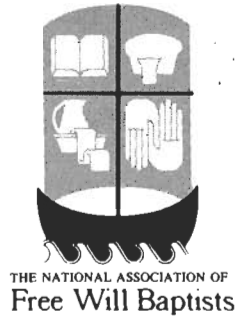


The Informer



Official Bi-Monthly Publication of The South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists

1996 Meeting of the State Association: "One of the Best!"

According to many who regularly attend the annual meetings of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists, the 1996 session, held at Gilead Free Will Baptist Church in Lake City February 29 and March 1, was one of the best ever. Ninety-seven ministers, forty-one delegates, and thirty-four visitors registered for the two-day event. More than three hundred attend the Thursday night service! Excellent preaching, good singing, and great fellowship characterized the entire session. The pastor and fine members of the Gilead Church went the extra mile in hosting the meeting. They even served delicious barbeque and chicken bog meals during the noon recesses!



(Left to Right) Buddy Seay, Bobby Bowers, Sherwood Lee, Joe McKnight, David Aycock

State Elects New Officers

The State Association elected Sherwood Lee, former medical missionary to Ivory Coast and current pastor of Sand Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Coward, to serve as its next moderator. Brother Earl Hendrix, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in Inman, served in that post for more than fifteen years on two different occasions.

Other Executive Committee officers elected this year are Floyd "Buddy" Seay, Jr., assistant moderator (pastor, White Savannah FWB Church, Conway), David Aycock, clerk (pastor, Fellowship FWB Church, Florence) Joe McKnight, treasurer (pastor, FWB Bible Church, Darlington) and Bobby Bowers, member-at-large (pastor, First FWB Church, Greenville). Brother Seay replaces Brother Sigbee Dilda (pastor, Pamplico FWB Church). Brothers Aycock, McKnight and Bowers all replace themselves.



Gibsons Receive \$18,000 Love Offering

In honor of Brother Norwood Gibson's seventeen years of faithful service as Promotional Director of the South Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists, churches and individuals all across the State sent gifts toward "Gibson Appreciation Day," February 29, 1996. During the evening service that day, Sherwood Lee, chairman of the Gibson Appreciation Committee, shared with the congregation many highlights of Brother Gibson's ministry. He presented

Brother Norwood with a plaque which read, "Presented To Norwood and Molly Gibson, With Sincere Love And Gratitude For 17 Years Of Faithful And Dedicated Christian Service, By S.C. State Association Of Free Will Baptists, February 29, 1996."

Linda Moore, wife of the new Promotional Director, presented Sister Molly with a lovely bouquet of red roses. Brother Lee shocked the Gibsons, and the entire congregation, when he announced that the love offering had exceeded \$17,000. With other gifts that have come in, the total gift has surpassed \$18,000!

Ron Moore Becomes New Promotional Director



Thursday, February 29, 1996, the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists elected Ron Moore, former missionary to Ivory Coast, as its new Promotional Director. Brother Moore replaces Norwood Gibson, who left the post to devote more time developing the Free Will Baptist Christian Book Store and pastoring the Southoak FWB Church.

In accepting the new responsibilities, Brother Moore expressed his appreciation for the confidence placed in him by the voting body. He also conveyed his desire to be a servant of the churches and auxiliary ministries of the South Carolina State Association. If you would like to have Brother Moore for a service, you may contact him at the Promotional Office, (803) 662-5010, or at his home (803) 665-2396.

SC State Association Adopts Resolutions

During its 1996 annual session, the SC State Association of Free Will Baptists adopted three resolutions concerning issues affecting all Free Will Baptists. They are:

- (1) **Concerning the '96 Election.** "...that we encourage our pastors and their respective congregations to prayerfully exercise this great privilege and constitutional right in voting for the candidate(s) that they feel God would be pleased with to serve in these respective offices."
- (2) **Concerning the Rise of Cults.** "... that we commit ourselves to the task of encouraging our church and youth leaders to arm themselves with as much information as is necessary to 1) recognize these groups, their symbols, beliefs and activities, and 2) warn our young men and women to avoid them with strong biblical admonitions and conviction, and 3) reprove those who are currently active in such groups to withdraw from them immediately."
- (3) **Concerning the 1995 Leadership Conference Committee Report.** "...that the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists go on record as commending the committee on their report and the spirit that is evident by the members who drew up this report..."

(Editor's note: A copy of this report is published in the March 1996 issue of CONTACT, pages 15-18.)

Norwood Gibson Receives Back Salary

During the annual meeting of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists, the Promotional Office report indicated that not all of Brother Gibson's salary and benefits for 1994 and 1995 had been paid. After closing out the Promotional Office books for February, 1996, there was a balance of \$5,505.26 in the account. Brother Gibson was able, therefore, to draw all \$4,881.14 due him in back salary and benefits (\$706.14 in retirement and insurance benefits, \$1,300 in housing, \$2,575 in salary and \$300 for his 1995 Christmas bonus). The Promotional Office began March 1996 with a positive balance of \$624.12. **Praise God for His faithfulness!**



Operation Mexico: "Touched by Love!"

Operation Mexico was a joint effort of Black River and Happy Home Free Will Baptist Churches in Andrews, SC. The purpose of the seventeen member team was to assist in the building of Ebenezer FWB Church in Reynosa, Mexico while experiencing first hand what the mission field is like.

The team left Charleston on Saturday, February 10 and arrived in McAllen, Texas that evening. On Sunday morning, they attended services at the First Church in Weslaco, Texas. That afternoon they traveled to Progresso, Mexico for their first taste of what Mexican life is really like. That evening, they attended services with the Ebenezer Church in Reynosa.

The team began each day with devotions given by a different member of the team. There were daily tours into the community to meet the people. Each evening they would meet and spend hours talking about the day's experiences.

Monday through Wednesday, the team saw long days of placing steel for the roof, placing the roof, mixing concrete by hand, and pouring the stage area of the church.

On Thursday, they took the day off for shopping and sightseeing in Reynosa. That evening, they saw the work of their hands come alive as over 150 men, women and

children filled the newly constructed building for a worship service. Through a translator, the team members were able to share their hearts with the people. According to John Hudson, pastor of Black River, "The people were touched by our love and work for them; we were touched by their love and kindness to us."

On Friday the team spent the day handing out tracts in the Reynosa community, a 3/4 square mile area with 8,800 people. The tracts had been provided by the Olive Branch Book Store in Georgetown, SC. The team spent Saturday sightseeing and shopping before returning home on Sunday, leaving behind a part of each of themselves with their brothers and sisters in Reynosa.

Members of the team from Happy Home were Gene and Linda Altman, Stacey Altman, Donnie Godwin, Randy Gamble, Lydia Mae Ard, Don and Dionna Alford. Team members from Black River were Leon and Lisa Ray, D.D. and Pauline Barnhill, Barbara Taylor, Wayne Lambert, Marshall Beasley, John and Cheryl Hudson. The entire team gives a special thanks to the James Munseys, Director of the Mexican work, and the Bud Bivens, home missionaries to Mexico, who met them at the airport, provided transportation and translated for them.

South Carolina # 5 in Foreign Missions Giving

According to Rev. R. Eugene Waddell, General Director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, South Carolina churches ranked # 5 with a total of \$249,529.18 given to foreign missions through their department in 1995.

Twelve of our churches gave over \$5,000! They are: Horse Branch, Turbeville, First, Darlington, Sand Hill, Coward, Bethany, Timmons ville, Lebanon, Effingham, Westside, Johnsonville, First, Florence, First, Charleston, Mt. Elon, Pamplico, Peace, Florence, North Spartanburg, Inman, and Grace, Lake City.

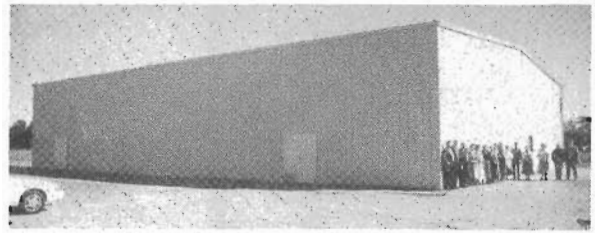
Bible Readers Honored

Several years ago Pastor Wayland Owens began a Bible Readers Club to encourage members of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Kingstree to read their Bibles through every year. Last year thirteen members completed the annual program and received a plaque during a special Sunday Morning Worship Service. Those having received the award are Jean Ann Mouzon, Billy Harrelson, Bonny Yarborough, Juanita McClary, Letha Mouzon, Ruby George, Oleta Rogers, Elizebeth Bell, Lila Harrelson, Inez Mouzon, Lynnette Ard, Barbara Lewis and pastor Wayland Owens. We extend a hearty congratulations to these faithful Bible readers.



Bible Readers Club Members

First Kingstree Builds Family Life Center



On January 24, 1996, the First Free Will Baptist Church at Kingstree completed construction on the shell of their new eight thousand square foot Family Life Center. Pastor Wayland Owens shared his vision of the building and its potential for ministry with his congregation in February 1993. In September 1995, the Church voted to build the facility and construction began the following November. Though the present value of the new facility is \$90,000, actual costs were only \$50,000. The men of the Church prepared the footings for the concrete floor and are planning to finish the inside as time and funds permit. When completed, the Family Life Center will feature a full length basketball court, a modern kitchen, restrooms, a nursery and a storage room.

Maranatha Christian School Raises Funds For Children's Home

Following a tradition of many years, Maranatha Christian School turned attention to others during the Christmas season. The Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Turbeville was chosen to be the recipient of the funds raised in 1995. Rev. James Wilhide, Director of the Home, spoke during the chapel service on December 7 and attended the school's Christmas program on December 12. Special chapel offerings, the offering during the Christmas program, and various means of children giving in their classes netted \$1,018.01 for the Home. In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, this annual project places the emphasis on giving rather than fundraising.



Brother Wilhide returned for another chapel service on January 10, 1996 and received the check. It was

presented to him by Ashley Beard, a second grader. Rev. Wilhide's words of appreciation touched all listeners as he spoke about how it would be used.

Peace Church Burns Land Note



Left to right: Ed Vause, Heyward Conner, David Powell, Pastor Donnie Miles, Gerald Johnson, Willie Haynes and Wes Gardner

On Sunday, January 21, 1996, Peace Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, burned the note on five acres of land adjacent to their present facilities. The land was purchased in December, 1993, to meet future needs of the church. Indeed, the Lord has blessed this fine congregation. The land was paid off eight years early and they are now having to do some interior remodeling of their facilities in order to seat another forty people. Rev. Donnie Miles is the pastor.

Arcadia Celebrates 68th Anniversary

Arcadia Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its 68th anniversary during a special Thanksgiving service on November 19, 1995. The church was organized under the name of Cole's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on November 17, 1927. In 1953, on land donated by Mayfair Mills in Arcadia, they constructed a new church and changed the name to Arcadia Free Will Baptist Church. On February 4, 1962, under the ministry of Rev. Donald Seay, their present pastor, a dedication and note-burning service was held.



The Lord continues to bless the church. In 1972 they built a new parsonage and converted the former parsonage into a Children's Church and nursery. In more recent years, they have remolded the Children's Church. In 1995 they purchased a fifteen-passenger Ford van, pictured above.

Don't Forget!
"Pop" Willey
Foreign Missions
Sunday

April 28, 1996

**Forlines Book to be
 Published in Russian**

Biblical Systematics, a Free Will Baptist theology textbook written by F. Leroy Forlines, is being translated into Russian. Since most available theological materials in Russia and Ukraine are Calvinistic in nature, the Baptist there considered it urgent that they have Brother Forlines' Arminian book translated and printed in the Russian language. According to Jimmy Aldridge, Overseas Secretary for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, the total cost of the project is estimated at \$20,000. If you, your Sunday School class, Auxiliary or Church would like to help underwrite the expense of this needy project, please designate your gifts to the "Russian Translation Project."

**Mirial Gainer Requests
 Prayer**

Mirial Gainer, missionary to Japan, asks that you pray for the students of her English Bible Class--that they would come to know Jesus as their Savior. She also requests prayer for herself as she prepares the Bible lessons, memory verses and choruses for the new course which begins in April.

**Promotional Office
 Property Fund
 Needs Your Help**

As of March 21, 1996, the Promotional Office Property Fund had a balance of \$755.57. A final property payment of \$14,300 (principle + interest) is due January 15, 1997. We need your help in raising funds to pay off this debt. Would your church consider making a special donation to the Property Fund?

**King
 Speaks At
 Beaver
 Creek
 District**



Jo Ann King spoke at the Beaver Creek District March 2, 1996. The theme and key verse of the meeting were "The Prayer of Dedication," Acts 6:4. Sister King spoke on the value of prayer in the home and the church, pointing out many difficulties to effective prayer.

Other treats of the program included special singing by Geraldine Donahue ("He Grew the Tree") and Patty Newton ("I Will Talk to the Father for You"). Gwen Hendrix, president of the District, presented Molly Gibson and Linda Moore with bunny rabbits. The Parkway WNAC won the Home Missions plaque with an total annual gift of \$2,385. The Highpoint WNAC won the Foreign Missions plaque with an average gift per member of \$76.61. Congratulations to these two fine auxiliaries!

The Chester Auxiliary hosted the 1996 session and provided a delicious dinner.

**South Carolina Students
 To Visit Mission Field**

Tim and Kirsty (Hanna) Johnson will chaperon the 1996 "Go-and-Be" team to Africa. According to Clint Morgan, coordinator of the ministry, it is "a summer program designed to offer college students an opportunity to visit a mission field...to give each student a better understanding of the global missionary task and to consider his/her role in God's plan." Each participant must raise \$3,200. Kristy is a member of Westside FWB Church.

Kimberlee Scott, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Theron Scott, will participate in the 1996 "TEAM Brazil." The objective of the **Teens Equipped and Active in Missions** program is to foster the experience of the Great Commission in the lives of Christian teenagers. Each TEAM member must raise their own expense quota of \$2,400.

URGENT!

The Carlise Hanna account is \$51,183 in the red!
The Jim Cowart account is \$9,990 in the red!
The Bobby Poole account is \$3,792 in red!

Your gifts to the Pop Willey Offering can make a difference!

**State WNAC Gives Over
 \$30,000 In 1995**

According to treasurer, Mary Reid, the South Carolina State WNAC distributed \$37,649 in 1995, most of it going to home and foreign missionaries, educational ministries and the Children's Home. The State Auxiliary has taken a Home Missions Project with a goal of \$2,000 and a Foreign Missions Project with a goal of \$10,000 for 1996. On behalf of all those who have benefited from the cooperative effort of the State WNAC, *thank you and may God continue to bless your work!*

**State WNAC Presents Home
 and Foreign Missions
 Plaques**

The Whitney WNAC won the 1995 Home Missions Plaque. They gave an average of \$96.39 per member to home missions last year. The Immanuel Auxiliary won the Foreign Missions Plaque, having given an average of \$238.75 per member. Sandra Phelps is president of the Whitney Auxiliary and Patsy Hyman is president of the Immanuel Auxiliary. Congratulations to the ladies of these two fine auxiliaries.

**State WNAC Sets May 17
 As A Day of Prayer**

During its annual convention, the State WNAC adopted a resolution setting May 17 as a "South Carolina Day of Prayer." The resolutions reads, "BE IT RESOLVED that May 17 (5/17 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing") be designated as a South Carolina Day of Prayer for our SC ministries and needs, and that each local auxiliary meet that week for a time of prayer."

Women Meet for District and State Meetings

Missionary Mark Barber Speaks at Two District Woman's Auxiliaries

Eastern District

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary held its annual convention at Mill Branch FWB Church on February 10, 1996. Missionary Pastor Mark Barber, Aiken, South Carolina, was the guest speaker. The theme of the session was "We've Got the Power."

In the afternoon session, ladies from Gilead FWB Church presented a skit about Mary and Martha, emphasizing the need to take time out to be with Jesus. As usual, the Mill Branch ladies had prepared a delicious meal for those attending. Shelly McKnight, president of the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary, presided and challenged the Auxiliary to maintain its focus of reaching the lost.



South Carolina District

The South Carolina District Woman's Auxiliary held its annual convention at Peace FWB Church, Florence, on February 24, 1996. The theme and key verse for the session were "Hold the Light High," Acts 13:47. Mark Barber, home missionary to Aiken, South

Carolina, and his wife, Karen, were the guest speakers for the event.

Annette Aycock, Fellowship FWB Church, Florence, presented an informative session on "Getting to Know Your Home Missionaries."

The ladies of the Peace Church prepared a nutritious meal for dinner. Carolyn Riddick, Eastside FWB Church, Florence, is president of the District.

Central District Auxiliary Meets at White Savannah

The Central District Woman's Auxiliary held its annual convention at White Savannah Free Will Baptist Church, Conway, on February 17, 1996. The theme and key verse of the meeting were "Sharing Jesus,"

Matthew 5:16. Sister Gwen Hendrix, President of the Beaver Creek District Auxiliary and of the State Auxiliary, livened up the session with a series of object lessons and a challenging message taken from the key verse. Special music by Camille Scott added a sweet spirit to the service.

Following the delicious meal prepared by White Savannah, five of the ladies presented a humorous but challenging skit on the destructive power of gossip. Emma Bell Brown is President of the Central Auxiliary.



Gwen Hendrix

South Carolina State WNAC Meets At Horsebranch

The South Carolina Women Nationally Active For Christ held its annual session at Horsebranch FWB Church, Turbeville, March 16, 1996. The theme and key verse for the meeting were "Prayer of Intercession," 1 Timothy 2:1.

After the welcome from Gwen Hendrix, Coordinator, Faye Hanna, Assistant Coordinator, brought a devotion and lead the group in a time of prayer. Special music was provided by Scott and Renee Hemann, Florence First FWB Church, and Camille Scott, Westside FWB Church. Scott and Renee sang "You Are Still Lord." Camille sang "He Is Ever Interceding."

Carol Reid, Librarian, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, was the special speaker. She brought a very challenging and practical message on prayer titled "The Gift of the Knees." Her message emphasized the who, what and how of prayer.

In the afternoon session, the women divided up into five prayer groups (Thanksgiving, Praise, Intercession, Confession, Petition). Each group then presented a short program around the theme of their group.

Other highlights of the afternoon included a shower and special love offering for Ron and Linda Moore (they gave everything to



Left to right: Faye Hanna, Gwen Hendrix, Mona Dukes, Carol Reid, Annette Aycock

Linda, however!). In tribute to Brother Gibson's retirement from the Promotional Office, Patty Newton and Mona Duke sang "Oh, We're Gonna Miss You, Norwood."

According to Annette Aycock, Secretary, 28 local auxiliaries sent representatives to the State Convention. A total of 212 delegates, officers and visitors registered for the event. The ladies at Horsebranch did a wonderful job hosting the session and providing a delicious meal.

Mill Branch Calls Nathan Barrington



Reverend Nathan Barrington began his pulpit responsibilities as the new pastor of Mill Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Johnsonville, SC, on January 28, 1996. He is a native of

Larinburg, NC. The Piedmont Association, North Carolina, licensed him to preach in 1977. Two years later, he was ordained by the Foothills Association.

Brother Barrington has served several churches in North and South Carolina as assistant pastor, including Enoree FWB Church where he served for three years. His first pastorate, 1977-78, was the Airport FWB Church in Spartanburg. He later pastored Rains FWB Church, Rains, SC, for three years. His latest pastorate was Brown Springs Church, an independent church holding Free Will Baptist doctrine, in Cheraw, SC. He served this church for nine years. Though Brother Barrington has been in the ministry for nearly twenty years, his new pastorate at Mill Branch will be his first full-time ministry.

Brother Nathan is married to the former Lisa Locklear, a native of Pembroke, NC. The couple has four children: Markus, 23; Amy, 19; Billie Jean, 18; and Beckie, 13. The two oldest daughters are married. The youngest, Beckie, still lives at home. Markus lives and works in Cheraw, SC.

We welcome Brother Barrington and his family to Johnsonville and pray that God will richly bless their ministry at Mill Branch.

Phillip Jones New Pastor at First Charleston



Phillip Jones, a native of Greenville, NC, assumed the pastorate of First Free Will Baptist Church in Charleston on November 18, 1996. Brother Jones pastored Piney Grove Free Will

Baptist Church in Surrency, Georgia prior to returning to South Carolina, where he had pastored New Town Free Baptist Church,

Lake City, for seven years. Brother Jones is married to the former Dessie Bowen. They have two children, a daughter, Teresa (Jones) Daniel, a son, Stephen, and four grandchildren. Welcome back to South Carolina, Brother and Sister Jones. May God bless your new ministry in Charleston!

**Ron Moore, your new
Promotional Director, is
available for a limited
number of revival services.
You may contact him at
662-5010.**

High Hill Calls Terry Dennis



Terry Dennis, a native of Scranton, SC, has assumed the pastorate of High Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Lake City. Prior to coming to High Hill, Brother Dennis pastored

Williams Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Hemmingway. He has served seven different Churches as pastor and one church as interim pastor. Brother Terry is married to the former Ann Gray of Lake City. They have two children, Kim and Jay. We pray that God's blessing will be upon them as they serve the Lord at High Hill.

Dr. Charles Davis Available for Preaching and Revival Services

Brother Charles Davis, D.D., a retired minister who recently joined First FWB Church, Greenville, SC, is available for supply preaching and revival services. Brother Davis came to know the Lord in 1973 under the ministry of Swannanoa FWB Church, Swannanoa, NC. God called him to preach in 1975 and he was licensed by the Blue Ridge Association. The Northeast Mississippi Association in 1979 ordained him. His credentials have been transferred to the Beaver Creek Association in South

Carolina.

Brother Davis has pastored churches in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas. He has had experience as a radio preacher, Black Mountain, NC, and as a Bible professor, Bethany Bible College, Dothan, AL.

Brother Davis attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, received his Bachelor of Ministry and Doctor of Divinity degrees from Bethany Bible College. You may contact Brother Davis at:

17 Savannah Street
Greenville, SC 29611-2830
Phone: (864) 421-9883

Welcome to South Carolina, Brother Davis. May the Lord bless your ministry among us!

Rev. Jerry Franklin

is available for your consideration as a full time pastor. For more information, you may contact the Promotional Office at (803) 662-5010 or Brother Jerry at (864) 576-7756.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Florence, SC
Permit No. 182

South Carolina State Association
of
Free Will Baptists
PO Box 13266
Florence, SC 29504