

SC FWB Update, Vol. 1, No. 36, Friday, November 2, 2007

OPENING REMARKS - "EXTRA HOUR OF SLEEP SATURDAY!"

Tomorrow is Children's Home Day at our South Carolina Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Turbeville, SC. Feel free to come between 9 and 10 AM for free tours, which will be followed by special singing, preaching, and a free lunch! You don't want to miss this great event.

Also, tomorrow evening at 6 PM, there will be a special supper for the Free Will Baptist Bible College friends and alumni at Lebanon FWB Church in Effingham, SC. Grilled chicken, BBQ, and turkey will be the main ingredients on the menu, which is being provided by Lebanon Church free of charge. Dr. Matt Pinson, FWBBC President, will be sharing some information about the college. Be sure to come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

In previous years, we would be turning our clocks back Saturday; however, due to the changes in day light savings time, it will end on Sunday, November 4, 2007. So, don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday evening, **November 3, 2007**, for an extra hour of sleep.

I'll be with Westside FWB Church in Johnsonville for their annual homecoming on Sunday morning and with Lighthouse FWB Church in Florence on Sunday evening. Then I will be in Nashville, TN, on Monday and Tuesday of next week for a "State Leader's Briefing" meeting at FWB International Missions.

I can think of no better joy than to be serving God in this great state of South Carolina amongst Free Will Baptist! But as I've traveled and as I've heard from many others, I've been reminded that God has some great children all around the world that are serving him in various capacities! It's an honor to be a part of God's kingdom work!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1) **Rev. Bennie Turner**, pastor at Fellowship FWB Church in Manning, SC, will be having an abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at MUSC in Charleston, SC. The previously discovered aneurysm has enlarged since his last checkup, and the chances of it rupturing have increased. He will be in the hospital for at least two weeks. He has requested your prayers during this time.
- 2) **Rev. Carl Barker**, member of the Central Association, has terminal cancer and is currently in the Waccamaw Community Hospital in Murrells Inlet, SC. Please remember him in prayer during this time.
- 3) **Mrs. Barbara Dunbar**, wife of Rev. Galen Dunbar, will be having gall bladder surgery today, Friday, November 2, 2007, at Carolina Hospital System in Florence, SC. Mrs. Barbara was taken to the emergency room on Tuesday evening. She will most likely be in the hospital over the weekend. Please remember her in prayer during this time.
- 4) Please continue to pray for **Krystal Kimbrel**, wife of Bruce Kimbrel, music director at Temple FWB Church in Darlington, SC, as she continues to recover from surgery and chemo treatments.

MINISTER NEWS:

- 1) **Conway Area Minister's Breakfast**, Tuesday, November 6th at Shoney's Restaurant in Conway, SC at 8:30 AM.
- 2) **Florence Area Minister's Breakfast**, Tuesday, November 13th at Bazen's Restaurant in Florence, SC at 8:30 AM.

CHURCH NEWS:

- 1) REVIVAL - **Temple FWB Church, Darlington, SC**, November 4-7, 2007, with **Dr. Matt Pinson**, President of the FWB Bible College in Nashville, TN - 7 PM nightly.
- 2) HOMECOMING - **Westside FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC**, November 4, 2007, with **Rev. Todd Smith**
- 3) HOMECOMING - **Black River FWB Church, Andrews, SC**, November 4, 2007, with **Rev. Galen Dunbar**
- 4) HOMECOMING - **New Town FWB Church, Lake City, SC**, November 4, 2007, with **Rev. Mike Jones**.
- 5) REVIVAL - **Cornerstone FWB Church, Whiteville, NC**, November 4-7 (S-W), with **Rev. Tommy Bryson**.
- 6) REVIVAL - **Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews, SC**, November 5-9, 2007, with **Rev. Kevin Smith**
- 7) REVIVAL - **White Savannah FWB Church, Conway, SC**, November 5-9, 2007, with **Rev. Tim Larrimore**.
- 8) REVIVAL - **Pamplico FWB Church, Pamplico, SC**, November 11-14, with **Rev. Richard Barnes** (Sun 10:45 AM & 6 PM & M-W at 7 PM)
- 9) REVIVAL - **New Life FWB Church, Conway, SC**, November 11-14, with **Rev. Tommy Bryson** (Sun PM - WED PM - Sun at 6 PM & M-W at 7:30 PM)
- 10) CAMP MEETING - **Westgate FWB Church, Arcadia, SC**, November 11-14, with **Rev. James Sanders** (special singing by TK & McRae & the Whisnants).
- 11) REVIVAL - **Millbranch FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC**, November 11-14, with new their new pastor, **Rev. Jeff Rhea**.
- 12) FAMILY REVIVAL - **Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs, SC**, November 12-15, with **Rev. Buddy Seay**, 7 PM Nightly
- 13) REVIVAL - **Unity FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC**, November 12-16, 2007, with **Rev. Mike Jones**.
- 14) HOMECOMING - **Hillside FWB Church, Florence, SC**, Sunday, November 18, 2007.

*Please send church news announcements via email to ToddSmith@scfwb.com by Wednesday of each week for the following SC FWB Update. THANKS!

STATE NEWS:

- 1) **Children's Home Day** - Saturday, November 3, 2007, Turbeville, SC. Tours start at 10 AM followed by special singing, preaching, and a delicious lunch.
- 2) The **South Carolina WAC Prayer and Praise Rally** will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007 at Lebanon FWB Church, Effingham, SC. The meeting will go to noon and lunch will be provided.
- 2) The **Central District WAC Prayer and Praise Rally** will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at Little Star FWB Church, Lake City, SC.

3) The **Beaver Creek WAC Prayer and Praise Rally** will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at Fairview FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC from 10 AM to 12 Noon.

4) Following are the dates for SC FWB Youth Camp for the summer of 2008:

- a) SC FWB Junior Camp - July 28 - August 1, 2008 and (Monday-Friday)
- b) SC FWB Teen Camp - June 9-14, 2008. (Mon-Saturday)

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:

*Leadership Conference - Mon-Tues., December 3-5, 2007, at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN.

CLOSING REMARKS: - "I longed for death"

"My heart is sunk...It seemed to me I should never have any success among the Indians. My soul was weary of my life; I longed for death beyond measure." These words were written by David Brainerd, describing his early weeks as a missionary to Native Americans. Things didn't improve much for the first two years. In fact, he felt his prospects of winning converts "as dark as midnight." However, three years into the work, he finally witnessed a revival among the Indians of Crossweesung in New England, and after another year and a half, the number of converts numbered 150, not much by today's mass evangelistic standards, but profoundly significant in his day. Unfortunately, Brainerd died after only five years on the mission field at the age 29. Success in our world is often determined by immediate results. However, there must always be a season of plowing, seeding, and waiting. Isaac, the promised son, did not arrive immediately after God's initial promise. The ark took time to build before the rain came. Jerusalem was not rebuilt over night. It took the encouragement of Nehemiah and the hard work of the people to get the job done. Satan would love for you to feel like you are a failure, but no work for the Lord is in vain. God will use our labors when accomplished with a right heart in His timing and in His way!

Be encouraged! In serving the Lord, you are doing the greatest task ever known to man!

YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED,

Todd Smith, S. C. Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary
1169 Atkinson Street, PO Box 9
Turbeville, SC 29162
WK (843) 657-2091, ext. 101
ToddSmith@SCFWB.com
MB (843) 260-4043

OPENING REMARKS:

The trip to Nashville, TN, for a "State Leader's Briefing Meeting" on Monday and Tuesday of this week was a very informative and prosperous meeting. The fellowship with the staff and other state leaders was a blessing, but it's always good to come back home. In January of next year, our South Carolina Free Will Baptist ministers will have the opportunity to attend a local area luncheon to share their thoughts and input regarding the proposed restructured giving recommended by the board of Free Will Baptist International Missions. More details regarding dates and places will be announced once they are known.

A cement shipping dock was built and placed today at the SC FWB State Office in Turbeville. The building was landscaped last week with plants and shrubbery, and the remainder of the property will be graded soon.

The bookstore will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22-23, 2007 for the Thanksgiving Holidays. We expanded our bookstore inventory when we relocated to Turbeville. We had several people that visited our bookstore on November 3, 2007 after Children's Home Day. Thank you for utilizing our SC FWB Christian Book and Supply to meet your church and personal needs. We are here to serve you in any way that we can.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1) **Rev. Bennie Turner**, pastor at Fellowship FWB Church in Manning, SC, had an abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery on Thursday on this week at MUSC in Charleston, SC. The previously discovered aneurysm has enlarged since his last checkup, and the chances of it rupturing have increased. He will be in the hospital for at least two weeks. He has requested your prayers during this time. His name will be listed as "Isome B. Turner" at MUSC.
- 2) **Rev. Carl Barker**, member of the Central Association, has terminal cancer and is currently in the Waccamaw Community Hospital in Murrells Inlet, SC. Please remember him in prayer during this time.
- 3) **Mrs. Barbara Dunbar**, wife of Rev. Galen Dunbar, had gall bladder surgery on Friday of last week at Carolina Hospital System in Florence, SC. She was released from the hospital on Tuesday evening of this week. Please pray for her as she recovers.
- 4) **Missionary Carlisle Hanna** returned to India this week. Please pray for his safe return and strength as he continues in the work of the Lord.

MINISTER NEWS:

- 1) Florence Area Minister's Breakfast, Tuesday, November 13th at Bazen's Restaurant in Florence, SC at 8:30 AM.
- 2) Beaver Creek Minister's Luncheon, Monday, November 19th at C.J's Restaurant in Boiling Springs, SC at 11:00 AM.
- 3) Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast, Tuesday, November 20th at Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City, SC at 8:30 AM.

CHURCH NEWS:

- 1) REVIVAL - **Pamplico FWB Church, Pamplico, SC**, November 11-14, with **Rev. Richard Barnes** (Sun 10:45 AM & 6 PM & M-W at 7 PM)
- 2) REVIVAL - **New Life FWB Church, Conway, SC**, November 11-14, with **Rev. Tommy Bryson** (Sun PM - WED PM - Sun at 6 PM & M-W at 7:30 PM)
- 3) CAMP MEETING - **Westgate FWB Church, Arcadia, SC**, November 11-14, with **Rev. James Sanders** (special singing by TK & McRae & the Whisnants).

- 4) REVIVAL - **Mill Branch FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC**, November 11-14, with new their new pastor, **Rev. Jeff Rhea**.
- 5) REVIVAL - **Hickory Hill FWB Church, Gresham, SC**, November 11-17, (Sun, 6 PM / M-S, 7:30 PM) with **Rev. Laney Ard, Rev. Alan Sailors, & Rev. Joe Cagle**
- 6) FAMILY REVIVAL - **Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs, SC**, November 12-15, with **Rev. Buddy Seay**, 7 PM Nightly
- 7) REVIVAL - **Unity FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC**, November 12-16, 2007, with **Rev. Mike Jones**.
- 8) HOMECOMING - **Hillside FWB Church, Florence, SC**, Sunday, November 18, 2007.
- 9) REVIVAL - **Little Star FWB Church, Lake City, SC**, November 25-28, (Sun, 6 PM / M-W, 7:30 PM), with **Rev. Paul Lambert**

*Please send church news announcements via email to ToddSmith@scfwb.com by Wednesday of each week for the following SC FWB Update. THANKS!

STATE NEWS:

- 1) The **South Carolina District WAC Prayer and Praise Rally** will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007 at Lebanon FWB Church, Effingham, SC. The meeting will go to noon and lunch will be provided.
- 2) The **Central District WAC Prayer and Praise Rally** will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at Little Star FWB Church, Lake City, SC.
- 3) The **Beaver Creek District WAC Prayer and Praise Rally** will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at Fairview FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC from 10 AM to 12 Noon.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:

*Leadership Conference - Mon-Tues., December 3-5, 2007, at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Lawyer and statesman Daniel Webster was a powerful orator who gave early evidence of his quick mind and way with words. One day Webster's father, who was to be absent from home, left Daniel and his brother Ezekiel specific work instructions. But on his return he found the task still undone, and he questioned his sons about their idleness. "What have you been doing, Ezekiel?" he asked. "Nothing, sir." "Well, Daniel, what have you been doing?" "Helping Zeke, sir."

Excuses and blame shifting are easy to come by these days. Taking full responsibility for our actions is a must in order to grow spiritually. When pride builds up in our life, and we fail to see our own mistakes by constantly blame shifting to others, we are hindering our own spiritual walk with the Lord.

Moses gave five excuses as to why he couldn't do the work of God. What do the words success and excuses have in common? Nothing! Those who achieve success never rely on excuses, and those who rely on excuses never achieve success. May we each continue to move forward in the work of the Lord determined to become more like the image of Christ each and every day.

YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary
SC Free Will Baptist State Office
1169 Atkinson Str / PO Box 9
Turbeville, SC 29162
(843) 657-2091

SC FWB Update, Vol. 1, No. 39, Wednesday, November 21, 2007

OPENING REMARKS:

Bro. Carlisle Hanna has returned to India, and the Tim and Kristi Johnson family are making preparations to come back to the states in December. Please pray for all of our missionaries on their various fields of service. Many of our missionaries are facing the dilemma of the decreased dollar value when they exchange their funds for their various mission works.

Free Will Baptist International Missions has scheduled two pastor luncheons in January in light of the potential restructured giving plan. They want to provide pastors with the opportunity to ask questions and give feed back regarding the proposed undesignated giving plan. I encourage you to place one of the following dates on your calendar:

January 11, 2008 (Friday) at Peace FWB Church in Florence, SC - East - 12 noon

January 12, 2008 (Saturday) at Parkway FWB Church in Boiling Springs, SC - West - 12 noon.

A meal will be provided free of charge by International Missions. This is an opportunity for you to be a part of the changes that take place in our denomination.

I am grateful to be a Free Will Baptist in South Carolina, and I am grateful to serve you in the work of the Lord. I pray you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1) **Rev. Bennie Turner**, pastor at Fellowship FWB Church in Manning, SC, came home on Friday of last week. He is grateful for the calls, cards, and visits that he has received during this time. Please remember him in prayer as he continues to recover.
- 2) **Bro. Carlisle Hanna** has returned to India. Please pray that he will receive the necessary documents for the mission work in India.

MINISTER NEWS:

- 1) **Conway Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, December 4th at Shoney's restaurant in Conway, SC at 8:30 AM.
- 2) **Florence / Darlington Area Pastor's and Wives Supper Fellowship** - Tuesday, December 11th at Horne's restaurant in Florence, SC at 7 PM. This supper fellowship is in place of the regularly schedule minister's breakfast.

CHURCH NEWS:

- 1) REVIVAL - **Little Star FWB Church, Lake City, SC**, November 25-28, (Sun, 6 PM / M-W, 7:30 PM), with **Rev. Paul Lambert**
- 2) If you are a part of one of our SC FWB churches and would like to have one of your church's special events announced, feel free to send the announcement by Wednesday of next week.
*Please send church news announcements via email to ToddSmith@scfwb.com by Wednesday of each week for the following SC FWB Update. THANKS!

STATE NEWS:

- 1) The **Eastern Conference Meeting** will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at Prospect FWB Church.

2) Be sure to visit the SC FWB web site for all upcoming conference meeting dates and places. Also, feel free to visit the SC WAC web site at www.scwac.org for upcoming ladies auxiliary events.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:

*Leadership Conference - Mon-Tues., December 3-5, 2007, at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN.

CLOSING REMARKS:

"Count Your Blessings" was written by one of the prolific gospel song writers of the past century, a Methodist lay preacher named Johnson Oatman. In addition to his preaching and the writing of more than 5,000 hymn texts, Oatman was also a successful business man, engaged in a shipping business and in his later years as an administrator for a large insurance company in New Jersey.

It is good for each of us periodically to take time to rediscover the simple but profound truths expressed by Mr. Oatman in the four stanzas of this hymn. In the first two verses he develops the thought that counting our blessings serves as an antidote for life's discouragements and in turn makes for victorious Christian living. The third stanza of this hymn teaches us that counting our blessings can be a means of placing material possessions in proper perspective when compared to the eternal inheritance awaiting believers. Then as we review our individual blessings, we certainly would have to agree with Mr. Oatman's fourth verse: The provision of God's help and comfort to the end of our earthly pilgrimage is one of our choicest blessings.

Each of us could spare ourselves much despair and inner tension if we would only learn to apply the practical teaching of this hymn to our daily living.*

YOU ARE A BLESSING TO ME,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary
SC Free Will Baptist State Office
1169 Atkinson Str / PO Box 9
Turbeville, SC 29162
(843) 657-2091

*Osbeck, K. W. (1990). *Amazing grace : 366 inspiring hymn stories for daily devotions*. Includes indexes. (350). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications.

SC FWB Update, Vol. 1, No. 40, Thursday, November 29, 2007

OPENING REMARKS:

Next week, many in our denomination will be traveling to Nashville, TN, to attend the annual Leadership Conference. The conference begins on Monday and ends on Tuesday evening. I will be out of the office Monday through Wednesday of next week due to the fact that I'll be attending the Leadership Conference. We close out the books for the month tomorrow for November. Also, the next issue of the Informer, should be available on the web some time next week. Our SC FWB churches should receive their copies of the Informer in the mail by December 15th.

The FWBIM Board is scheduled to adopt a structure for the new funding system in April 2008. In preparation for that meeting, the staff is arranging meetings in several states to communicate with pastors and leaders. General Director James Forlines and other directors will present the current direction of the Mission concerning the structure of the new plan. They will listen to concerns, answer questions, and receive input from those who attend the meetings. This is your opportunity to be involved.

Two meetings will be held in South Carolina:

- 1) East side of the state - Peace FWB Church, Florence, on January 11, 2008 at 12 noon, and
- 2) West side of the state - Parkway FWB Church, Boiling Springs, on January 12, 2008, at 12 noon.

Lunch will be furnished, so reservations are requested.

Please RSVP to April Bybee in the Mission office (april@fwbgo.com or toll-free 1-877-767-7736).

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1) Please remember **Paul Johnson**, father of Rev. John Johnson (pastor at Hillside in Florence), in prayer. Mr. Paul Johnson has been diagnosed with cancer. It's in his lymph nodes, but it is not lymphoma. John is currently in Mississippi with his father waiting to hear further information regarding his father's condition. Please remember Mr. Paul Johnson in prayer.
- 2) Please remember **Pat Vandiford**, wife of Rev. Billy Vandiford, in prayer. She recently underwent surgery and is still recovering. Please remember her during this time.

MINISTER NEWS:

- 1) **Florence and surrounding areas...Christmas Fellowship Supper for Ministers and Wives:** Tuesday evening, December 11, 2007 at 7 PM at Horne's Restaurant on Irby Street in Florence, SC. All ministers and wives are welcome to attend. This will replace the regularly December scheduled minister's breakfast for the Florence area.
- 2) **Central Association Ministers and Wives Christmas Fellowship Supper:** Tuesday evening, December 11, 2007 at 7 PM at Dale's Seafood Restaurant, 100 S US Hwy 701 Bypass, Tabor City, NC. All ministers and wives are welcome to attend. This will replace the regularly December scheduled minister's breakfast for the Conway area.

CHURCH NEWS:

*Please send church news announcements via email to ToddSmith@scfwb.com by Wednesday of each week for the following SC FWB Update. THANKS!

STATE NEWS:

- 1) The **Eastern Conference Meeting** will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at Prospect FWB Church.
- 2) Be sure to visit the SC FWB web site for all upcoming conference meeting dates and places. Also, feel free to visit the SC WAC web site at www.scwac.org for upcoming ladies auxiliary events.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:

*Leadership Conference - Mon-Tues., December 3-5, 2007, at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Obedience always results in experiencing God in a glorious way. If you want to get in on what God can do and what He is doing, obey His Word and will. Obedience is the key that unlocks the door to His working in our life. God spoke and asked an unprecedented thing of Abraham. He told him to take his son Isaac into the land of Moriah and there offer him as a burnt-offering to the Lord. I think you would agree with me that this was a BIG request from God. How did Abraham respond to what God asked? He obeyed. The brook Cherith is only mentioned twice in the Bible and that in 1 Kings 17:3 and 5. The name means "cutting" or "separated." It is a narrow pass that is common in the area where steep banks, often taking the form of cliffs confine the little stream that rushes in the rainy season. These cliffs, composed of the limestone rock, are full of caves difficult to reach and an excellent place for refuge. Elijah was told by God to stay at the brook Cherith. Obedience not only involves hearing the word of God, but also submitting to and following the will of God. In Elijah, we see a man who heard God's voice and then heeded God's voice. He was obedient to what God asked him to do. The word of God revealed the will of God and Elijah obeyed. Obedience will open the door in your life for an amazing journey with God. Obedience will enable you to experience God at levels you had never experienced before. Obedience will introduce you to divine exhibitions of God's power that you once thought could never be experienced in your life. God is God! He wants to be God in your life and mine. Obedience is the key!

YOU ARE A BLESSING TO ME,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary
SC Free Will Baptist State Office
1169 Atkinson Str / PO Box 9
Turbeville, SC 29162
(843) 657-2091