

THE



Vol. 41 Num 2
Summer 2011

INFORMER

The Informer is the official publication of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc.

Address all correspondence to

Todd Smith, P.O. Box 9, Turbeville, SC 29162

(843) 657-2091 Email: ToddSmith@scfwb.com

www.scfwb.com

Two Salvations at SC FWB Teen Camp



South Carolina Free Will Baptist Teen Camp was held June 6-11, 2011 at Camp Anchorage at Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina. Two salvations, one re-dedication, and

forty-nine other decisions were made by the end of the week of camp. Reverend Blake Coghill was the guest preacher for the week. In the morning devotional time, he challenged the teens to give at least one percent (approximately fifteen minutes) of each day to God. The evening and morning messages challenged the teens to give their hearts to God. The theme for the week of teen camp was "Who Has Your Heart?" It was a joy to not only see the teens having fun by participating in the many activities but also to see them making many decisions in regard to their walk with the Lord and giving their hearts to God. Free Will Baptist Bible College representative Jake Manning and also Southeastern Free Will Baptist College representative Marcos Osuna were at camp representing the colleges and interacting with the teens throughout the week of camp. Throughout the week, the teen activities included rock wall climbing, skiing, skating, tubing, canoeing, watching skits, playing basketball, and participating in many other activities. Previous SC FWB Youth Ministries Director Cyrus Shoffner worked much of the week helping Camp Anchorage complete some renovations in their snack shop area. We encourage all of our churches to send their teens to South Carolina Free Will Baptist teen camp! For more details on any of our state youth ministries, feel free to contact SC FWB Youth Ministries Director Teddy Rabon at 843-520-6407.



SC FWB Jr. Camp

"Thank the Lord for a great week of Junior Camp the week of July 25-29, 2011! Everybody had a wonderful time! We had a total of 86 campers!" stated SC FWB Youth Ministries Director Teddy Rabon. The week of Junior Camp was held at Camp Pee Dee in Marion, South Carolina. The theme for the week was "Who Has Your Heart?" Reverend Jonathan Postlewaite, the pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington and newly appointed Free Will Baptist missionary to Bulgaria, was the guest preacher for the week. Many young people made decisions on the altar praying each night during the worship services. On Wednesday evening, the altar was full after Reverend Jonathan Postlewaite preached a message on having "A Pure Heart." Throughout the week of camp, there were 20 salvation decisions, 19 rededications, and 19 decisions for service to the Lord! In the morning, campers had devotion time, and in the afternoon, they had Bible classes. Topics for the Bible classes were "A Brave Heart," "A Committed Heart," "A Faithful Heart," and "A Loving Heart." Activities throughout the week also included craft time, music classes, game time, swim time, and sliding on the 16 foot water slide. During the music class, campers learned four songs and one skit which was performed during the Thursday evening service. Several family members of campers were present in the Thursday evening service to support the campers. The Teen Ministry Team (TMT) from White Savannah Free Will Baptist Church in Conway came Thursday evening to minister as well. Overall, there were 240 people in attendance for the Thursday evening service. Youth Ministries Director Teddy Rabon would like to thank all the volunteers workers, helpers, and counselors for helping during the week of camp. Without those helping, it would have been impossible! Thank you pastors, parents, and youth workers, for sending your youth to camp!

Coming Soon - The next issue of the *Informer* will be a special National Association of Free Will Baptist 75th Anniversary Convention, which will give news about this year's convention as well as SC NYC winners and much more!

Appreciation for 36 Years of Service

On Sunday evening, June 5, 2011, the Mullins-Marion Free Will Baptist Church family honored Pastor Neil Hinson and his wife Mrs. Billie Jean for 36 years of faithful service unto the Lord at the Mullins-Marion Church. Since 1975, Pastor Hinson has served in many ministries in the church. He came from North Carolina to help start the Christian school as Administrator/Principal. During those first years at the church, he started several bus routes that brought many into the church. He was over the Junior Church ministry in the church for many years. He not only impacted the lives of church families on Sunday but invested into the lives of many teenagers on Friday evenings for youth events and activities by sharing the Gospel and Biblical teachings with them. During the special service on June 5, Reverend Teddy Rabon, who grew up in the Mullins-Marion Church and is currently serving as the pastor at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in Georgetown, preached a message from 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 and thanked Pastor Neil and Mrs. Billie Jean for their faithful service to the Lord. Reverend Teddy Rabon mentioned in his message, "All these many years that I watched you serve the Lord, I saw Jesus in your life and you always put the Lord first in your life." During the special appreciation service, Reverend Tony Miles, the pastor at Little Star Free Will Baptist Church, shared Scripture from Matthew 22:2-14, and Reverend Jack Strickland shared Pastor Hinson's favorite life verse, Philippians 4:13. Many people that Pastor Neil Hinson served through the years as Christian School Principal, Children's Church Pastor, Teen Youth Leader, Bus Route Leader, and Pastor were present on this special day to support and thank him. A slide-show in Pastor Hinson's honor to remember his faithful years of service was shown during the special "Appreciation Service." Everyone shared in fellowship at a supper following the service that evening.



Pictured Left: Deacons Ronald Owens and Randy Pridgen and Pastor Neil and Mrs. Billie Jean Hinson

Don't Forget:

October is "Pastor Appreciation Month!" Be sure to plan a special service to honor your pastor and his family! When is the last time he received a raise or received a special love gift? October would be a great month to show your love in a special way!

Ard Ordained and Accepts Pastorate at Mill Branch

Reverend Scott Ard was ordained into the Gospel ministry on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church. He was saved on May 16, 1999, and he previously served at Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church as a Sunday school teacher for 11 years, served on the Board of Trustees, and served as a Deacon for four years. He was called to preach in May 2010 and began the minister license process through the Eastern Conference in the same month. He served as the interim pastor at Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville from May 2010 until after his ordination when he was voted in as pastor in May 2011 by a 97% vote. On the evening of his ordination service, the congregation opened the service by singing "Blessed Assurance." Special music was offered by Mill Branch and Union Baptist Youth and by April Lyerly. The message was brought by Reverend Thad Jacobs, the pastor at Happy Home Free Will Baptist Church in Andrews. A special song, "The Call," was brought by Tony Gibson, and Reverend Doug Mathis preached the ordaining charge. The service was closed in special song by Tony Gibson, and food and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone in the fellowship hall immediately following the ordination service. Reverend Scott Ard and his wife Jenny have two children, Austin and Haley. Please remember Reverend Scott Ard and his family in prayer as they continue in ministry at Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church. They are honored to have him as pastor.



Pictured Above Left to Right: Executive Secretary Reverend Todd Smith, Austin Ard, Scott and Jenny Ard, Haley Ard, Reverend Thad Jacobs, and Reverend Doug Mathis.

MISSION: North America Offering Sunday, November 20, 2011.

We encourage every church to take up a special love offering for National Free Will Baptist Home Missions!

Please contact the National Home Missions Department for free promotional materials at 877-767-7674 or through their website at www.homemissions.net.

Duncan Ordained into the Gospel Ministry

Damon Duncan, a member of the Turning Point FWB Church in Spartanburg and the Beaver Creek Association, was ordained into the Gospel ministry on May 1, 2011. Dr. Chris Jackson, the pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Simpsonville, brought the ordination message and Damon's pastor, Reverend Todd Black, brought the ordination charge. After the message, Reverend Duncan was presented with his credentials as well as a twenty-three volume Pulpit Commentary set. After the ordination service, those in attendance enjoyed a meal in the fellowship hall. If Reverend Damon Duncan can be of assistance to you or your church, please feel free to call him at 864-415-5893, or you may call his pastor, Reverend Todd Black, at 864-205-8918.



Pictured Left: Pastor Todd Black presenting the 23 Volume Pulpit Commentary set to Reverend Damon Duncan with his wife Kara by his side.

Central Association Master's Men Conference

The second annual Central Association Master's Men Conference took place at Damascus Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, May 28, 2011. Seven churches were represented with 33 in attendance. Reverend Tony Miles and Reverend



Allen Goodman preached the service and were presented with King James Version Bibles. For more details on the Central Association Master's Men conferences, feel free to contact Reverend Allen Goodman at thegoodmanhouse@aol.com.

Pictured Left to Right: Rev. Allen Goodman, Rev. Timmy Locklear, and Rev. Tony Miles.

Reverend James Skipper Available to Fill In



Reverend James Skipper, long standing pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Hartsville, recently resigned and is currently available to fill in or supply the pulpit for pastors that may need his help. Please feel free to contact him at (843) 393-3969.

Bethel, Florence Dedicates New Church Sign



Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Florence dedicated a new church sign on Sunday, April 17, 2011. The Singing Couriers Group led the worship in song

and testimonies. Reverend Mike Jones, South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Clerk, preached the dedication message, followed by a prayer of dedication. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall following the dedication service. Bethel Free Will Baptist Church's pastor Reverend Johnny Evans said, "We praise the Lord for the new sign and believe it will be a blessing to the church." Bethel Church is thankful for each gift toward this project, the advice of Mr. Winston Evans (Reverend Rickey Evan's father), and also Mr. Cain Turner for his effort in preparing the electrical wiring for the sign. The church also acknowledges Signs, LTD in Lake City for their part in making this possible. To God be the Glory!

First, Florence Big Day



It was another exciting "BIG DAY" weekend at First Free Will Baptist Church in Florence on April 2-3, 2011. The carnival on Saturday included a great

service with "Cowboy Larry," a hot dog lunch, and fun time on six different inflatables. The weekend continued in excitement with 778 in attendance in the Sunday services, making a grand total of 994 in attendance for the whole weekend. A stirring message from Luke 19:10, entitled "Which Road Are You On?" was preached by Pastor Lee Patrick. During the invitation, eleven people came forward and made salvation decisions, and several other decisions were made as well. After the service on Sunday, the church fed everyone BBQ and Chicken Bog with all the trimmings. Pastor Lee Patrick stated, "Big Days are hard work, but they really pay off. Our staff and church people worked hard to make this day a success. To God be the glory!"



Columbia Church 50th Anniversary

Columbia Original Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on May 14-15, 2011. On Saturday, May 14, 2011, a good number gathered from 4-8 PM at a reception and shared memories of the first days of the church. Some remembered the church meeting in a converted dog pen. Others recalled the new church building being blown down just after completion. However, the church followed the pastor's advice and built again. On Sunday, May 15, 2011, the day began with the recognition of active church members who continue to support the church through prayers, financial giving, and faithful service. Some, like Bruce and Pansy Aull and several others, have been members since their salvation. One official charter member, Dr. Joseph R. Wallis, the pastor at Corinth Free Will Baptist Church in Dunn, NC, testified of helping to vote in Reverend Carroll Alexander as pastor. Old minutes reflect that the church was organized on March 23, 1961. There have only been three pastors since the church was organized: Reverend David Hutchinson (March 23, 1961 - October 1961), Reverend Carroll Alexander (December 3, 1961 - June 2008), and Reverend Earnest Barnes (April 5, 2009 to the present). Reverend Jon Justice brought the morning message and spoke of the prodigal son's homecoming. He testified that he did not know where he would be were it not for the ministry of Reverend Carroll Alexander and the Columbia Church. There were almost 100 people in attendance for the fiftieth anniversary service. Afterwards, dinner was served at the South Kilbourne Road Elementary School with previous pastor Reverend Carroll Alexander returning thanks for the meal. Columbia Free Will Baptist Church now looks to the future hoping to win souls and serve Jesus until His return.



Pictured Left:
Rev. Earnest
Barnes and Rev.
Jon Justice

Pictured Right:
Enjoying a
wonderful meal,
fellowship, and
lots of memories
at the meal
following the
50th anniversary
service.



South Conway Honors Veterans

On Sunday, July 3, 2011, South Conway Free Will Baptist Church in Conway held a special patriotic service. Veterans were honored by each one receiving a special pin. There were 141 in attendance for the special service, and Pastor Chris McEachern said, "And most of all, one soul was saved for the glory of God!" Everyone enjoyed a meal and fellowship following the service. A twenty-one gun salute

was given on the church grounds following the meal to honor veterans and those currently serving in the military.



Pictured Right: A
21 gun salute on the
church grounds
following the meal
honors veterans and
those currently
serving in the
military.



Growing Greer Church

The Greer Free Will Baptist Church has experienced some wonderful growth over the past few months. Church member Mrs. Ann Edwards said, "For well over thirty years, this church has had its ups and downs, but praise God, it has faired pretty well. From a membership of thirty in March 2010, it has grown to a regular attendance of sixty on Sunday." Sunday school growth has grown from one adult class with five members to a class of 18 students, and a children's class has grown from two students to five students. From infants to adults, the attendance for Sunday school is now averaging 40 plus students. During the past six months, the church has replaced its well worn roof with a more modern metal roof. A new steeple was added to the church, and the parking lot has been paved. The church has also added a parsonage to house the pastor and his family. The church has been getting together with other churches in the area to host youth events and rallies. At the June youth rally, there was an attendance of 175. We praise the Lord for what He is doing at the Greer FWB Church!



Change for Children

Each Sunday evening at Turning Point Free Will Baptist Church in Spartanburg, after receiving the regular church offering, children would collect money from adults across the sanctuary as the adults waved the money in the air indicating to the children where to come and pick up the money. The children would walk around the sanctuary collecting the money and then bring it to the front and place the money in a five gallon empty water jug. The money was deposited into the water jug with the understanding that half of the funds would go to the South Carolina Free Will Baptist Children's Home and half would go toward youth activities at Turning Point. Pastor Todd Black stated, "After completely filling the jug, they collected a total of \$700. The children and adults alike really look forward to this portion of the Sunday evening service, and it is a great way to help toward youth ministries!"

Mt. Carmel with True Life Help Flood Victims

Mt. Carmel Free Will Baptist Church in conjunction with the True Life Association partnered with the Brent Ware of Kentucky Missions and delivered truck loads of clothing, water, food, cleaning supplies, and household articles to the flood ravaged victims of the Cumberland gap region. The True Life Conference extends their gratitude to Free Welcome Free Will Baptist Church, White Savannah Free Will Baptist Church, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Una, and Hariett Memorial Free Will Baptist Church of Caroleen, North Carolina, for their generous love offerings to help toward this project. Combined, they donated \$1,227.50. Distribution points were in Pinesville, Barbourville, and K.J. Camp, Kentucky. On the evening of July 12, 2011, a service was held at the K.J. Camp Park pavillion. Reverend John Cody, the pastor at Mt. Carmel Free Will Baptist Church stated, "We were blessed with donations of food and clothing from our True Life Association churches as well as a large donation of food and water from Riverside Independent Baptist Church in Rock Hill. We are blessed with wonderful people in our State Association, who have love in their hearts to help the less fortunate. We are building a response team that will act in the event of any natural disaster in the state. We would welcome any assistance that would be offered from churches throughout our state. In the near future, Mt. Carmel Church will be sending relief items to Joplin, Missouri, as well as helping Kentucky Missions to hand out shoeboxes with toys and other items this coming Christmas in

the Cumberland Gap area."

Pictured Left: Helpers with Mt. Carmel Church's Care & Share Program preparing shipments to send to various states.



Lancaster / Rock Hill Area Wide Camp Meeting



The Lancaster and Rock Hill area Free Will Baptist churches came together the week of June 13-18, 2011, for their annual camp meeting. Monday through Thursday evening, the services were held at the

Lancaster High School Auditorium, and the Friday evening combined service was held at High Point Free Will Baptist Church in Lancaster. The organizing group for the camp meeting came from minister breakfast fellowship meetings each month. Reverend Chris Rumfelt (pictured above), the pastor at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Hayesville, was the guest evangelist for the week. Special singing was provided throughout the week by Reverend Rumfelt, his family, men from his church, and also by Sam and Labreska Atkinson. A collective prayer meeting took place each evening prior to the camp meeting services at 6:30 PM. Bibles were donated from a local Gideon to give to new converts in a packet with information about Free Will Baptist churches in the area. With the Free Will Baptist pastors united on the fact that God would get the glory for everything, the camp meeting took place with services packed every night. During the Friday evening service, it was agreed upon by the ministers to continue the camp meeting through Saturday evening. Overall, it was a great revival, not just of meetings, but of God working in the hearts and lives of individuals!

Pictured Left: Pastors fill the choir, with Pastor Cliff Wilson and Rev. Tim Larrimore on the stage, while the congregation is being led in a song with Rev. Chris Rumfelt playing the guitar.



E-TEAM 2012 APPLICATIONS

E-TEAM applications for 2012 are now being accepted through October 1, 2011. Call International Missions (877-767-7736) for an application or download one from the FWB IM website at www.fwbgo.com/go

First, Greenwood Assist Tornado Victims



First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenwood, South Carolina under the direction of Pastor Chris Todd recently undertook a tornado-relief mission trip to

Joplin, Missouri. The men were stunned by what they saw. A tornado tore through the town May 15, 2011, and created a death toll that reached between 160 and 165 people. Pastor Chris Todd said the aftermath resembled the results of a huge team of bulldozers pushing their way through miles of destruction. "We just got out, and for 10 minutes, we just stood around and couldn't say anything," he said. Julian Garrett, another member of the group, recalled the impact of Hurricane Hugo on the South Carolina coast in 1989, but neither this nor previous tornadoes had prepared him for seeing a neighborhood with all the houses ripped away. "It was almost indescribable. The total devastation of the area was just unbelievable," he said. The team of five workers operating through the church after coming back from post-tornado work in Missouri, described the trip as a learning experience. His church has participated in non-disaster mission trips before, and he said he wants to plug the church into a disaster relief ministry every summer. In Joplin, they engaged mostly in demolition work, helping to bring down the gym of Generations Free Will Baptist Church, the only remaining piece of the church still standing. On their other work site, a single mother and her baby had taken refuge in an interior closet. The walls around the closet area remained as the only standing portion of the house, and the floor system had slid about 20 feet from its foundation. Todd said he saw a majority of church-affiliated teams among the volunteers coming into Joplin, which also included the National Guard and a high school football team. The city needed their help badly, he said, as the Federal Emergency Management Agency covered the majority of the cost of debris removal, but only for wreckage carried to the roadsides by August 2, 2011. The church in Carthage was very gracious and provided meals for the relief workers. The fastest tornado wind speed ever recorded was in 1999 in Oklahoma at 318 miles per hour. The tornado that ravaged Joplin had sustained winds speeds of 275 miles per hour, while the tornado itself was moving at 20 miles per hour. It was an experience these men will never forget, and it was one that motivated them to want to do more of this type of outreach in the future. We commend these men for a job well done!

Westgate Assists Master's Men Relief Efforts

A team from Westgate Free Will Baptist Church in Spartanburg under the direction of Pastor Kevin Smith met with a group of twenty-five volunteers in the Tennessee area to assist Free Will Baptist Master's Men with relief efforts in east Tennessee. The Westgate Mission Team left on Thursday, May 5, 2011, to carry donated supplies that had been donated through their church. They took basic supplies like water and non-perishable food to tornado victims. It was reported originally that seven people died due to the tornado, but many more were reported dead later. Homes were without electricity for many days. The Westgate team also brought heavy equipment, such as chain saws, generators, and tools to help in the clean up effort. One team member commented, "One may ask the question, 'Why.' Even though we may not know the answer, we do know that all things work to the greater good for them that are a part of God's master plan." In conjunction with helping with the victims physical needs, the team also assisted in spiritual needs by praying with the victims and leading in a worship service. To watch a video about this outreach event and learn more about Westgate's mission outreach, visit the "Missions/Outreach" page on their website at www.westgatefwb.com/ministries/missionsoutreach.html. Also, according to Pastor Kevin Smith, "Westgate Free Will Baptist Church has begun a complete renovation project to the Westgate Church that will add close to two hundred more seats to the sanctuary. Pray that God will continue to meet the needs of our church as we seek to honor Him!"

Memorial to Mrs. Nancy Boykin

Mrs. Nancy Elizabeth Boykin (age 64), the wife of Reverend John Boykin, a member of the Beaver Creek Association, passed away on Monday, May 30, 2011, at Springs Memorial Hospital. She was born March 19, 1947 in Lancaster County a daughter of the late Jacob and Fannie May Curtis. She retired as an insurance agent with Liberty National Insurance Company. Her funeral was held at Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Lancaster on June 2, 2011. Reverend Marty Cox, Reverend Tim Larrimore, and her grandson Reverend David Casper officiated the funeral. Reverend Chris Rumpf provided special music for the funeral service. The funeral was more like a home going celebration instead of a sorrowful going away. Mrs. Nancy was survived by not only her husband Reverend John Boykin but also two daughters, Sybil Boykin Casper and husband David Casper of Monroe, North Carolina and Angela Boykin Flynn of Lancaster, two sons John Boykin Jr and wife Wendy Boykin, and Kevin Boykin and wife Kathy both of Lancaster, eight grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren. Her life was a testimony to many, and she was a faithful member at Liberty Church. She will be greatly missed!

Eastern Conference Youth Rally

The Eastern Conference Youth Rally was held on Saturday, April 30, 2011, and was hosted by New Prospect Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico. Several Free Will Baptist churches were represented, with their youth sharing in song and skits. The attendance banner for the church with the most in attendance went to St. John Free Will Baptist Church. They accepted the banner from Happy Home Free Will Baptist Church who had the most in attendance at the previous youth rally. Reverend Tommy Haselden brought the youth rally message, and one soul was saved. A meal was served, and everyone also enjoyed fun time and games to conclude the youth rally. Conference youth rallies are a great opportunity for churches to come together for the cause of growing young people spiritually in the kingdom of God.

South Carolina Free Will Baptist Teen Retreat October 21-22, 2011

Ages: 12-19

Cost: \$125 per person

Place: To be Announced

***For further details, keep watching the SC FWB Youth Ministries web page at www.scfwb.org/youth_ministries.htm.**

Heritage of the English KJV Bible



Recognizing the King James Version's 400 years of history, Randall House Publication has published the book entitled *The Heritage of the English Bible* written by Danny Conn. The book provides a review of the history of our English Bible.

The reader will rediscover the

period of time between the original manuscripts and the beginning of the English translation. An added feature to this work are select replica pages from the Original 1611 Edition of the King James Bible. To get your copy, call the SC FWB Christian Book and Supply today at 843-657-2091 or 800-319-2346. There is a limited number of copies in print! Don't miss out on this great heritage release!

Ordination Service for Ellis

Michael Ellis is a native of Norfolk, Virginia and grew up attending the Great Bridge Free Will Baptist Church. He graduated from Southeastern Free Will Baptist Bible College in 2010 with a B.A. in Bible and a Minor in Missions. He began serving as the Youth Pastor at Temple Free Will Baptist Church in July 2010, originally traveling down on the weekends and later moving to the Darlington area. After graduation from college, Michael married Sarah Stout, daughter of Reverend Tim Stout. Sarah graduated from Southeastern College with a Major in Elementary Education. On Sunday evening, July 24, 2011, at Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Reverend Michael Ellis was ordained into the Gospel ministry. Reverend Rodney Holloman, chairman of the Bible Department at Southeastern, preached the ordination charge, and Reverend Tim Stout, pastor at Heritage Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, preached the ordination message. Mrs. Sarah Ellis shared a special in song during the ordination service. Reverend Bruce Kimbrel, the pastor at Temple Free Will Baptist Church, along with the deacons of Temple Church presented Michael with a Bible. Reverend James Earl Raper, South Carolina Conference Ordaining Council member, presented Michael with his ordination certificate. After the service, Temple Church provided everyone with refreshments in the fellowship hall. We welcome this wonderful young couple to South Carolina and to Temple Church!



Pictured Above: Mrs. Sarah and Reverend Michael Ellis (Center); Reverend James Earl Raper, Reverend Rodney Holloman, and Reverend Bruce Kimbrel (Back); Reverend Rudy Manriquez (Left); Reverend Tim Stout (Right)

Mark Your Calendars

*D6 Conference - September 21-23, 2011 - Dallas, Texas (www.D6conference.com)

*SC FWB Children's Home Day - Saturday, November 5, 2011 - Turbeville, SC

*NAFWB Leadership Conference - December 5-6, 2011 - Nashville, TN

*SC FWB State Meeting - February 23-24, 2012 - Southside FWB Church, Aiken

Aiken Loan Fund



The Aiken mission work has passed several milestones: first service, first conversion, first baptism, first wedding, etc. The church plant in Aiken is now poised to pass one of the most difficult milestones, paying off the church

building. By paying off this debt, not only will the church be free from this financial burden, but the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association will be debt free. With the help of the 124 churches in the state, the current balance owed on the building is less than \$10,000. The South Carolina State Missions Board is asking for your help in completing this project by the time of the South Carolina Free Will Baptist state meeting to be held in Aiken in February 2012. We are asking all 124 churches to help wipe out the debt on the building at Aiken by making a special donation of \$100.00 by the time of the state meeting. Some people struggle to understand how a church plant could need their help for such a long time. There are a few struggles that a mission church faces that a more established church may not face. When a mission church enters a town there is unfamiliarity with the denomination and its beliefs. While people in the town may be familiar with the Baptist part of our name, they are generally unfamiliar with our type of Baptist, being Free Will. Pastors from other churches in the city often try to define our beliefs based on misconceptions about our doctrine and name. People have no connection with Free Will Baptist. On special days and holidays, people generally migrate to churches that they are familiar with. The number of people that will drop into an unfamiliar denomination is limited. In a mission church everyone is new. Generally, besides the pastor and his wife, nobody really claims the church as their home. It often takes three years for people to lay claim to a mission church. Perhaps you can think of a church plant that has experienced explosive growth, but for every one of these, there are maybe hundreds that have struggled through years of teaching and training to establish a core group of people. As you can see, there are many reasons we need your help to finish paying off this building. The struggles of a mission church are different than the struggles of an established group of believers. Right now, we have the opportunity to pull together as a state and complete a major part of the task in Aiken. If you or your church can give a special gift of \$100.00, along with the other churches in our state, we can rejoice in our mission church being debt free. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

-Missionary Jim Fairchild

SC Pastor Joined FWBBC Staff



Reverend Mike Edwards (pictured left with his wife Karen), the previous pastor of Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Turbeville, joined the Free Will Baptist Bible College staff in a dual role this summer, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement. Edwards has been named director of the college's annual

fund and will travel as a fundraiser and public relations representative with FWBBC's Institutional Advancement Office. He will also serve as men's resident director and live in Goen Hall with his wife Karen, who has been named assistant to the resident director. Mr. Williford said, "Mike is a 1995 FWBBC graduate. In addition to being a strong supporter of the college, he has encouraged a number of students to attend, including his own children. He brings spiritual energy and denominational insight to the table. Called to preach in 1987 and ordained in 1989, Reverend Edwards pastored 22 years in three states—South Carolina (Turbeville), Indiana (New Castle), and Georgia (Jesup and Norman Park). While enrolled at FWBBC, he served five years as men's resident director. During that time, his wife Karen was employed as secretary to the dean of students. The Edwards' three children all graduated from FWBBC—Chris (2008), Courtney (2010), Kristen (2010). "We're delighted that the college is bringing another experienced pastor on campus," said Dr. Jon Forlines, vice president for student services and dean of students. "Brother Edwards will be able to mentor the young men in Goen Hall, plus he has a proven ability to function within an organizational structure." Reverend Edwards resigned his church on May 1. He will transitioned from his ministry with the Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church and relocated to Nashville in July 2011. President Matt Pinson said, "Because we've faced the most difficult economic climate in the college's history which forced us to make cutbacks, we believe it's a key time to add new personnel in fundraising and public relations, just as we did in recruitment, to increase financial support for and raise awareness for the college. That's why bringing a respected pastor/leader like Mike Edwards on board is a step in the right direction to both strengthen the college financially and reinforce the link between FWBBC and its ministry to the Free Will Baptist denomination. We welcome Mike and Karen to the college family. They served on the campus previously and continue the tradition of providing mature spiritual leadership for our students"

FWB IM Funding System Adjusted

“Even as we implemented the approved new funding system in January 2010,” stated Danny Williams, International Missions’ board chairman, “we acknowledged that we might need to make future adjustments.” After continuing conversations with pastors and laymen, state and national leaders, supporters of both designated giving and general giving, the board determined adjustments needed to be made. Discussions with various segments of the Mission’s constituency revealed that many, if not most, of our Free Will Baptist people prefer designated giving. Some of these same people were willing to support the Mission and global evangelism efforts regardless of the funding structure; however, when designating their funds, they indicated they give more. The following adjustments have been made:

1) Strategic Ministry Partnerships (SMPs) are eliminated. Instead, each missionary has a fund (i.e., Poole Fund, Barker Fund, Awtrey Fund, Price Fund) for his comprehensive support and ministry. Every contributor is considered a partner with no requirements or restrictions concerning the amount given.

2) Donors may contribute designated or undesignated gifts. Undesignated gifts will be used to support the entire work of the Mission around the world. Designated gifts will be applied as designated—to individual missionary funds or partner field ministries (Russia, Cuba, etc.). At the end of each calendar year, these funds will be zeroed out with excess funds going to the support of other missionary personnel and projects.

“I am confident that a perfect funding system does not exist,” Interim General Director Clint Morgan asserted. “However, the board and leadership team have diligently considered, discussed, and sought God’s direction to provide a support system that is reflective of the realities of our constituency, appreciated by each donor, and capable of producing the resources necessary to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.”



FWB IM G010 Walk



2,500 Miles | \$1,000,000*

The Go10 Walk that climaxed in July 2010 at the National Association in Oklahoma City was a wonderful accomplishment thanks to the contribution of

thousands of participants and donors. The Walk was a memorable means of honoring our Mission heritage and an exciting method of challenging future generations. In addition, the Walk raised over \$600,000 of much-needed income for missions. FWBIM expresses our sincere appreciation for every person, step, gift, and prayer that enabled the Go10 Walk to be an overwhelming success. One thing we as a Mission did not do well, however, was communicate the details of the matching gift. Though the matching gift was not a cash gift, in the promotion of the Go10 Walk this was not always clearly communicated. Many, therefore, understood the matching gift to be a cash gift. Instead, it is a planned gift in the form of a double life Charitable Remainder Uni-trust (CRUT). The donor originally set up the trust in 2005 naming The Hanna Project as beneficiary. When approached about the idea of Go10 and using \$500,000 of that trust as a matching gift for the Walk, the donor readily agreed. Both the donor and FWBIM wanted the gift to not only help the Mission, but also to motivate and excite other supporters. This certainly occurred, and the \$500,000 goal was surpassed. The CRUT now names FWBIM as the beneficiary and at the deaths of the donors IM will receive the market value of the trust fund. We apologize for our failure to communicate these facts clearly and for the misunderstandings that have resulted. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Board Chairman Danny Williams (board@fwbgo.com; 205-412-0296). FWBIM is thankful for everything accomplished through the Go10 Walk and we ask for your continued support as we strive to bring people to Christ and plant churches throughout the world.

Free Will Baptist International Missions Prayer Hotline Weekly Update

On Wednesday of every week, Free Will Baptist International Missions releases a “Prayer Hotline” with news that relates to our missionaries and mission works. You can find a copy of this prayer line to share at your Wednesday night Bible study at the following web link: www.fwbgo.com/pray/hotline.html, or if you’d like to receive the weekly “Prayer Hotline” in your email automatically, you can complete your request from that same link by entering your email address. Please continue to pray for all our missionaries, the FWB IM staff, Interim Director Clint Morgan, and the FWB IM Board as they make decisions during this transition time. Please pray for the board as they seek a new director. Your faithful and continued support is greatly needed for our missionaries to continue serving faithfully on their various fields of service. Thank you for what you have done, are doing, and what you will continue to do in supporting the Mission financially and prayerfully!

Conference Meeting Highlights

South Carolina Conference



The South Carolina Conference met on Friday, July 24, 2011, at 7:00 PM at Jefferson Road Free Will Baptist

Church in Sumter. After a congregational hymn, host pastor Reverend Gene Gilbert welcomed everyone to the meeting. Reverend Theron Scott filled in for Reverend Bruce Kimbrel in moderating the meeting. Special music was provided by Jefferson Road church member Gordan Evans. The message was brought by Reverend Gene Gilbert, newly appointed pastor at Jefferson Road. During the business session, the body voted to extend the license of James Bradley, the associate pastor at Southside Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington, to renew the license of Seth Morgan, interim pastor at the Columbia Free Will Baptist Church, for another year, and voted to recommend the ordination of Michael Ellis. After various ministry and missionary reports were heard, the meeting was adjourned.

Eastern Conference Meeting



The Eastern Conference met on July 30, 2011, at New Prospect Free Will Baptist Church in Pamplico. Moderator Reverend Danny Stone welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the

congregational hymn, "When We All Get to Heaven," host pastor Reverend Wayne Smith welcomed everyone to New Prospect Church. After Moderator Danny Stone shared the devotion, visitors were welcomed, delegates were seated, and the finance committee was appointed. The body voted to give \$500 to Mike and Jennifer Bishop to help with Jennifer's health needs due to being diagnosed with cancer recently. They also voted to give \$250 toward the Aiken Loan Fund, \$250 to the Children's Home, \$200 to Reverend Larry McAlister, the pastor at Gilead Free Will Baptist Church, to help with his recent hip replacement surgery, and to give \$500 to the repair of the parsonage of the Pamplico Church. Reverend Laney Ard, Reverend Tandy Tapp, and Reverend LaWayne Poston were nominated to serve on the nominating committee. During the worship service, Mrs. April Smith, wife of Reverend Wayne Smith, brought the special music, and Reverend Wayne Smith brought the message. New Prospect Church provided a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall immediately following the meeting.

Central Association Meeting

The Central Association met on Saturday, July 9, 2011, at Little Star Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville. After the congregational hymn and prayer, the devotion was brought by Mark Lewis, newly licensed member of the Central Association. Host pastor Reverend Tony Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting. Various reports were heard by missionaries and state ministries. The Ordaining Council voted to place Reverend Chris McEachern, the new pastor at South Conway Free Will Baptist Church, under the watch care of the conference for one year. The council also received the letter of good standing on behalf of Reverend Kevin Johnson, and received Reverend Chris Vallines, the new pastor at Mullins-Marion Free Will Baptist Church, pending a letter from his previous conference. The body voted to give \$500 to Missionary Fernando Bustamante, \$500 to Missionary Carlisle Hanna, and \$500 to the repair of the Pamplico Church property, as it had been recently obtained by the South Carolina Home Mission Board. During the worship service after Reverend Tony Miles brought the special music, Reverend Tom Hill, the pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Hamlet, brought the morning message. Little Star Church provided a great meal for everyone in the fellowship hall following the meeting.

Palmetto Conference Meeting



The Palmetto Conference met on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at New Vision Free Will Baptist Church in Rock Hill. After an opening song and

prayer, the devotion was brought by Reverend Darrell Morgan. Host Pastor Reverend Daggett Duncan welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Reverend Dennis Ledford moderated the meeting. Executive Secretary Reverend Todd Smith brought the morning message. During the business session the Palmetto Conference voted to change their meetings to meeting on a bi-annual basis, being the third Saturday in November and the third Saturday in May, with the May meeting being their annual meeting. The body also voted for Daggett Duncan to be their general board member to the state association and for Reverend Chuck Thorton to be their state home mission board representative. After the meeting, everyone enjoyed a great meal in the fellowship hall.

True Life Conference

The True Life Conference met on Saturday, June 18, 2011, at Mt. Carmel Free Will Baptist Church in York. Moderator Reverend John Cody welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized visitors. Prayer requests were shared, and Reverend Eddie Hinson led in the altar prayer. After the devotion by Reverend John Cody, the Jacobs family provided special music. The morning message was brought by Reverend David Sellers, the pastor at Pine Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Jefferson, South Carolina. Reverend Stan Degraw gave the treasurer's report, and various reports were heard from state and conference ministries. After the meeting, Mt. Carmel Church provided a wonderful meal for everyone in attendance.

Beaver Creek Meeting

The Beaver Creek Association voted recently to hold their quarterly meetings on the Thursday evening before the last Saturday in April, July, and October. They will continue to have their annual meeting on the last Saturday in January. The change was to help promote church and lay participation. Churches are encouraged to come together for a combined Thursday evening service. At their April meeting, Dr. Danny Dwyer preached at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Inman. He preached on "A Christian Perspective of Grief." At the Beaver Creek meeting in July, Dr. Randy Sawyer spoke at High Point Free Will Baptist Church in Lancaster. He preached on dealing with stress and trials in the ministry. The upcoming October 27, 2012, Beaver Creek meeting will be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Simpsonville at 7 PM, and Reverend Dan Patrick will be the guest preacher. A brief business meeting takes place at each association with very little reporting. Most of the reporting and business will be handled at the annual meeting in January. Each Beaver Creek Association church is encouraged to participate in these wonderful combined fellowship meetings.

Johnsons Stateside / Morgans to Uruguay

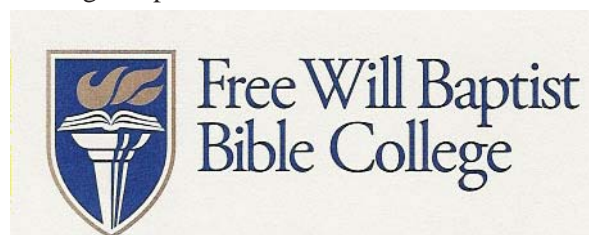
At the beginning of summer, Missionaries Tim and Kristi Johnson (Spain) arrived in America for stateside assignment. They traveled the first couple of months in Michigan, Tim's home state, and attending the National Convention. They will be in South Carolina from August through December. Please remember their family in prayer as they travel and visit our churches!

Missionaries Neil and Mandi Morgan graduated from language school in Costa Rica and are preparing to go to Uruguay. They are heading to Uruguay in September 2011. Please remember in prayer Neil and Mandi Morgan and their girls as they spend a few days with family and as they head to Uruguay as missionaries!

FWBBC Professor Forlines Passes the Torch

Reverend Leroy Forlines, Systematic Theology professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College for almost six decades, informed the administration that effective fall 2011 he believes the time is right to pass responsibility for teaching the denomination-shaping course to others. A theological icon among Free Will Baptists and the broader community of Christian scholars, Reverend Forlines has taught Systematic Theology at FWBBC since 1954, except two years when he pursued graduate studies and one semester while on a mission in Russia. Dr. Kevin Hester, a 1993 FWBBC graduate who chairs the Theological Studies Department, will teach the fall semester of Systematic Theology. The spring semester will be taught by Reverend Matthew McAfee, Biblical and Theological Studies coordinator and a 1999 FWBBC graduate completing doctoral studies at the University of Chicago. Forlines will continue as Professor Emeritus at FWBBC, teach Eschatology, and serve as occasional guest lecturer in Systematic Theology. His major goal this year is to complete a book manuscript on secularism in America. "I feel confident knowing that Systematic Theology at FWBBC will be in good hands," Forlines said. "I think the course will be enriched by this transfer of responsibilities to Dr. Hester and Mr. McAfee. Both understand my approach to theology, plus they both furthered their education in other theological institutions. I hope their names will be mentioned with favor as theology instructors in the Free Will Baptist denomination." In addition to teaching at FWBBC, Forlines has been a member of the denomination's Commission for Theological Integrity since 1962, serving as chairman most of that time. He has written six books, including the highly regarded theological works *The Quest for Truth and Classical Arminianism*, as well as *Romans*, the first volume in the *Randall House Bible Commentary*, and *Biblical Ethics*. Leroy Forlines, 84-year-old systematic theology architect, began life on an eastern North Carolina tobacco farm outside Winterville. He was converted during a revival in October 1944, answered the call to preach in 1946, and graduated from FWBBC in 1952.

President Matt Pinson considers Forlines his mentor and friend: "I never wanted this day to arrive—when Brother Forlines would lay aside his incredible legacy as Systematic Theology professor at FWBBC. But we are here in God's timing and in His will. This man's teachings and writings shaped the denomination I love."





Heb. 6:19

Grace Donates Funds for Imprint Machine



Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Lake City always has a Vacation Bible School project. The competition of offerings between the girls and boys even involves the

adults by the time the week is over. At this year's Vacation Bible School, Grace Free Will Baptist Church donated \$2,023.21 to the South Carolina Free Will Baptist Christian Book and Supply for a much needed Bible Imprint machine. The Bible Imprint Machine that has been in the bookstore is over 20 years old and has engraved alot of Bibles over the years but was in great need of replacement. Executive Secretary Todd Smith went to Grace Free Will Baptist Church on June 29, 2011, to receive the wonderful love gift. We greatly appreciate Grace Church for helping to meet this need!

Lebanon Donates for Moore's Land Fund



After a presentation by Pastor Mac Atkinson, Jr. (pictured left) on Sunday morning, May 1, 2011, regarding his recent trip to Brazil to visit Missionary Andy Moore, Pastor Mac cast a vision for the church to raise \$10,000 by Christmas for the Andy Moore Land Fund. Missionary Moore had indicated they

needed to raise \$100,000 to purchase the land they needed. However, after Pastor Mac's presentation, the \$10,000 was raised in 10 minutes! As previous Executive Secretary Mike Jones would say -- "Glory!" We thank the Lord for the giving of God's people!

Coming Soon - The next issue of the *Informer* will be a special National Association of Free Will Baptist 75th Anniversary Convention, which will give news about this year's convention as well as SC NYC winners and much more!

Executive Secretary Todd Smith's Schedule

June

- 1 Preached Funeral for Mr. Ralph Love
- 2 Funeral-Mrs. Nancy Boykin, wife of Rev. John Boykin
- 3 Close out books for May 2011
- 5 Poplar Hill FWB Church, Hemingway
- 6-10 SC FWB Teen Camp
- 12 Cornerstone-Fellowship FWB Church, Manning
- 14 Florence/Darlington Area FWB Minister Breakfast
- 16 SC FWB Executive Committee Meeting
- 17 Lancaster / Rock Hill Area Annual Camp Meeting
- 18 True Life Conference Meeting – Mt. Carmel, York
- 19 Father's Day – with family
- 21 Lake City Area Wide FWB Minister Breakfast
- 22 Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter
- 24 South Carolina Conference Quarterly Meeting
- 26 New Vision FWB Church, Hemingway
- 29 Grace FWB Church, Lake City
- 30 Close out State Office books for June

July

- 3 FWB Bible Church, Darlington
- 4 Bookstore Closed – Independence Day
- 9 Central Association Meeting – Little Star FWBC
- 10 Temple FWB Church, Darlington
- 11 First FWB Church, Kingstree – Master's Men
- 12 Florence/Darlington Area FWB Minister Breakfast
- 16-21 Free Will Baptist Annual Convention – Charlotte, NC
- 24 Preach at Horse Branch FWB Church – AM Service
- 24 Ordination Service for Michael Ellis - Temple FWBC
- 25 SC FWB Jr. Camp - Camp Pee Dee, Marion, SC
- 26-28 20th Year Wedding Anniversary Celebration
- 29 Close out State Office books for July
- 30 Eastern Conference Meeting – New Prospect FWBC
- 31 New Town FWB Church, Lake City

August

- 2 Conway Area FWB Minister Breakfast
- 3 Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward
- 7 Freedom FWB Church, Ladson
- 9 Florence/Darlington Area FWB Minister Breakfast
- 14 White Savannah FWB Church, Conway
- 16 Lake City Area Wide FWB Minister Breakfast
- 19 SC Home Mission Board Meeting – Columbia, SC
- 21 Fairview FWB Church, Spartanburg - Homecoming
- 28 Oak Grove FWB Church, Conway
- 30 Close out State Office books for August