

March - April 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.

1997 STATE ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

The 1997 session of the South Carolina State Association, meeting at Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg, February 27 and 28, was characterized by good preaching, excellent singing, and a spirit of unity and celebration.



Rev. Snowden

Moderator **Sherwood Lee** set the tone for the entire session with a challenging message on "Going Forward" from 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6. **Rev. Robert Rose**, Mt. Elon FWB Church, continued the challenge from Revelation 1:4-8. **Rev. Tommy Snowden**, youth pastor at Cardinal Village FWB Church, preached on "Do You Love Me More Than These," John 21:15-21. **Rev. David Crowe**, National

Home Missions, preached a stirring message Thursday evening titled "How to Keep the Fire Going," 2 Timothy 1:1-6. **Rev. Keith Bartlett**, pastor of North Spartanburg, began the Friday morning session with an inspirational devotion from Psalms 112:7. **Rev. John Cody** preached a vivid message on "How to Handle a Snake," Matthew 4:1-10. The final message, titled "Things we cannot afford to lose," Matthew 16:13-18, was preached by **Rev. Billy Baker**, moderator of the Central Association.



Rev. Cody

Excellent music characterized the entire session. It was coordinated by **Rev. and Mrs. James Wilhide**, directors of the FWB Home for Children, Turbeville.

Special music included numbers by **Libby Thornton**, Peace FWB Church, Spartanburg, and the **New Covenant Trio**, First FWB Church, Florence. Many would agree that it was some of the best music ever.



New Covenant Trio
Florence, SC

Other highlights included:

- ◆ Plaques presented to **Rev. Earl Hendrix** and to **Rev. David Aycock** for their years of service to the State Association;
- ◆ Former Promotional director **Rev. Norwood Gibson** and current director **Rev. Ron Moore** burning the mortgage on the Promotional Office property;
- ◆ Introduction of **Eddie Hobbs** as the new F W B Bookstore manager;
- ◆ Unanimous adoption of the South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support; and,
- ◆ Re-election of the present Executive Committee, with **Rev. Todd Smith** replacing outgoing clerk **Rev. David Aycock**.



Rev. Ron Moore, Rev. Norwood Gibson, Rev. Sherwood Lee
Mortgage Burning Ceremony

State Association Adopts New Foreign Missions Plan of Support

The 1997 Annual Session of the State Association adopted a new **South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support**. The Plan is designed to underwrite the support of Free Will Baptist foreign missionaries having strong residency ties to South Carolina. Missionaries and budgets adopted for 1997 are listed below.

	SC GOALS		Distribution
	%	Amount	%
Cowart	30	\$21,330.00	9.6
Gainer	75	\$40,645.00	18.3
Hanna	65	\$91,000.00	41.0
Johnson	50	\$35,000.00	15.7
Poole	50	\$34,255.00	15.4
1997 Total		\$222,230.00	100%

To understand the above chart, consider the Pooles, for example. The Poole's national budget for 1997 is \$68,510. South Carolina has adopted 50% of their support, which is \$34,255. When funds come in designated to the South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support, the Pooles will receive 15.4 cents of every dollar. All gifts designated for the Pooles (or other missionaries) will always go to their account.

The Plan is based on **the share concept**. The total projected budget for the year 2000 is \$264,000. That figure was divided into 2000 **annual shares of \$132 each**. Thus, to underwrite the 1997 budget of \$222,230, a total of 1,684 shares will have to be adopted. **The Plan's goal** is to raise all 2000 shares by the year 2000!

It will take most of 1997 to educate our people about the Plan and to implement it across the State. The National Foreign Missions Department is preparing the publicity

materials and Promotional Director **Ron Moore** is developing a study course on the Plan. A **Foreign Missions Task Force** will be assembled to promote the Plan, evaluate its effectiveness, and to recommend any changes at next year's Annual Session.

For more information about the Plan, or to schedule a service to explain the Plan to your congregation, please call Brother Ron Moore at the Promotional Office. The number is (803) 662-5010.

South Carolina Ranks 6th in Foreign Missions Giving

South Carolina gave \$252,241.77 toward their goal of \$263,670.68 in 1996. That is an increase of 1% over 1995. Our churches are to be commended for their efforts. South Carolina **ranked number six** among churches in the National Association.

Fifteen churches exceeded \$5,000 in giving. They are:

- Horse Branch, Turveville 23,844.42
- Bethany, Timmons ville 13,681.22
- Darlington First 11,131.00
- Florence First 10,564.72
- Temple, Darlington 9,775.00
- Westside, Johnsonville 9,288.04
- North Spartanburg 8,144.39
- Sand Hill, Coward 8,090.99
- White Savannah, Conway 6,393.59
- Parkway, Spartanburg 6,075.51
- Lebanon, Effingham 6,066.77
- Peace, Florence 6,031.76
- Charleston First 5,884.03
- Mt Elon, Pamplico 5,411.94
- Grace, Lake City 5,303.47

An analysis of giving by churches shows that **90 churches in South Carolina gave to foreign missions** in 1996. Forty churches gave between \$1 and \$1,000; thirty-five gave between \$1,000 and \$5,000; and, as listed above, fifteen churches gave over \$5,000.

"Time Is Running Out!" A Poole Alert

Bobby and Geneva Poole report that the Marincek Church people are already dreading their upcoming furlough the last of June. But more than that, they say, is the weight of their possible retirement in the year 2000. "We realize the urgency of the hour," say Bobby and Geneva.

Please pray for the Marincek Church, the Pooles, their upcoming furlough, future retirement, and financial needs--furlough almost always places an immediate strain on a missionary's account.

The Poole's alert reminds us of **an aging missionary corps**, many of whom are facing retirement within a few years. Let us faithfully pray the Lord of Harvest that He would send forth labors into the harvest!



Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 364 students from 28 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and nine foreign countries for the 1996-97 school year. Ten students are enrolled from South Carolina. Eighty-one students completed the fall semester with grades averaging "B" or higher. Among those making the "B" Honor Roll is **Walter Lee** from Florence. Congratulations, Walter!

Free Will Baptist Bible College's

SUMMER CAMP
'97

June 22-28, 1997

- Basketball Camp
- Music Camp
- Missions Camp
- Drama Camp

\$175 per Camper
Registration by June 13

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
1-800-76-FWBBC

THE TOGETHER WAY
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
 are
MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

You, too, can make a difference this April!

Lives are being transformed around the globe!

1997 Goal: **\$100,000**

- Help open new fields for Free Will Baptists.
- Assist in preparing new missionaries for a fruitful ministry.
- Help missionaries attain their support needs and function more freely.
- Provide pastoral care and encouragement for your missionaries.

Give to the annual
South Carolina "Pop" Willey
 and the
National Laura Belle Barnard
World Missions Offering
 April 27, 1997

Eastern District WNAC Adds New Local Auxiliary

During its annual session on February 8, 1997, the Fellowship local auxiliary, Manning, joined the Eastern District WNAC. Following congregational singing, Shelly McKnight, Eastern District president, challenged the auxiliary from 1 Timothy 5:13, stating that we all need to take our ministry of reconciliation seriously. She said that we must take advantage of every opportunity to witness to the lost. After a special in music by Christy Wynn, Rev. David Aycock, missionary appointee to Brazil, spoke. His message was taken from John 8:12 and followed the District's theme of "Bringing Light to the Darkness." Brother David also shared how Brazil is in spiritual darkness and gave some details of what his ministry would be.

Linda Moore, former missionary to Ivory Coast, did the installation of newly elected officers, following the theme of "keys to effective auxiliary ministry." The officers are:

- President Shelly McKnight
- Vice President Evis Poston
- Treasurer Sherrill Tyler
- Secretary Joyce Spalding
- Field Worker Donna Howell
- Study Chairperson Retha McAlister
- Prayer Chairperson Vivian Turner



Newly Elected Officers with Linda Moore

Ron Moore Speaks At Central District WNAC

The Central District WNAC held its annual conference at Little Star FWB Church, Manning, February 15, 1997. Rev. Ron Moore, Promotional Director for South Carolina Free Will Baptists spoke. His message was taken from the conference's theme verse, Proverbs 11:30 -- "He that winneth souls is wise." In his message, Brother Ron sought to answer the question, "Why does the Bible say winning souls is wise?"

One of the highlights of the day was the skit performed by the White Savannah auxiliary. They acted out a compelling skit of a Christian woman who didn't believe in missions. As the woman dosed off to sleep, she had a dream, during which a foreign national, an American in the mid-west, a missionary and a lost person standing in judgement appeared to her. Linda Moore did the installation of newly elected officers. She used the theme, "keys to an effective auxiliary ministry." The officers are:

- President Faye Hannah
- Vice President Jowand Larrimore
- Secretary Donna Hucks
- Treasurer Dorothy Inman
- Prayer and Praise Vicki Hearl
- Mission Action Vicky Seay
- Study Chairperson Doris Jones
- Field Worker Ema Brown
- Pianist Patrica Powell
- Chorister Mona Dukes



Newly Elected Officers with Linda Moore

The David Aycocks Speakers South Carolina District WNAC

Eighty-four attended the S.C. District WNAC convention on February 22, 1997 at **Bay Branch FWB Church**, Timmonsville. The theme for the convention was "Co-laborers with God," and was taken from 1 Corinthians 3:9. The entire **Aycock family** ministered to the attendees. Brother David brought the morning devotion, Sister Annette spoke during the worship hour, and the children joined in to sing with the family. It was a tremendous blessing to all who attended.



The David Aycocks

There were several other highlights during the convention. The **Temple auxiliary** put on a humorous skit about a "less-than-honest" woman who had excuses for not getting involved in the auxiliary. This dear lady also seemed to have a few things to say about everything from missionaries to the Promotional Director! Careful, ladies, these skits are



**Carolyn Riddick and
Lynda Hawkins**

hitting pretty close to home! Another highlight was when the local WNAC at **Faith FWB Church**, Darlington, joined the S.C. District. And, then, there was the plaque that was presented to **Lynda Hawkins** for her 14 years of faithful service as treasurer of the District. Finally, **Trudy Miles** did the installation of newly elected officers, using the theme "keys to effective auxiliary ministry." The new officers are:

- President Carolyn Riddick
- Vice President Patsy Hyman
- Secretary Mary Byrd
- Treasurer Evelyn Upright
- Mission Study Chairperson Carolyn Cooper
- Prayer Chairperson Carol Barnes

JoAnn King Speaks At Beaver Creek District

Over 150 attended the Beaver Creek District Auxiliary's annual convention at **Lockhart Free Will Baptist Church**

March 1, 1997. A total of 17 local auxiliaries represented, two of which were visiting: **Landmark**, Anderson, and **Liberty**, Lancaster.

JoAnn King, from Cramerton FWB Church in North Carolina, was the special guest speaker. She spoke from Psalms 37:23, the convention's theme verse, and emphasized how the Lord is interested even in the details of a person's life.



Mrs. JoAnn King

Among the business conducted, **North Spartanburg WNAC** won the foreign mission's plaque with a per capita gift in 1996 of \$56.33. **Chester First FWB Church** won the home mission's plaque with a total gift of \$4,334.59 last year. Attendance awards were given to **Fairview**, Division A; **Lockhart**, Division B; **Whitney**, Division C; and **Greenwood**, Division D. Congratulations to these fine auxiliaries for their faithfulness to advance God's work at home and abroad!

At the end of the convention, **Jan Efrid**, Inman WNAC, installed the newly elected officers using the theme of a lighthouse, emphasizing the importance of each officer to hold their light high as they labor for the Lord. The new officers are:

- Coordinator Gwen Hendrix
- Ass't Coordinator Sherry Carter
- Secretary Mary Reid
- Treasurer Gayle Gosnell
- Ass't. Treasurer Judy Revis
- Mission Action Chairperson Daphne Stevens
- Mission Prayer Chairperson Joyce Bowers
- Mission Study Chairperson Sandra Phelps
- Field Worker Poly Anders



Jan Efrid Installs New Officers

*All the host auxiliaries are to be
commended for their excellent
preparation and their wonderful
hospitality!*

South Carolina Women Active For Christ Holds Annual Session At Valley Falls

Over 300 attended the South Carolina State Auxiliary's annual meeting held at Valley Falls FWB Church, Spartanburg, March 15, 1997. The key verse and theme for the session were Luke 1:79--"To Give Light To Them That Sit In Darkness."

Following a welcome from the Coordinator, **Gwen Hendrix**, and a special in music by **Patty Newton**, missionary appointee to Brazil, **Annette Aycock**, opened the session with a devotional slide presentation about Brazil.

Following a variety of reports on auxiliary activities and a greeting from special guest, **Dr. Mary Wisheart**, Director of WNAC, Antioch, Tennessee, everyone enjoyed an exceptional worship service. **Norma Gunter**, Darlington, treated the audience to a moving rendition of "I Bowed On My Knees and Cried Holy." The guest speaker, **Mrs. Brenda Vaughn**, wife of pastor John Vaughn, Greenville, brought a moving and challenging testimony of how the Lord worked in her life to bring her to complete trust in Him.



Mrs. Brenda Vaughn



Coordinator Gwen Hendrix

Several events highlighted the annual session. Sister Hendrix introduced a new project called "Mission Possible." The district auxiliaries were

challenged to raise \$3,000 by the retreat this Fall. The funds will be divided equally the David Aycocks, the Tim Johnsons, and the Acres for Aiken land project.

In other activities, ladies who had been active in the auxiliary for twenty-five years or more were honored with a clear plastic pie server decorated with a pretty purple ribbon. Over forty ladies received the gift. **Linda Moore** was surprised with a birthday cake. March 15 was her birthday. She even received one of the door prizes given out by the host church.



Ladies with 25 years or more of WNAC service

Plaques were given for home and foreign missions giving. The **Parkway** auxiliary won the home mission plaque with a per capita giving of \$143.88. The **Westside** ladies won the foreign missions award with a per capita giving of \$245.56. Praise the Lord for the fine efforts of these faithful workers!

During the business session, the WAC endorsed the South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support and voted to send its mission distributions through the Promotional Office (*Note: This applies only to the State WAC treasurer. There will be no changes for local and district treasurers*).

To conclude the days activities, **Pam Hackett**, Fairview Auxiliary, installed the new officers. She used the theme "Hold the Light High." The new officers are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Gwen Hendrix | Coordinator |
| Faye Hanna | Assistant Coordinator |
| Mary Reid | Treasurer |
| Teresa Smith | Secretary |
| Joyce Spaldins | Member-at-large |
| Camille Scott | Member-at-large |
| Anell Lee | Member-at-large |



Newly Elected Officers

Congratulations are in order for the ladies at Valley Falls. They did a tremendous job hosting the event. It was evident that a lot of hard work went into planning, preparing, and decorating.



Eddie Hobbs
New
Bookstore
Manager



The 1997 session of the South Carolina State Association was a tremendous climax to my first year as your Promotional Director. Indeed, **the Lord has greatly blessed our ministry.** The operational fund finished \$1,493.50 to the good and the Promotional Office property has been paid for. What a joy it was to participate in the burning of the mortgage at the State with **Brother Norwood Gibson.**

On the mission front, we saw the Hanna account go into the black after having been \$50,000 in the red! A new **South Carolina Foreign Missions Plan of Support** has been enthusiastically endorsed by pastors and lay-leaders all across the State and was adopted during the 1997 session.

The **results of a state-wide survey** indicated that our people believe we should develop a resource center, renew missionary conferences, and conduct workshops and seminars as part of our ministry; this, in turn, has given us **a vision for the future.**

The Lord has sent us a highly qualified and gifted young man, **Eddie Hobbs,** to manage the bookstore and to help me with the development and implementation of these new ministries. God is so good!

We recognize, however, that **the Lord has worked through you** to pour out His blessing. Thank you for your willingness to be used by Him as His channel of blessing to us. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. **We love and appreciate you very much.** It is a privilege to serve you in this ministry. Indeed, we consider ourselves your servants for Christ's sake and our heart's desire is to better serve you.

Eddie Hobbs became the new Free Will Baptist Christian Bookstore manager February 17, 1997. Brother Eddie is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration. The following interview should help you get to know him a little better.

Q-Brother Eddie, would you share your testimony with us? I would love to. I was saved at **Bethany FWB Church,** Timmonsville, when I was six. However, it was not until the twelfth grade, while I was attending **Peace FWB Church** in Florence, that I became serious about working for the Lord. I had always been interested in business so I went to Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, to prepare myself to serve Him better. After graduation in 1994 I returned to Florence and worked part-time as youth pastor at Bethany.

Q-What attracted you to the Bookstore? There were three reasons. First, I wanted to use my training to serve the Lord in ministry. When the bookstore position became available, it was an answer to prayer. Secondly, I really appreciated the philosophy of the Promotional Office. **Brother Moore** was looking for someone who shared his heartbeat for developing new ministries and who would use the bookstore to help initiate them. That is just what I was looking for! Thirdly, I wanted an opportunity to help meet the needs of Free Will Baptist people. This position will allow me to do that.

Q-One final question, Brother Eddie. What is your vision for the future? There are so many exciting opportunities for ministry that it is impossible to discuss them all. So, let me share three. First, the Lord has

given me a burden for missions. I am excited about helping to develop mission conferences, rallies, fund raisers, mission teams, etc. Secondly, I am deeply concerned for the youth of our state. I am looking forward to the development of regional youth rallies and other youth ministries in the near future. Thirdly, the statewide survey of the Promotional Office last year indicated that our people would like for us to sponsor ministry workshops and seminars. I am looking forward to working with Brother Moore in developing and implementing these.



Thank you, Brother Eddie, for coming to work with us! We are excited about the ministry the Lord has given you.

ATTENTION!
Old Fashioned Camp Meeting
April 21-23, 1997

Featuring
Van Dale Hudson
Jack Lassiter
Carl Nelson
Clyde Perry
Billy Fields
Lonnie Skiles

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Wendell, NC (919) 365-7711

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