

OPENING REMARKS: Informer Distribution

The May/June issue of the *Informer* is currently on the web at www.scfwb.org/informer.htm and will be distributed to churches on Friday of this week. If your church had a special event recently such as Vacation Bible school or some other news worthy event, feel free to email the suggested article and pictures to ToddSmith@scfwb.com to be placed in the July/August issue of the *Informer*. Please keep the suggested article between 150-200 words. The article may be revised or edited once submitted in order to fit in the *Informer*. In advance, thank you for helping us in helping you to promote the events of your church. I have often been told by our pastors and church members that they were so grateful that an article was in the *Informer* sharing the events of another church because it gave them ideas of some things that they can do for the cause of Christ in their church as well. Thank you for being united together in Christ.

The South Carolina Free Will Baptist Executive Committee met on Tuesday of this week to plan the state meeting program for next year. The South Carolina Free Will Baptist state meeting will take place on February 25-26, 2010 and will be hosted by the Central Association (place to be announced). The General Board will meet on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, at 10:00 AM. The theme for the meeting will be "Conforming to His Likeness" with the theme verse being Psalm 17:15. More details of the meeting will be published in future issues of the *Informer* as we get closer to the date of the meeting.

I often say this but do not want it's words to become monotonous to where they have no meaning, but we are very grateful to serve our Free Will Baptist churches in South Carolina. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

PRAYER and PRAISE:

1) Please continue to pray for the following ministers who have recently faced health complications: **Rev. Earl Hendrix (First, Inman), Rev. Rodney Wilson (New Vision, Hemingway), Rev. Tim Hackett (Fairview, Spartanburg), Rev. Leonard Williams (SC Conference), Rev. Joe Cagle (Little Bethel, Johnsonville), and Rev. Cyrus Shoffner (Faith, Darlington).**

2) Please pray for **Timothy Hanna**, the grandson of Missionary Carlisle Hanna, who had a benign brain tumor removed last week, and had to be readmitted to the hospital last Friday due to difficulties. He was discharged from the hospital on Monday of this week and is home doing much better.

MINISTER NEWS:

1) **Spartanburg Area Minister's Luncheon** - Monday, July 6, 2009, at the Grapevine Restaurant in Spartanburg, at 11:30 AM

2) **Conway Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at Shoney's Restaurant in Conway, at 8:30 AM

3) **Central Association Quarterly Meeting** - Saturday, July 11, 2009, at Cornerstone FWB Church in Whiteville, NC, at 9:00 AM

4) **Florence/Darlington Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at Bazen's Restaurant in Florence, at 8:30 AM

CHURCH NEWS:

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

SC WAC News:

SC WAC STATE RETREAT - "ESTHER'S CLOSET" - Friday and Saturday, October 2-3, 2009, at the White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro, SC. The total cost for 1 night stay and 3 meals is \$70. A \$20 non-refundable fee is due by April 30th. Please make checks payable to "SCWAC" and mail the payment to Cathy Logan at 1580 Potter Road, Lancaster, SC 29720. The remaining \$50 is due upon arrival.

SC FWB Youth Ministries News:

- 1) SC FWB Junior Camp - July 27-31, 2009 at Camp Pee Dee in Marion, SC. For a camp brochure, worker screen form, or a medical release form, visit www.scfwb.org/youth_ministries.htm
- 2) SC FWB Teen Retreat - October 23-25, 2009 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

CLOSING REMARKS: "Spiritual Independence Day"

Kuwait had been liberated and Forrest Sawyer was doing a live broadcast from Kuwait and talking about the events of the day and all that had occurred. He was talking to Ted Koppel when all of a sudden this old man ran in front of the camera clapping his hands over his head shouting in his broken English, "Me free, me free, me free."

There are times when I think back to my "Independence Day," that day when Jesus delivered me from sin's bondage and I committed my life to Him. When I do, my heart rejoices with those same words, "Me free, me free, me free!" I am reminded of the words of the song writer:

*So long I had searched for life's meaning,
Enslaved by the world and my greed;
Then the door of my prison was opened by love,
For the ransom was paid, I was freed.*

*I'm free from the fear of tomorrow;
I'm free from the guilt of the past;
For I've traded my shackles for a glorious song-
I'm free! Praise the Lord! Free at Last!*

As our country celebrates it's independence this coming weekend, may we as Christians celebrate our independence in Christ!

In His Love,

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