

SC FWB Update, Vol. 4, No. 31, Wednesday, July 7, 2010

OPENING REMARKS:

This has been a week of closing out the books for June, compiling reports for the Executive Committee and Home Mission Board, and sending reports to our FWB International missionaries. For the first half of this year, churches and individuals gave through our State Office \$596,668.66 to missionaries and ministries at home and around the world. This is \$27,197.61 above the first half of last year. We praise the Lord for the giving of God's people. Missionaries would not be able to continue carrying forth the gospel without your faithful support. Our Children's Home would not be able to minister to needy children without your faithful support. Our State Office would not be able to serve our conferences, churches, and ministers if it were not for your faithful support. Home missionaries and other ministries would not be able to continue in their ministries were it not for your faithful support. On behalf of our State Office, Children's Home, missionaries, and ministries around the world, we extend a tremendous "THANK YOU" for being a faithful steward in giving to meet the many needs of ministry. All gifts are receipted and tax deductible. A giving form can be downloaded from www.scfwb.com under "Quick Links."

As a short reminder, volunteer workers are need in helping to replace the roof at the Children's Home this week on July 8, 9, and 10, 2010. Work will begin each morning around 7 AM and will continue to the evening. Any help will be greatly appreciated. For more details, feel free to contact the Children's Home at 843-659-2880.

The Central Association will be meeting this Saturday, July 10, 2010 at First FWB Church in Myrtle Beach at 9 AM. Church layman and ministers alike are invited to attend. We look forward to our time of fellowship together.

Dr. Randy Sawyer's new book, *Battling the Black Dog: Raw Confessions of Depression* published by Randall House, is available at our FWB Christian Book and Supply. Call and order your copy today at 843-657-2091. Supporting your FWB Christian Book and Supply enables us to serve our state, churches, ministers, and missionaries. In advance, thank you for your faithful support.

PRAYER / PRAISE REQUEST:

*Please pray for many of our missionaries who are making plans to return to the states in order to attend the National Association of Free Will Baptist Convention.

MINISTER NEWS:

*Central Association - Saturday, July 10, 2010 - First FWB Church, Myrtle Beach - 9 AM

*Florence / Darlington Area Minister Breakfast - Tuesday, July 13, 2010 - Bazen's Restaurant - 8:30 AM

*NAFWB Convention - July 18-21, 2010 - Oklahoma City, OK

CHURCH NEWS:

July:

9-10 YOUTH RALLY - Bethany FWB Church in Timmons ville will be hosting a "Soldiers of the Saviour (SOS)" Youth Rally. All teens and youth are welcome to attend. The youth rally will begin at 5:30 PM on Friday and on Saturday at 11:30 AM. There will be preaching, games, activities, prizes, and food. Youth workers, please contact Reverend Joshua Horton if you are planning to attend. You can call him at 843-346-2593. Thank you.

August:

13-15 YOUTH RETREAT - Westgate FWB Church in Arcadia (Spartanburg) will be hosting its first annual YOUTH RETREAT August 13-15, 2010. Some of the events will be roller skating, putt putt, batting cage, bon fire, and much more. Reverend Kevin Smith (pastor at Westgate), Reverend Joey Mills (youth pastor at Westgate), and Reverend David "Boo" Casper (pastor at Promise FWB Church) will be preaching. For more information or registration forms, contact Tami Fish at the church office at 864-574-5904 or Youth Pastor Joey Mills at 864-219-1849.

20 BACK TO SCHOOL BASH BOWLING PARTY - South Gate Bowling in Florence, 6-9 PM. \$10 per person. Grades 4-12. Area churches are invited. Please contact Reverend Chris Edwards for details - 843-598-4410 or chris@lebanonfwbc.com

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

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

*Junior Youth Camp, Camp Pee Dee, August 2 - 6, 2010. Vince Tharpe with Art Alive Ministry will be the Evangelist. Please visit Brother Vince's website at www.Artalive.org. For further details, visit http://www.scfwb.org/youth_ministries.htm

WAC NEWS: - PLEASE NOTE CORRECTION -

*SC WAC Fall Retreat - October 8-9, 2010 - Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton, South Carolina.

CLOSING REMARKS: "Finishing Well"

In his book, *Go the Distance*, Ed Rowell emphasizes the importance of finishing the race and finishing well. One particular story that grabbed my attention was his personal struggle during a marathon race. In many ways, Ed is a Renaissance man. He describes himself as having

"attention surplus disorder"-everything interests him. In his younger years, he was a bull rider, an Elk hunting guide, and a Marathon runner.

Ed had completed four marathons. He wasn't concerned with whether he could finish the race; he was concerned with improving his time. His ultimate running goal was to compete in the Boston Marathon. To do that, he needed to get his time under three hours and ten minutes, which would be nine minutes faster than his personal best.

He was in great shape. For the past three months he got up religiously every morning and ran. He ran through fatigue and pushed himself into marathon condition. At the starting line, Ed was cold, but he knew that the 50 degree weather and light drizzle would actually benefit him once he got moving. When the gun sounded that early October morning in 1983 in Kansas City, Missouri, Ed had no idea how much that race was going to impact his life. He started well, but as he did a self assessment early into the race, he was surprised at how much he was laboring. Using mind over matter, he purposed himself to go on. Not only had he been training his body, but he had practiced mental conditioning techniques to help him push through the wall-the mental barrier that tells a runner they can't take another step. But by mile 12, his will had evaporated. He stopped running and started walking. After a hundred yards, he would run again. But it didn't last. Like a jerking clutch, he walked a while and ran a while. Then it happened -- hypothermia began to set in. The constant drizzle and the low temperature are to a runner's advantage, because it alleviates the problem of dehydration that hot weather runners face. However, it is not to the advantage of a walker, because the runner does not generate sufficient body heat to offset the environment.

The race organizers had vans circling the course looking for runners who were injured or ill prepared for the race. Twice, one of those vehicles stopped to see if Ed wanted to ride to the finish line, and twice he ignored them and started to jog. The third time they came by, Ed was shivering uncontrollably, but he still shook his head "no" when the van stopped to pick him up. "We've got warm blankets and hot chocolate," the young woman said. Ed got into the van and immediately began sobbing. It was a defining moment in his life. Later, he was ashamed when he met up with his friends who finished the race and had to tell them what happened. Why did it happen? I'm not sure. I'm not even sure if Ed knows himself. But I do have an idea. I think it happened because Ed took finishing the race for granted. He had as his goal to improve his time, but not to cross the finish line.

In 2 Tim. 4:6-8, Paul states, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

In this life, we may not improve our time or even become better than another runner, but what is most important is that we cross the finish line and finish well. In doing so, we will hear the words of our Master, "Well done; thou good and faithful servant!" May we all run the race of the Christian life and finish well!