

SC FWB Update, Vol. 4, No. 51, Wednesday, December 15, 2010

OPENING REMARKS:

CONGRATS - Congratulations to Reverend Donnie and Mrs. Trudy Miles who have been ministering at Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, for 20 years now. They were pleasantly surprised by Peace Church this past Sunday with a 20 Year Appreciation Service. (Would you like something special mentioned that has happened recently at your South Carolina Free Will Baptist church? Drop us a 2-3 sentence explanation of a recent past event, and we'll try our best to get it in this update...whether a pastor appreciation or something unique or special your church may have done for missions, or some other special event).

Bookstore and State Office Closed the Week of Christmas - The South Carolina Free Will Baptist Christian Book and Supply and State Office will be closed the week of December 20-24, 2010, for Christmas. We will re-open on Monday, December 27, 2010. Due to being closed next week, we will not have a weekly email update going out. The next SC FWB weekly email update will go out on Wednesday, December 29, 2010. We hope that you and your family have a very blessed and Merry Christmas!

PRAYER / PRAISE REQUEST:

*Please continue to remember **Reverend Dennis Tolley**, the pastor at Gaffney FWB Church, in your prayers as he has faced health issues related to his back.

***Reverend Kevin Smith**, the pastor at Westgate FWB Church in Arcadia, had throat surgery this week on Tuesday, December 14, 2010. Everything went well. Please remember him over the next few days as he recovers from surgery.

MINISTER NEWS:

*Spartanburg Area Minister's Luncheon - Monday, January 3, 2011 - Grapevine Restaurant, Boiling Springs - 11:30 AM

*Central Association Meeting - Saturday, January 9, 2011 - Freedom FWB Church in Tabor City, NC - 9 AM

*Florence/Darlington area wide FWB Minister's Breakfast - Tuesday, January 11, 2011 - Bazen's Restaurant, Florence - 8:30 AM

*True Life Conference Meeting - Saturday, January 15, 2011 - 10 AM

*Lake City Area Wide FWB Minister's Breakfast - Tuesday, January 18, 2010 - Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City - 8:30 AM

*South Carolina Conference Annual Meeting - Thursday-Friday, January 20-21, 2011 - Grace FWB Church in Lake City

*Eastern Conference Meeting - Saturday, January 22, 2011 - Freedom FWB Church in Ladson - 9:30 AM

*Beaver Creek Association Meeting - Saturday, January 29, 2010 - 9 AM

CHURCH NEWS:

December

15 CHRISTMAS PLAY - Greater Vision FWB Church in Bladenboro, NC - 7 PM - Program Entitled "Faithful Followers" - Everyone's Welcome.

18 CHRISTMAS PLAY - Mt. Ariel FWB Church, Conway - "A Christmas in the Country" - 6 PM

January

26-28 GRANDVIEW CAMP MEETING - First FWB Church, 900 67th Ave N, Myrtle Beach, SC (Pastor Wayne Snipes) - Guest Evangelist - Reverend Jack Lassiter (7 PM Nightly) / Suggested Accommodations: Mystic Sea Motel, 2105 S. Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, 800-443-7050 (mention camp meeting) / Special Singing by The Dosses. Everyone's invited to attend!

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

CLOSING REMARKS: "THAT QUESTION WOULD DEFINE HISTORY FOR ME!"

Larry King, the CNN talk show host, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. He said, "Jesus Christ." The questioner said, "And what would you like to ask Him?" King replied, "I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me." As Christians, we believe the answer to that question to be an emphatic, "Yes...He is indeed the virgin-born Son of God sent as the Messiah to redeem mankind from his sins."

Blind author, Hellen Keller (June 27, 1880 – June 1, 1968) said, "The only real blind person at Christmas time is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

I have often heard it said that wise men still seek Him. The wise men (or Magi) mentioned in the Bible were of great eminence in the Parthian Empire at that time, and it is unlikely that the caravan consisted of only three men. Most assume there were three wise men due to the three types of gifts offered (gold, frankincense, and myrrh), but the Bible does not say "three" wise

men. There very likely could have been a large entourage of wise men searching for the future King of Israel, so it is no wonder that "all Jerusalem" was "troubled," along with King Herod (Matthew 2:3). The Persians had not been conquered by the Romans and at that time were posing a significant threat along the eastern boundary of the extended Roman Empire. We often see the wise men in manger scenes, but in fact, they were not there when Christ was born. Jesus was a "young child" by the time they arrived (Matthew 2:9). But when they saw the young child and His mother in Bethlehem, they "fell down, and worshipped Him" (Matthew 2:11). But why the three gifts? Gold would acknowledge His right to reign, frankincense would speak of the incense offered in the heavenly Tabernacle, and the myrrh (John 19:39) would testify that His crucified body would be anointed later as it lay in a very temporary burial spot. He truly became our High Priest who "ever liveth to make intercession for" us! (Hebrews 7:25). May we find time this Christmas season to fall down and worship Him!

In Christ,

Todd Smith

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