

SC FWB Update, Vol. 2, No. 3, Thursday, January 17, 2008

OPENING REMARKS:

It has been said that there are 60 million evangelical Christians in the United States of America, of which only 30 million are registered to vote. Amongst those 30 million that are registered to vote, nearly half of those actually go to the polls and vote. Tomorrow is the big day for South Carolinians to vote in the primaries. It would be easy for us to sit by and wait for the main election in November. However, I want to encourage you to vote on Saturday at the prospective place in your community. There are a lot of myths floating around regarding the pastor and church's involvement in politics. Feel free to visit the Liberty Counsel web site and access voter guides and how pastors and churches can get involved: <http://www.lc.org/index.cfm?PID=16245> As Christians, we can make a difference.

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE: **Don't forget to pre-register for the upcoming SC FWB state meeting.**

The option to pre-register for the upcoming SC FWB State meeting is now online through our web site at <http://www.scfwb.com/registration.htm> You will find a schedule of the state meeting along with directions and a map. Conference leaders, please note the special announcements regarding representation to the state meeting found at the following link: http://www.scfwb.com/state_meetings.html We are looking forward to a wonderful time of fellowship together in the Lord.

Thank you for faithfulness to the Lord! It will be worth it all one day "when we see Jesus."

PRAYER & PRAISE:

- 1) Please remember to pray for the **Missionaries Tim and Kristi Johnsons** and their family as they are now back in the states on mission itinerant. They will be in SC from January - May 2008.
- 2) **Missionary Carlisle Hanna** recently had difficulty obtaining his visa in India. He has been granted a 3 month visa. In the next couple of months, he will try to obtain a 5 year visa through his local district office. Please remember this matter in prayer. If his visa is not granted, he must come home by April 6, 2008. Also, the annual Free Will Baptist Conference in India begins on February 20, 2008. Please remember them as they make preparations for this significant annual event.
- 3) **Phillip Jones**, pastor at Low Country FWB Church in Charleston, SC, will be having a heart procedure on January 29, 2008. Please remember him in prayer.
- 4) **Rev. I. Bennie Turner**, pastor at Fellowship FWB Church in Manning, SC, continues to recover from his recent surgery. He will try to go back in the pulpit in a couple of weeks. Please remember him in prayer.
- 5) **Jane Keen**, wife of Rev. Danny Keen, pastor at Landmark FWB Church in Anderson, SC, will be having eye surgery on Monday, January 14, 2008. Please remember her in prayer.
- 6) **Leroy Forlines**, Professor Emeritus at FWBBC, was recently admitted to St. Thomas Hospital and was being treated for complications from a previous illness.
- 7) It has been requested that we remember an 11 year old girl named **Alyssa**, that is a member of Dixie Park FWB Church in Grayson, KY. She has a severe physical condition. Free Will

Baptist churches are encouraged to pray on January 25, 2008, at 8:00 PM, along with hundreds of other Free Will Baptist churches.

MINISTER NEWS:

1) **NOTE:** The **True Life Conference** was supposed to meet this Saturday, January 19, 2008 at Heartland FWB Church in Lancaster, SC. Due to inclement weather, the meeting has been re-scheduled to Saturday, February 16, 2008, at Heartland FWB Church in Lancaster, SC, at 10 AM.

5) The **South Carolina Conference** will be hosting their meeting on January 24-25, 2008 at Sand Hill FWB Church, Coward, SC. The meeting begins on Thursday at 7:00 PM and on Friday at 9:00 AM.

6) The **Beaver Creek Association** will be hosting their annual meeting on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at Enoree FWB Church in Enoree, SC. The meeting begins at 9:00 AM.

*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.

CHURCH NEWS:

1) **REVIVAL** - Grace FWB Church, Lake City, SC. January 20-23, 2008 (SUN - WED), Various Speakers

2) **REVIVAL** - Mt. Trolley FWB Church, Galivants Ferry, SC. January 27-30 (SUN 11 AM & 6 PM, M-W 7:30 PM), with Rev. Billy Fields.

3) **REVIVAL** - High Hill FWB Church, Scranton, SC. April 6-9, 2008, with Rev. Milton and Melvin Worthington.

4) **White Savannah FWB Church Teen Ministry Team (TMT)** will be at Socastee FWB Church, Myrtle Beach, SC, on Saturday, January 27, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

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

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:

Randall House Director Ron Hunter along with the Randall House Board will be meeting with state promotional directors and state bookstore managers in Nashville, TN, on Monday and Tuesday, February 4-5, 2008, in accordance with a motion passed at the July 2007 FWB Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, in order to collaborate together on the best effective means to make Randall House and our state bookstores succeed in providing the best Christian education for our churches.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Benjamin Franklin once went to hear the great evangelist George Whitefield. In his autobiography he tells us what happened:

"I happened soon after to attend one of his sermons, in the course of which, I perceived he intended to finish with a collection, and I silently resolved he should get nothing from me. I had in my pocket a handful of copper money, three or four silver dollars, and five pistoles of gold. As he proceeded, I began to soften, and concluded to give the coppers. Another stroke of his oratory

made me ashamed of that, and determined me to give the silver. And he finished so admirably that I emptied my pocket wholly into the collection dish, gold and all.”

Every preacher might wish he could preach like that. Few, however, can match the eloquence of a Whitefield. Our stewardship, therefore,—what we think about and do with our life and possessions—should not be based on someone’s oratory, nor should it consist in an occasional emptying of one’s purse. It should be based on the recognition that all things—our life and the planet on which we live it, the air we breathe and the ability to breathe it—everything comes from God. In everything, therefore, we are to be stewards for God, and whether we spend time, energy, thought, or money, we should glorify God in all that we think and do.

It is not just that a tenth of what we possess belongs to God, and the rest is ours to do with as we please. Everything belongs to God. God expects us to spend all of it in accordance with God’s will. God knows we must spend much of it for our own needs (Matthew 6:31–32), but God expects us to spend some (the Bible suggests at least a tenth) for the work of God’s kingdom and the welfare of others. (Cranford, C. W. (1988). *Cups of Light : And other illustrations*. Willow Grove, PA: Woodlawn Electronic Publishing.)

May the Lord richly bless you,

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