

SC FWB Update, Vol. 2, No. 21, Wednesday, July 2, 2008

OPENING REMARKS:

The bookstore will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2008, in honor of the July 4th holiday. We will re-open on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 9 AM. Please submit any Sunday School order changes by noon on Wednesday, July 9, 2008. Randall House will be making preparations to compile the orders for affiliate bookstores before the National Convention, and they need affiliate bookstore orders in as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding. It is an honor to serve you. We appreciate your faithful support and prayers.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy July 4!

PRAYER & PRAISE:

- 1) **Lisa Evans** had surgery last week and was discharged from the hospital. However, she was re-admitted to the hospital this week due to complications. Lisa is the wife of Reverend Rickey Evans, pastor at Evergreen FWB Church in Conway, SC. Please continue to remember Lisa in prayer.
- 2) **Mrs. Mary Reid**, wife of Reverend Paul Reid, had surgery on her right shoulder on Tuesday morning of this week. She will be going through rehabilitation over the next few weeks. Please remember her in prayer.
- 3) Please remember the VISA need for **Missionary Carlisle Hanna**. Pastor Soifal and Pastor Ronen are currently in New Delhi. Pastor Soifal called this morning our time and 8:30 PM Delhi time to inform Brother Hanna that nothing had transpired and that the clerk requested for them to return tomorrow. Please continue to remember this need in prayer.
- 4) Mrs. Linda Tanner, our Bookstore Manager, is in Charleston today for pre-op testing. Most likely, she will be having surgery this month to have the cancerous tumor removed. Please continue to remember her in prayer.

MINISTER NEWS:

- 1) **Central Association Quarterly Meeting** - Saturday, July 12, 2008, at **Unity FWB Church** in Johnsonville, SC at 9 AM.
- 2) **Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City, SC at 8:30 AM.

NOTE: There will be no regularly scheduled minister's breakfast meetings in the month of July for the Conway or Florence areas. These regularly scheduled minister's breakfast meetings will resume in the month of August.

- 3) **Beaver Creek Quarterly Conference Meeting** - Saturday, August 2, 2008, at Westgate FWB Church, Arcadia, SC. (**Note:** Due to the fact that the meeting was scheduled to fall on the Saturday after the National Convention, the Beaver Creek meeting was changed to Saturday, August 2, 2008).

CHURCH NEWS:

- 1) REVIVAL - **Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews, SC**, August 13-17, 2008, with **Rev. Jacob Berry and Rev. Seth Allen**.
- 2) REVIVAL - **First FWB Church, Simpsonville, SC**, September 14-19, 2008 (Sun PM - Friday - Sun at 7 PM @ M-F at 7:30 PM - Meals at 6 PM before each service), with **Rev. Tim York**.

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SC WAC NEWS:

SC WAC STATE RETREAT - Friday and Saturday, September 5-6, 2008, at the White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro, SC. A \$20 deposit is due no later than March 30th to Patty Newton, 90 Blackstock Road, Inman, SC 29349. The remaining balance will be due at the retreat. The remaining balance detail is as follows: \$39 for 2 person room, \$32 for a 3 person room, and \$30 for a 4 person room.

SCFWB STATE NEWS:

- 1) **Summer Junior Camp - July 28 - August 1, 2008.**
- 2) **Teen Retreat** - October 24-26, 2008 at Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 3) **Eastern Conference Youth Rally** - Saturday, August 9, 2008, at 5 PM.

DENOMINATION NEWS:

- 1) **Annual FWB Convention** - July 20-23, 2008, Charleston, WV. Visit the following link for details - <http://www.nafwb.org/> **NOTE:** If you have already pre-registered online and have not yet received your confirmation letter, you are not officially registered. The NAFWB Executive Office has been having some glitches as a part of the pre-registration process. Please feel free give them a call at 877-767-7659 if you have any questions.
- 2) **Master's Men** - Due to a conflict in scheduling the Ridge Church Restoration Project Phase II (painting the church) has been rescheduled for August 11-15, 2008. If you are interested in this project, feel free to contact the National FWB Master's Men Department at 877-767-8039.

CLOSING REMARKS - "I'm Not Using a Parachute This Time!"

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These were the words of our fore fathers when they penned the Declaration of Independence. George Washington wrote to James Madison in a letter dated March 2, 1788: "Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter to H.L. Pierce: "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under a just God, cannot long retain it." Our country was founded on the principles of freedom. However, our spiritual birth is founded on the principles of freedom as well. Some might would feel that being spiritually born is equated with bondage, but in Christ, we are free. Freedom does not mean the absence of constraints or moral absolutes. Suppose a skydiver at 10,000 feet announces to the rest of the group, "I'm not using a parachute this time. I want freedom!" The fact is that a skydiver is constrained by a greater law--the law of gravity. But when the skydiver chooses the "constraint" of the parachute, he is free to enjoy life and the beauty of God's creation. God's moral laws act in the same way: they restrain, but they are absolutely necessary to enjoy true spiritual freedom. This week, as we celebrate the freedom of your country, may we be reminded of the freedom we enjoy in Christ!

Rejoicing in Freedom,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary
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OPENING REMARKS:

My family and I arrived back in South Carolina on Tuesday around midnight. Thank you for the calls, cards, and flowers on behalf of the death of my grandmother Oreathia Lane. She was 83 years old and was a godly Christian. I had the privilege of preaching her funeral. Her faith reminded me of the "unfeigned faith" that was passed down to Timothy from his mother and grandmother Eunice and Lois (2 Timothy 1:5). I will miss her dearly; however, I look forward to seeing her one day in Heaven!

The Central Association will convene for their quarterly meeting on this Saturday, July 12, 2008, at Unity FWB Church in Johnsonville, SC, at 9 AM. Then right around the corner, it will be time to head to Charleston, WV for the National Association of Free Will Baptist annual convention. The bookstore will be closed during the week of the convention due to the fact that Mrs. Linda Tanner, our bookstore manager, will be recovering from surgery.

Feel free to download or preview the NAFWB Convention program schedule at www.nafwb.org/convention. You can also download the NYC program at www.randallhouse.com/page.asp?pg=08nyc.

PRAYER & PRAISE:

- 1) **Lisa Evans** recently had surgery and is now at home recovering. Lisa is the wife of Reverend Rickey Evans, pastor at Evergreen FWB Church in Conway. Please continue to remember Lisa in prayer.
- 2) Missionary **Carlisle Hanna** was granted a three-month extension on his visa. Pastors Ronen and Soiphal have spent many hours traveling back and forth to Delhi, interacting with the Parliament member from West Bengal, and seeking to facilitate the issuance of a five-year missionary visa. Pray God will accomplish His will and the heavy ministry responsibilities of these pastors will not suffer as they seek to assist "Uncle."
- 3) **Reverend Fred Kirby** passed away Saturday, July 5, 2008, at 2:00 AM. Brother Kirby was a long standing Free Will Baptist minister in SC. He was the South Carolina Free Will Baptist Home Mission Board Director for many years, planted Free Will Baptist churches in South Carolina, and was one of our early home missionary pioneers. Please remember his family in prayer during this time.
- 4) **Mrs. Linda Tanner**, our SCFWB Christian Book and Supply Manager, will be having cancer surgery on July 17, 2008. Please continue to remember her in prayer.
- 5) Reverend **Robbie Hiott**, pastor at First FWB Church in Charleston, SC, has been having some physical complications lately. Please remember him in prayer.

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CLOSING REMARKS -

Phillips Brooks was a pastor in New England during the late 1800s. He was known as a very calm and relaxed man, but like all of us, he had his moments of struggling with patience. A close friend recounted one such occasion when he found Brooks pacing the floor like a caged lion. He asked Brooks about the source of his troubles. The pastor replied, "The trouble is I'm in a hurry, but God isn't." When we are in a hurry it can be frustrating to realize God may not be moving as fast as we would desire. Fortunately, we can use those times to water the fruit of patience so we are able to more faithfully bear the entire fruit of God's Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Patiently Waiting For His Return,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary
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SC FWB Update, Vol. 2, No. 22, Wednesday, July 16, 2008

OPENING REMARKS:

Many will be traveling this Friday and Saturday to attend the annual FWB Convention in Charleston, WV. Mrs. Linda, our bookstore manager, will be having surgery in Charleston, SC, at MUSC tomorrow, July 17, 2008. She will have a six week recovery time. Our Christian Book and Supply will be closed next week due to attending the annual FWB Convention. Our next weekly update will go out on Wednesday, July 30, 2008. A weekly update will not be sent out next week due to attending the convention. Upon arrival back in SC after the convention, we will be making preparations to send out next quarters Sunday school literature and distributing the next issue of the *Informer*.

Feel free to download or preview the NAFWB Convention program schedule at www.nafwb.org/convention. You can also download the NYC program at www.randallhouse.com/page.asp?pg=08nyc.

As I gaze out my office window, I notice the wind blowing our American, Christian, and South Carolina flags. I am truly proud to be an American. I am truly proud to be a South Carolinian serving the Free Will Baptist in our state. And I am proud of the cross of Calvary and my Savior Jesus Christ who made it possible for me to enjoy the freedom that I enjoy. I'm sure you share the same feelings. No matter where you live, I remind you that God loves you very much!

PRAYER & PRAISE:

- 1) **Mrs. Linda Tanner**, our SCFWB Christian Book and Supply Manager, will be having cancer surgery tomorrow July 17, 2008. She will have a six week recovery time. Please continue to remember her in prayer.
- 2) **Reverend Wayne Dills**, member of the Beaver Creek Association, had a heart attack yesterday, July 15, 2008. He is being transported to the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, NC. Please remember him in prayer.
- 3) **Pastor Ronen** in India was in an automobile accident and broke his leg. Please remember him in prayer.
- 4) **Traveling mercies** for the many who will be traveling this Friday and Saturday to attend the annual **FWB Convention** in Charleston, WV.

MINISTER NEWS:

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- 2) **Conway Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at Shoney's Restaurant in Conway, SC at 8:30 AM.
- 3) **Florence/Darlington Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at Bazen's Restaurant in Florence, SC at 8:30 AM.
- 4) **Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City, SC at 8:30 AM.

5) **Eastern Conference Quarterly Meeting** - Saturday, August 23, 2008, at Gilead FWB Church in Scranton, SC at 9:00 AM.

CHURCH NEWS:

- 1) YOUTH REVIVAL - **Evergreen FWB Church**, Conway, SC - July 28-31, 2008, with **Missionary Andy Moore** (7:30 PM) & July 31 - **Teen Drama Ministry Team** from White Savannah FWB Church in Conway, SC will be at the Evergreen Church at 7:30 PM.
- 1) **Eastern Conference Youth Rally** - Saturday, August 9, 2008, at 5:00 PM at **Gilead FWB Church in Scranton, SC**.
- 2) REVIVAL - **First FWB Church, Kingstree**, SC, August 10-12, 2008, with **Rev. Jacob Berry** (Sun, 11 AM & 6 PM & M-Tues at 7:30 PM)
- 3) REVIVAL - **Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews**, SC, August 13-17, 2008, with **Rev. Jacob Berry and Rev. Seth Allen**.
- 4) REVIVAL - **Black River FWB Church, Andrews**, SC, August 24-27, 2008, with **Rev. Todd Smith** (Sunday 11 AM & 6 PM / M-W at 7:30 PM)
- 5) REVIVAL - **Little Star FWB Church, Lake City**, SC, September 8-12, 2008, with **Rev. Tommy Bryson**.
- 6) REVIVAL - **First FWB Church, Simpsonville**, SC, September 14-19, 2008 (Sun PM - Friday - Sun at 7 PM @ M-F at 7:30 PM - Meals at 6 PM before each service), with **Rev. Tim York**.
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CLOSING REMARKS - "Disaster and Disappointment"

The sixty-seven-year-old man stood on a curb as he watched his life's work burn up in December of 1914. Adding insult to injury, his property was only insured for \$238,000, far less than the \$2 million worth of damage. His twenty-four-year-old son, Charles, said, "My heart ached for him. He was sixty-seven, no longer a young man, and everything was going up in flames." When Charles found his father, he was surprised by his dad's request. He said, "Find your mother and bring her here. She will never see anything like this as long as she lives." The next morning the old man gathered his employees at the charred ruins and said, "There is great value in disaster. All of our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew." Three weeks later, Thomas Edison delivered his first phonograph. Disaster and disappointment can destroy us or refine us. The choice is ours to make.*

In His Grace,

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OPENING REMARKS:

Reaching the top of the coliseum and turning to get a picture of the thousands of people worshipping together at the annual Free Will Baptist Convention at the Wednesday evening missions service, I realized that God has tremendously blessed us as Free Will Baptist. This year's convention proved to be a wonderful time of fellowship, an opportunity to listen to heart stirring preaching, and a chance to participate in the business of God's kingdom work in a unified spirit. Seventeen years after what many considered "the greatest national convention," Free Will Baptists returned to Charleston, West Virginia, to see if God would do it again. The same genuine warmth and enthusiasm met Free Will Baptists at the door as nearly 6,000 delegates ignored \$4 per gallon gas prices to meet deep in the Appalachian Mountains. While the holy fire still glowed during worship services like it did in 1991, times had changed in other areas. The five-day convention now crowded into four; the \$11 million 1991 denominational budget zoomed to almost \$26 million; and a growing convention filled every available space in the city beside the river. We praise God for another great year of meeting together as Free Will Baptist from across the globe, and we look forward with great anticipation to next year's convention which will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio. Please be sure to read the upcoming July/August issue of the *Informer* for full details and reports regarding this year's convention.

We extend a special thanks to members of the 2008 convention coverage team for their sacrifice in getting news and reports to FWB State Promotional Offices for distribution:

Convention Press Officer: Joy Nelson (TN)

Convention Press Intern: Derek Lewis (IL)

Business: Jack Williams (TN)

Worship: Ida Lewis (TN)

NYC: Danny Conn (TN)

WNAC: Sarah Fletcher (TN)

Photographer: Travis Penn (IL)

Videographer: Dustin Stokes (OK)

Editor: Eric K. Thomsen (TN)

PRAYER & PRAISE:

- 1) Shelby Jean Elliott, wife of **Reverend Bruce Elliott**, member of the Central Association and pastor at Floyd's FWB Church in Nichols, SC, passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2008. The visitation will take place Thursday, July 31, 2008, from 6-8 PM at Meares Funeral Home in Mullins, SC. The funeral will take place at Floyd's FWB Church in Nichols, SC, on Friday, August 1, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Please remember Rev. Elliott and his family in prayer during this time.
- 2) **Mrs. Linda Tanner**, our SCFWB Christian Book and Supply manager, had cancer surgery on July 17, 2008. The surgery went well, and Mrs. Linda is currently home recovering from surgery. She will have four more chemotherapy treatments after recovery, and then the doctors will check her periodically to make sure the cancer is non-recurring.
- 3) PRAISE: **Reverend Bennie Turner**, member of the Eastern Conference, has reported that doctors have placed his dialysis on hold due to the fact that he is doing better. Please continue to remember him in prayer.

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CHURCH NEWS:

- 1) GOSPEL BENEFIT CONCERT - **First FWB Church, Florence, SC**, Friday, August 1, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a \$5 optional donation. A love offering will be taken at the event. The benefit will be for Jason Singletary, member at Bay Branch FWB Church in Timmonsville, SC, who suffered a severe accident. The guest singers at the concert will be "The Old Paths" and "The Oxendines."
- 2) VBS - Vacation Bible School - **New Prospect FWB Church, Pamplico, SC**. August 4-8, 2008. The theme is "Station Walk 2008."
- 3) **Eastern Conference Youth Rally** - Saturday, August 9, 2008, at 5:00 PM at **Gilead FWB Church in Scranton, SC**.
- 4) PRAISE SERVICE - **Mt. Elon FWB Church, Pamplico, SC**, Saturday, August 9, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Guest Singers - Bibletones. Twelve year old Marisa Leonard will be sharing the miraculous story of her healing and the celebration of the ten year anniversary of her healing.
- 5) REVIVAL - **First FWB Church, Kingtree, SC**, August 10-12, 2008, with **Rev. Jacob Berry** (Sun, 11 AM & 6 PM & M-Tues at 7:30 PM)
- 6) REVIVAL - **Evergreen FWB Church, Conway, SC**, August 10-13, 2008, with Various Preachers. (SUN 11 AM & 6 PM / M-F at 7:30 PM)
- 7) REVIVAL - **Happy Home FWB Church, Andrews, SC**, August 13-17, 2008, with **Rev. Jacob Berry and Rev. Seth Allen**.
- 8) REVIVAL - **Black River FWB Church, Andrews, SC**, August 24-27, 2008, with **Rev. Todd Smith** (Sunday 11 AM & 6 PM / M-W at 7:30 PM)
- 9) **Child Evangelism Fellowship** is presenting a **Children's Ministry Conference** on Saturday, September 6, 2008, at Poynor Adult Ed. Center (301 Dargan St., Florence, SC) from 8 - 5 p.m. This is for children's workers, parents, pastors, Sunday School Teachers, Christian Daycare Workers, Christian School Teachers, Homeschoolers, Good News Club Volunteers and Awana Volunteers. Cost information and other news is available at www.cef-sc.org or you may call Trudy Miles at 667-8798.
- 10) REVIVAL - **Little Star FWB Church, Lake City, SC**, September 8-12, 2008, with **Rev. Tommy Bryson**.
- 11) **Calling All Pastors' Wives** in the SC Conference!! If you're interested in networking with other FWB pastor's wives in our conference for fellowship, Bible study, accountability, and prayer for our churches on a monthly basis, please come to a Fellowship Get-together on Thursday, September 18, at 7 p.m. at the home of Trudy Miles, 3419 W. Hampton Pointe Dr., Florence, SC. A light supper will be prepared. Just come and enjoy the fellowship! Please respond by phone (667-8798) or email: trudymiles54@cs.com Thanks!
- 12) REVIVAL - **First FWB Church, Simpsonville, SC**, September 14-19, 2008 (Sun PM - Friday - Sun at 7 PM @ M-F at 7:30 PM - Meals at 6 PM before each service), with **Rev. Tim York**.
- 13) **FIRST AID CONFERENCE** - **Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville, SC**, October 10-12, 2008 (Friday at 7 PM & Saturday at 9:30 AM - 3:00 p.m.) Lunch will be provided. Guest Speaker: Dr. Eddie Moody, author of the newly released Randall House book, *First Aid for Emotional Hurts*.
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- 3) **SC FWB Children's Home Golf Tournament** - Saturday, September 6, 2008. Visit www.homeforchildren.org for details.

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CLOSING REMARKS - "Horse Power":

At a county fair, the townspeople held a horse-pulling contest. The first-place horse ended up moving a sled weighing 4,500 pounds. The second-place finisher pulled 4,000 pounds. The owners of the two horses decided to see what these horses could pull together. They hitched them up and found that the team could move 12,000 pounds. By working separately, the two horses were good for only 8,500 pounds. When coupled together, their synergism produced an added 3,500 pounds. It's a hard lesson for us, but unity consistently produces greater results than individual endeavors.

"Teamwork divides the effort and multiplies the effect."

In God's kingdom work, we can accomplish more together than we can apart. Let's keep pulling together. Thanks for holding on to the rope with us.

In Christ's Love,

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