

OPENING REMARKS:

When the National Association of Free Will Baptists returned to Cincinnati on July 19-22, 2009, after a 12-year absence, the meeting held great promise. Like 1997, delegates filled downtown hotel rooms, laughed and swapped stories in the hallways, overflowed the exhibit hall in the Duke Energy Center, shouted amen's through the services, and sat through almost nine hours of business. The denomination returned to Cincinnati with a vision to reach the world and the courage to adopt a \$25 million denominational budget during the worst recession in nearly a century. They adopted resolutions, elected 35 board and commission members, and honored the pioneers who put Free Will Baptists on the global map. A full report of the great events of the convention will be in the next issue of the *Informer*.

Our SC Free Will Baptist juniors are at Junior Camp this week at Camp Pee Dee in Marion. Please pray for them as they not only enjoy the great events of a week of camp but also that it will be a time of spiritual renewal.

SC FWB STATE MEETING - The Central Association met Saturday, July 11, 2009, and voted for the next South Carolina Free Will Baptist State meeting to be hosted by the Evergreen FWB Church in Conway. The state meeting will be held February 25-26, 2010. The General Board will meet at Evergreen Church at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. The headquarter hotel will be the Sleep Inn located at 3345 Church Street in Conway. The special rate will be \$59.95 plus tax for two queen or one king. The price for suites will be \$69.95 plus tax. A second option for lodging will be the Best Western located at 1004 Waccamaw Drive in Conway. The Best Western special rate is \$45 plus tax for 2 queen or one king.

80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR MISSIONARY CARLISLE HANNA - The family of Missionary Carlisle Hanna will be having an 80th Birthday Celebration for Brother Hanna on Saturday, August 1, 2009, at Grace FWB Church Fellowship Building in Lake City. This will be a "drop in" celebration from 3-5 PM. His birthday is on August 3rd but the celebration will take place on August 1st. Please pray for Missionary Hanna as he will be returning to the states on July 22, 2009.

DAVID HUTCHINSON ACCOUNT - In the May/June issue of the *Informer*, an article stated that an account has been set up by the Mt. Elon FWB Church to help the needs of Rev. and Mrs. David Hutchinson. The name of the account has been changed. If you would like to help with this special project, please make checks payable to "New Elon Special Account" and forward the checks to Mt. Elon FWB Church, c/o Rev. Mark Leonard, 241 West Seven Mile Road, Pamplico, SC 29583.

PRAYER and PRAISE:

- 1) Please remember the **family of Mrs. Zellene Williams**. Mrs. Zellene Williams is the wife of Reverend Leonard Williams. Rev. Leonard Williams passed away on Wednesday of last week. The funeral was held on Friday, July 22, 2009, at Community FWB Church in Florence.
- 2) **Reverend Earl Hendrix**, pastor at First FWB Church in Inman, will be going through intense radiation and chemotherapy treatments as a precautionary measure due to his recent pancreatic cancer. Please be much in prayer for him during the upcoming months and weeks.

MINISTER NEWS:

- 1) **Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast** - Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City, at 8:30 AM
- 2) **Beaver Creek Meeting** - Saturday, July 25, 2009, at Calvary FWB Church in Union, SC, at 9:00 AM
- 3) **Eastern Conference Meeting** - Saturday, August 22, 2009, at St. John FWB Church in Pamplico, SC, at 9:30 AM

CHURCH NEWS:

July

30-August 1 CAMP MEETING - **Happy Home FWB Church in Andrews** will be having a Camp Meeting July 30-August 1, 2009.

Thurs-Friday - 7 PM

Thursday - Sam Atkinson Trio and Rev. Larry McAlister and Rev. Wayland Owens

Friday - Rev. James Sanders and Rev. Kevin Smith

Saturday - 9:00 AM until Noon and Lunch to Follow

AM - Rev. Michael Calder, Rev. Mitch Ingram, and Rev. Paul Lambert

Singing - Mrs. Summer Calder

August

1 TMT MINISTRIES - The **White Savannah FWB Church's** TMT Drama Ministry Team will be sharing their message of the gospel at the

Conway High School Auditorium at a Special Annual Gospel Singing with "The Browders" on August 1, 2009, at 6:00 PM.

The cost for admission is \$10.00 (children 12 and under are free). For more information contact Rev. Buddy Seay at 843-

455-7028

8 Ordination - **Mt. Carmel FWB Church in York, SC** will hold the ordination service for Kevin Rife (True Life Association).

9-12 YOUTH REVIVAL - **Lebanon FWB Church in Effingham** will be having a Youth Revival August 9-12, 2009, with Rev. Chris Edwards.

September

14-18 REVIVAL - **First FWB Church, Simpsonville**, with Rev. Tim York (7:30 PM)

21-25 REVIVAL - **South Conway FWB Church**, with Rev. Stephen Hyman

26 ORDINATION - Pine Grove FWB Church, Jefferson - Ordaining Brother Charles Watkins into the Gospel ministry.

27 HOMECOMING - **South Conway FWB Church**, with Rev. Allen Goodman

27 HOMECOMING - 25th Anniversary Homecoming at **Peace FWB Church in Florence** on Sunday, September 27, 2009.

*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:

One Christmas Eve, Ira D. Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. Asked to sing, Mr. Sankey sang the "Shepherd Song." After the song was ended, a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mr. Sankey and said: "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?" "Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, "in the spring of 1860." "Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright, moonlight night in 1862?" "Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised. "So did I," said the stranger, "but I was serving in the Confederate army. When I saw you standing at your post I said to myself: 'That fellow will never get away from here alive.' I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger. 'Let him sing his song to the end,' I said to myself. 'I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.' But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly: *We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, Be the guardian of our way.* "Those words stirred up many memories in my heart. I began to think of my childhood and my God-fearing mother. She had many times sung that song to me. But she died all too soon, otherwise much in my life would no doubt have been different. "When you had finished your song it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought: 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty' and my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side."

May you rest knowing your Heavenly Father watches over you and protects you each hour of the day.

In Christ,

Todd Smith, Executive Secretary
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