **Florence Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, August 14th, 8:30 AM, **Bazen's Restaurant**, Florence, SC
- 4) **Palmetto Conference Meeting** - Saturday, August 18th, 10 AM, **Bright Light FWB Church**, Thomasville, NC
- 5) **Beaver Creek Minister's Luncheon** - Monday, August 20th, 11 AM, **C.J.'s Restaurant**, Spartanburg, SC

6) **Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, August 21st, 8:30 AM, **Prosser's Restaurant**, Lake City, SC

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Closing Remarks:

I had the privilege recently of being in the home of Rev. Stephen and Mrs. Dessie Hyman. Bro. Steve is the pastor at Mt. Ariel FWB Church in Conway, SC. After the Sunday morning service, Dessie, served a delicious meal in their home, including many home grown vegetables out of their own personal garden. It was a joy to sit and eat with this wonderful family and enjoy some great southern hospitality. Depending on where you are from will probably depend on your definition of hospitality, but I think we would all agree that there is nothing like good, southern hospitality. Over the years in ministry, I have seen how God has blessed many people with the gift of hospitality.

Paul stated in Romans 12:13 - "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." Some people have to work at being hospitable, and for others, it comes natural. However, we should all be hospitable to one another.

William Tyndale said that Christians should have a "harborous" disposition, a willingness to share house and heart with others. But we live in a time of isolation. Houses are islands where their residents frantically emerge to shop, conduct their business, and work and then impatiently return home. It is an age when we do not know our neighbors or anyone else outside our own family. Unfortunately, this spirit has infiltrated the ranks of God's people. Followers of Jesus should cut across the grain and become community oriented. In an ocean full of little islands of families, we should open our homes and hearts to other families. We need to connect.

Here are some suggestions for encouraging hospitality:

- Invite one new family into your home every month.

Play games, talk, study the Bible, or pray.

- Plan Sunday dinner at your house once a quarter with a new family.

This is an old custom worth reviving. Few things draw people together better than a shared meal around a common table.

- For couples, the husband can mow the lawn for an elderly widow, while the wife takes her a desert dish and fellowships with her.

May we all be hospitalable within the church and outside the walls of the church in order that we might be a testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.

You are loved and greatly appreciated,

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