July - August 1997

The Informer

The Informer is the official bi-monthly publication of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Address all correspondence to Ron Moore, Editor, Post Office Box 13266, Florence, South Carolina, 29504 or call (803) 662-5010.

Horse Branch Honors Rev. Wilburn Beasley

Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church declared July 6, 1997 as ***"Wilburn Beasley Day"*** and honored this eighty year old preacher for his faithfulness in ministry. The gathering of family, friends and notable personalities was quite a surprise for Brother Beasley. Scattered throughout the two-hour ceremony were testimonials, songs, poems and presentations of gifts and plaques. Some of the presentations are noted below.

◆ Brother **Allen Coker**, chairman of the deacon board, presented Brother Beasley with a plaque which read, "In Recognition and with Grateful Appreciation for Your Loyal and Dedicated Service to Our Lord, Our Denomination, Our Church and Our Community."

◆ **Rev. Ron Moore**, Promotional Director, presented him with a Certificate of Special Recognition which honored his nearly fifty years of faithfully preaching the Gospel.

◆ **Turbeville** presented him a plaque which read, "The membership of the **Town Council**, acting in behalf of the residents of the Town of Turbeville, South Carolina, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 6, 1997 as Wilburn Beasley Day."

◆ **Rep. Pat Goodwin** presented Brother Beasley a copy of bill H.4336, A Concurrent Resolution of the South Carolina House and Senate which read, in part, "The members of the General Assembly hereby commend **Reverend Wilburn Beasley** of Turbeville, **a legend in the Free Will Baptist Church**, for a lifetime of service as a minister and community leader in South Carolina and the Southeast."

Rep. Goodwin with Rev. Beasley

Rev. Beasley has held many positions in local, state and national levels of the denomination. He served on the Board of Retirement and the General Board of the National. He served on the Children's Home and Home Mission Boards of the State Association.

Through his many years of faithful ministry, Brother Beasley has earned the love, respect and appreciation of Free Will Baptists everywhere. He is especially noted for his wisdom and humor.

"MOORE" THOUGHTS

by
Ron Moore, Editor

One of the unique benefits of the newly adopted South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support is its **flexibility**. This is demonstrated in several ways. First, the plan allows for **annual adjustments** at the state level to help keep accounts from going in the red while our missionaries are on the field. If an account gets into trouble, we can adjust the percentages accordingly.

Secondly, every church can implement the plan as determined best by them. While respecting the **autonomy of the local church**, it builds cooperation between churches as we work toward a common goal--reaching a lost world with the gospel.

Thirdly, the plan allows churches and individuals to easily **convert their present gifts** to shares. For example, if a church is giving an average of $155 per month to South Carolina missionaries, they are already underwriting 15 shares! If an individual is giving $25 a month through designated faith promise giving, then they are already underwriting 2.3 annual shares!

The flexibility of this plan will allow us to **build on past and present giving practices** to challenge more of our people and churches to even higher levels of commitment!

Rev. Todd Smith Receives New Truck

The Todd Smith Family with New Truck

Hillside FWB Church, Florence, held Pastor's Appreciation Day on June 8, 1997 for Rev. Todd Smith and his wife Teresa. The church celebrated **Brother Todd's birthday and his third anniversary** as their pastor by presenting the couple with a 1995 Dodge Dakota Sport pickup truck, valued at $9,000.

The congregation surprised the pastor with the presentation. The truck was parked out front and the key wrapped in a box on the front pew throughout the service. Brother Todd had no idea that it was for him.

Brother Todd and Sister Teresa wish to express their appreciation from the depths of their hearts for this demonstration of love by the fine members at Hillside.

Old Fashioned Sunday Peace FWB Church

Rev. Raper and Pastor Miles

Peace FWB Church, Florence, held **Old Fashioned Sunday** on June 1, 1997. Over 200 people attended the festivities which included dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

After having shared various Free Will Baptist historical items (an old treatise, songbook, etc.) with the congregation, **Rev. James Earl Raper** preached an old time gospel message from Psalms 145:5.

One of the highlights of the annual celebration was when Brother Raper and his wife came to church riding in an old horse drawn buggy. They were accompanied by **Pastor Donnie Miles** who was riding a horse.

Children's Home Choir Sings at Temple Homecoming

The **children** of the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Turbeville, sang at the **annual Homecoming celebration of Temple** FWB Church, Darlington, on June 29, 1997. Rev. James Wilhide is the director of the home.

The church was "jam-packed full" as everyone enjoyed the singing, preaching, fellowship and food throughout the day. Promotional Director **Rev. Ron Moore** brought the message during the Sunday School hour and **Pastor Paul Collins** preached during the regular worship service time.

The deceased **Rev. Roy Player** founded the church in 1955. Rev. Paul Collins is only the second in the church's 42 year history! The pastor and people of this fine church are to be commended for their faithfulness over the years.

First Kingstree Recognizes Bible Readers

Members of the "66 Bible Club"

In 1986 the First FWB Church of Kingstree initiated a Bible reading club. Since that time 44 people have become members and read all 66 books of the Bible in one year. **Eric Adams**, a teenager, became the newest member of the club by completing the task along with **thirteen others** in 1996. They are: Susie Owens, Lynnette Ard, Jean Ann Mouzon, Ruby George, Letha Mouzon, Inez Mouzon, Floyd Lewis, Barbara Lewis, Juanita McClary, Sara Snipes, Elizabeth Bell, Betty Green and Oleta Rogers. Congratulations to these faithful Bible readers!

Family Life Center Nears Completion

The First FWB Church of Kingstree is getting close to completion of their new Family Life Center. The **80' by 100' building** will have a new nursery, two handicap accessible restrooms, kitchen facilities, a storage room, and a full size basketball court. An enclosed hallway connects the new building with the present church facility.

The **men of the church** are to be commended for their faithfulness. They have donated time and labor to this project, saving thousands of dollars in expenses. **Rev. Wayland Owens** is the pastor of this fine congregation.

Mountain View Burns Mortgage

R to L: Rev. Johnnie Bullman, Rev. Larry Collins, his wife, dad and mother.

The **Mountain View FWB Church** in Kings Mountain, NC, had a note burning service as part of the Palmetto Conference's meeting on Friday night March 1, 1997. The Palmetto Home Mission Board paid off the mortgage for the congregation a few months earlier.

New Life Ordains Deacon

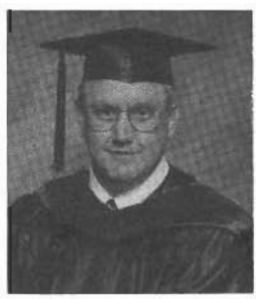
Family and friends were on hand Sunday morning, February 23, 1997, as Brother **Olen Easler** and his wife, **Betty**, of Lancaster, SC, received the charge of servanthood from their pastor, **Rev. Marty Cox**.

Olen and Betty Easler with Pastor Cox

Brother Easler is a native of Belmont, NC, and has resided in Lancaster since 1965. The Easlers have both served the Lord and **New Life FWB Church** faithfully over the years. Dinner and fellowship followed the service to show the church's appreciation for the Easlers. Pastor Cox said, "Truly, Brother Olen Easler is one '. . . of good report, full of the Spirit and of Wisdom.'" Praise the Lord for good men in our churches!

Bible Readers Honored at Lockhart

Lockhart FWB Church, Lockhart, SC, recently honored its members who read the Bible through in 1996. Fifteen of those recognized are pictured below. **Rev. Tommy Bryson** is pastor of this fine church.



Rev. Tommy Bryson Receives Degrees

Rev. Tommy Bryson, pastor of Lockhart FWB Church, Lockhart, SC, was awarded the **Master of Theology Degree** from Carolina University of Theology in Lincolnton, NC, on May 3, 1997.

The conferring of this degree is just another milestone for Brother Tommy. Previously he graduated from the Beaver Creek Bible Institute and the Liberty Home Bible Institute. Brother Tommy also holds a **Master of Arts in Ministry Degree** which was awarded in 1996.

Rev. Jack Cotner Begins Mission

Rev. Jack Cotner left South Carolina and began a new mission work as a tent-maker in McEwinsville, PA. First services were scheduled for June 22, 1997. Brother Cotner is no stranger to Free Will Baptists in the Beaver Creek. Many of them helped the Cotner's make the move and begin the work.

Brother Cotner has expressed special thanks to the **North Spartanburg**, the **Whitney**, and the **Valley Falls FWB Churches**, and to the Beaver Creek Association. All helped the Cotner family with special offerings.

May the Lord truly bless Brother Cotner and his family as they seek to serve God as missionaries!

Eastern Conference Ordains Rev. Ricky Evans

The Eastern Conference, meeting at **St. John FWB Church**, Pamplico, on June 22, 1997, ordained Rev. Ricky Evans to the ministry. During the service, **Rev. Larry McAlister**, preached the charge from I Corinthians 9:16-30. **Rev. Murrell Young** presented the Bible. **Rev. Earl Bittle** presented Brother Ricky with the ordination certificate. Pictured below are Rev. Young, Rev. Evans (with wife **Lisa** and daughter **Lauren**) and Rev. McAlister.

Rusty Conyers Licensed to Preach

Rev. Rusty Conyers was licensed to preach by the South Carolina Conference January 23, 1997. Brother Conyers is a member of **Jefferson Road FWB Church**, Sumter. He has served the church as youth director and teen Sunday School teacher. He attended Southeastern from 1985 to 1988 and took courses in pastoral studies.

Brother Conyers is available for supply preaching and will prayerfully consider any open door of ministry according to the will of God. He may be contacted at 803-481-0128.

> "If God is your partner, make your plans big."
>
> **D. L. Moody**

Jerry Hall Ordained Called To Pastor Beulah

Rev. Jerry Hall, a recent graduate of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, was ordained at **Peace FWB Church**, Florence, on May 28, 1997. The message was delivered by **Rev. Donnie Miles**, pastor of Peace. The Scripture reading was done by **Rev. Doug Snipes**, pastor of Salem FWB Church. Before going to college, Brother Jerry faithfully attended the Peace church.

Brother Hall has also been called as pastor of **Beulah FWB Church**, Pamplico. Please pray for him, his wife **Amy**, and two children (**Joseph** and **Allison**) as they seek to serve the Lord in their first pastorate.

Rev. Billy Wayne Baker Pastor At New Vision

Rev. Billy Wayne Baker was called by New Vision Free Will Baptist Church, Hemingway, to be their pastor. He began his ministry there on June 23, 1997.

Rev. Baker was ordained by the Central Association in 1989. He has previously served three churches as pastor: Damascus, Oates, and Pee Dee, all in the Conway area. He and his wife **Tonya** have two boys, **Blaze** (8) and **Trevor** (6).

John Driggers Licensed To Preach

Rev. John Driggers was licensed to preach by the South Carolina Conference in January 1997. Brother John has attended both the Free Will Baptist Bible College and Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, each for one year.

He and his wife **Renee** have one child, **Hannah** (3). They are faithful members and workers of **Tabernacle FWB Church**, Coward, where they are responsible for the children's ministry. **Rev. Ralph Byars** is their pastor

Wayne Thomas Smith Ordained

Rev. Wayne Thomas Smith was ordained by the Palmetto Conference on May 17, 1997. He and his wife, the former **April Duncan**, were both born in Rock Hill and are members of **New Vision FWB Church**, Rock Hill, where Brother Smith currently serves as youth pastor.

Brother Smith seeks to follow the will of the Lord and is available for ministry. He may be contacted at 803-366-9703.

Carroll Bazen Ordained To Preach

The Eastern Conference ordained **Rev. Carroll Bazen** on June 23, 1997 at **Gilead FWB Church**. Rev. Bazen is a student at Southeastern FWB College and a faithful member of the Gilead Church. **Rev. Larry McAlister** is his pastor. Brother Carroll is one of Rev. McAlister's fine "preacher boys."

1997 Truth & Peace Leadership Conference

Two South Carolina students are among the 72 high school students participating in this year's Truth & Peace Leadership Conference conducted by the Youth Ministries Division of the National Youth Conference. The two SC students are **Shannon Bazen**, Pamplico, and **Mandi Springs**, Lake City.

Free Will Baptist Bible College News

The Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 37 students from 16 states and Canada on campus May 15, 1997. Among those receiving degrees was South Carolina student **Tracy Lynn Simms**, Olanta (B.S., Business Administration). **Walter Lee**, Florence, made the "B" Honor Roll. Congratulations to both of these fine students.

Florence Churches Hold Missions Rally

Many of the Free Will Baptist Churches in the Florence and surrounding area joined together in sponsoring a regional missions rally on May 24, 1997. The **First FWB Church**, Florence, hosted the event and the **New Covenant Singers** (pictured below from left to right: Ray Poston, Jay Poston and Oral Strickland) volunteered their time and were the featured singers of the rally.

New Covenant Singers (back row) with missionaries Gentuso, Aycock & Cowart (front row, left to right)

Missionaries participating in the event were **David Aycock**, Brazil, **Jim Cowart**, Brazil, and **Dr. Paul Gentuso**, Ivory Coast. The rally took an unusual format. New Covenant sang throughout the evening as the missionaries took turns giving testimonies and sharing about their ministries. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the time together.

Aloha!

Attention, ladies! **Gwen Hendrix**, President of the State Auxiliary, wants to know why you haven't registered for the retreat August 22-23. She cannot believe that you would miss the grandest and most exciting luau of the year. This is going to be a time of fun, food and fellowship together. **Kristy Johnson** and **Joanne King** will be the featured speakers.

This annual retreat is the highlight of the South Carolina Auxiliary. If you have never attended, you just cannot imagine what you are missing. Sister Gwen gives you a personal invitation to attend. Make reservations now! Call her at (864) 472-3376.

Ladies, don't forget about "Mission Possible," an effort to raise $3,000 for the Aycocks, Johnsons and Barbers.

South Carolina State CTS Convention

Youth competitions were held during the annual State CTS Convention May 17, 1997, at **Peace FWB Church**, Florence. The winners are listed below.

Bible Memorization

A0.1	Rebecca Cannon	Horse Branch
A0.2	Kelsey Porter	Greenville First
A0.3	Mary Kathryn Driggers	Horse Branch

Vocals

A1.1	Rebecca Cannon	Horse Branch
A2.1	Amanda & Sharon Duvall	Greenville First

Keyboard

A5.1	Mary Kathryn Driggers	Horse Branch
C5.1	Pamela Robinson	Horse Branch
D5.1	Brandi Bowers	Greenville First

Bible Sword Drill

B0.5	Bryan Robinson	Horse Branch
B0.6	Jackson Watts	Horse Branch

Group Drama

B6.5	Jason Barrineau Grant Cannon Bryan Robinson Jackson Watts	Horse Branch
D6.5	Will Robinson Mandi Springs Jeremy Cannon Pamela Robinson Justin Driggers	Horse Branch

Tic Tac Toe

C0.7	Lindsay Spring Pamela Robinson Justin Driggers Trey Watts	Horse Branch

Bible Bowl

D0.8	Will Robinson Mandi Springs Jeremy Cannon	Horse Branch

Congratulations, young people! May you always use your talents for the Lord! Best wishes at the NYC.

Tim and Kristi Johnson Appointed to Spain

The Board of Foreign Missions has appointed **Tim and Kristi Johnsom** to career missionary service in Spain. Tim is a native of Michigan and **Kristi is from South Carolina**. Both are graduates of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. Tim served as a student missionary in **Ivory Coast** in **1992**, and in the summer of **1996** the Johnsons served as team leaders for college students who helped the Bible Institute in Ivory Coast.

Tim is the son of **George and Mary Johnson** of Warren, Mich. Brother George has pastored the North Warren FWB Church for 27 years. Kristi's parents are **Marion and Faye Hanna** of Hemingway, S.C. They are members of Westside FWB Church. **Rev. Theron Scott** is their pastor.

This fine young couple is worthy of our prayer and financial support. Let's help get them to their field of service by becoming a partner in the South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support.

Chesnee Church Goes Self-Supporting

Rev. Childers

The Chesnee FWB Church rejoiced during special services as the congregation went self-supporting on April 6, 1997. The Chesnee work was a joint project of the National Home Missions Department and the Beaver Creek Association. **Rev. James Childers** is pastor. We rejoice with Brother James and his congregation over this great victory.

Medical Fund Established

A request has been made to set up a medical fund to help **Rev. Jason Turner** with medical expenses. After completing studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College last year, he returned to South Carolina to begin ministry. Shortly thereafter he was diagnosed with a form of cancer and has been undergoing treatments for the disease.

If you would like to encourage this young preacher by making a contribution to the **Jason Turner Medical Fund**, please send your gift to the Promotional Office and designate it "Jason Turner Medical Fund."

Pooles and Hannas Home on Furlough

The Bobby Pooles, missionaries to Brazil, returned home for a short furlough beginning in June. **The Carlisle Hannas**, missionaries to India, returned in July. They, too, will be home for a brief furlough.

Free Will Baptist Christian Bookstore

Don't Miss Our August Summer Clearance Sale 10 - 50% off!

Gift Certificates are now available!

New Prospect Christian School Graduates Eleven

New Prospect Christian School graduated 12 during commencement services held on May 30, 1997. **Rev. Wayland Owens**, pastor of First FWB Church, Kingstree, delivered the message. New Prospect Christian School is a ministry of New Prospect FWB Church. **Rev. Joe Cagle** is pastor.

The graduates are pictured above. Pictured on the back row (L to R) Chad Miles, David Carr, Nathan Cooper, Benjamin Bellflowers, Sam Tunstall and Timothy Haselden. On the front row (L to R) Melissa Timmons, Torie Miller, Raven Evans, Karen Evans and Connie Byars.

Connie Byars was Valedictorian with a four-year gpa of 96.6. **David Carr** was Salutatorian with a four-year gpa of 93.27. Congratulations to these fine young people and may the Lord bless in the days to come.