

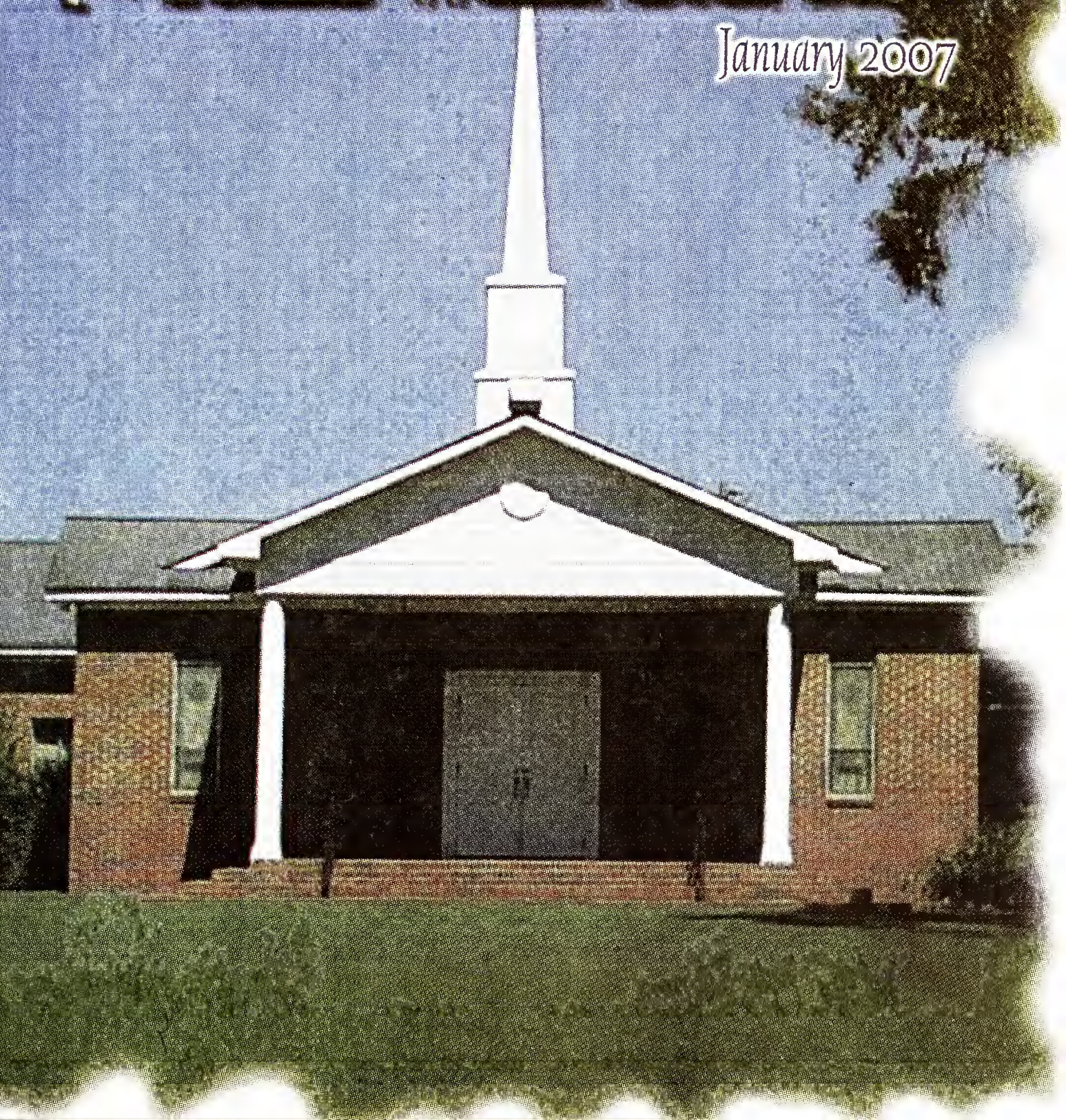


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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

January 2007





THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER January 2007



RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Ordination Service for Mr. J. R. Clark, Croatan OFWB Church, New Bern, NC 6 P.M.	8	9 Convention Executive Committee	10	11	12	13
14 Ordination Service for Mr. Tim Lawrence, Welcome Home OFWB Church, Bettie, NC, 6 P.M.	15 Campus Visitation Day, MOC, 9 A.M.-1 P.M.	16	17	18	19	20
21 RETIREMENT HOMES SUNDAY	22	23	24	25 Minister's Wives and Widows Retreat, Cragmont Assembly (25-28)	26	27
28	29	30	31			

COMING SOON:

Feb 17, Church Night Basketball Game, MOC

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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Bundle Plan (\$8.50 each): Lots of 12 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these.

Every-Family Plan (\$11.75 each): The church provides us the names and addresses of every member and we send them to each home. Churches are billed quarterly.

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CONTENTS

January 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 1

FEATURES

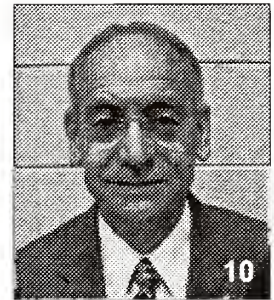
5 *The Time Has Come*

6 *Is It a Crossroad or a Crisis?*

7 *On Women In Ministry*

8 *History of Pleasant Grove Church's Woman's Auxiliary*

10 *My Testimony*



COLUMNS

4 Focus
by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

13 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

13 Golden Oldies



DEPARTMENTS

2 Monthly Planner

33 Camp Vandemere

34 Woman's Auxiliary

35 Youth Convention News

35 People & Events

37 Classifieds

ET CETERA

12 Church Video Lessons Often
Need Licenses

ON THE COVER

Jakin Church, Jakin, Georgia—Be sure to read a brief history of Jakin Church in the Golden Oldies column on page 13.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

14 Retirement Homes Ministry

17 OFWB International

19 Children's Home

21 Sunday School Ministry

22 Cragmont Assembly

24 Convention News

25 Mount Olive College

32 Home Missions & Evangelism

POWER VERSE

LORD, make me to know mine end, and
the measure of my days, what it is; that I
may know how frail I am (Psalm 39:4).

DECISIONS! THIS MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY

As I ponder the thoughts racing through my mind at this moment, I feel overwhelmed by the burden this position can sometimes bear. I am distressed by the turmoil that is knocking—even beating on our doors. As editor of *The Free Will Baptist*, I am learning there are times when no matter what is printed (or not), there will be someone unhappy with that decision. As the main news source for Original Free Will Baptists, this publication has as its responsibility to present the news, as submitted to us, to our constituents. However, as stated on the sideline of the contents page of each edition, “The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.”

The issue of the ordination of women seems to be one of much debate. We have published articles concerning this issue within the last few months. These articles or historical spots, by coincidence, mostly have been in favor of the ordination of women. But I assure you we have not turned away any articles that were opposed, we just have not had as many with an

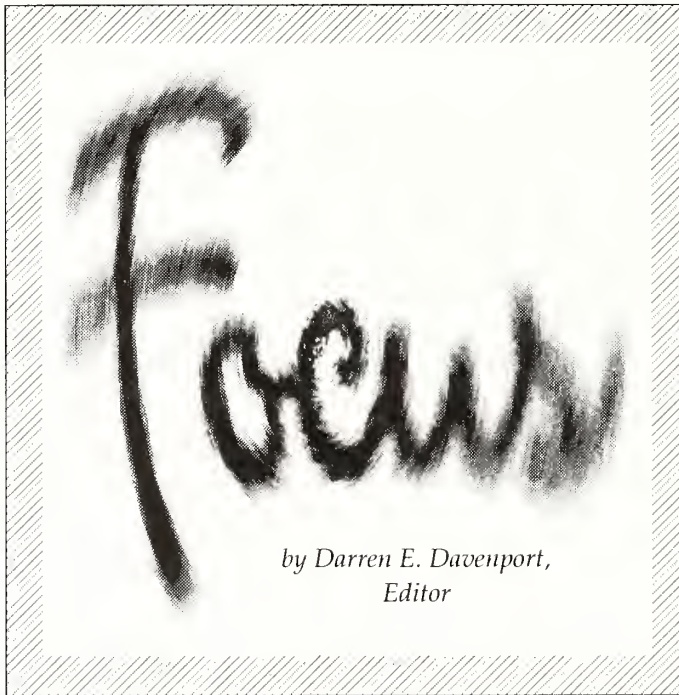
opposing viewpoint. It is not the purpose of *The Free Will Baptist* to take sides on an issue. It is our job to report the news submitted to us. We do, however, occasionally have to restrict items that do not adhere to our purpose (stated earlier).

Neither the Convention nor *The Free Will Baptist* can settle this debate. It is not our place. This issue is one that can be decided only by each individual conference of the denomination and, ultimately, our churches. Therefore, the February 2007 edition of this

publication will be the last edition that articles will be accepted on this issue (one article in opposition and one article in favor). I will, however, print (as space permits) letters to the editor in regards to this or any other issue, including any articles published recently. These letters are limited to 200 words or less and may address articles only—not people. All letters must be signed. Letters from “anonymous” will not be accepted.

It saddens me that this issue may take such a strong hold on our denomination. Our compass is the Bible—

the Bible is God’s Word to His people. Whether or not one view or another is the biblical mandate or just bowing to political correctness or personal agendas is one that deserves, even more so, it demands much prayer and soul searching and ultimately, obedience to God’s Word. Any less than this is a disaster in the making. My prayers are with the people, the ministries, and the leaders of our churches. May God’s blessings be upon us all!



by Darren E. Davenport,
Editor

THE PRESS TO \$125,000: AN UPDATE

As of the publication of this edition of *The Free Will Baptist*, we have received gifts/pledges totaling \$21,125 from 68 churches, individuals, and businesses. God bless you all!

Ponder this: If just 125 churches—much less than half of our total churches—would pledge \$1,000 each, we would achieve our goal. Over a one year period, that would amount daily to \$2.74, weekly to \$19.24, monthly to \$83.34, and quarterly to \$250. God will add His blessing to all of our efforts to “Spread the Word through the printed page.” I pray to this end!

The Time Has Come

by W. Burkette Raper

The words of Jesus, "...The hour is come..." (John 12:23) are a reminder that life is not static and changeless. So it is, as we stand at the beginning of a new year, the past is behind us and the future beckons us on.

January

The month of January takes its name from Roman mythology—Janus, the god of beginnings. Janus always was pictured with two heads, set back to back: one looking at the past and the other toward the future. Viewed as the most powerful of the gods, he was thought to hold the keys to the future. Although Rome ruled Judea during the time Jesus was on Earth, we know today that Janus was a myth, a fictitious story. Those of us who adhere to the Christian faith know that it is Jesus—not a man-made god—who holds the keys to the future. God has ordained that, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1), and the New Year is a good time to search out that purpose.

The Time For Change

When Jesus said to His disciples, "...The hour is come..." he was seeking to prepare them for the next stage in His life, and in their lives as well. For Jesus, the swift currents of His life on Earth were about to culminate. The Gospel of John introduces Jesus as the Word that "was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The term "dwelt," as used here, means to tent or encamp, not a permanent residence. For the three years of His public ministry, Jesus had focused on equipping His disciples to carry out His purpose in coming to Earth. Now, Jesus was telling them that the time had come for a major change—He was going to be put to death and would no longer be with them. Following this message to the disciples, John devotes nearly one-half of his gospel account to how Jesus sought to prepare the disciples for this change.

Wherever we are in the pilgrimage of life—whether in our youth, in our prime, or in our autumn years—the wisdom of the ages tells us that we should expect and prepare for major changes. The clock is running,

and, unlike athletic events, there are no time outs in life. Each stage of life is a transition into the next.

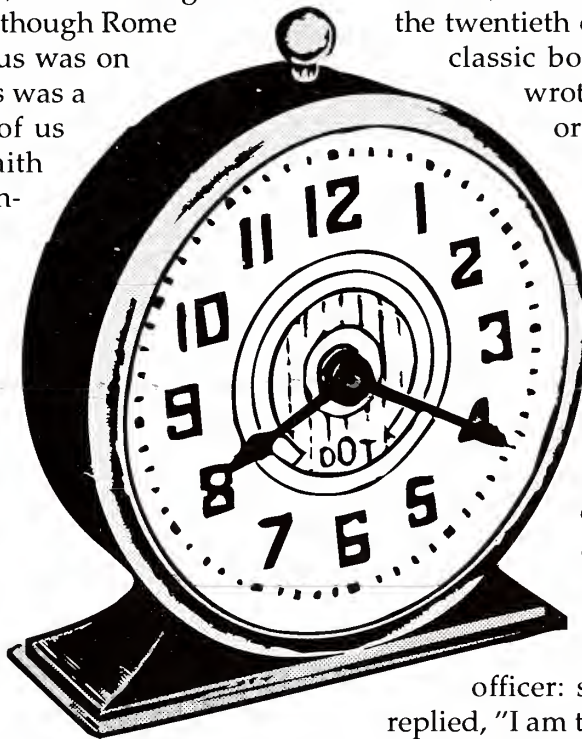
The reality of change is relevant not only to preparing for the end of life but for the journey of life itself. The decisive factor is not so much where we are as it is the direction in which we are moving. We are each in the process of becoming the person we will be in the future. Now, as we stand between what we have been in the past and what we could become in the future, is an opportunity to assess the direction of our life. Paul Tournier, an internationally respected physician of the twentieth century, spoke to this point in his classic book, *The Seasons of Life*, when he wrote: "Life is not a harmless diversion or a chance adventure; it is the crucial game we play only once. The game must of necessity end in victory or defeat."

Into the Future

Shortly after retiring from the office as president of Mount Olive College, I was walking across the campus during a holiday period when a newly appointed security officer called me to halt and approached me with two questions: "Who are you and what is your destination?" It was easy to answer the questions of the security officer: showing her my identification, I replied, "I am taking my daily walk."

Answering these questions for myself, however, has carried me back to my boyhood days at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Middlesex. It was on a New Year's eve that as a teenager I committed myself to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior; and shortly thereafter, I answered God's call into the Christian ministry. For me, the time had come for the most important decisions of my life—decisions that have defined who I am and my destination in life. And I believe that time comes for each of us.

In approaching the New Year, I have found the words of Minnie Louise Haskins to have great meaning: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That will be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'" ▲



Is It a Crossroad or a Crisis?

by the Reverend Chuck Owens

As I write this article I must confess I'm very concerned about the condition of our denomination. Recently *The Free Will Baptist* published an article entitled "At A Serious Crossroads" which dealt with the issue of ordaining women, a topic I'll address in this article. Well it's true we are at a serious crossroad, I believe more serious than many may think, and there are some issues we must address if we're going to grow and prosper and give glory to God as Original Free Will Baptists.

Issue number one: Several years ago there was a debate on the floor of the convention about our Denominational Ministries and whether they should have people on their boards who don't hold to our beliefs and convictions. Anyone can see instantly where this quickly could cause a problem. The problem was swept under the rug and, in my opinion, has become much worse. We now have on one of our boards two men who sell alcohol through their business and one of them sells lottery tickets as well. We also have a Denominational Ministry that has as sponsors two alcohol distribution companies. Now this puts ministers in a tough position. Do we stand firm to our code of ethics, which states we support Denominational Ministries or do we claim paragraph two of the OFWB Church Covenant (which, by the way, we're supposed to share with every new church member). You see, this is why our boards must be made up of Original Free Will Baptists in good standing.

Issue number two: In July 2006, *The Free Will Baptist* ran another article, "Graduate Theological Education for OFWB Ministers." What a slap in the face it was to many of our ministers. I believe there should be an apology from the author for the comments such as "...unfortunately some candidates are allowed to meet those requirements in programs that are not accredited by any legitimate accrediting agency." And "...some have been led to believe that work completed in such non-accredited programs is adequate preparation for ministry or an adequate substitute for regular college and

graduate theological seminary degree programs." That is judging and Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1).

Let me say, I believe education is very important; that's why I'm in school now. I have a deep-rooted desire to eventually teach men who are called to preach to do just that. With that said, nowhere does the Word of God say a man must have a four year degree, or a post-graduate degree or graduate from a college with certain accreditation to be adequately prepared for ministry. That's man—not God talking. What God says is, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). A man can have all the accredited degrees in the world and not know how to rightly divide the word of truth. What profit is that? Our people need to know thus saith the Word of the Lord, because we're living in "Perilous Times." As a sidebar, it seems to me that the newly formed N.C. Foundation for Christian Ministries may discriminate a bit. For example, their article in the November 2006 issue of *The Free Will Baptist* states, "Applicants for Foundation Scholarships must...Be accepted at an ATS (Association of Theological Schools) accredited Divinity School or Seminary, with preference given to students participating in the partnership between Campbell University Divinity School and Mount Olive College."

Issue number three: Ordaining women into the Gospel Ministry. There are a number of men far more qualified than I to discuss or debate this issue, but I would like to make several points here:

(1) The article "At A Serious Crossroads" which appeared in October 2006 seems to contradict itself. In one paragraph it says "to ordain" is not found in the New Testament. In another paragraph it says, "The very first evangelists—ordained by Jesus Himself, charged to present the Gospel, the Good News, of His Resurrection—were women."

(2) To say the verb "to ordain" doesn't appear in the New Testament just isn't accurate. It may not appear in some translations but the verb ordain appears in the KJV in the New Testament at least eight times: John 15:16, Acts 1:22, Acts 17:31, Romans 13:1, Galatians 3:19, Ephesians 2:10, Hebrews 5:1, and Hebrews 8:3.

(3) The first time we see the word ordain in the New Testament refutes the statement "The very first evangelists ordained by Jesus Himself, to present the Gospel, the Good News, of His Resurrection—were women." In John 15:16 Jesus says; "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...." This message, of course, is for all the church, but Jesus was speaking to the apostles; therefore, the first commissioned evangelists were the apostles, and they were all men.

(4) The verb ordain as it applies to commissioning pastors means—"To invest officially (as by the laying on of hands) with ministerial or priestly authority." The Bible says, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Timothy 2:12).

(5) Finally, and most importantly, the Word of God lists the qualifications for the pastor (Bishop) in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. This is what God says and that's what counts—not what man thinks.

The phrase from the article, "At a Serious Crossroads" that really bothers me is, "In this post-modern world" as an excuse. You see, man and his selfish desires may change from generation to generation but the Bible says, "For I am the Lord, I change not...." (Malachi 3:6). Let God be God and let His Word say what it says.

Issue number four: And this one probably concerns me the most. It has come to my attention that because of the previously discussed issues we've lost at least one church and one pastor. Could this become a trend? Could we begin to lose more churches and pastors as well? I thought our vision and

goal for the future was to plant new churches and have church growth of 10% in the next few years, not lose existing churches. Maybe it's time that we Original Free Will Baptists become more concerned about our denomina-

tion. Maybe it's time we rely less on the decisions of an executive committee and more on the will and Word of God and strive to have more balanced executive committees that will strive for righteousness and not compromise.

We're not at a "Crossroads." We're right in the middle of a crisis. The question is what are we going to do about it? May God bless the Original Free Will Baptists. ▲

On Women In Ministry

by the Reverend Harry Grubbs

The subject of women in ministry has been discussed in recent issues of this publication. Original Free Will Baptists on both sides of the issue claim to believe the Scriptures are the infallible and inerrant Word of God. Therefore, it is imperative that we examine what the Bible has to say on the subject.

Joel 2:28 (KJV) says: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."

Acts 2 records the events on Pentecost when God poured out His Spirit upon the first Christians. Peter said in verse 16 that these events were a fulfilling of "that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." Peter then quotes that passage and adds that the servants and handmaids "shall prophesy" (v. 18).

First Corinthians 14:34-35 says: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

First Timothy 2:11-12 says: "Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

First Timothy 3:2 says: "A bishop... must be... the husband of one wife..." Verse 12 says: "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife..."

Are these Scriptures contradictory? We believe the Bible does not contradict itself; therefore, we must find a way to interpret these Scriptures in agreement.

Joel says that when God pours out His Spirit upon all flesh, our sons and daughters will prophesy. It also says our servants, both men and women, will prophesy. Prophecy means to speak forth or proclaim the Word of God; to convey the divinely imparted meaning of history; to warn God's people of His justice and wrath (see *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Vol. 3, 896-897). In short, it is to preach the Word of God. Therefore, God can call whom He chooses to preach His Word regardless of gender or socio-economic status. It means that men and women—rich, poor, and middle class—may be called to preach His Word. We also might conclude that God can call anyone of any race or nationality to proclaim His Word. Actually, the Bible does not say, "May be called to prophesy;" it says, "will prophesy." So, when God pours out His Spirit upon Original Free Will Baptists, our sons and daughters will prophesy. Now the question is: When are we going to become obedient to the Scriptures? When are we going to become obedient to the Holy Spirit? Our denominational theme for 2006-07 is "Enabled by the Spirit." Are we really enabled by the Spirit if we are disobedient to the Spirit?

Well, what about 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 where Paul tells women to keep silence in the churches? Two things need to be considered. First, this whole chapter deals with speaking in unknown tongues. This subject is so controversial that Paul sets limits on its use: not to be done when unbelievers are present; only two or three at the most; in order, i.e., not at the same time; and that someone interpret what is said. In their emotional exuberance, some of the people had been heard to say, "Anathema Christos," which

means "Christ is cursed." Paul wonders how in the world such a slip of the tongue can take place. He says that "...God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" (v. 33). He then says that women should keep silence in the churches. The women obviously did not understand this confusion and they talked among themselves. Paul instructs them to keep silent rather than add to the confusion. Someone should show civility; if not the men, then the women). Second, women had not been allowed to worship in the temple, but the early Christians included the women, but the men sat together and women sat together. Since the women did not understand the rituals, they may very well have talked among themselves about what everything meant. Paul instructs that if they did not understand what was going on, they should ask their husbands when they get home. I absolutely do not believe this passage, in any way, forbids women to preach, teach, or otherwise speak up in church.

Then there is 1 Timothy 2:11-12. Here again, Paul tells the women to "...learn in silence with all subjection." There again, rather than disrupt the worship by talking among themselves, they should listen and learn. But then Paul says, "...I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." Again two things need to be considered. First, to usurp authority is to take by force. Neither men nor women should usurp authority. Any authority that any minister has comes from the Holy Spirit, not our own doing. Any authority that we have in the local church comes by vote of that congregation; we are not dictators, we are hired servants. When we try to force our will upon the church, we are out of step with the Holy Spirit. We must use the power of gentle persuasion,

enabled by the Spirit. Second, Paul says, "...I suffer not a woman to teach...." Most often when Paul uses the first person, he is giving his opinion, not making a decree from God. I, therefore, believe this was Paul's opinion, not God's decree. How else can we reconcile verse 12 with Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:16-17?

Acts 18:26 says that Aquila and Priscilla expounded to Apollos "the way of God more perfectly." So here was a woman who was a teacher of the Word. In addition, Paul was not always consistent in this subject. Romans 16:1-2 says: "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church

which is at Cenchrea...for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also." The Greek word translated "servant" in this passage is *diaconon*, the feminine form of "deacon," hence deaconess. Phebe was a deaconess in the church at Cenchrea, and Paul honors her in this role.

Finally, 1 Timothy 3:2 and 12 tell us that bishops and deacons should be the husband of one wife. In the early church, the bishops and most deacons were men; therefore, Paul uses the male gender in reference to them, and we can conclude that bishops and deacons should practice monogamy. This does not mean that male bishops and dea-

cons must be married, but that they should not practice polygamy. In fact, we have concluded that all Christians should practice monogamy.

My conclusion is that Original Free Will Baptists should treat men and women equally. If a woman claims that she is called to preach, ordaining councils should treat her with the same respect they would a man. If she is Christian in belief and character and meets the educational qualifications, then we have no right to reject her. Who are we to say that God cannot call a woman to ministry, especially when the Bible says, "...your sons and your daughters will prophesy?" ▲

History of Pleasant Grove Church's Woman's Auxiliary

(as of October, 2006)

by Tempie Jones and Georgia Crumpler

The Pleasant Grove Woman's Auxiliary was organized between 1915 and 1920. Its original name was "The Ladies Aid." The purpose was to help meet the needs of the church, denomination, and the community.

In 1922, the church voted to pay the Ladies Aid to clean the building. The auxiliary continued to do this for many years until the church included custodial service in its budget and custodians were hired. In 1949, Mrs. Hardy Talton was instrumental in organizing the Youth Auxiliary. The youth, under the leadership of the auxiliary, were divided into groups: the Cherubs, AFCs, and two YFAs. Through the years they have held Youth Sundays and Rock-A-Thons for Cragmont, taken mission trips, raked yards, washed cars, held suppers, and done many other activities to help send boys and girls to camp. The auxiliary continued to sponsor the youth programs until the church hired a youth minister, David Allen, in 2000.

In 1956, (50 years ago) some of the ladies from the auxiliary met in the home of Mrs. Lillie Mae Pender to form a second auxiliary named the "Night Auxiliary." The primary purpose in organizing this group was to give those ladies who had daytime jobs and had small children the opportunity to be able to attend. Under the excellent leadership of Mrs. Pender, Mrs. Georgia Crumpler, Mrs. Grace Pate,



A special service was held on Sunday morning, October 15, 2006 during the morning worship service to celebrate the woman's auxiliary's 50 years of service to the church. Marsha Sauls, president of the auxiliary, read the history of the auxiliary and then sang the auxiliary prayer entitled, "An Evening Prayer."

and others from the Day Auxiliary, the Night Auxiliary got off to a good start. The officers and committee chairwoman of the Day Auxiliary served as training mentors to the new Night members concerning their responsibilities. This was very helpful. The meeting date was set for the first Thursday night in the month in the homes of its 19 members.

A third auxiliary named "Candlelight" was organized in 1969. After a few years, they discontinued meetings and some members joined the Night Auxiliary.

Charter members included: JoAnn Aycock, Dorothy Aycock, Pete Bedford, Georgia Crumpler, Eloise Fields, Polly Gardner, Hilda Hinnant, Margaret Horne, Mary Alice Howell, Lucinda Howell, Laura Ellen Jones, Colleen Jones, Tempie Jones, Grace Pate, Mary Pender, Lillie Mae Pender, Ella Rich, Lillian Summerlin, and Agnus Taylor.

Four members of the charter group are still members of the auxiliary. They are Lucinda "Cindy" Howell, Georgia Crumpler, Pete Bedford, and Tempie Jones. Fannie Hare joined our group in January 2000 after the Day Auxiliary discontinued its meetings due to loss of members through death or other disabling causes. As a result, the Night Auxiliary became the only woman's auxiliary. Therefore, its official name is Pleasant Grove Woman's Auxiliary. Today the present enrollment is 30 members.

Special committees keep the auxiliary abreast of activities related to the church, denomination, and community. The official auxiliary manual requires three specified study courses per year. The Pleasant Grove Auxiliary meets with five other OFWB church auxiliaries (Antioch, Fremont, Piney Grove, Pleasant Hill, and Union Grove) for the study courses. This has been a very rewarding experience as we share programs and fellowship.

Through the years many good and worthwhile projects have been done by the auxiliaries. In the early years, the Ladies Aid supported a child in the Middlesex Children's Home by sending clothes and food (especially canned food). Each year Bonnie Farmer, a worker at the Home, would bring children to visit our church to put on a program. A collection was taken for the Children's Home. The children would spend the night with members of the church. Many things have been done by the auxiliary to help improve the church. Some of them have been giving a communion table, shrubbery for the grounds, supporting all denominational work, helping with the sick and needy, sponsoring Bible School, and organizing and directing the Youth Program. The most recent church improvement was remodeling the ladies' lounge and decorating the fellowship hall kitchen.

Other money-making projects to help the church with financial needs have included tobacco tying; preparing meals for the Pikeville Lions Club, Mason Organization, and other groups; selling Danny Duzits, flavoring, and stainless steel products (which we still do); producing an original cookbook and selling prepared cookbooks; and financing a church afghan project. An important benevolent ministry has been sending and selling cards, and cottage prayer meetings with homebound members and other needy persons. The auxiliary has helped financially with many remodeling projects.

For the last 16 years (since 1991), our main financial project has been the birthday calendar. We do thank the church and friends for helping us make this a profitable project. The auxiliary has been able to provide financial help in many ways through this project. Our biggest project has been to sponsor the building of the church in the Philippines, giving \$13,648.77. The church helped complete the project (total cost approximately \$23,000). The auxiliary also has helped finance the Short Term Missions Teams to Mexico. These projects have been such a blessing to us. God has blessed us in so many ways. On July 28, 2002, several women were given life membership awards and pins for their years of service.

We have been busy through the years. Perhaps one of our greatest blessings has been to work, worship, and fellowship with our auxiliary sisters through these many years. It is our goal to continue to work together to accomplish our purpose: "Women Working Together in Christian Service." ▲

PLEASANT HILL AUXILIARY

by Becky Glover

*There are several ladies among us today that we would like to honor.
They are special each one in one way or another.
Mrs. Fannie Hare so faithful as she joined us on Thursday nights.
She helps and guides us to always do what's right.
Mrs. Marie Rowe has always been there to lend a helping hand.
She's ready and willing to serve her fellow man.
Mrs. Pete Bedford, always ready to serve the auxiliary true.
The Night Auxiliary worked best for her
'cause by day she was selling shoes.
Mrs. Eloise Fields, brought knives to the meetings
and would try to sell a few.
This helped raise funds to help folks;
we may have helped you sitting in the pew.
Mrs. Polly Gardner, clean as a pin and smart
as a whip at anything she does.
She's been right there through thick and thin—on her you can depend.
And Mrs. Cindy Howell, how many hams
she's cooked and served them up with love.
She's been many a mile with her call filled with
food to bring to a grieving family a smile.
Mrs. Pauline Denning, has been steady and ready
To do her part how big or small.
She's sent many cards to many of you all.
And Mrs. Maude Pittman knows her way around the kitchen
Fixing for a dinner or wherever she's needed. She's loyal to our cause.
Mrs. Ruth Lupton has been a member with us
as well as with other churches, too.
When you use those tablecloths next door,
you need to tell her, "Thank You."
Mrs. Maxine Parnell, she's a rock, she won't let you down.
She visits and gives the shut-ins her smile so they won't even frown.
Mrs. Grace Pate has held all offices
and has attended many conventions.
But mission work is her heart's passion.
She lives the Great Commission.
And you can't forget Mrs. Georgia Crumpler,
(if her briefcase could only talk).
It would tell you all how she kept the treasury
balanced with never many faults.
And last, but not least, Mrs. Tempie Jones, our fearless leader true,
By keeping a promise she made to the Lord to do the work
He called her to do.
As you look at these ladies with their different talents and gifts,
They all have something in common,
They served their Lord the best they could.
Their lives present us with a challenge.
Can we say the same about ourselves?
Are you really more busy than these?
They would leave their kitchens many a time
With corn and peas to freeze. But to them there was a special need.
For you see they knew that at the meeting
God's Word may touch them from the lesson they would be reading.
And in the business session
they may touch a missionary or other's need.
With a willing heart they have served the Lord
As they have prayed down on their knees.
And we honor their tireless efforts.
Look around, you will see.
There's not much here at Pleasant Grove
that's not been touched by the Ladies Auxiliary.*

My Testimony

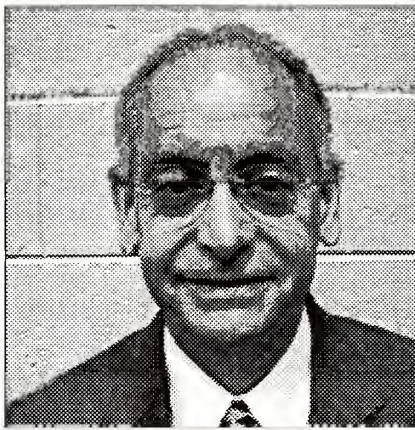
by the Reverend Joe Ballance

I am the Rev. Joe Ballance, the pastor of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church near Smithfield. I have been their pastor for eight years and have been very blessed to serve this very loving and supportive congregation. I am employed also as a Computer Systems Specialist with the City of Raleigh.

My wife, Eva is an Echocardiographer at Wake Internal Medicine in Raleigh. Our daughter, Elisabeth, attends Barton College in Wilson. She is a junior in the School of Nursing. Currently, she resides in Goldsboro.

On January 14, 2006, my life and the lives of my family, church family, and many friends were impacted greatly by the tragic accident that took place. My routine each Saturday was to run errands for my elderly parents: the grocery store, the drugstore, and any other needs that they might have. On this day, I didn't make the return trip back to my parents' home. Instead, I was hit by an 18-wheeler on Highway 222 in Kenly. I was driving my dad's small Mazda pick-up so it was no match for a refrigerated transfer loaded with produce. What is most important to note is that I have no recollection of the accident at all, and the doctors tell me I never will. In some ways, this is a blessing, but in many ways it is difficult to reflect back on several weeks of your life and have no memory of anything.

A first responder at the scene of the accident stated that I knew my name when she asked me, but it quickly became apparent that I had sustained some massive head trauma. She relayed to my wife that I must have recognized the need for help because I began to pray "Our Heavenly Father, help me!" She said I repeated it two or three times and then I became combative. Even though I do not remember this, I do know that God heard my prayers and the prayers of many others and I can't thank you enough. It is because of the merciful God we serve and the fervent prayers of many that I am alive and able to preach today. And I praise our God for that.



I was air-lifted to Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville. The rescue workers did not expect me to survive until the helicopter arrived for transport much less make it alive to Greenville, but I did. It was determined that I had several spine fractures, both lungs had failed (one was completely collapsed), and other internal injuries. But none of these were as concerning as the massive amount of trauma to my brain. The doctors said that on a scale of 1-10, I was a nine. In other words, I was injured very critically.

My wife, Eva, had called family, our church family and a couple of Christian friends on her way to Greenville. People already had begun praying. When she arrived, they told her of the extent of my injuries and our daughter, my brother, and Eva were able to see me for a brief moment. Many came to support her in what would become the most difficult challenge in her life.

I was admitted to the Trauma Intensive Care Unit (ICU) where I remained for three weeks. I was kept in a drug-induced coma for many days to keep the pressure down in my head. During the first night, the doctors told Eva that I was very unstable and that they were going to repeat the CT (Computed Tomography) scan, but within ten minutes they returned to her and told her they felt I was dying. They asked her and the others waiting with her "Do we stop now or go down swinging?" Unanimously, they said, "We go down swinging," so they took me to surgery. The doctors knew I had a ruptured spleen and they thought maybe it was causing my drop in blood pressure. I understand that there were heart-wrenching prayers being sent up from that waiting area, led by a

member of our deacon board. This became the first of many miraculous events in my life. I came through the surgery and even though they removed my spleen, they really couldn't explain why I stabilized. Obviously, God's hand was upon me and He sustained me through a very critical moment. Later that Sunday, my blood pressure dropped again and Eva was informed that an emergency CT was necessary and that I might not survive. Yet, through the prayers of many the CT scan did not reveal any unexpected finding and I became stable again.

I want to pause for a moment from my injuries and express to you the blessings of having a strong, supportive Christian family, a faithful, loving church family, and understanding, loyal employers. In the two weeks following my hospitalization, Eva tells me she never was alone except for one hour and twenty minutes. Either family, church members, or friends stayed with her every day and night. There are no words that can express how much this meant to her in our time of great need. After the first week of sleeping in the waiting area, the church arranged a hotel room for Elisabeth and Eva across from the hospital and covered the cost for four more weeks. While I was at Pitt and WakeMed, many gave her financial support, many visited, but most of all, many prayed. The Rev. Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services, spoke with Eva on many occasions and kept the OFWB Churches and ministers updated on my condition and prayer needs. Many ministers and laypeople visited and had prayer with Eva and me daily. Friends, this is what Christian living and Christian giving is all about, and we will be forever grateful for all the love and support that was shown.

I survived the first 72 hours, which were to be the most critical for survival. But I gave everyone a scare the following Friday, one week after my accident. My fever went to 105.8 degrees Fahrenheit and my blood pressure dropped to 50/10 while Eva was holding my hand. Many from our family and church prayed and within two hours I was stable again and no worse for the event. Talk about the power of prayer!

On Sunday, I understand that I had one last life-threatening moment. When Eva came back for the first visit, the physicians stopped her and said that for some unexplained reason my blood pressure and pulse rate had dropped in half. The most logical explanation would be that my brain was hemorrhaging down through the brain stem and into the spinal column. Eva knew that no one could survive this, so she immediately called the church and asked everyone to go to the altar and pray. Without God's intervention, I could not survive. She had prayer in the chapel with those waiting with her and once again a miracle occurred. The CT scan did not show any significant changes, and my vital signs became stable.

Four times my life was on the edge following my accident, but by the power of prayer and God's amazing healing power, He kept me here. Isn't our God an awesome God?

Unfortunately, my extensive brain injury and treatment wasted all of my muscles and some nerve endings. In the beginning I looked like a miniature Incredible Hulk since they had pumped forty pounds of fluid into my body to keep blood flowing to my brain. All this treatment took its toll, so when they brought me out of the coma, I couldn't move at all. Slowly, some movement returned, a slight movement of a hand or a muscle would flex on the front of my shin. I learned to rock my feet back and forth, but I couldn't lift any of my limbs. I was moved to Surgical Intermediate Care, weaned off the ventilator, and given a special valve so I could try to talk. I can't recall any of this but I understand that I was communicating toward the end of my five weeks at Pitt Memorial.

I was moved to Acute Rehab at WakeMed on Monday, February 20. For the first time in five weeks, Eva and Elisabeth were able to go home. Eva had not left Pitt for five weeks. She stayed by my side, meeting my every need all that time. And most of all, she prayed for me. She never allowed herself to question why and she always believed I would get better. She lived with a "guarded hope" knowing that if the outcome had been different, she would accept that God had a purpose in taking me home to Heaven with

Him. She counts her blessings every day that I am still able to share life with her.

After spending one week in Acute Rehab, I was moved to regular rehab. I had problems swallowing because of the muscle loss that controlled it. Speech therapy helped me regain my ability to swallow and by the eighth week, I had regained the ability to eat solid food again. Speech therapy also helped me redevelop my ability to call objects by their proper name. For many weeks, I referred to my legs as dogs and my arms as chairs. I could not name simple objects, like a pen. I had to re-learn days of the week and the dates, simple everyday tasks. But by God's continued healing, I have recovered far beyond the doctor's expectations. In fact, my neuropsychologist released me at my first testing after discharge. I continue to improve, but I have to rely on notes because I still have problems with word recall. As the doctors put it, it's not a memory problem. The words are in a file in my brain, but the file doesn't always open and release the word I want to say. This can be a handi-cap in the ministry, but I believe that God left me here for His purpose and He will continue to heal and use me for His work. His healing is evident through positive comments made by members of the congregation at Yelverton Grove following each week's sermon.

Slowly my legs regained strength and with physical therapy, I was able to regain my ability to walk. Eva says she witnessed another miracle as she watched me walk on the parallel bars for the first time. By God's grace, I did not have any gait issues when I walked. I quickly graduated from a wheelchair to a walker and by the time I was discharged, I had begun to use a cane. Isn't God good? The physical therapists marveled at my progress knowing the extent of my brain injury.

My right hand and arm continued to be the area of greatest weakness and still is today. Even after extensive therapy, I left the rehab center with a hand that wouldn't work very well. I continued to go to out-patient rehab and it has been amazing to see the progress I have made. God's timing is perfect in all things and I believe that He continues to teach me lessons

through the rehab of my hand. Even though I don't recall a lot about six weeks or so following the accident, I have a strong recollection of being humbled by having to be bathed, dressed, and groomed by my wife after I was discharged. I am so grateful to her for her patience and dedication to my care, but I must admit, I was very glad when I regained the strength and the ability to do these things on my own. Our church family has seen on a first-hand basis, God's miraculous work in my life. Today, I have completed all out-patient rehab and have regained more than 75 percent function in my right hand.

I spent five weeks at WakeMed and was discharged on March 22. Eva had hoped that I would be home by Easter, but my rehab was so successful that I made it home three weeks earlier than scheduled. It was very moving to walk back in the church on my birthday, Sunday, March 26. I can't express to you how grateful I am to God for allowing me to return. Our families came and we were overcome with emotion. The Rev. Billy Nowell continued to fill-in in the pulpit at Yelverton Grove until I was strong enough to preach. He and his wife, Joyce, were very instrumental in maintaining the church during my recovery and I am very grateful to both of them. Before I could speak clearly, I needed one more surgery to remove two growths that had developed on my vocal chords. These growths were the result of the airway being down my throat for several weeks. The surgery was successful so after three weeks of recovery, I returned to the pulpit on the fourth Sunday in June. I was weak, but even God can use a weak vessel if it is willing, and He blessed me to be able to preach again.

I have returned to work full-time and even though I tire easily, it's been good to get back into a normal routine. Eva returned to work on June 1 as well.

I can't express to you the feelings I have regarding my accident so that you can understand fully. But I do know that I am a child of God and as His child, He cares for me. He knew the desires of my heart as well as the desires of the many people throughout the world who were praying for me. And as a result, I am able to lead a fairly

normal life today. If we are His children and believe that He is in control of every aspect of our lives, then there is no further explanation needed to explain my survival and my miraculous recovery. Apparently, it was His will that I live. The physicians felt there was no way I would survive, because a physician expressed to me later that "I was not to have lived." The same physician from Pitt Memorial also stated, "We are the hands that do the work; He is the one who heals." And I am living proof of His miraculous healing power and medical treatment as administered by the wonderful physicians and staff at Pitt Memorial, WakeMed, and WakeMed Outpatient Rehabilitation in Clayton.

Even though God did not cause the accident, He allowed it to happen, and I believe many lives have been changed as a result. Eva told many people who visited that I had rather suffer and bring others to know Christ through my tragedy, than to have them slip away into eternal damnation. I know my accident prompted some to make a decision to ask Jesus into their hearts and it caused many to walk a closer walk with God. Some recognized the need to be more responsible and appreciative of the life with which God has blessed them. So, the journey was worth it.

Today, you may be going through a difficult time: sickness, personal problems, or you may have just gone

through difficulty. You may have storms to face in the near future. But if you are His child, stay focused on Jesus and know that He will walk with you or carry you through whatever trials you face, and you will be the stronger for having walked through it. Always remember, the end result is His plan for your life.

God loves you and I pray that He will continue to bless you each day. I ask that you continue to remember me in prayer. I know He is capable of completely healing me and I will be patient for His blessings. Our sincere thanks is extended to all the churches that have continued to lift us up in prayer. We truly have been blessed. ▲

CHURCH VIDEO LESSONS OFTEN NEED LICENSES

by Melissa Lilley

(Reprinted with permission from the Biblical Recorder, October 14, 2006 edition)



Larry the Cucumber and Bob the Tomato, stars of Big Idea Productions' animated series *Veggie Tales*, help teach children biblical truths. The series is a popular resource in children's ministry. But Larry and Bob would never teach children to do what

many North Carolina Baptist churches do every week—use their videos and movies without permission.

Sal Laudicina, director with Christian Video Licensing International (CVLI), explains how the licensing agency helps churches legally use commercial video. Created in 2001 by Christian Copyright Licensing International and the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation, CVLI serves churches and faith-based schools and institutions. From a brief movie scene used in a sermon to a feature film shown at a church-wide event, churches should be aware of copyright laws.

Q. How does CVLI benefit churches?

A. Until CVLI, the 1976 Copyright Act made non-home showings of videos almost impossible. Churches had to write and request permission from a producer to show even one scene from a movie. Permission came after a lengthy process and a costly license fee, and was often for a one-time showing. CVLI streamlines the permission process. Buying a license from CVLI grants a church permission to use any video from any producer represented by CVLI. Churches have unlimited access to these videos, meaning they can show scenes of a film, or the entire film, as many times as they want.

Q. How much will a license cost?

A. License fees are paid annually and the cost is based on

a church's regular worship attendance. Smaller churches pay less for a license than larger churches. CVLI offers two license packages: The family values producer package and the total producer package is \$50–\$90 and includes titles from producers such as McGraw-Hill, Praise Home Video and Scholastic Entertainment. The total producer package includes all producers represented in the family values package, but adds major studio producers such as Walt Disney, Warner Brothers and Universal Pictures. Cost for the total producer package is \$180–\$600.

Q. What is not covered by a CVLI license?

A. The license does not allow churches to show videos to the general public, nor does it include showings where a general admission fee is charged. Videos shown off-site, such as a church retreat or camp, are not covered by the license. Each facility where a church wants to show movies, such as a church-sponsored daycare or school, must have a license. However, these programs can be added to the church's license for a small fee.

Q. Why is ScreenVue beneficial?

A. ScreenVue is a service for CVLI and a subscription fee is required. It is a resource for pastors, Sunday School teachers and Bible study leaders. At the ScreenVue Website (www.screenvue.com) are downloadable movie scenes and illustrations about how a movie scene can be used as a teaching tool. A scene from *Batman Begins* can correspond with a sermon on danger or fear. A Bible study about greed is enhanced by showing a scene from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Other illustrations come from movies such as *Cinderella Man*, *Eight Below* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

Q. How do I get a license?

A. Call (888) 302-6020 or apply online at www.cvli.org.

TIME AND TIDE

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

(Reprinted from the January 4, 1967 issue of The Free Will Baptist. Revisions have been made.)

An old Proverb states, "Time and tide wait for no man." The seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, and years come and go with endless persistence and perfect order. The tides rise and fall according to the balance of nature and her laws. It has been so since the beginning of time; and it will be so until our Almighty God shouts from the portals of glory, "Time shall be no more." Until that day and hour, time and tide shall continue their course without the interference of man and his laws.

This being the case, the only alternative left to man is to make the best use of the allotted time that is his. It is a serious matter indeed to realize that the minutes and hours that belonged to yesterday can never be recalled. The pages of the past may record failures and wrongs, but never will the opportunity to do differently under the same situation and circumstances come again.

Serious thought also is prompted as we realize that life is brief and uncertain. Thus, the opportunities of today may not be ours tomorrow; for we have no promise of another tomorrow.

The testimony of many is that life is brief. Note the words of Jacob: "...The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage" (Genesis 47:9). Consider also the following: David acknowledged, "...our days on the earth are as a shadow..." (1 Chronicles 29:15). Job said, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.... As the cloud is consumed and vanished away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more" (Job 7:6-9). Job also speaks of life as a shadow (Job 14:2); so does the psalmist in Psalm 14:4. James wrote: "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

As we face the year 2007, let us determine by the grace of God to avail ourselves of the opportunity to use the smallest part of time in such a way that there will be no regrets; "for time and tide wait for no man."

Reflections

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT ON JAKIN CHURCH, JAKIN, GEORGIA

(This article is a partial re-print from the front cover of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, March 2, 1955, Vol. 70-No. 9.)

Jakin Church, Jakin, Georgia, completed a new cinder block building covered with a form of concrete plaster on the outside in 1955.

Beginning in 1948, the small congregation tore down the old frame building and erected the new facilities. The people built the church as the money was supplied of the Lord. The project was not completed as of March 2, 1955, but the congregation had been worshiping in it as the work progressed.

The Rev. J. O. Fort, editor of *The Free Will Baptist* at the time of the article, grew up in Jakin Church. Jakin

Church was the place where he accepted both Christ and the call to the ministry. He stated the church had played an important role, throughout the history of its existence, in advocating Christian education, home and foreign missions, Sunday School, league and woman's work.

Over the years, the congregation had been served by the Revs. W. A. McDonald, M.A. Woodard, Sam Ely, W. H. Emerson, Henry Melvin, F. B. Cherry, Daniel Pelt, Chester Pelt, Ralph Lightsey, I. J. Blackwelder, and others. At the time of the article, the Rev. James Pelt was pastoring the church.





PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963

RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY

JANUARY IS RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH



Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes Ministry

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME



People helping people is more than just a motto for your Retirement Homes Ministry. This truly is a ministry as we continue to reach out to our people who need help. We are blessed to be able to serve the clients we are now serving and are searching constantly for new ways to help our people.

This ministry officially began with the Articles of Incorporation being completed in February 1975. This February we will be 32 years old. Many of our OFWB people have benefited from this Ministry. This is a ministry of the OFWB Denomination and is for OFWB people. We have and maintain tax exempt status for accepting gifts and donations from people.

This Ministry is governed by a ten member board elected by the Convention. This board consists of two members from three Conferences (Central, Eastern, and Western) and one member each from the Albemarle, Piedmont, and Cape Fear Conferences and one member from the Pee Dee Association.

This Ministry has four different programs in which our people can participate. The first is our Residential Care Program. This service provides housing and is a participatory program in which the clients must contribute 30% of their retirement income to Retirement Homes. All expenses are paid for these clients except for telephone and cable television. The second is our Supplemental Housing Support Program. This program is designed to aid persons who have the same needs as our residents but have their own home or live in housing of their own choosing. This is a fixed amount given monthly. The third is our Supplemental Support Services Program. We have found that there are persons who, for various reasons, fall through the cracks of society's other programs and are restricted by special cases or needs. This program is designed to allow us to customize aid in cases of special circumstances or to meet legal requirements.

All the above programs are for our people who are retired. The fourth program is our Disability Equipment Availability Program (DEAP). Through this program we can loan needed equipment to our people. We have wheelchairs, hospital beds, lift chairs, canes, walkers, commode chairs, bath

chairs, and some other items available. There is no charge for the use of any of these items. This program really has taken off over the last year. Many items have been donated and we have been able to place many items. The need has been so great that at the present we have no lift chairs available and are down to one wheelchair. We do have beds and some of the other items. If you or someone you know has a lift chair or wheelchair they would like to donate please let me know. If you would like to know more about the Retirement Homes Ministry, you can have your pastor invite me to come and make a presentation to your church on Sunday morning or night or during the week or to your Woman's Auxiliary or Layman's League.

I trust your church is helping to support this ministry, but if it isn't we do need your support. We cannot add any more clients to the program at the present time. Our finances are stretched to the limit. It would be a real shame if one of our people really needed help and we were unable to help them. Also, we are in need of some work to be done on the storage building. This building is used for storing our equipment and we store equipment for the Convention and the Sunday School Ministry, also. Some doors need to be replaced and roof work must be done. We also need to replace the push lawn mower that is used to mow the yards of the duplex and also the storage building. We need your help. January is Retirement Homes Month. It would be wonderful if all our churches would receive a special offering for Retirement Homes during January especially on January 21, 2007, which is designated as Retirement Homes Sunday. This would be an offering over and above your normal contributions so the needed repairs can be made to the storage building.

A sincere thank you goes out to all churches and individuals who have supported us this past year. If you need more information, please let me know. I can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or at one of the following phone numbers: (252) 746-4963 (Headquarters) (252) 746-8780 (Fax) or (910) 330-3818 (cell) or e-mail at <director@ofwbretirementhomes.org>.

THESE ARE THE WONDERFUL CLIENTS OF OUR RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY



Louise Jones



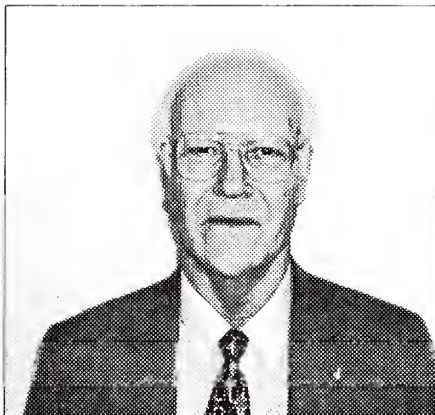
Linda Sasser



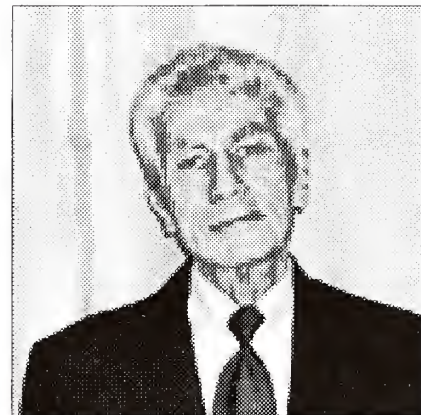
Betty Johnson



Geraldine Mangum



The Rev. Robert Sellers



The Rev. Rod Jones



Betty Campbell



Louise Owens



Margaret Brown



Dr. and Mrs. Cedric Pierce



Nita Tucker



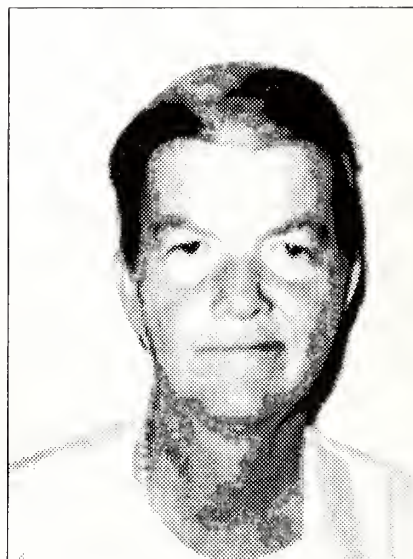
The Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Jordan



Hulon Whitehead



*The Reason Family
Jeffrey, Jeremy, and Sarah*



Kaye Jones



ISMAIL, GOD HEARS

by Willem van der Plas

Ismail is a very fine Gypsy boy, 16-years-old and it is very sad that he suffers such a terrible sickness as neurofibromatosis type N-F-I; the type which is incurable. His right eye is blind already, caused by neurofibromatosis tumors and on the left side of his face are new tumors developing, which surely will take the light from the left eye if the tumors are not taken away by expert surgery.

It took Kiril Svilenov M.D. quite a while before he found the right surgeon specialist who is willing to perform the surgery on the boy. This surgeon is the best in Bulgaria to do the job. Last week Tezdjan went with Ismail to Sofia and when the surgeon saw him, he decided to have surgery take place on 8 January 2007.

The father of the boy has deformed hands and feet, is not able to work and lives off a small social support that comes from the municipality of Balchik.

It is amazing that the boy is behaving so cheerful, in spite of his own



problems and sorrows, by taking care for his father and his 11-year-old brother. He does the shopping, goes for firewood, and makes time for everybody who needs help. He often carries his friend, Gurgia, home in the evenings, because this boy is not able to walk far.

Ismail is daily going to high school and has very good grades. He attends the daily Bible lessons, the English lessons, and he is showing high intelligence in his studies. It is really a

miracle that he is able to behave so positively, because his mother left the family for the first time when he was three-years-old and again when he was about five-years-old, just after his brother was born. Never do we hear complaints out of his mouth. In short, we can say that he is faithful, helpful, caring, not selfish, and loved by many children, youth, and adults.

After the surgery he needs medications, which are not available in Bulgaria, and we are searching for contact with a special clinic in America, Germany, Belgium, or Holland, where they treat children for neurofibromatosis and are specialized in this sickness. At this moment we do not know what the surgery will cost. But we do know that the medications will give us the biggest problem to be solved, because they have to be imported and there is no medical insurance that will accept the boy as a client.

Please, pray for Ismail and enclose him into your hearts like all of us do.

THANK YOU FOR REPAIRING MY HOUSE

by Letty Herrera, Piedras Negras, Mexico

I know with only a few lines I cannot fully say all that I feel, but I sincerely thank the Lord and all of you for what you have done for me. God used you to fix my house and now it looks like new. My heart is full of joy for this blessing. My mother prayed for many years that our house would be repaired. She is not with me now; she is with the Lord, but her prayers were answered. This is a wonderful blessing for me, a single lady, because more than fixing my house you filled my heart with praise and joy.

Please share this will all the brothers and sisters on the Short-Term Mission teams who helped fix my house. Thank you for all you have done for me. I hope the Lord will give you double for what you gave. I LOVE YOU!

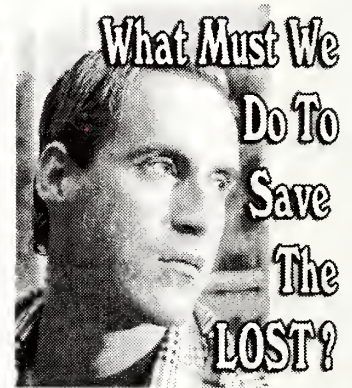
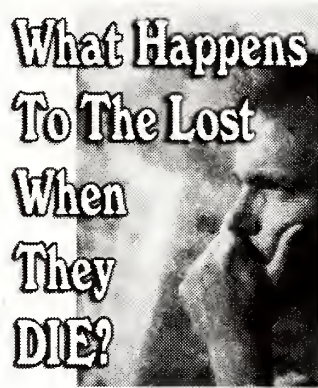
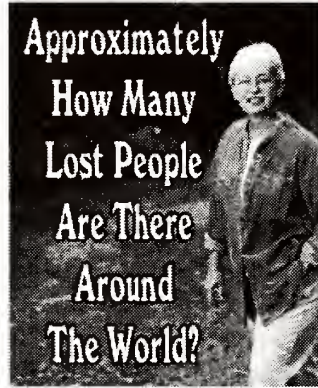
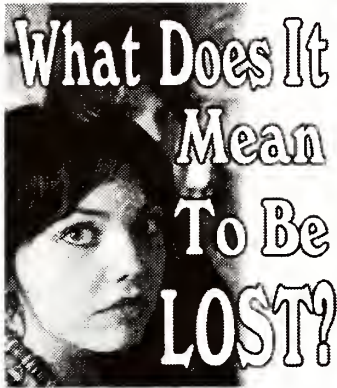


Foreign Missions

Annual Telethon

TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007

THEME: THE LOST • THEME VERSE: LUKE 19:10



The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is an excellent time to express our love and thankfulness to God for His rich blessings through prayer and giving.

Goal 2007: A total of \$200,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if we who are saved will open our eyes, see the lost, and give from a heart of compassion to reach those who are spiritually dead.



PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:00 P.M.
Dial (252) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will bear testimony of your unselfish desire to share the Life of Christ with the lost around the World.

A CHEERFUL GIVER BLESSES GOD AND GOD BLESSES IN RETURN.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 25, 2007.
True prayer cries daily for revival and sees the world with a broken heart.

-
- **PRAYER GOAL MARCH 25, 2007:**
- All churches joining together in united
- prayer during the Morning Worship Hour
- in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY!
-



OFWB
INTERNATIONAL
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)
POST OFFICE BOX 39
AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA 28513 • (252) 746-4963



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

On November 18, 2006, we celebrated Friends of Children's Day at the Home. More than 170 people were in attendance. Friends of Children's Day is an annual celebration, a day we have set aside to show our appreciation to the special friends who support us throughout the year.

The year's special day started with lunch, a traditional type Thanksgiving meal, catered by Wilbur's Barbecue, Goldsboro. A greeting from James Cahoon, Chairman of the Board of Directors, started the afternoon program. During the program, a resolution of appreciation and a plaque were presented to the Rev. Phillip Boykin, pastor of Black Jack OFWB Church in Pitt County, for 12 years of service to the Home. Mr. Boykin served in several different capacities during his work at the Home, three years on the Finance committee and nine years as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Boykin was the keynote speaker for the day. The choir from Black Jack Church presented special music, which highlighted the program.

After closing comments from Dr. Bobby Taylor, campus tours were available for those in attendance.

It was a day of thanksgiving and gratitude to our faithful supporters. It is our hope that you accept our sincere thanks for all you do for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. We will continue to press toward our goal of providing the best possible care and services for the children and families we serve.



Enjoying the Program



Black Jack Choir



Presentation to the Rev. Phillip Boykin for 12 years of service to the Children's Home

ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?

We live in such a mobile society that it's hard to keep up with all of the moves and address changes. We would like to make sure we keep you informed on what is going on at your children's home. One way of doing this would be to add you to our mailing list. If you are not on our mailing list, we would like to add you, or we would like to update your address. Also, if your church has a church directory, we would like to have a current copy of your directory so we can keep our records up-to-date.



Please send a copy of your church directory, and/or your mailing information addressed to the Development Office, in care of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. This will help us save on mailing costs, and help insure that you are kept up-to-date on what is happening at the Children's Home.

CONGRATULATIONS

In October 1997, Faith Newsome came to live at the Children's Home. She lived here until she finished high school in June 2002, and then went on to further her education at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.



It is with pride that we announce her accomplishment. Faith Marie Newsome graduated from Appalachian State University on December 10, 2006. Faith has earned the degree of Bachelor of Social Work.

Please join us in wishing Faith well, as she embarks on a career of helping others.

THANK YOU

The Children at the Home certainly have been blessed throughout this past year, and especially during this past Christmas. Thank you for all you do for the children at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

NEEDS LIST



Twin Sheet Sets & Comforters



Personal Hygiene Items

Computer Supplies for Cottage Computers

(6) Hewlett Packard Printers #1320 LaserJet

Curtains/Valances for Cottages



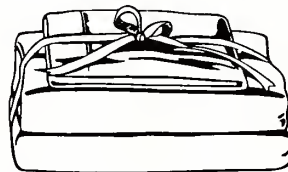
Cleaning Supplies



Laundry Detergent

Folding Banquet Tables (round) and Stackable Chairs

Kitchen towels & dish cloths



*Happy New Year
from the
Original Free Will
Baptist
Children's Home*



PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY



TIPS FOR BEGINNING A NEW YEAR IN THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ✚ Maintain beliefs in the eternal standards and values in the Scriptures.
- ✚ Be willing to listen and study someone else's view of Scriptures. Remember: God speaks to ALL in different ways.
- ✚ Keep your faith active instead of passive.
- ✚ Retain or regain your commitment to God.
- ✚ Review the OFWB Doctrine and Government.
- ✚ Keep a positive attitude.
- ✚ Expect great, but realistic, things to happen.
- ✚ Spend time looking at what you received rather than what you didn't receive.
- ✚ Maintain a sense of humor.
- ✚ Take time to think.
- ✚ Inspire rather than impress.
- ✚ Let change be your ally rather than your enemy.
- ✚ Before you criticize, be ready to provide an alternative.
- ✚ Do not be satisfied to sit back and let your church die because of your lack of motivation and involvement.
- ✚ Become active in ministry or service to others.
- ✚ Learn from the past; be ready to learn from and adapt to the present; prepare and plan for the future.
- ✚ Sunday School workers should be Faithful, Available, and Trainable.

For information or assistance with your Sunday School, contact:

Mary M. Dudley
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
Telephone: (252) 746-4963
Fax: (252) 746-7993
director@ofwbsundayschool.org
www.ofwbsundayschool.org



“CRAGMONT CHRISTMAS”— 2006



One of the largest groups ever attended this annual event held on November 30–December 3. Thursday evening was spent on the mountain as the group was entertained with Christmas music and cheer. After a good night’s rest the weekend began in earnest. Friday was a great day that began with a tour of the Billy Graham training facility “The Cove.” Then, it was back on the buses for a trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for some shopping at the Tanger Outlet Mall. The evening was spent enjoying the Christmas Dinner Theatre “Fiddler’s Feast.” Saturday was “local” day as the buses stopped at the traditional favorite locations for browsing and shopping. After supper at Cragmont, it was back to Asheville and the Asheville Community Theatre to enjoy the play “Christmas Belles.” Following a Christmas worship on Sunday morning, planned and conducted by John Williams, it was time for all the hugs and goodbyes until next year’s event.

Make your plans to join us for Christmas at Cragmont next year, November 29–December 2.

ANOTHER NEW HEIGHTS JOURNEY BEGINS



Saturday, November 25, 2006, was another milestone day in the ministry of Cragmont as ground was broken for the construction of our long awaited gymnasium. This multi-purpose recreational facility is being made possible by the generosity of the Donnie Lassiter family from the Selma OFWB Church. Mr. Lassiter is a member of the Cragmont board of directors. He and his family have been faithful supporters of the ministry of Cragmont for many years. All of us who live, work, or attend any conference or retreat at Cragmont are deeply appreciative to this family for their love and support.

Upon completion (scheduled for May, 2007), this multi-use facility will provide space for multiple recreational activities as well as a worship center for large camping and retreat groups. Summer camping and worship will have a whole new look in 2007!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor/Deacon Retreat—March 22–24

Mr. Eddie Hammett will be the Seminar Leader with the theme “Spiritual Leadership In A Secular Age.”

Third Annual Tractor Pull in Four Oaks—May 4–5

This event is fast becoming a favorite for the young and the young at heart. It is sponsored by the Men’s Fellowship of Bethel OFWB Church as a fundraiser for Cragmont.

New for 2007—Developing a Theology of Worship:

“Re-telling the Story”—May 17–20

This seminar is designed to help expand our understanding of how to truly encounter the living God through the worship experience. It is being planned and will be conducted by the Rev. John Williams. Lay people, church leaders, and pastors are encouraged to be a part of this event.

CRAGMONT COOK-OFF FOR 2007



Don’t forget to plan your Cragmont Cook-off for 2007! Pick your day, plan your menu and sell your plates. And remember—many churches doing just one cook-off makes a HUGE difference for Cragmont.

2007 PASTOR/DEACON SEMINAR

SPEAKER: MR. EDDIE HAMMETT

TOPIC: "SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN A SECULAR AGE"

March 22-24, 2007

Eddie Hammett is the author of four books dealing with preparing the church for a more effective ministry in the 21st century. His current writing project, *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60*, is due to be released in October, 2007.

Mr. Hammett's call to ministry is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" inside and beyond the walls of the traditional church.

Mr. Hammett has served as Senior Leadership/Discipleship Coach for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for the last 16 years. He is a graduate of Furman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with post-graduate studies at Duke Divinity School, Southeastern Seminary, NC State University, and Fielding Institute.

Cost: \$110.00 per person (main, motel, or lodge)

\$95 per person (dorm)

Includes: 2 nights lodging, 3 meals on Friday

2 meals on Saturday (breakfast and lunch)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Church: _____

For health reasons, I require a ground level room. Yes _____ No _____

Building preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ No preference—Cragmont can assign _____

Return with a \$50 deposit for each person (balance due upon arrival)

Mail to:
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

For further information, call Cragmont at (877) 669-7677.



THE MINISTRIES OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS CONTACT INFORMATION AND MINISTRY SUPPORT MONTH

Children's Home (May & November)

P.O. Box 249
Middlesex, NC 27557
(252) 235-2161

Dr. Bobby Taylor, President/CEO

Church Finance Association

P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 523-5800

The Rev. Don Fader, Director

Minister's Program (October)

P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 523-5800

The Rev. Don Fader, Director

Cragmont Assembly (June)

1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-7677

The Rev. John Williams, Director

Mount Olive College (July)

634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(800) 653-0854

Dr. J. William Byrd, President

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation

P.O. Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Mr. Cliff Gray, Director

*The following Ministries may be reached
through the Headquarters office address:*

P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists (August)

The Rev. Buddy Sasser, Administrative Director
Andrea Cox, Administrative Assistant

Foreign Missions (March & December)

The Rev. Harold Jones, Director

Home Missions & Evangelism (April) (September, Disaster Relief)

The Rev. David Hansley, Director

Retirement Homes (January)

Mr. Ronnie Taylor, Director

Sunday School Ministries (February)

Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director

These Ministries are able to advance the work of God's Kingdom among Original Free Will Baptists because of the prayerful and financial support provided by our churches and individual members. Our Church Covenant and the Ministerial Code of Ethics remind us of our commitment to God's work through these Ministries.

As we begin another year of service, let us determine to learn more about the mission, the goals, the work, and the outreach of each Ministry. Set aside 10 services in your church this year for this purpose. Invite each Director to present their program to your congregation. Find out how your support is being used to bless others. Pray for each Ministry and its staff to remain faithful to the task God has given them.

Let's have a GREAT 2007 for His glory!!



ALUMNI/HOMECOMING WEEKEND A SUCCESS

by Dianne Riley

The Welcome Home Alumni yellow bows are gone from the oaks that line the campus; the decades of Alumni pictures are back in their cases, the reunion year books look a bit more used, the Pickle Classic championship trophy is in the Kornegay Arena Trophy case, Raper Hall is dedicated and awaiting a new life, and hundreds of alumni have more memories of this time with friends returning home with a renewed pride in their alma mater.



Alumni pause after the Sunday morning Worship Service for a traditional Kodak moment.

Current MOC students also took part in the Homecoming festivities and got involved in many service and volunteer projects to make the weekend even more memorable for alums. The Undergraduate Alumni Association worked with the children during alumni events such as the Raper Hall Dedication and the Memorial Service. The children enjoyed a number of activities including the Science Lab with Dr. Foster; the Chalk Art with the Art Club, the moon walk, and the children's Sunday School.



Members of the Undergraduate Alumni Association lead Sunday School activities with alumni children.

Members of the UAA helped to make the campus warm and inviting as they took note of all they saw and heard knowing it will not be long before they will be returning to see their friends, classmates and former professors. Another Alumni Weekend is finished but plans for 2007 have only just begun.....

OFWB STUDENTS AT VISITATION DAY NOVEMBER 10, 2006

Back Row (L-R): Jonathan Dail of First Church of Wilson, Brian Parnell of St. Mary's (Wilson County), Rebekah Boykin of First Church of Wilson, Katie Best of Victory Church, Matthew Hinkle of Cabin Church, Phillip Jackson of Reedy Branch Church, Steven Newsome of Selma Church, and Chris Stroud of Piney Grove Church.

Front Row (L-R): Elizabeth Waters of Sound Side Church, Chelcie Spruill of Sound Side Church, Audrey Owens of First Church of Wilson, Brittany Price of Piney Grove Church, Whitney Quinn of Sandy Plain Church, and Marcy Davis of Emerson Church.



DEDICATION OF THE W. BURKETTE AND ROSE M. RAPER HALL



W. BURKETTE AND ROSE M. RAPER HALL DEDICATED

W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper were honored on a bright fall afternoon on November 18, during a ceremony in the Southern Bank Auditorium of the building named in their honor. Former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt Jr., gave the dedicatory address and other officials paid tribute to the Rapers for more than 50 years of service to the College and the Original Free Will Baptist denomination.

"When the Board of Trustees officially made the decision to name the largest building on campus the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall, it represented more than a name on a building. It represents the devotion, the love and the leadership of Dr. and Mrs. Raper...but it will also perpetually represent the very lives of W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper," stated Jean F. Ackiss.

Dr. Raper served as president of Mount Olive College for 41 years, at the time the longest tenure of any college president in the nation. He retired from the role in January 1995 and for the next decade served as director of planned giving. He is currently president of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, affiliated with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

Jean Ackiss, who worked with Dr. Raper for 41 years, said the couple has given unselfishly to help thousands of people. "Both went beyond the call of duty to help those who otherwise would never have been able to get a college education," she stated. "For more than 50 years, they were the transforming element in the continuation of Mount Olive College, touching innumerable lives, and experiencing the growth of a college from an abandoned elementary school building to this beautiful campus we see today!"

Representing the Raper family, their son, Burke stated, "It's with grateful hearts and a deep sense of appreciation that we humbly acknowledge this. He stated that his mother and father were honorable and deserving of the recognition. "However, we recognize that they have not done it alone. Faculty, staff, students, Free Will Baptists and the Mount Olive community have all played a part in its history."

Dr. Raper spoke impromptu stating, "I just can't tell you how much I appreciate and love you for all that happened today. I'm a very fortunate person. I'm a child of the Great Depression of the 1930s, and I am indebted to the Free Will



Dr. W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper stand with their children in the new communications building named in their honor.

Baptist Church who provided a home for my siblings and me when we had no home." This was stated referring to Dr. Raper being raised in the Free Will Baptist Children's Home (known then as the Free Will Baptist Orphanage).

The nearly 500-seat auditorium was almost at capacity for these festivities, which were held during the weekend's homecoming events. Raper Hall is one of three new buildings recently constructed on campus. It houses the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center, the Robert L. Tillman School of Business, and the Department of Science and Mathematics. In addition to the auditorium, the two-story building also features the Mount Olive Pickle Conference Center for hosting forums, training meetings, and workshops.

The 46,000-square-foot space contains 11 modern classrooms, including two equipped for teaching computer classes and seven laboratories for physics, biology, environmental science and chemistry. Also included are 29 faculty offices, a student lounge and patio area.



Dr. Raper greets Sarah Finch, a junior student ambassador at MOC.

HICKORY CHAPEL CHURCH TOURS MOC

Hickory Chapel Church members visited Mount Olive College in the fall of 2006. They are shown here in the FWB Historical Collection Room located in the new library addition, which they saw during their tour of the campus.



ALUMNI/HOMECOMING WEEKEND



Than Before

Alumni Weekend 2006 • November 17-19, 2006

Alumni Weekend 2006 • November 17-19, 2006

OLIVE COLLEGE

Than Before

Alumni Weekend 2006 • November 17-19, 2006

OLIVE COLLEGE

MOC NAMES PICKLE CLASSIC KING AND QUEEN

Charles Williams of Beulaville and Sara Strickland of Goldsboro "relished" the moment as they were crowned Pickle Classic King and Queen on Saturday during the Forty-first annual Pickle Classic Tournament held in conjunction with Mount Olive College's Alumni Weekend.

Sixteen students were nominated by their peers to participate in this year's Pickle Classic Court. The winners were selected through an interview process with the Mount Olive Jaycees.

Strickland joins the ranks of over 32 Pickle Classic Queens that have come before her. A junior English/art education major, she is a member of the Prospective Teacher's Association. Strickland attends Walnut Creek OFWB Church and is the daughter of David and Becky Strickland.

The Pickle Classic King and Queen will represent Mount Olive College at the North Carolina Pickle Festival and the Mount Olive Christmas Parade, among other functions.



Charles Williams and Sara Strickland

FOUNDERS LEADERSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED AT MOC

Jaime Thompson of Kinston and Heather McPherson of Clarendon each were awarded the Founders Leadership Award at Mount Olive College's Founders Day celebration.

The award is a scholarship sponsored by Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of Mount Olive College 1954-1995, and his wife, Mrs. Rose M. Raper. The award is given in honor and memory of those who, with vision and leadership, initiated the founding of Mount Olive College in 1951 and those who in subsequent years have provided extraordinary leadership through dedicated services, leadership, and support for the advancement of the College.

Payable on future educational expenses at Mount Olive College, the \$500 scholarship is presented to a senior who has distinguished him or herself as an individual of character and initiative and who has demonstrated strong leadership qualities toward making Mount Olive College the institution of Christian higher education envisioned by its founders. The recipient is selected by a committee of faculty, students and staff representatives. This year's committee selected both Thompson and McPherson to receive the award because of their exceptional leadership and service to MOC.

Thompson, a religion major, is the daughter of Keith and Sandra Thompson. She is active in the Student Theo-



(Pictured L-R): Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Jaime Thompson, Dianne Riley, Heather McPherson, and Mrs. Rose M. Raper.

logical Fellowship and was the co-founder of Big Coffee, a Christian ministry that is held on the Mount Olive campus each Wednesday evening. Thompson also sings in the MOC Concert Choir and Free Spirit. She is a student assistant, an Honor's student, and a college marshal.

McPherson, a science major, is the daughter of Willa Dean and Keith McPherson. She is an active member of the Undergraduate Alumni Club, Free Will Baptist Fellowship, and Henderson Science Club. McPherson is the co-founder of Big Coffee. She sings in the MOC Concert Choir and Free Spirit. She is a student assistant, a member of

the College Ambassadors, an Honors student, and a member of Beaverdam OFWB Church in the Pee Dee Conference.

This year, the Founders Leaders awards were given in honor of Ms. Dianne B. Riley, director of Alumni Relations at MOC. During the presentation, Dr. Raper read from the plaque, "For her personification of the mission of Mount Olive College as envisioned by its founders; For the strength of her Christian faith that inspires all who are touched by her life and her work; and For 33 years of dedicated service to students and alumni in the support and advancement of Christian higher

education through the work of Mount Olive College."

Riley graduated from MOC in 1965 with her associate of science degree. She graduated from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) in 1969 with a bachelor of science degree and from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with her master of religious education degree in 1984.

Riley began her extended career with Mount Olive College in 1973 as an admissions counselor. During her years of service to the institution, she has served as director of admissions, assistant professor of Christian education, and director of Alumni Relations. Al-

though she never has had any children of her own, Riley has mothered hundreds of MOC students over the years. She often claims that she is not as old as dirt, but rather as old as the oaks that line the center of campus.

"I remember well the days when those seedlings were planted," Riley commented. "It seems like only yesterday."

There is not much that Riley doesn't remember about MOC, because for 33 years she has lived, breathed, and dedicated her heart and soul to the advancement of Christian higher education at the institution. From helping young people find their way around the cam-

pus to now working with alumni as they give back to the institution, Riley says there is nothing that she would rather do.

"It is truly an honor to receive this award," Riley stated. "I am thankful for the opportunity Dr. Raper afforded me 33 years ago to share with others my love for Mount Olive College. The Mount Olive College family (students, faculty and staff) extends in many areas including alumni, their families, and the Free Will Baptist Church. The relationship with these wonderful people and my belief in the mission of the College is why I have continued my ministry at Mount Olive College."

MOC RECEIVES GRANT FOR HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Mount Olive College's Moyer Library was awarded a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) administered by the State Library of North Carolina. The library received \$5,581 for digitization of materials in the College's Free Will Baptist Historical Collection to serve students, faculty, churches, genealogists, and historians.

Upon learning of the grant, Curator Gary Barefoot, said, "This is certainly a boost to the work of the Collection in providing even greater service to

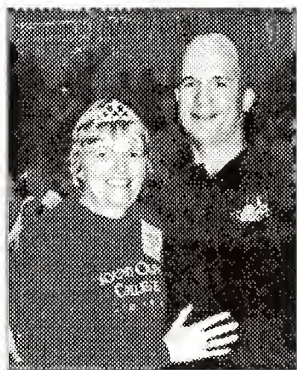
researchers through this enhanced technology. We are grateful for a chance to make our Collection available in yet another method and wish to thank Cynthia Hughes of the library staff for her work in writing the grant proposal."

Moyer Library received 1 of 101 federal grants totaling \$3,489,241 awarded to NC libraries for 2006-2007. Administered by the State Library of North Carolina, an agency of the NC Department of Cultural Resources, the LSTA grant program funds projects across the state that help libraries provide

relevant and up-to-date services for their users. Using the digitization grant, Moyer Library will begin to make accessible on the Internet added resources from the FWB Historical Collection.

The Collection is one of the largest depositories of Free Will Baptist material in existence. It will soon be relocated into the College's new Communications Building. Interested researchers may call the library at (919) 658-7869, (800) 653-0854 or e-mail the Curator at <gbarefoot@moc.edu> for more detailed information.

NANCY BOYKIN— ALUMNI QUEEN



Bill Bryan, President of the Mount Olive Pickle Company, crowned Nancy Boykin, Alumni Weekend Queen. She is a member of Marsh Swamp Church, Wilson County.

COMING EVENTS

CAMPUS VISITATION DAY • MONDAY, JANUARY 15 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Visit Mount Olive College to interact with professors, students, and your admissions representative and tour our beautiful campus. This event will be held from 9 A.M.-1 P.M. Bring your completed application and we'll waive the \$20 application fee! To make your reservation, contact Admissions at (800) 653-0854 or e-mail <admissions@moc.edu>.

CHURCH NIGHT • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 GEORGE AND ANNIE DAIL KORNEGAY ARENA

Mount Olive College Trojans vs. Queens University Royals. The women's game starts at 5 P.M. and the men's at 7 P.M. Win prizes for participating in the free throw competition, the 3-point competition, and the softball throw! A scholarship is awarded to the church with the largest attendance. For more information, contact Tim Woodard at (919) 658-2502, (800) 653-0854 or e-mail <twoodard@moc.edu>.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HONORS EMPLOYEES AT FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

Mount Olive College honored 25 employees and celebrated 55 years of providing Christian higher education at the College's annual Founders Day Worship Service.

During the service, Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, recognized faculty and staff for their continued dedicated efforts to Mount Olive College. He presented each with a gift engraved with the College seal. The award recipients were as follows:

Five Years of Service (2001–2006)

- Wilber M. Alling—
Vice President for Finance – Treasurer
- Nancy Barefoot—
Administrative Assistant,
Tillman School of Business
- Michael Brashear—
Systems Integrator/Programmer
- Larry Colson—Mail Carrier
- Michael Herring—
Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Monica Holmes—
Administrative Assistant,
Academic Affairs
- Doug Hood—Assistant Professor of
Business and Program Coordinator
- Ellen Jordan—
Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Jill Mills—Associate Professor of
Recreation/Leisure Studies
- Theresa Musses—Assistant Controller
- Dorothy Oates—
Campus Safety Supervisor
- Donna Strickland—Student Support
Coordinator, Wilmington



*Pictured: Dr. J. William Byrd and
Dr. Kathy T. Best*



*Pictured: Dr. J. William Byrd and Diane
Graham*

Ten Years of Service (1996–2006)

- Alan Armstrong—Professor of Music
- Anita Armstrong—Receptionist
- Lee Bennett—
Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
- Michael Cavanagh—
Professor of Psychology
- Burt Lewis—
Men's and Women's Tennis Coach
- Tina Parks—Administrative Assistant,
Department of Athletics
- Lisa Ramsey—
Admissions Representative IV, Wilmington
- David Rigsbee—Professor of English



*Pictured: Back Row
(L-R): Dr. Alan Armstrong,
Burt Lewis and Dr. David
Rigsbee; Front Row (L-R):
Anita Armstrong,
Lee Bennett, Tina Parks and
Lisa Ramsey.*

Fifteen Years of Service (1991–2006)

- Diane Graham—
Student Accounts Manager



Pictured: Back Row (L-R): Wilbur Alling, Michael Herring, Doug Hood, and Dr. Ellen Jordan. Front Row (L-R): Nancy Barefoot, Mike Brashear, Monica Holmes, Theresa Musses, Dorothy Oates, and Donna Strickland.

Twenty Years of Service (1986–2006)

- Jeff Brogden—Superintendent,
Buildings and Grounds
- Carl Lancaster—Baseball Coach
- Marvel Manley—Housekeeping



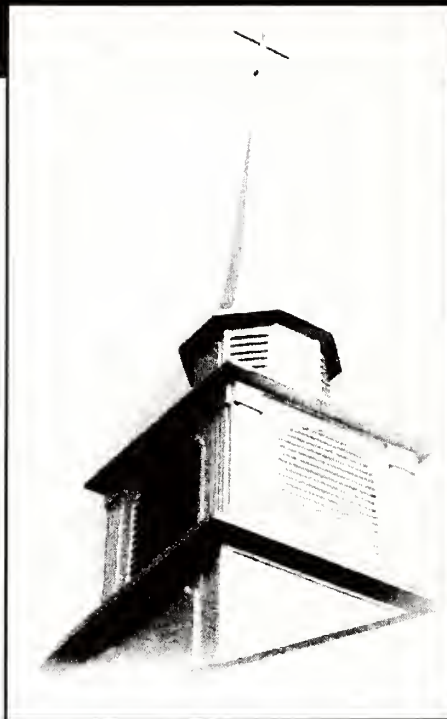
*Pictured: Jeff Brogden, Carl Lancaster,
and Marvel Manley*

Twenty-Five Years of Service (1981–2006)

- Kathy Best—Professor of Business



SOME THINGS JUST GO TOGETHER.



Church Planting
Harvest Covenant Ministry
Ethnic Missions



PROJECT KIDS KARE
By participating in this unique project, you, your family, church, school, or organization will be helping to reach needy children in America.



COMMISSION ON SCOUTING
Original Free Will Baptists have assumed the responsibility to endorse and support Scouting with a Christian emphasis in every Original Free Will Baptist Church. The Scouting program shall include all the boys and youth of the community.



TOUCHING LIVES CORPS
1. College students, single adults, married couples, senior citizens
2. Persons who desire to do Home Missions endeavors for a weekend, a week, or a month.



LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY
(Praying, Caring, Sharing)



DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY
We assist those who have experienced **DISASTER**, we will endeavor to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way possible.



BIKER MINISTRY
Our newest endeavor is to develop a Bikers Ministry that has a strong outreach emphasis.



PRISON MINISTRY
Your Layman's League or other organizations of your church can become involved in this much-needed outreach ministry.



A Ministry of the
Convention of
Original Free Will Baptists

HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM
of
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
Phone: (252) 746-4963
Fax: (252) 746-8913

CAMP VANDEMERE

CAMP VANDEMERE 2007

Happy New Year from the Board and Manager of Camp Vandemere

On Monday, January 1, 2007, the sun is going to rise over the Bay River as a new day and year begins at Camp Vandemere.

"To God be the Glory" for the many past blessings and the future growth of the camp's ministry.

As reported in last month's article, the Board of Directors has voted to begin two projects for the coming year. Plans for a basketball/tennis court area have been made. The area would be in the vicinity between the existing pool and the bathhouse/RV site. Work already has begun on moving the existing road between the chapel and dorms to the area behind the chapel at the perimeter of the property. Estimated cost for the total project, new road, and sports area will be at \$30,000. To date, approximately \$2,600 has been received that has allowed the initial work to be started on the roadway changes. The second project is the replacement of the existing lighthouse by the water with a permanent structure approximately nine to ten feet tall. Cost of this upgrade would be around \$2,500. Almost half of the money needed for this project has been received. If anyone would like to donate toward either of these projects, please earmark your contribution and send it to the camp manager or treasurer. Both projects will help to enhance the ministry for our youth and adults in the coming years. Please refer to the diagram below for an idea of the placement of the new road and basketball/tennis court area.

Many other items of change and upgrade are being looked at by the various board committees during the next few months to better the camp's facilities in serving our campers and weekend retreat groups. If you have any suggestions, please contact the camp manager or any of the current board members:

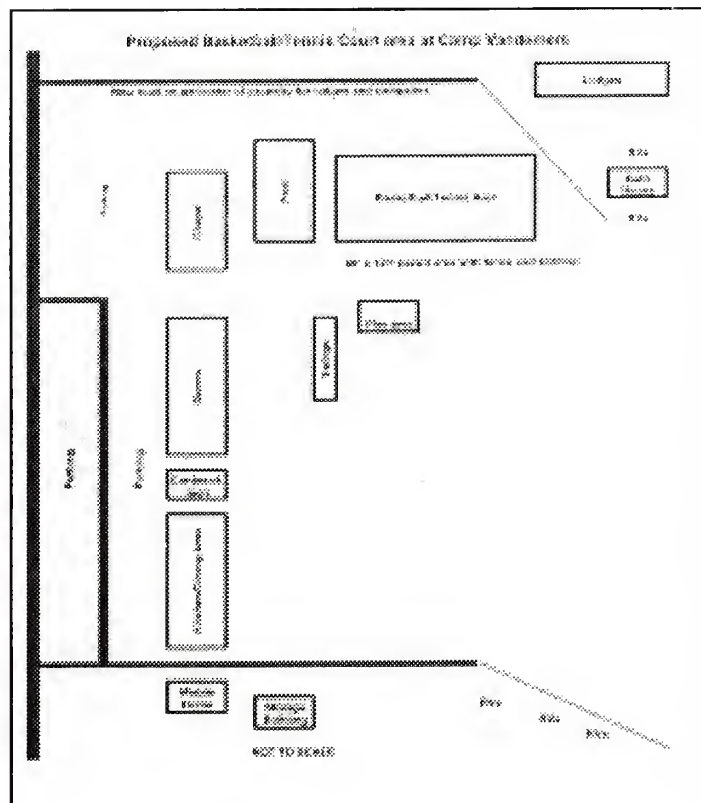
The Reverend Owen K. Arthur, Jr.
Mr. Randy Blalock, Secretary
Mrs. Faye Bryant
Mr. James R. Clark
The Reverend Michael Coombs
Mr. Kenneth Hill
Mr. Victor Jones, Chairman
The Reverend Ashley Summerlin, Assistant Chairman
Mr. Damon Kennedy, Treasurer
Mr. Reed Kennedy
Mrs. Audrey (Stumpy) Quinn
Mr. Ricky Price
Mr. Robert Tripp

Here are a few items the camp needs to help improve the facilities and grounds: New dining area chairs (like the ones in the chapel); additional golf cart (one was given to the camp two years ago and has helped in maintaining the camp duties); trailer for highway hauling, carrying, etc. (6' wide by 12' long or larger).

If any church or group would like to take any of the above on as a project, please contact the camp manager. Thank you for your continued support of Camp Vandemere through prayer and financial means.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 camp office
(252) 514-3222 cell

Damon Kennedy, Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 home
(910) 296-7100 cell



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

CLAUDIA HOWARD PRESENTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD AT MARSH SWAMP OFWB CHURCH

During Sunday morning worship service on November 12, Mrs. Claudia F. Howard was given a Life Membership Award by the Marsh Swamp Woman's Auxiliary. Emogene Boyette and Patsy Vick presented her with a certificate and Life Membership pin. Sheila Vick shared with the congregation the following, which exemplifies Claudia's personal life in relation to her God and church.

"The one we are honoring today joined the auxiliary first in 1945 and our church in September, 1937. She was the treasurer in 1952, 1982, and 1983. She served as Corresponding Secretary from 1986-1989 and Publicity Chairman from 1998-2001. She was on the Life Membership Committee at one time and has been delegate to District Conference meetings numerous times throughout the years. She was a faithful Bible School worker beginning in the year 1946. She is presently very active in her Share and Care Group and the church Benevolent Group. Always eager to help in whatever is needed, faithful in visiting the sick and shut-ins. She is very loyal and committed to the church, being present every Sunday for Sunday School, morning worship, and Sunday night services as well as all other functions here at the church.

She bakes delicious cakes and prepares food for all church functions. She and her husband sang in the choir for many years. She is a very young-looking lady for her actual age. She played softball until she was in her 60s. She was a good ballplayer and always has enjoyed sports as most Fulghums do. She was a devoted wife and due to her husband's death a single mom at a fairly young age. She has a lovely daughter, Cathy, son-in-law, Hubert, and a granddaughter, Kimberly.



Pictured: Marsh Swamp Woman's Auxiliary Life Membership recipient Claudia F. Howard and granddaughter, Kimberly Lamm.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PRESS RELEASE: Vol. 9 of the *Mount Olive Review*

The Mount Olive College Press has released Vol. 9 of the *Mount Olive Review* featuring literary criticism, film reviews, essays, poetry, interviews, and book reviews. Annella Rockson's article, *Yeats, Frost, and Bishop: Looking For A Home* leads the literary criticism while Julie Beck's *Operation Raleigh: Survival Travel* highlights the essays.

Among the poets published in Vol. 9 of the *Mount Olive Review* are the following: (1) Robert Penick's *Laurel, Mississippi*, (2) Alicia Jackson's *Shades of Egypt*, (3) Thomas McDade's *Norfolk Sailors Brag*, (4) Susan Meyer's *Traveling East On Highway 74 To Hear Some Poetry*, (5) Margerie Goggin Allen's *Star Gazing*, (6) Robert Parham's *Mud Flats, The Gulf*, (7) Gladys Hughes's *Thoughts From Salzburg Into Bavaria*, (8) Marie Gilbert's *Sunday In Sevilla*.

Howard Zinn's book, *A People's History of the United States, Volume I: American Beginning To Reconstruction* is reviewed.

Dean Worthington's interview with Enloca Masinde Sikuku appears in this current issue. Pen and ink art work by Michael G. Warning enhances the current issue of the *Mount Olive Review* which is a part of the 2006-07 Mount Olive College Press Season.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who sent me birthday and Christmas cards in 2006. Your thoughtfulness is always a blessing to me. May God bless you during this new year!

Kaye Jones
4116-B Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513



FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND
STAFF OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
AND THE BIBLE BOOKSTORES
OF AYDEN, KINSTON,
AND NEW BERN

YOUTH CONVENTION

The Cape Fear Youth Fellowship held its annual arts and crafts exhibition on Saturday, November 4, at Bethel. Unlike previous years when there were 70 to 90+ entries, there were only about 25 entries this year. Powhatan, Bethel, and Robert's Grove participated, and each young person received a small trophy in recognition of their effort. All entries can be taken to the May meeting at Mount Olive College for display since there were so few. Officers for 2007 were installed at the evening rally. Congratulations to all of our newly installed officers. They are Powhatan's Crystal Guy and Kim Canady (co-presidents), Bethel's Megan Peebles (secretary/treasurer); and Nathan Slaughter (Song/Recreation Leader).

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

WILSON EARNS EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Boy Scout Troop 97 held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, November 5, 2006, at Juniper Chapel Church to recognize Phillip Warren Wilson for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Family and friends honored Phillip with a luncheon prior to the ceremony.



Long before Phillip was an official member of Boy Scouts of America, he actively participated in every activity with his brother, Lee, proclaiming, "I a scout boy!" At the age of six, Phillip began his official scouting adventure as a Tiger Cub. He earned his Arrow of Light award, the highest award a Cub Scout may attain while a Webelo with Pack 58.

In April, 2000, Phillip joined Troop 97 where scoutmasters are Danny Hartsell and Gil Respass. He served as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and continues to serve as Senior Patrol Leader. Phillip was inducted into "Order of the Arrow," a scouting fraternity, in Spring, 2001.

Phillip, along with fellow scouts and volunteers, organized and erected three flag poles at Juniper Chapel. He completed his Eagle Project in July, 2006. Phillip passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review with flying colors on September 7, 2006.

As a result of Phillip's scout and religious commitment, he earned all four of the God and Country awards with the assistance of his pastors, the Revs. Greg Mills and Mike Scott. Phillip began as a third grader with the God and Me award, God and Family as a fifth grader, God and Country as a seventh grader, and God and Life as a senior.

Phillip is the son of Raymond "Pee Wee" and Cheryl Wilson. He has one older brother, Lee, who is also an Eagle Scout. Phillip's maternal grandparents are Ray and Shirley Fillingame. His paternal grandparents are Earl and Irene Smith, Charlie Wilson, and Ernestine Valenti.

Phillip enjoys surfing, skateboarding, snow skiing, and waterskiing with his brother, Lee, and friends. He works part-time at Taylor's IGA. Phillip is a member of the Juniper Chapel Youth Ministry, Craven Community Concert Band, and section leader with the West Craven Marching Eagles. His extra-curricular activities include Future Farmers of America (FFA), Bi-Chem-Phi, and Indoor Percussion. Phillip is a senior at West Craven High School and plans to major in Music Production.

FIFTH EASTERN UNION MEETING AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

Saturday, October 28, 2006

by Cheryl F. Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

The Fifth Eastern Union Meeting and Sunday School Convention met on Saturday, October 28, 2006, at Memorial OFWB Church. Russell Tyson led the congregation in praise with "To God Be the Glory" and the Rev. Hilary Gaskins followed in prayer. The devotion, "Commitment and Dedication," from Proverbs 3:16 was presented by Russell Tyson. The Rev. Owen Arthur, pastor of the host church, welcomed everyone. Ministers were recognized. Special music, "Enter His Gates With Thanksgiving" and "We Have Come Into His House" was provided.

The business session was opened by the Rev. Mike Scott. The minutes of the last meeting were approved, as well as the financial reports. Denominational reports were presented. A donation will be sent to Camp Vandemere for the tennis and basketball courts. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2007, at New Bethlehem OFWB Church.

The worship service opened with prayer by Mr. Scott. Several inspiring testimonies were given. Special music, "So Many Reasons," was presented by Pat Arthur. Bobby Owens brought a spiritual message from Philippians 1:21-23 about "The Homecoming Called Heaven." After the closing hymn "I Will Serve Thee," benediction, and blessing for the food, the host church served a delicious meal.

STONY HILL HOSTS PIZZA PARTY FOR OFWB CHILDREN'S HOME

Stony Hill OFWB Church of Middlesex, NC, hosted a pizza party for the OFWB Children's Home at the Pizza Inn in Wilson on November 9, 2006. There were 25 children and eight staff members in attendance. The teens were very appreciative and each received a Wal-Mart gift card.

WHALEY'S CHAPEL OFWB CHURCH HOMECOMING 2006

HARGETT'S CROSSROADS

On Sunday, October 15, Whaley's Chapel OFWB Church held its Annual Homecoming services beginning with Prayer and Praise at 9:45 A.M., Sunday School at 10 A.M. and Morning Worship at 11 A.M. After the morning services, a great meal was enjoyed by all in the multi-purpose building. During the Morning Worship service, recognition of the two oldest active members of our congregation was provided.

Following is what each family submitted to be read to the group concerning these special people of Whaley's Chapel:

Mrs. Evelyn Faye Bryan Taylor
Read by her granddaughter,
Wendy Taylor-Philyaw

"Evelyn Faye Bryan was born in the Gregory Fork Road Community of Richlands on May 10, 1915. She remembers the long walks to school, which was located at the fork, with her brothers and sisters. She married Lemmie Taylor during the Great Depression in 1933 and had their first child, Alavia Faye, in 1935. Her second child, a son named Gene Bryan, was taken home by Jesus at just two weeks old due to pneumonia. God blessed Evelyn and Lemmie with four more children after Alavia and Gene: Bobby, Joy, Ron, and Bren. Evelyn sent children to school for over 27 years. Lemmie and Evelyn were farmers. The story often is retold of how she raised twelve tiny piglets on bottles when the mother sow died during the birth. This was no small feat considering she had children in school and a tiny baby, Bren, at home. In 1950, Lemmie answered God's call to go into full-time ministry of the gospel and Evelyn became a pastor's wife. Her industrious nature and many talents brought her much acclaim during her active life. She was named "Home-maker of the Year" numerous times by the Onslow County Home Demonstration Club. She always came away a winner when she entered food items in many divisions at the Onslow County Fair. She taught her girls to cook and sew. They made her proud by winning

at the fairs, also. She led the 4-H Club for the community children who also won competitions at district and state level. She sewed majorette uniforms and altered and sewed band uniforms for Richlands High School. She was asked to teach an upholstery class for Coastal Carolina Community College in its earliest beginnings. Her talents have served her community and her Lord through her church work. She followed Lemmie supporting his ministry and sharing in it until his death in October 1969. The many children in all the churches they served were blessed by her loving ways. Her encouragement led them to achieve more than they ever thought possible. She began worshipping again at Whaley's Chapel after her husband's death. She worked at the Piggly Wiggly Supermarket in Richlands for 17 years and was an inspiration to many people who remember her with visits still today. She has taught Sunday School, held various offices of the church and done numerous others things in ministry for the Lord. There are 27 young adults, many still attending Whaley's Chapel, who have fond stories to tell of the years that she supported their youth choir. She lived very independently until age 89, although many of her children and grandchildren lived close by. A stroke caused a fall that ultimately led to her dependence for care 24/7. She chose to move to Autumn Village Assisted Care Facility in Beulaville. She had visited other friends there many, many times and chose to live there herself. She celebrated her ninety-first birthday on May 10, 2006, and is still a blessing to those around her. Her family consists of five children, nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild, 9-month-old McKenzie. She will be very happy to have been bestowed this honor and I wish she was able to be here today. She resides in room 15 at Autumn Village and would love to have you stop by for a visit no matter how short. She can no longer see, so please tell her who is calling or visiting."

Mr. Walter Houston
Read by his granddaughter,
Julie Heath Radford

Walter Houston was born February 5, 1913, in Jones County to Andrew Jackson and Minnie Banks Houston. He was the second born of thirteen children. He attended school at Tuckahoe School. They didn't have school buses for kids to ride on either. He had to get up early every morning and walk to school. Walter quit school in the sixth grade and then started to work very hard on his family's farm. Farming in those days consisted of corn, beans, tobacco, cotton, and hogs. Granddaddy will tell you a lot about farming has changed. Back when he was growing up, cotton and tobacco were cropped and harvested by hand. When Granddaddy grew up and became a man, he became interested in the ladies and settling down. He met Acra Mae Taylor and realized that she was the lady for him. They began to date and later married in Jacksonville before the Justice of the Peace on December 20, 1939. They had six children—three boys and three girls. They are Billy, Celia, Maxine, Sandra, Samuel, and Joel. He has been a great father to them and a shining example of what a father and Christian should be. He also has many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who love him a lot. He accepted the Lord as his personal Savior in 1937 and joined Tuckahoe Christian Church where he and his family attended. He moved his membership from Tuckahoe to Whaley's Chapel OFWB Church in 1956. He has been an active member ever since. By motion on December 20, 1958, Walter was elected to serve as a deacon at Whaley's Chapel. He was ordained as a deacon at the close of Quarterly Conference by the Rev. Lloyd Vernon. Walter has served the Lord and his church diligently over his lifetime. He has had plenty of sickness throughout his life, but will tell you today how blessed he is. He always has remained faithful to the Lord and always has been a shining example to us all. Even today, and numerous other times, he

has gotten up and come to church when he was sick or didn't feel well. We all should follow in his example instead of just staying home because we don't feel like coming. He celebrated his ninetyeth birthday three years ago and received monetary gifts from numerous people. Instead of putting his money in the bank or using it for himself, he made the decision to give his money to the church to use on the paving of their parking lot. And today, in honoring Walter Houston, his friends and

family have given money to help finish the parking lot so Walter may enjoy stepping out onto pavement each time he comes to church. The family and friends of Walter Houston are pleased to present Whaley's Chapel Church with this money in honor of their 93-year-old father, grandfather, and friend. He is the oldest active member of Whaley's Chapel. The best way I can describe this man is by telling you all what someone else said about him. And I quote, "It is so unselfish of Walter

to take his birthday money to help pave the parking lot. Wish we all were so generous. It would be a nicer world."

It is an honor to recognize these two great people who have been a part of Whaley's Chapel Church ministry. They join many others who have given of their time, talent, and resources to continue the Lord's Kingdom. Each has been an inspiration to the many they have come in contact with through their daily walk.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM POWHATAN!

November 19 was a busy day at Powhatan. There was a special covered dish luncheon in honor of the pastor's birthday and pastor appreciation. That evening, the choirs took part in the annual Pre-Thanksgiving singing at Everett Chapel (Western District) with several other community churches. An offering was collected to benefit Clayton Area Ministries, a non-denominational community organization that helps the needy in the Clayton area.

We congratulate Kim Canady, Powhatan member, for being designated as an "Outstanding Senior" at Clayton High School.

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April 13-15, 2007

Speaker: Ann Copeland

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Emergency Contact (Person & Phone) _____

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Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to: Joan H. Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828.
A balance of \$55.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM — DAYSPRING CONFERENCE

June 6-9, 2007

Speaker: Joan H. Little

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Emergency Contact (Person & Phone) _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____
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The DaySpring Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen,
as well as our ladies. Private accommodations for couples are available.
DaySpring Conference is being planned as "provide your own transportation" with no afternoon trips scheduled.
Afternoons will be free for your relaxation, travel, shopping, and enjoyment.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to: Joan H. Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828.
A balance of \$75.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM — AUGUST WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

July 30-August 4, 2007

Speaker: Kathy Hayes

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Emergency Contact (Person & Phone) _____

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A balance of \$150.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

An afternoon trip to Gatlinburg & Pigeon Forge is planned. Please check here if you plan to participate in this trip: _____
and include a **\$30.00 non-refundable deposit** for your trip reservation.
There will be two afternoon trips into Asheville at \$10.00 each. (No deposit required)

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

February 2007





THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER February 2007



SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Scouts Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16 VBS Workshop FWB Press, Ayden, 7 P.M.	17 VBS Workshop FWB Press, Ayden, 10 A.M. OFWB Church Night at MOC
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

COMING SOON:

March 3 —Sunday School Institute, MOC
 —Board of Directors Meeting, Children's Home
 March 15—Career/Job Fair, MOC
 March 22-24—Pastor/Deacon Retreat—Cragmont

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CONTENTS

February 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 2

FEATURES

- 5 *A Post Holiday Reflection*
- 6 *Mr. and Mrs. Mom*
- 7 *Are Free Will Baptists Saints?*
- 9 *Concerning Ordination of Women Into the Gospel Ministry*
- 12 *Adam, Where Art Thou?*

COLUMNS

- 4 **Focus**
by Darren E. Davenport, Editor
- 4 **Reflections**
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer
- 31 **Golden Oldies**

DEPARTMENTS

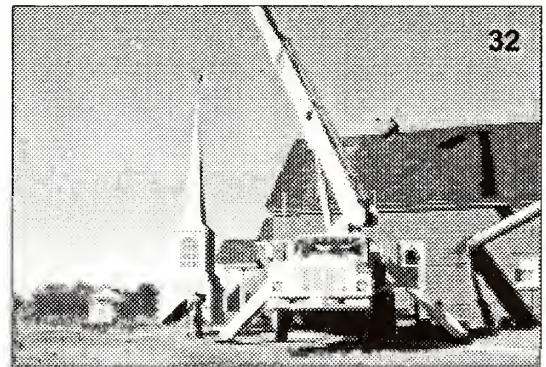
- 2 **Monthly Planner**
- 32 **People & Events**
- 36 **Classifieds**

ET CETERA

- 14 **Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself**
- 19 **Grace Notes**

ON THE COVER

A group of workers put together by the OFWB Sunday School Ministry involved in making the Summer 2006 VBS program in Mississippi a success.



DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 14 **Sunday School Ministry**
- 18 **Children's Home**
- 20 **OFWB International**
- 23 **Home Missions & Evangelism**
- 24 **Cragmont Assembly**
- 26 **Mount Olive College**
- 35 **Free Will Baptist Press**

POWER VERSE

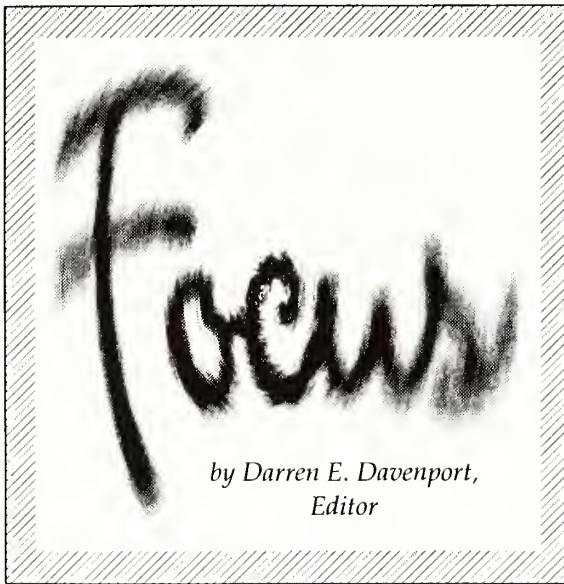
But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (James 1:22).

2006 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

This issue of *The Free Will Baptist* contains the Honor Roll of Donors for gifts received in 2006 for "The Press to \$125,000!" Capital Campaign. It is with much gratitude that I thank these donors for their contribution toward the improvements and additions to some of our printing equipment. These funds will enable us to more effectively and efficiently "spread the Word through the printed page." These funds will enable us to produce better quality product for our constituents. Again, I offer a gracious "thank you."

We cannot stop here, however, for our need is still not met. We've received gifts and pledges totaling \$21,125, but we still need \$103,875. Without the remaining amount we cannot complete the task. We need your help. You can support us in different ways. First, and most important, with your prayers. Then we need to put "feet" on our prayers. Your church could pick a Sunday's offering to contribute or your church group could sponsor a fundraising dinner or activity and donate the proceeds from the event. I am truly passionate about this

cause and about our task of "spreading the Word." I believe it is worthy of the support of our people and I believe it deserves our attention. Will you join us in our mission of "spreading the Word through the printed page"?



by Darren E. Davenport,
Editor

DECENCY HONORS GOD

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

About the time I think conditions in our society are improving, my bubble bursts. I'm referring to the indecency and rudeness that we observe as we move about in day-to-day experiences.

When I was about six-years-old, I received my only real whipping from my Daddy. At that time, we lived next to the country store my Daddy operated. The store had what we called a shed room on one side, in which we graded tobacco in the fall of the year. One day my brother and I had some argument that resulted Mother's whacking us across our bottoms. At that point, I uttered the strongest "cuss" words that anyone could use. Mother heard me and so did Daddy. He headed toward me and I took off as fast as I could run. He won; I lost. The whipping, however, was not that bad. Some time later, he asked me why I had used those words. My reply was that I had heard two men who lived in the community, and often visited the store, say them. I didn't understand how bad they were. Daddy explained that they were bad, but the discipline was administered because I ran from him. The lesson he taught me that day was one I have never forgotten.

Indecency, vulgarity, cursing, rudeness, etc., exists today, and in ways that simple did not exist in my growing-up world. It certainly is more blatant. We see vulgar four-letter words on bumper stickers on the cars ahead of us as we wait for the light to change. Curse words and swearing are heard on many talk shows. It spouts forth from

the mouths of so-called stand up comics. Movie makers seem convinced that a successful movie is one that contains such indecency, failing to acknowledge that some of the most successful movies were clean and decent, as well as many of the early TV shows (example: "The Andy Griffith Show" which has never been off the air). We are reminded of Paul's words to the Ephesians: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

As Christians, we face many temptations. We hear things we do not want to hear; we see things we do not want to see. We say things we did not mean to say. We have thoughts that may claim our minds and lead us down the wrong path—the path of unrighteousness. These avenues of temptation must be avoided. Just as Lot was "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked" (2 Peter 2:7), so must we. If not, we need a spiritual renewal.

We are in this world. In it we live. Just as Jesus overcame the world, so can we. John wrote: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in this world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). In verse 16, John then lists the three premises under which the world operates—"the lust of the flesh," "the lust of the eyes," and "the pride of life." (Let us be reminded that in this technological world, we control the remote.)



A Post Holiday Reflection

by the Reverend Marc Boswell

With Christmas officially over, I sit down to reflect on another Advent season. Amidst the stress of finals, traveling home, shopping, and indigestion, I quietly give thanks for the peace of Christ experienced in a few quiet moments of solitude, in sharing meals with family and friends, and during Midnight Mass. I almost feel a twinge of guilt for not having experienced (or battled) the perennial attack on the church via corporate America's attempt to keep Christ out of Christmas. While having heard more than once of the world's desperate attempt to continue its persecution of the church by way of semantics—"Happy Holidays" not "Merry Christmas"—I have yet to be convinced of the danger or assault. There seems to be a misunderstanding of the responsibilities of Western society, which stems from and/or leads to a misunderstanding of the responsibilities of the church—a misunderstanding which I hope to address.

Jesus puts it this way: "...Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21 NIV). Among the various interpretations of this text, it seems as though Jesus is making a subtle yet clear statement on the relationship of His followers and the society in which they live. The primary responsibility, job, duty, or task of the church is to be the church. By doing so, the world will know that it is the world. Simply stated in this context, it is the responsibility of the Christian community—not the world—to acknowledge, proclaim, and celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Jesus of Nazareth.

If a major corporation, newspaper, radio station, or local grocery store chooses to use the word "holiday" over and against "Christmas," I take no offense. They are doing their job and more than likely doing what's good for business. They are being the good capitalists on which our consumerist society thrives. It simply is

not the responsibility of these entities to celebrate, teach, or observe Christmas (or any given holiday). From an economic viewpoint, it is their primary responsibility to provide the consumer with the goods and services for which the consumer pays.

It is the responsibility of the Christian community—not the world—to acknowledge, proclaim, and celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Jesus of Nazareth.

Therefore, it remains (as should be) the responsibility of the church to witness and proclaim the Birth of the Anointed One. The notion that we would expect this responsibility to fall on anyone else's shoulders but our own is rather unintelligible. Even more absurd is why the church would boycott (or speak negatively of) any organization for simply choosing to use the more inclusive term "holiday" rather than our term "Christmas." Do we boycott major corporations when they fail to observe the Lord's Supper or the Washing the Saints' Feet? Do we feel threatened or attacked by the world when the world hardly acknowledges the Lenten season? Why do we feel that the world should respond any differently to *our* observation and celebration of Jesus' Birth?

Perhaps we're tempted to argue that America is a Christian society—an argument that holds little strength in light of the diversity of religious practices, morals, and standards of our nation. But some would wish to pursue that argument in hope of justifying why "American" society "should" observe Christmas and use Christmas language. However, let us no longer confuse, merge, or marry the church with the United States of America. The body of Christ stretches far beyond national boundaries and is not based on enlightenment

principles and ideas, as is our great nation.

Furthermore, have we failed to understand the inclusivity of the word "holiday?" The term includes—not excludes—the Christian community's celebration of the Advent season, as it also includes Kwanza and Hanukkah celebrations. Heaven forbid a company acknowledges that all of its customers are not members of the Christian community.

Of course, this is not a claim that the church should necessarily censor our "holiday" greeting and refrain from saying "Merry Christmas." As a member of the Christian community, I purposely used this phrase since this phrase has specific meaning to me. It would make little sense for me to fast during the month of Ramadan, as I am not Muslim. Likewise, I do not expect the world or any individual to proclaim "Merry Christmas" if they are not part of the Christian community. As I have said, that responsibility rests on our shoulders.

If the Christian community simply insists on having a battle to fight during the Advent season, perhaps our energy and time would be well spent battling the disgusting levels of consumerism that have pervaded our celebration of the Birth of Christ. Perhaps our increasing levels of unnecessary spending and failure to truly appreciate the "real meaning" of Christmas have given the world little reason to see our celebration of Christ's Birth as unique. The church has given the world little reason not to address our holiday in religiously neutral language. Regardless of our ability or willingness to faithfully observe and celebrate the Birth of our Savior, it is not the responsibility or duty of the world to proclaim the Birth of Christ. Let the church be the church and the world be the world, in order that the world may see an alternative way to live. "Merry Christmas!" ▲

Mr. and Mrs. Mom

by Elaine Swinson

Duck! Here comes an incoming ABC block, followed closely by a Barbie doll flying through the air. With the speed of an African lion, Collin comes in and swipes a truck from the clutches of Conner's hands. A loud screeching ensues as Conner responds to the unexpected larceny of his "favorite" vehicle—even though he has dozens more laying close by.

Here comes Emma down the hallway, dressed in a beautiful princess dress chasing Lizzie trying to force her to put on the Cinderella gown she is holding. Lizzie, of course, would rather be wearing jeans and a pullover and is screaming for Emma to leave her alone. A tiara sets precariously on Emma's red hair as Lizzie slips in a tight crevice behind the sofa.

A mine field could be no more dangerous than the emptied contents of the toy box which now carpets the floor. The loud crunching of spilled cereal is heard as the footprints of eight little feet are left behind in a perfect "crumb" outline. There is always a line at the gate to the kitchen as Collin speaks for the crowd. As he rubs his stomach he hollers out, "Mom, Dad, I am a little thirsty and a little hungry."

Weariness, worry, and wonderful equate to the unbelievable daily routine for the parents of Conner, Collin, Elizabeth (Lizzie) and Emma—the Edwards quads. Each of these little ones has personalities of their own, much like exhibits in a quaint art gallery. Joining forces they are able to open any closed door and raid the refrigerator while breaking eggs and spilling an ocean of sweet tea—all with good intentions.

Emma Grace is the "fashion diva" refusing to go outside to play attired in anything less than frills and ruffles. Picking up her favorite doll, she whispers in its ear, "You are so beautiful" as she gently touches the whimsical fluffs of its gown and sparkling high heeled shoes. At the beach she daintily dresses in her bathing suit, dons a frilly little hat, and from the shade of her umbrella she commands her mom to bring the ocean water in a bucket to her so she won't have to get wet in the sunshine.

Elizabeth Morgan (Lizzie) yells, "Look at me," as she sails off the top of the highest piece of furniture she can climb with her tiny body. She is definitely the fluffy weight of the group of three-year-olds. After being admonished for saying, "stupid," she solemnly walks away from her Dad promising to do better, takes a few steps, turns, and shouts, "stupid." Giggling she runs out of her Dad's reach and hides behind the nearest thing she can find. When she cuddles up in your arms, it is like holding a tiny nymph.

Conner Nicholson, shaped like a football player of the future, has a collection of tiny vehicles that resembles the largest car/truck dealership in town. A bright yellow bin holds his fleet in the small amount of time he isn't busy lining them up or making them fly along a pretend road on the sofa. Don't be fooled by the fact that he obviously is a husky little boy. Conner's tender heart can be broken as easily as an egg. Tears run down his cheeks if he even thinks one of his siblings is sick and has to go to the doctor.

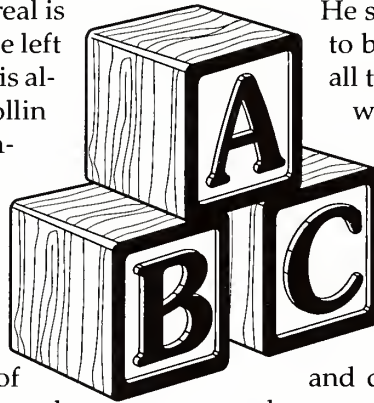
Collin Williams runs wide open all the time, even in his dreams. "Our miracle child," who touched the wings of angels before he was well enough to come home after his birth, spends his time smiling. Full of mischief, he stealthily darts in and confiscates whatever he likes from all the rest, setting off loud alarms from his victims.

He sings, dances, and begs for his favorite DVD to be played non-stop. He knows the words of all the songs and the characters in everything he watches. Following his daddy's footsteps, the love of fire trucks runs in his veins.

Crunchy dill pickles, smeared jelly, and leaking "sippy" cups set the stage for stack time as the kids picnic in the living room on a big blanket. This gives Drew, their father and Mr. Mom, the opportunity to put yet another load of clothes in the washer and dryer, sweep the kitchen floor, put out the trash, put a roast on for supper, pay the household bills, plus a million other equally important items that are all in a day's work. His organizational skills coupled with sheer will power manage to get him through the day until Melanie, the children's mother and Mrs. Mom, arrives in a whirl to begin her second and most important job of the day.

As manager of a fast-paced demanding department she is already stretched to the limit as she takes a deep breath and tries to close the door on that part of her day. She is greeted by very loud and happy cries of, "Mommy, Mommy, Mommy." Nearly knocking her down, Conner, Collin, Emma, and Elizabeth force her to take a seat on the floor so they can all love her at one time. As all the hugs and kisses are going on, Mr. Mom stands on the perimeter, ready to interpret the day's events and welcome his wife home.

In a single moment, these two "saints on Earth" count their blessings and question their sanity. They wanted children so very much that life seemed unbearable without them, but they never in their wildest dreams expected four tiny creatures to be left in their care. Since there were no instructions written on their bottoms, they proceeded



by trial and error (and a few words from their grandparents) and prayed for the best.

They are on a first name basis at the doctor's office and emergency room, and are given special preference at the drug store. While going through hundreds and hundreds of diapers each month, potty training seemed an impossible dream. However, mom and dad have discovered that changing a diaper is much easier than taking all four of them to the bathroom every five minutes. They counted in one day that they took a child to the "potty" 35 times. This did not count the "accidents" that happened along the way.

Conner, Collin, Emma, and Lizzie all drink different variations of milk, wear different size clothes, have different allergies, have different sleep habits, and like different kinds of food. They have different color blankets that must accompany them to bed, like different toys, and respond to different kinds of discipline. They do not favor each other, have different color hair and eyes, are different weights and heights, and are at different levels of maturity.

These precious babies have been cared for by dozens and dozens of grandparents, other family members, church members, neighbors, and volunteer nurses from Duke Hospital. Some of these "angels on Earth" have volunteered since the kids were born three years ago. Melanie and Drew have no secrets from anyone since their house has been cleaned and their laundry been done by anyone who could give a little of their time.

Always short on money to cover unexpected crises (and there is always a crisis going on of some sort), Drew has

had to get a second job "out of the house." Mr. Mom and Mrs. Mom often meet in passing as they exchange places with a quick kiss and exchange of keys. As the kids claim their mommy, she turns her attention to supper, medicine, baths, and quality time reading books, telling stories, and listening to the tall tales of her beloved quads. Planting a kiss on one's boo-boo and a "Sponge Bob" band-aid on another, she combs and blow dries their hair, breaks up a squabble or two, picks up toys so she won't fall down, folds clothes, and hunts up pajamas for everyone. That is, everyone but Emma, who must have a beautiful gown in which to dream.

It is finally quiet now. Drew has come home and there is but a moment to talk before someone gets up for a "drink of water." Planning for the future, Mr. and Mrs. Mom discuss what is to come for their family. A few tears are shed when they decide they can never take the kids to all the fun places that other families might go, because it would simply cost too much money. Thankfully, the Lord sends welcome relief for regular needs from time to time through friends, family, and church folks; but, funds always seem short on bill paying day.

As their eyelids get heavier and heavier, Melanie and Drew try to erase their worries and give thanks to their God, who was so good that He gave them four beautiful rose buds—Conner, Collin, Emma, and Elizabeth—that are flourishing among the brambles and briars of life. Their birth has served as a constant reminder that the power of prayer is greater than imagination.

In the blessed moment of quietness Mr. and Mrs. Mom complete the circle of one more day. ▲

Are Free Will Baptists Saints?

by W. Burkette Raper

Each time I participate in the ordinance of "Washing the Saints' Feet," I ponder the meaning of the word "saint," and ask myself: "Who—what—is a saint?"

For the most part, we shy away from thinking of ourselves as saints. In the first place, there is the concept of a saint as a person who has attained spiritual perfection, and we know ourselves too well to claim this standing for ourselves. In the second place, we do not want to be classified with those who believe they have experienced a degree of sanctification that puts them above the reality of sin. Also, as Protestants, we may view sainthood as a status conveyed by the Roman Catholic Church.

A study, however, of the word "saint," as used in the Bible, carries us to the heart of the Christian faith. In both the Old and New Testaments, the words "saint" and "holy" are virtually interchangeable. In the Old Testament, we are given the key to understanding this relationship: "...Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy" (Leviticus 19:1).

In biblical thought, the distinguishing quality of God is that He is holy. He is different from everything else, and nothing is holy except in its relationship with God. Saints are "holy ones" who share the nature of God through their relationship with Him; and apart from God, no one nor anything is holy.

The temple was considered holy, not because of its exquisite design, quality of workmanship or quality of stones and wood used in its construction, but because it was the dwelling place of God. We call the sacred Scriptures "The Holy Bible" because we believe these writings were inspired by God. We refer to the observance of the Lord's Supper as "Holy Communion" because it represents what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Bible, the word "saints" is used for the people of God. The church is holy because it is the body of Christ and is made up of the people of God—people who are saints by virtue of their relationship with God.

To illustrate this truth, consider how the apostle Paul greets the various churches to which he wrote (italics added):

- "To all that be in *Rome*, beloved of God, called to be *saints*..." (Romans 1:7);
- "Unto the church of God which is at *Corinth*, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be *saints*..." (1 Corinthians 1:2);
- "...unto the church of God which is at *Corinth*, with all the *saints*..." (2 Corinthians 1:1);
- "...to the *saints* which are at *Ephesus*, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:1);
- "...to all the *saints* in Christ Jesus which are at *Philippi*..." (Philippians 1:1);
- "To the *saints* and faithful brethren in Christ which are at *Colosse*..." (Colossians 1:2).

Although Paul does not use the word "saints" in his salutation to the church at *Thessalonica*, his prayer is that the Lord would "...stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his *saints*" (1 Thessalonians 3:13). And in his second letter, he makes reference to the return of Jesus as "When he shall come to be glorified in his *saints*..." (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

We are not holy by virtue of our goodness or righteousness; holiness is not something we conjure up; we are holy only by virtue of our relationship with God.

It is interesting to note, however, that Paul does not use the word saint at all in his letter to "the churches of *Galatia*." Perhaps his reason for not referring to them as saints was because he feared they were depending upon their legalism rather than the "grace of Christ" (Galatians 1:6) for their relationship with God.

It was in his writing to Timothy that Paul used the term "washed the saints' feet" (1 Timothy 5:10) that is found in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

Who, Then, Are The Saints?

The meaning of the word "saint" is at the heart of our *Articles of Faith* regarding what we believe about the Church, the Holy Scriptures, the Doctrine of Salvation (including Repentance, Regeneration, Justification, and Sanctification), the "Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints," and the whole corpus of our faith.

The biblical meaning of saint is holy, which is the nature of God. We are not holy by virtue of our goodness or righteousness; holiness is not something we conjure up; we are holy only by virtue of our relationship with God.

The underlying message of the Bible is that God, who is holy, created us in His image (Genesis 1:26–27), but we sinned and became separated from Him. Since God is the source of all life, to be separated from Him is death.

The story of Jesus Christ—His Life, teaching, Death and Resurrection—is called the "Gospel" which means "good news." It is good news because by believing in Him we are restored to a right relationship with God (see John 3:16). This restoration is through a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:7–21), whereby we become the children of God, and as His children the Bible calls us saints—"holy ones."

In referring to those who believe in Jesus Christ as saints, our *Articles of Faith* do not imply that we have attained perfection. In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul certainly knows of its spiritual weakness, including strife and divisions, accounts of immorality, law suits against one another, and disorder in worship. He speaks of the members as "babes in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1) who had to be fed with milk, but nevertheless, he addresses them as "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:2).

We need not shun being called saints. We are not what we were before Christ entered our lives, nor are we yet what we are called to be; but in the words of Paul, we "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Perfection means to be complete; and our spiritual ancestors who drafted our *Articles of Faith* understood that we would never attain perfection during our earthly life.

As Christians, however, our highest priority should be spiritual growth. We have been born of the Spirit; and not withstanding our human weakness, our desire should be to grow in grace. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul speaks of the "perfecting of the saints...Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12–13).

It is worthy of note that in North Carolina, Original Free Will Baptists have no fewer than six churches which bear the name Saint (two by the name of Saint's Delight, three by the name of Saint Mary's, and one by the name of Saint Paul). Earlier generations sang joyfully, "When the Saints Go Marching In." And so can we!

Saints? Yes, but not because of what we have done but because of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, and in us by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And if the Spirit of God dwells in us, we are God's "holy ones" and our lives should show it. The washing of one another's feet is a manifestation of our Christian hospitality and willingness to be servants of God, which is our calling. ▲

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Concerning Ordination of Women Into the Gospel Ministry

by the Reverend Neal Cox

Recently the issue of ordaining women into the gospel ministry has come to the forefront in the Original Free Will Baptist Church; the debate is long overdue. Some suggest women should be barred from the gospel ministry because Scripture is clear that women should not hold positions of authority. Nothing could be farther from the truth; Scripture is anything but clear on this issue. If there was indeed such clarity then there would not have been (and continue to be) such passionate debate.

Concerning women in positions of authority, the waters are muddied early in Scripture as the Nation of Israel submitted themselves to the leadership of the prophetess Deborah (see Judges 4:4-5). Later, Deborah clearly asserted her authority as a military leader over the MEN of Israel as Barak declared that he would not go to battle unless Deborah, (a woman) led them" (see Judges 4:8). Deborah warned the men that if she consented to lead them, that the LORD would deliver the victory "into the hand of a WOMAN" (Judges 4:9, emphasis added). Yet, the men insisted that they would not go into battle unless she led them. She finally capitulated and indeed God blessed her authoritative leadership (see Judges 5:7).

Another passage which debunks the idea that this is a clear cut issue in Scripture is found in 2 Kings 22:14ff. Here the king and the priests clearly subject themselves to the authority of Huldah, a prophetess who dwelt in the college in Jerusalem. This is an example of a woman who clearly taught men the words of God. If there were some inherent authority given to men that women cannot possess, why didn't the king and priests consult a male prophet? Surely there was not a lack of male

prophets in Israel to consult. Yet these men decided to trust Huldah's words as authoritative. The previous examples are simply two of several throughout Scripture which deny the affirmation that this issue is an open and shut case.

It is well established that the moral compass of a denomination must not be set by the idea of how many churches it may (or may not) lose, but rather according to the principles of righteousness and justice.

The larger issue is clearly one of interpretation. There is no doubt that those who say that we all should just allow the Bible to speak for itself are themselves interpreters! They make eloquent speeches concerning how we must read Scripture literally, but then contrary to their assertion, they interpret it themselves.

Certain rules of interpretation apply to all literature; including Scripture. Poetry is poetry, in the Bible or not. Narrative has certain characteristics in Scripture as well as in a classical novel. Chronicles are written to record the history of God's people in the Scripture and the history of a nation in an archive. Fables, parables, folklore, analogy, allegory, and any other rhetorical or literary devices which the authors of Scripture may have used all have rules for interpretation. One must understand these rules in order to draw out the message of the passage in question. Genre and form also will often determine the method and mode of interpretation.

Just ask the one who declares that we must "just look and see what the book says and take it literal" how

they take Jotham's fable (see Judges 9). The book says that the trees and the bramble bush spoke to each other. Did the trees really speak to each other or is there a deeper meaning to be drawn from the story through interpretation? How about the Song of Solomon? Should we take it literally or interpret it? Christian scholars have interpreted this sexually graphic text allegorically throughout the history of the church in order to try to preserve some spiritual or Christian sense. How about the Revelation of Jesus Christ? Does anyone really read into the text a literal beast with seven heads and ten horns and ten crowns or should we take it symbolically to represent a governmental system empowered by a demonic and beastly evil behind the scenes? It is obvious that at least some Scripture has to be interpreted and not read literally.

The problem is that once one concedes that there are certain times when literal reading of Scripture is not the best understanding, then one has to ask the most important question: "Who gets the privilege to say which passages we will and (more importantly) which ones we **will not** interpret?" This has been a question for the ages. Slave owning preachers in the south argued from Scripture that servants are to be obedient to their masters. Thus they biblically sanctioned one of the most heinous crimes against humanity on the face of the Earth, while abusing the very book which proclaims freedom from bondage. At the very same moment, the northern abolitionist preachers used the exact same Bible to preach against the immorality of the practice of chattel slavery. One wonders how many exclusively white churches pulled out of denominations which eventually allowed black men to be ordained. However, it is well

established that the moral compass of a denomination must not be set by the idea of how many churches it may (or may not) lose, but rather according to the principles of righteousness and justice.

It seems to me that a logical approach to interpretation is to approach all Scripture with the same respect and desire to interpret the author's intent. If we honestly sought the **author's intent**, we would dig deep into even those passages which seem straightforward on the surface in order to see if there are deeper meanings which the author sought to communicate.

For example, it has been suggested that 1 Timothy 2 contains a clear injunction against women holding any position of authority over a man in the church. Unfortunately, some suggest that this is one of the passages which we must read very literally. On the surface, it seems to be straightforward with no need for interpretation. However, one wonders if the message which the author originally intended to communicate ever truly has been sought? I would be so bold as to suggest that there was something bigger going on at Ephesus which was being dealt with and that this issue had (and continues to have) a major bearing on how we read this passage.¹

In biblical interpretation one learns very early that if an author goes out of their way to use a difficult, forced or unique word in a passage, they are trying to communicate something extraordinary. Thus the odd verb usage in this passage concerning women and authority is striking. The word that the author chose for authority here is *authenteo* which *Strong's Concordance* defines, "to act of oneself, that is, (figuratively) *dominate*:—usurp authority over." Thayer really captures the sense defining the word as "one who with his own hands kills another or himself; one who acts on his own authority; **autocratically**; as an absolute master to govern; exercising dominion over others."

In fact, this is the one (**and only**)

time that this word appears in the New Testament **at all!** Yet, in 30 instances in the New Testament when the concept or idea of generic, simple or pastoral authority is used; the Greek word is *exousia*. It is from this word that we get the English word *executive*; the pastor is after all, the chief executive (*exousia*) officer of the church. *Strong's Concordance* interprets this word "*privilege, that is, capacity, competency... token of control, delegated influence*:—authority, jurisdiction...." Thayer defines it thus: "power of choice, leave or permission, physical and mental power, the ability or strength with which **one is endued**, right (privilege) the power to rule or govern...."

Now, it is not proper for the ordaining board or conference to tell someone they have (or have not) received a call from God (including a woman). The only prerogative and duty of these ecclesial institutions is to assure that individuals who relate that they have indeed been called are trained and prepared to competently live into that calling.

With these two contrasting ideas of authority staring us in the face, (and knowing that Jesus exhibited the latter, even while calling us to the same servant type leadership) we clearly can see that the biblical injunction in 1 Timothy is against autocratic, dictatorial authority and not against women in leadership positions in general. If the author was trying to give an eternal injunction against all women in positions of authority in the church, why didn't he just use the same word (*exousia*) which had been used over two dozen other times in the New Testament to refer to authority? Indeed, no one (man nor woman) in the Kingdom of God is given the type of dictator authority referred to in 1 Timothy 2:9–15.

The word usage clearly condemns

the **taking** of authority upon oneself without having it conferred through proper biblical means and thus the mentality of being responsible to no church body for the doctrine which one teaches. Now, it is not proper for the ordaining board or conference to tell someone they have (or have not) received a call from God (including a woman). The only prerogative and duty of these ecclesial institutions is to assure that individuals who relate that they have indeed been called are trained and prepared to competently live into that calling.

Another passage of Scripture which some people use against women embracing their call into ordained ministry is that the bishop should be the husband of one wife (see 1 Timothy 3:1ff). The argument is that a woman cannot be the husband of one wife and thus could never be a bishop. Well, this is obviously another passage which has been abused from a lack of close reading and interpretation. Some say, "There is no interpretation there, it is simply Scripture. Read it and live it!" Well okay, we will need to call in the credentials of any man not married: be that individual widower, bachelor, or divorcee. And, if we must take it literally then it technically does not say that the bishop need even be called into ministry at all, it literally says if a man **desires** the office of bishop he **desires** a good thing! This passage of Scripture obviously is dealing with polygamy or the practice of having more than one spouse. The type of abuse and misinterpretation which this passage has suffered has done the **intention of the author** a great disservice. The author clearly is thinking about how the church would be perceived in the larger society if polygamists began leading the church.

Some argue from another angle asserting that it is evident from Genesis 1–2 that God has given men a certain level of authority that women do not have. In reality, however, it is Genesis 1:25–28 which clearly suggests just the opposite. That

passage actually confirms that God created male **and female** equally in God's own image and that God charged **them** (not him) to have dominion/stewardship over the earth. The objection which often comes at this point is: "Ah yes; equal, but with different roles!" However, there were no stereotypical roles established in the Scripture in Genesis 1-2. The stereotypical role of men in patriarchal societies always has been hunter gatherer and the stereotypical role of a woman has been to keep house and prepare the food. Conversely, we find Eve out gathering food exercising what many would agree to be the typical male role with impunity because there were not yet any stereotypical taboos to forbid her from doing so.

Indeed, there can be no disputing the fact that the only reason that the woman was subjected to her husband was because of the curse of sin and that therefore this subjection is a distortion of God's perfect desire (see Genesis 3:16). There is absolutely no evidence that there was any **inequality** between the sexes before that point. Since this is the case, the obvious question that must be asked is how much of the curse of sin has Jesus Christ's sacrifice removed; only part of it? Did Jesus forgive all the sins of the world and restore humanity to Himself in the spotless condition of a new creation as 2 Corinthians 5 asserts or not?

It was Paul himself (who is often quoted to silence women) that asserted: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither MALE NOR FEMALE: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28, emphasis added). Paul does not say that we should try very hard to ignore the distinctions designed to divide us; he states that in Christ Jesus any distinction which causes us to be divided has been removed by the washing of regeneration in Christ's Blood!

Still others argue that all Scripture

(from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21) is inerrant and infallible and, therefore, that God never could act contrary to what He has revealed about women being subjected to men. The suggestion is that God never could call a woman into ordained ministry because of Genesis 3:16. However, not even hard core fundamentalists take **every word** of Scripture from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 as timeless and unalterable injunctions. For instance, God clearly gave Israel certain rules and regulations by which the people of God were to live perpetually. Need we list all the regulations and laws (INDEED REVEALED, INSPIRED, INFALLIBLE, SCRIPTURE OF GOD) which Jesus Himself overturned by His teaching and presence? "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer..." (Matthew 5:38-39 NRSV). Now, if all Scripture is inerrant and infallible Jesus should not have changed the way we deal with people who take an eye or a tooth; yet it cannot be denied that Jesus did in fact **change it!**

Just what if these women truly are called of God into ordained positions? If we take a stand against them, we will be found to stand against God!

Or, how about the statement that it is not what goes into the mouth which defiles a person but what comes out of the mouth (see Matthew 15:11)? In the Old Testament it clearly was what went into the mouth which defiled a person. Why then do we Christians in eastern North Carolina love to eat BBQ pork, shrimp, oysters, lobster, or other forbidden foods which the inerrant, infallible, unbreakable Scripture tells us explicitly not to eat? If Scripture always is infallible and unbreakable, does that not mean that Jesus Himself ultimately was guilty of "breaking" Scripture? Some may respond, well

that was all Old Testament; it is really not all that important; but that cannot suffice for those of us who declare that God's Word is God's Word from cover to cover!

The early church gives us another perfect example of just such a continuation of the "breaking" of Scripture by the church, (even after Jesus ascended) in order that they might follow the Holy Spirit's leadership. Acts 15:1 states that some of the Jews who recognized Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and saw Him as a fulfillment of Jewish Scripture felt that the Gentiles who wanted to follow the Jewish Jesus also had to follow the Jewish Scriptures. These Scriptures clearly stated that Jews (and Gentiles both) who wanted to be a part of God's people had to be circumcised as well as follow many other laws including dietary rituals (see Genesis 17:10, Leviticus 12:3; et. al.).

There is absolutely no indication that the church had any permission simply to decide not to live the Old Testament laws any more. The Judaizers had a very valid point for those who think that the inerrant, infallible, unalterable word always should be followed by every letter of every law! Why, then, did the early Church decide not to circumcise or lay the heavy burden of the dietary laws and Jewish customs on the Gentiles? The disciples **met and deliberated** and the deciding factor was that there was **evidence** of the Holy Spirit's working in the lives of these Gentiles despite the fact that they were not circumcised or eating kosher diets.

The obvious question this poses in my mind is: Are there evidences of the Holy Spirit's working in the lives and ministries of women pastors of local churches? There have been women pastors of churches in other denominations for many years now. Have they driven their churches into the ground?² What are their accomplishments for Christ's sake? A man can lead a church and become involved with sexual immorality or some other scandal but be accepted

right back into the pulpit because he is a man; but a woman who is faithful to love God and neighbor and who has grown a church with intention and purpose will be told to sit down because the Scripture says she should be silent! This position does not take seriously the in-breaking of the Holy Spirit of God into the affairs of humanity to lead us into all godliness.

Friends, we must guard ourselves against the temptation of Phariseism as we remember that it was the Pharisees who wanted to meticulously keep every letter of the Scripture (while destroying the very spirit of that same law). Remember what the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians

3:6, the letter kills; it is the Spirit which gives life. We must not find ourselves in league with the same religious zealots who crucified Christ so He would stop "breaking Scripture!" We need to heed the warning of Gamaliel in Acts 5:38-39 who basically stood up amongst his Pharisaical brethren and said: "And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to **FIGHT AGAINST GOD!**" (emphasis added). Just what if these women truly are called of God into ordained positions? If we take a stand against them, we will be

found to stand against God!

Ultimately, this is not an issue to fight tooth and nail over anyway. Each congregation in the Original Free Will Baptist Church calls its own pastor from the list of duly ordained ministers. We do not have a district superintendent who comes around to our churches and informs us of who our new pastor will be, like some denominations do. If you do not want a woman pastor, **DON'T CALL ONE!** But do not forbid women from being able to answer the call which God has placed on their lives in the OFWB Church simply because of personal preferences and personal interpretation. Let's agree to disagree without being disagreeable! ▲

¹I am greatly indebted to David M. Scholer's article entitled "1 Timothy 2:9-15 and The Place Of Women In The Church's Ministry" (in *Women, Authority, and the Bible*) for the enlightenment of the irregular usage of the verb "to usurp authority" in this one passage along with a great deal of other cultural information which he shares concerning the situation to which 1 Timothy was written in Ephesus.

²It must be admitted however that even if a study was done on a broad scale that the findings might be distorted because of the bias against women ministers which often causes them to take the only churches which will call them. These churches often are failing already before she got there and thus can be no reflection of God's call on her life. Also, the danger in determining a person's calling depending upon their success or failure to grow a church would cast doubt on many men's calling as well.

Adam, Where Art Thou?

by the Reverend Jim Bogle

In Genesis 3:9 the Bible records the words of the Lord as He came into the garden of Eden after Adam and Eve had eaten from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They were hiding in the woods, and the Bible says, "And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" Why didn't, the Lord call out, "Eve, where art thou?" After all, Eve was pretty much in control of things at that point. It was Eve who listened to the Devil. It was Eve, who took the very first bite of the forbidden fruit, and it was Eve who brought that very same fruit to her husband, and the Bible says, "...he did eat" (Genesis 3:6). No questions asked. Eve offered the fruit, and Adam reached out, took the fruit, and the moment he ate, God jerked the Holy Spirit right out of him. Adam was no longer in the

image of God, but in a fallen, marred image of a sinful and rebellious human soul. God's response came quickly; in the twinkling of an eye. It wasn't Eve's eating of the fruit that brought about the fall of the human race, it was Adam's rejection of the Word of God, and his obedience to the voice of his wife. Adam listened to his wife, when he should have been listening to the Lord. The Scripture says "...the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3). It was Adam's responsibility to rebuke his wife for her transgression, but instead of rebuking her, he enjoined her. The fall of man didn't come because of Eve's deception, but because of Adam's rebellion.

In 1 Timothy 2:11-14, the Apostle Paul is providing doctrinal guidance

and disciplinary instruction for the building of the church. He is writing to young Timothy, who is ministering at Ephesus. Paul is not writing to a man who has not been endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The pouring out of God's Spirit to men and women alike, as prophesied by Joel, began in Acts 2 and continues even unto this very day. This is important to understand, because when Paul is talking about the woman's place and responsibility in the church, he speaks to women who already had received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and in a very interesting way, Paul brings to light again, the transgression of Eve. "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first

formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." Some believe this a outrageous statement and one that could only speak to the culture of Paul's day. But others disagree:

Leadership Ministries Worldwide. *The Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible*. vol. 10. Chattanooga, TN: LMW, 1991.

"The Christian woman is not to teach in church nor to have authority over a man. Ears perk up and eyes focus when this statement is read, and in some cases emotions are aroused, especially in societies where the struggle for women's rights are being fought. What does Scripture mean? Scripture is belief and factual. A simple statement is made: "A woman [is not] to teach, nor to hold authority over a man." Some commentators say that this passage is to be interpreted only in the context of its day. But note: this position is most unlikely because of the universal reference to Adam and Eve. Scripture is drawing a universal application from the creation of Adam and Eve. It is because God created in an organized and orderly way and gave specific functions to both man and woman that man is to take the lead blazing the path through life for his family and the church."

Henry, Matthew. "1 Timothy 2:12-14." *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible as found in Discover the Bible, Nelson Electronic Bible Reference Library*. CD-ROM. Quick-Start 2.1. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1999.

"According to Paul, women must be learners, and are not allowed to be public teachers in the church; for teaching is an office of authority, and the woman must not usurp authority over the man, but is to be in silence. Aquila and his wife Priscilla expounded unto Apollos the way of God more perfectly; but then they

did it privately, for they took him unto them (see Acts 18:26). Here are two very good reasons given for the man's authority over the woman, and her subjection to the man (see vv. 13-14). Adam was first formed, then Eve; she was created for the man, and not the man for the woman (1 Corinthians 11:9)."

Finlayson R. *The Pulpit Commentary*. vol. 21. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson Publishing, n.d.

"The position of the apostle, that a woman is not to be a teacher in the house of God, is very implicit: I permit not a woman to teach. Whatever her qualification and some women are better qualified to teach than men—the apostolic enactment is against her teaching. This enactment is grounded in what is natural. It would be reversing the natural order of superiority for men to sit under a woman as their teacher" (49).

When Paul reached back into Old Testament history and cited God's creative work (Adam created and then Eve), he made it clear that his admonition to restrict the woman from holding a place of authority over the man in the church was universal, not just for the local culture.

When Paul reached back into Old Testament history and cited God's creative work (Adam created and then Eve), he made it clear that his admonition to restrict the woman from holding a place of authority over the man in the church was universal, not just for the local culture. God called out, "...Adam...Where art thou?" (Genesis 3:9) because God holds the man responsible for his family and for the leadership of the church (1 Timothy 3:5).

Today in our denomination, there is much discussion and controversy over the licensing and subsequent

ordaining of women to the ministry. Certainly there is recorded, throughout the Old Testament and the New, powerful testimonies of women in ministry. Today, our Woman's Auxiliaries are invaluable to the success of the local church. God always has used godly women in His ministry. But there is no record in the Old Testament, or in the New, of a woman ever stepping into priesthood, or becoming the shepherd of God's flock. And more importantly, when Christ has the marvelous opportunity to appoint twelve women to the apostleship, he failed to appoint even one. Later, the apostles themselves had another great opportunity to correct Christ's oversight by appointing a woman to the apostleship as a replacement for Judas, but the Holy Spirit directed them elsewhere.

We, who are in the opposition to the ordaining of women to the ministry, understand very well that simply ordaining a woman to ministry does not guarantee her pastorate of a church. But the message conveyed to the churches by the ordination board is one fully endorsing the woman to assume the pastorate, finding no scriptural evidence against it. Yet, to arrive at this conclusion would require the dismissal of 1 Timothy 2:12, 1 Timothy 3:2-7, 2 Timothy 2:15, Titus 1:9, and 2 Timothy 1:7-18; 2:1-2 and, in essence, throw out completely our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government*. And listen, just because a woman already has been ordained in the past, does not set precedence for the future. The human setting of precedence may rank well in the worldly court of law, but in the church, it better be in line with the Word of God.

If the Word of God, which speaks very clearly to the qualifications of a pastor, and a deacon, be twisted, or rejected, in order to accommodate a woman's desire to be ordained, where then does that leave our churches with respect to the Word of God? ▲

Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbour As Thyself

by Sean and Stephanie Lynch

Hello. I wanted to tell everyone "thank you" for we have found a home amongst you. I thought perhaps everyone should know the kind of people we found here, the kind of person we all strive to be. My family received some much needed help from two churches and numerous other people in the area. We can't thank you enough for all you've done and for the feeling of welcome and belonging you've given us. I put our thanks into a story that will perhaps inspire others to do for their neighbors what you all did for us.

In a kingdom not so faraway there is a king full of love for his people and sorrow for all the pain they cause one another. The kingdom is Heaven and this King is God. As He looks down on us all what does He see? He sees a man pass a stranger on the street in need. He sees another strike down his neighbor for having something he wants but chose not to work for. He sees brother fighting brother, sister fighting sister. He sees rape, murder, and war. He sees pain, sorrow, and suffering. But he sees the good, also. He saw such good as He looked down on a small community in La Grange.

Just before Christmas a family moved to the area full of hope for a new beginning. Things didn't quite go as planned. As they struggled for a way to make things work, He formed a new plan for them. He gave to them a new home. One for their spirits, for their very souls. He brought them an entire congregation of people who pulled together to help a family they knew nothing about. This community gave them clothes, food, furniture, money for bills, and presents. More importantly, they gave them welcoming love and offered prayers for health and happiness. They offered them a place they truly could call home. All because these people have such kindness and love in their hearts that only one with a true sense of humanity and faith in God can have. When I go to bed at night, I now pray for that kind of peace and love to settle in my heart.

Imagine the world was full of nothing but the kind of people I found in this small North Carolina town. We have only to turn and share our hearts, extend our love and that of God to our neighbor to make this world a better place for us, our children, and for generations to come.



SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963 • www.ofwbsundayschool.org

SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2007 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE, MOUNT OLIVE, NC

THEME: Teaching and Learning for All

As We Are Enabled By the Spirit

Workshops and Activities for All Ages

Registration Fee to Cover All Materials and Food:

\$5 per person ages 4-12; \$15 per person ages 13 and up

or a maximum cost of \$60 per church

45 Different Opportunities for Learning Activities

Time: 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Children will go to Kornegay Arena for their breakfast and to attend classes while the adults will gather in Raper Hall for continental breakfast and classes. Golf carts will be available for transportation from Murphy Center parking lot to Raper Hall.

SIXTY-SIXTH OFWB SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2007

TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR ALL AS WE ARE ENABLED BY THE SPIRIT

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

8 A.M.—9 A.M.	Registration, Mix, Mingle, Eat, and View Displays
9 A.M.—9:30 A.M.	Opening Assembly, Directions, and Awards (Raper Hall Auditorium)
9:40 A.M.—10:40 A.M.	Workshop Session # 1
10:50 A.M.—11:50 A.M.	Workshop Session # 2
11:50 A.M.—1:30 P.M.	LUNCH — Murphy Center, Dedicated Exhibit Time, MOC Bookstore Open
1:40 P.M.—2:40 P.M.	Workshop Session # 3
2:50 P.M.—3:50 P.M.	Workshop Session # 4
4 P.M.—4:30 P.M.	Closing Session (Raper Hall Auditorium) Presentation by Psalm 148 from Jackson Heights OFWB Church, Ashley Summerlin, Pastor

WORKSHOPS

SESSION ONE

Introduction to 1 John—This workshop, led by Dr. K. David Hines, will provide an introduction to the book of 1 John since the Sunday School lessons for March are taken from this set of Scriptures.

Magic of PowerPoint—This workshop, led by Ms. Nancy Cale and/or Mr. Jason Mitchell, will help you understand how to assemble a PowerPoint presentation to enhance your teaching. This session will be limited to 12 people.

Quilts for Waveland Kids—This session, which runs all day, conducted by Ms. Bessie Alexander and Harvest Connection, will give you an opportunity to help assemble small lap quilts for the children of Waveland, Mississippi and the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. You can come in for a few minutes, cut material and / or sew on the machines for 5 minutes or all day. You do not have to be a professional seamstress to participate.

Fidget Busters and Learning Activities for Kids, Part 1—This two-part workshop, led by Ms. Cynthia Summerlin, will focus on different activities that can be used to get young children involved and keep them interested in the work of their church. She will be incorporating several age-appropriate ideas (puppets, music, sign language, movies, etc.) using the R.I.V.E.T. technique (Relevant, Interactive, Visual, Entertaining, and Targeted). It is a MUST if you are a youth worker or children's Sunday School teacher.

I'm Licensed! Now What Do I Do?—This workshop, led by Brother Ray Wells, will help the licensed minister know what should be expected after the initial licensing process has been begun. It will focus on the practical application of the minister's work.

VBS Preview — Standard Publishing Company, "Take the Plunge" — This workshop, led by Brother Frank Mosely, will focus on an understanding of the 2007 VBS theme for Standard Publishing Company.

Play Is Our Business—This workshop, led by Brother Ron Richardson, will focus on doing Bible learning activities with preschoolers and guiding the conversation around God's Word in an age-appropriate manner.

Say What! "How to Ask Good Questions"—This workshop, led by Chaplain Gordon Ritchie, will focus on asking effective questions to increase learning. This is a goal for which every teacher should strive. In this seminar participants will be able to explain how questions can be used to increase learning, construct questions that stimulate positive student responses, and develop techniques that can encourage students to respond in the teaching setting.

Winning With People—This workshop, led by Brother Ron Hunter, is based on a book by John Maxwell by the same title.

Our lives are greatly affected by the relationships we have with the people around us. Many times these relationships can become strained or broken which results in our being ineffective. This will introduce you to some principles to enhance the way you interact with other people. After all, before you can influence them, you must connect with them.

Seven Habits of Effective Teachers — This workshop, led by Brother Keith Kenemer, will focus on the seven habits that are consistently practiced by effective Bible teachers and how you can integrate them into your life.

Children's Sermons That Reach the Children—This workshop, led by Ms. Marci Rollins-Smart, will provide the participants with an understanding of how to construct children's sermons that can be understood by the children. Oftentimes, when we offer a 'children's sermon' we provide information that is not age-appropriate.

The Many Faces of Disaster—This workshop, led by Brother David Charles Hansley, will provide the participants with a look at disaster from many different angles. Disaster does not necessarily come in the form of bad storms.

SESSION TWO

Introduction to Revelation, Part One—This two-part workshop, led by Brother Frank Harrison, will focus on an introduction to the book of Revelation since the

Sunday School lessons for April and May will be centered around the Scriptures from this often misunderstood book.

Magic of PowerPoint—This workshop, led by Ms. Nancy Cale and/or Mr. Jason Mitchell, is a repeat of the one from Session One. This workshop will help you understand a different way to enhance your presentations.

Quilts for Waveland Kids—This session is a continuation from Session One, conducted by Ms. Bessie Alexander and Harvest Connection, focused on preparing quilts for the children of Waveland, Mississippi.

Fidget Busters and Learning Activities for Kids, Part Two—This workshop, led by Ms. Cynthia Summerlin, is a continuation of the one from Session One that focuses on age-appropriate activities for young children in the church.

What Makes Christianity So Special?—This workshop, led by Dr. De W. Eakes, will help the participants understand the building blocks of our faith that make Christianity so special.

VBS Preview—Gospel Light—“SonForce Kids: On Mission for God”—This workshop led by Brother Ron Richardson will provide an overview of the 2007 VBS for Gospel Light.

Putting the Zap Back in Your Class—This workshop, led by Chaplain Gordon Ritchie, will focus on the belief of many that Christian Education is a thing of the past. It is at least 2,000 years old beginning with Christ’s mandate in Matthew 28:18–19 to make disciples. Unfortunately, over the past 2,000 years we have lost that vision. Revitalizing our disciplining arm of the church is the goal of this seminar. We will examine what our biblical vision of discipleship should be, successful trends in Christian Education and Sunday School, and how to re-tool for the 21st century.

Fumble the Heart Hand Off—This workshop, led by Brother Ron Hunter, focuses on our goals in life that often get distorted. While we reach many professional goals we miss the one that is more vital than any other. We are charged with passing along our faith, our love for God’s Word, and a love for our Lord. We simply fumble this because we expect the Sunday School

teacher or the preacher to do it all. This session takes you through the biblical principles of a Christian Education philosophy that shows how to empower the parents to touch their child’s heart for eternity. We can’t fumble this one.

Growing a Dynamic Sunday School Seminar—This workshop, led by Brother Keith Kenemer, provides the basic principles to produce a dynamic Sunday School. A Sunday School that reaches—Your community for Jesus Christ—Wins them to the Savior—Trains them in the Word of God to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and—Equips them to go into this “present world” and reach people for Jesus.

Why Do I Need a Nursery Procedures Manual?—This session, led by Ms. Marci Rollins-Smart, will help us to understand the importance of having a safe and clean environment for our infants and toddlers. Christian Education MUST begin when the child is born.

Developing a Local Church Disaster Plan—This session, led by Brother David Charles Hansley, will focus on the necessary goals and objectives for the church to develop its own disaster plan, no matter what the disaster happens to be. We need to be readily prepared and ready to do what is necessary.

SESSION THREE

Introduction to Revelation, Part Two—This workshop, led by Brother Frank Harrison, will continue the brief study of Revelation with emphasis on the Scripture references found in the Sunday School lessons for April and May.

Technology in the Church Today—This workshop, led by Brother Terry Ellis and his wife, Sandy, will share information and an understanding of how technology can be a useful tool when used effectively in the church today to enhance the message of Christ.

Quilts for Waveland Kids—This session is a continuation from Session One, conducted by Ms. Bessie Alexander and Harvest Connection, focused on preparing quilts for the children of Waveland, Mississippi.

Fidget Busters and Learning Activities for Teenagers, Part One—This two-part workshop, led by Ms. Cynthia

Summerlin, will focus on different activities that can be used to get teenagers involved and keep them interested in the work of their church. She will be incorporating several age-appropriate ideas (puppets, music, sign language, movies, etc.) using the R.I.V.E.T. technique (Relevant, Interactive, Visual, Entertaining, and Targeted). It is a MUST if you are a youth worker or a teen Sunday School teacher.

Dementia in the Faith-Based Community, Part One—This two-part workshop, led by Ms. Joann Windley, will focus on our understanding of the irreversible deterioration of our intellectual faculties. As our congregations grow in age, we need to be more aware than ever of the church’s responsibility for aiding not only the one affected but to the caregiver as well. This particular workshop is back by popular demand from 2006.

Why Won’t Johnny Just Sit Still and Listen?, Part One—This two-part workshop, led by Brother Frank Mosely, focuses on issues relative to student behavior and classroom management. Included will be discussions on classroom circumstances which influence learning; learning styles; age level characteristics; teacher preparation; and student involvement. Teachers of any age child will benefit from this discussion.

Bible Skills: It is more than learning the Books of the Bible—This workshop, led by Brother Ron Richardson, will explore different ways to teach elementary kids skills such as using a Bible dictionary, a Bible atlas, and maps.

Go F.I.S.H.!—This session, led by Ms. Mary Dudley, will focus on Fresh Ideas Shared Here. The participants will have an opportunity to share their ideas for improving all aspects of our Convention and its work. Let’s come together with fresh ideas that can be shared with all leaders of our denominational work as well as conference leaders and pastors.

Putting F.A.I.T.H. in Action—This workshop, led by Brother Norman Gordon, will provide information needed to help us understand how to reach out to a community that may or may not be expressing a willingness to listen to the message of God. The leader will focus on communication rather than confrontation.

Biblical Basis of Christian Education—This workshop, led by Brother Keith Kenemer, will focus on what we do in our churches from an educational perspective. We must ground our endeavors in the Word of God. This seminar will present from the Word what we must be doing in our Sunday School and in our children, youth, and adult ministries. The attendee will leave with the Biblical mandate.

Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in Your Church Setting—This workshop, led by Ms. Marci Rollins-Smart, will provide valuable information on how your church and its leaders as well as the people in the pew can reduce the risk of child abuse. Child abuse doesn't necessarily happen to the other person. It happens outside the church and inside the church. What can we do to eliminate this ravaging problem?

Music in the Church for Kids—This session, led by Ms. Angel Lorton, will help us understand the importance of scriptural based, but enjoyable forms of music for our kids today as they learn about Jesus.

SESSION 4

Disconnected Generation—This session, led by Brother Tim Heath, will provide us with a glimpse into the present situation in our world today and how we as the church MUST respond to it. Our responses may involve a rethinking as to how we think and feel about God's message and how it must be shared with the world around us. We may have to put ourselves to one side and allow God to speak to our hearts as we strive to meet the ever-increasing needs in the lives of people.

Technology in the Church Today—This workshop, led by Brother Terry Ellis and his wife, Sandy, is a repeat from Session Three and will share information and an understanding of how technology can be a useful tool when used effectively in the church today to enhance the message of Christ.

Quilts for Waveland Kids—This session is a continuation from Session One, conducted by Ms. Bessie Alexander and Harvest Connection, focused on preparing quilts for the children of Waveland, Mississippi.

Fidget Busters and Learning Activities for Teenagers, Part Two—This workshop, led by Ms. Cynthia Summerlin, is a continuation of the one from Session Three that focuses on age-appropriate activities for teenagers in the church. It is a must for youth workers and Sunday School teachers for teenagers.

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Pre-Teen Ministry That Rocks—This workshop, led by Brother Ron Richardson, will help you understand some of the things going on in the lives of pre-teens 10 and 11 years old and will help you develop some plans for meeting their unique needs.

Finding and Keeping New Faces—This workshop, led by Chaplain Gordon Ritchie, will help us understand how to reach the unchurched. We are continually

challenged as a church to stay relevant in an ever-changing society. Now we have to struggle with a society that has lost most of its Christian fiber and has seen the church marginalized in their lives. Learn how to understand this unique challenge of reaching a secular people and how to get and keep the unchurched in your fellowship.

Effective Lesson Starters—This workshop, led by Brother Ron Hunter, will help us understand how to begin a lesson. If you start the class with a good connect or hook, you will capture the attention and increase the learning capacity of the students at any age. Excitement creates an environment where people will be on time and looking to find out what you are doing next. This will show you how to examine whatever studies you are using and search for a great starter for each lesson.

Inreach! Motivating From Within the Church—This session, led by Brother Ashley Summerlin, will help us understand that before you can reach out, one must reach in. People inside the church need to know how to get involved in the organized work of the church. This leader will discuss some ways that are tried and true.

Infants and Toddlers Can Learn, Too—This workshop, led by Ms. Marci Rollins-Smart, will help us understand that learning begins very early on in the life of a child. The church cannot wait until the child is 3 or 4 years old before beginning organized Christian Education. Wow! What a concept! Come and discuss how you can effectively meet the needs of the very young child. The teacher at this level must never be considered just a baby-sitter.

Music in the Church for Adults—This workshop, led by Ms. Angel Lorton, will focus on the different kinds of music and how music speaks to the heart and life of adults in the church today.



The children, ages 4-12, will gather in Kornegay Arena when they arrive and will have classes, games, food, and arts and crafts focused on the Gospel Light program, *Treasure Seekers*. They will have different opportunities to discover God's love through seeking for His treasure. They will have a day of fun and learning with Ms. Tina Penny and others. Bring your children and let them form new friendships with children from all over the denomination. Their day will run from 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. There will be adequate instructors for the children so that the parents can participate in the four workshop sessions in Raper Hall. If parents are needed by the children during the day, the instructors will contact Mrs. Dudley. Come and have a GREAT time in the Lord!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY

In the Fall of 2006, the Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, the Rev. David Charles Hansley, received a call from one of the H'mong locations in Merced, California. The Lao Evangelical Church is an associate member of our Convention and has churches in many locations across this country. The young lady was very interested in Vacation Bible School since her church never has conducted one before and needed some help. Brother Hansley said that he would see what he could do. He immediately called the Rev. A. Graham Lane, the Coordinator for Ethnic Ministry, and told him of the plea for help. The Director for the Sunday School Ministry, Ms. Mary Dudley, was asked if the Sunday School Ministry would be able to help with this endeavor since providing assistance with Vacation Bible School is one of the 12 programs currently offered by the ministry. After prayer, there was an agreement for cooperation with this project. With approval from both Boards of Directors, the call was sent for volunteers for Vacation Bible School in Merced, California in July of 2007. Many people have responded to this "Macedonian Call" for help. Since this is a project of Home Missions and Evangelism with the assistance of the Sunday School Ministry, we ask for your help. There will be about 30 people going to California to work with folks from ages three–adult. We will be conducting Vacation Bible School while mentoring the H'mong leaders in this process. There will be about 15 different seminars for adults offered at the same time the children are in session. We realize that not everyone who wishes to help can go across the country to work, so if that is your case, we are asking that you offer your support in financial donations to the cause. Each volunteer will raise his or her own money to go, but that will not be quite enough.

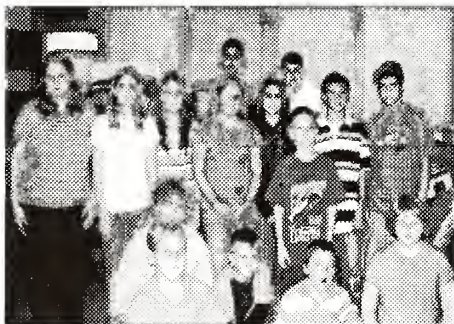
This is an excellent opportunity for us ALL to join hands in partnership to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ. This project is another example of ministries working together for the cause of the Kingdom. If you would like further information about this project, do not hesitate to contact Ms. Mary Dudley at the Headquarters in Ayden by phone, (252) 746-4963 or e-mail, <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>.



CHILDREN'S HOME

PO Box 249 • Middlesex, NC 27557 • (252) 235-2161 • www.fwbchildrenshome.org

CHRISTMAS 2006



Lee's Chapel Church



Stony Hill



Holly Springs Church

The Christmas season has come and gone, but the warmth and glow is still lingering at the Children's Home. Many activities took place during the 2006 Christmas season, giving the children at the Home a first-hand look at Christian love and sharing.

A Christmas program was presented to the campus by residents of State and Rodgers Cottages, and various staff. The program consisted of solos, duets, Scripture readings, and an interpretive praise dance.

Thank you for making the year 2006 special for the children at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. It helps them have a more secure feeling of self-worth to know that people, whom they don't know, care for and share with them.



St. Mary's Church, New Bern

CHURCH AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Devotions are held daily in each cottage. To assist with these devotions, new daily devotion books were purchased for each cottage. The devotion books are Scripture-based and age-appropriate for the boys and girls.

Every Sunday, the children and staff of the Home gather in Memorial Chapel to worship. Christian teaching always has been an integral part of life at the Children's Home. Our pastor, the Rev. Allen Stanley is ministering at the home, and striving to instill the need for a personal relationship with Christ into each child. During his messages, he expounds on Christian obedience, and the examples set forth in the Bible, one of them being Holy Communion.

A communion set was requested on our needs list. Soon after the need was posted, a telephone call was received from the Rev. Kelley Smart, associate pastor from Free Union Church, Walstonburg. Mr. Smart said they had collected money through their Vacation Bible School, and they would be purchasing a communion set for us. In early December, the communion set was delivered to the Home.

A special thanks to Free Union Church, Walstonburg, as we continue to share the Gospel with the many children we serve.



From L-R: Marci Rollins-Smart and the Rev. Kelley Smart deliver a communion set to the Children's Home donated from Free Union Church, Walstonburg.

NEEDS LIST

- Twin sheet sets and comforters
- Six Hewlett Packard printers (#1320 LaserJet)
- Two hand-held GPS tracking units
- Folding round banquet tables and stackable chairs
- Kitchen towels and dish cloths
- Please check the website for current update

GRACE NOTES

by Nina Grace Register

The time comes when it's better to use a night light than stumble in the dark and break something precious—like an arm, a leg, or a neck—so I got a night light.

It hugs the wall; and instead of a bulb, it has a colored something on its face that glows. I had my doubts about it when I bought it, and by the time I got it home and hooked up, I was sure it was a buyer's mistake. It glowed, but didn't light up. In fact, the only way to see it was to make eye contact with its glowing surface.

That was in the middle of the day, of course. As night came on and the room darkened, it glowed more brightly. By bedtime, I couldn't see to read by it, but I could see to move around in the room without endangering my personal safety. I like it. I guess I'll keep it.

Don't you know some people like that? They're quiet, unassuming, humble, and rather inconspicuous. You might not even know they work unless you catch them at it. They certainly make life more pleasant for us and don't expect any praise for it.

They're the people who bring chicken soup when you're sick—and stay to wash your dishes. They're the ones who throw your paper onto your steps as they're on their morning walk. They sense that you're lonesome and just come sit a while.

Who picks up the stray artwork after church? Who weeds the flowers? Who welcomes and sits with the visitors? Who does a bazillion other things just because they need to be done? Would we miss them if they weren't there?

They are lights shining in dark places (see 1 Peter 1:19). And I think there are some of those whom Daniel says will glitter like stars forever and ever (see Daniel 12:3).

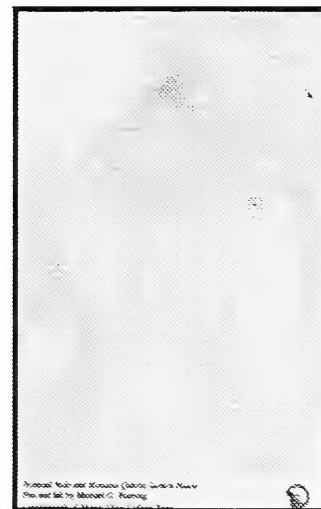
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

PRESS RELEASE:

the Notepad, *Nido and Mariana*

Quebin Garden House,

Artwork by Michael G. Warning



The Mount Olive College Press releases the Notepad, *Nido and Mariana Quebin Garden House*, during its 2006–2007 Mount Olive College Press Season. The notepad is a pen and ink sketch by graphic artist, Michael G. Warning. For more information about this notepad, contact Jean Ackiss at (919) 658-2502.



CHRISTMAS 2006

by Tezdjan N. Murtazova

I open the door of the garage, our regular meeting place, it is 4:30 P.M. The weather is cold, windy, and rainy. Snow has been forecasted for late evening. The children, the youth, and their mothers are filling the small classroom. We welcome each of them, wishing one another a "Merry Christmas." After one hour, we are ready to depart, filling two large busses, to the church building in Varna.

The buses are comfortable, warm, and luxurious. The drivers are careful with their "precious cargo" on board. Seeing the illuminations in the city of Varna, the children are uttering sighs of wonderment. Most of them have never seen so many electric lights shining at the same time. We arrive at the Varna Church on time—it is 6:30 P.M.

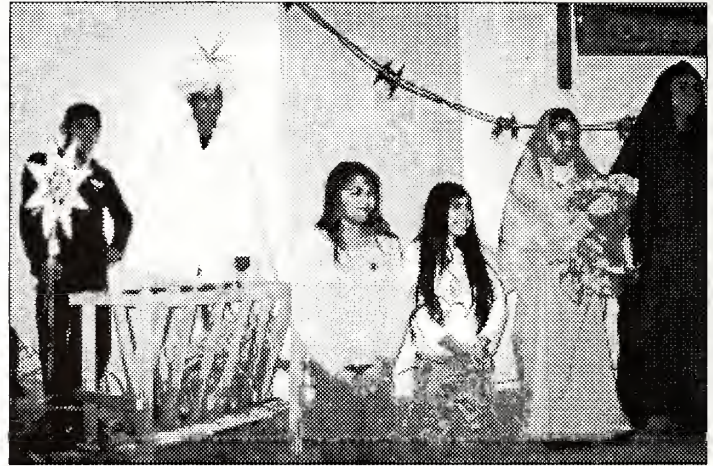
All participants of the program are excited, while preparing for their role in the performance they have received. They made "record time;" everybody is dressed in their costumes within 20 minutes.

The smallest children opened the program by singing "Silent Night," and after them the girls of the middle group followed with another song. The youth impersonated the nativity scene of Jesus in different acts.

The Youth of the English class, which Lydia teaches, had chosen three songs which they sang while we changed the stage: "Kum Ba Ya My Lord," "Mary Had a Baby," and "Silent Night" in English.

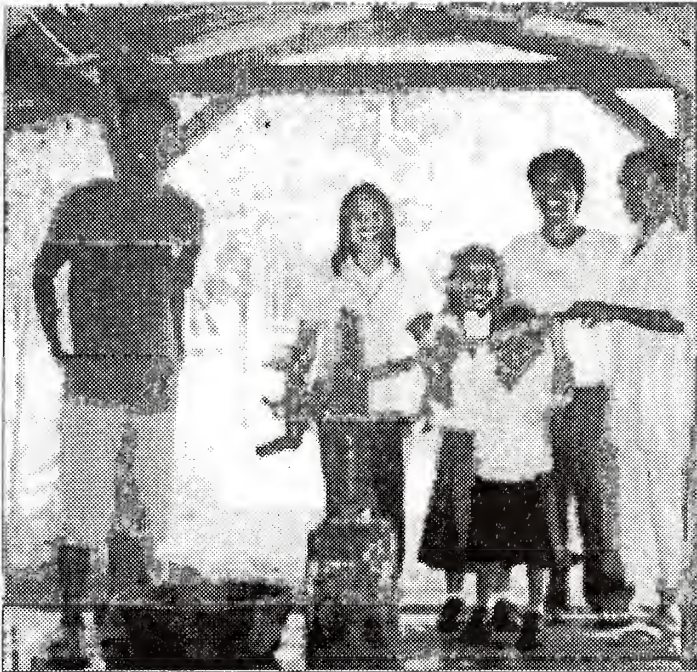
The little children closed the drama by chanting the words "I love you my Lord" in different languages like: Bulgarian, Russian, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Polish, and Gypsy. All the participants gathered on the stage and sang a closing hymn in the Turkish language—"Be Brave and Strong." This song is still resounding in the minds of many spectators. The celebration was a great blessing for all of us, because we had been able to celebrate with many people from Balchik together at one session. We pray and hope that the joy of Christmas will remain in our hearts. Because ... no trouble, no sorrow, no sickness, no hunger, no nakedness should take our joy in Christ Jesus in whom we live and in whom we have hope for Heaven.

Jesus is the superior being who lived among us and who truly loves us today. We hope that all of you have been touched enduringly by the Birthday celebration for Jesus, our Savior.



GOD'S PROVISION

by Pastor June Buscano

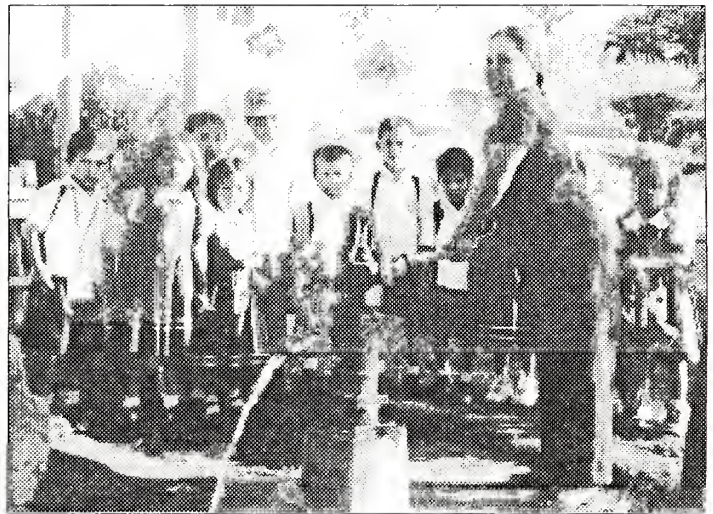


When the South District Youth Summer Camp was held last May 2005 at Aritonngus First Free Will Baptist Church, we experienced a shortage of water supply due to pump trouble. This became hard for us especially those campers who were assigned in the kitchen.

But thanks to God for this provision. We were given financial assistance for the construction of our deep well. This was through the efforts of the Board of Foreign Missions. They saw this great need for God's ministry. We would like also to thank the supporters who continuously give their help to the needy churches like ours. According to 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

THE BLESSING OF JETMATIC WATER PUMP

by Mrs. Merly A. Taladro



Kindergarten children watching teacher, Merly A. Taladro, pumping water from the Jetmatic Well.

The members of the Mangingisda First Free Will Baptist Church and the community people are blessed for the unit of a Jetmatic Water Pump granted to us by the Board of Foreign Missions through the efforts of the Rev. Harold Jones.

On October 23, 2006, the drilling of the project was started at about 60 feet deep. The construction of the project was finished on October 28, 2006. The members of our church were very thankful and even the people around the community were blessed by the water that is produced by the project.

We, the members of the church, acknowledge the efforts of the Rev. Harold Jones, who has been used by our Lord in many ways to the ministry of God. Our prayer is that God will give him a long life in his commitment to serve with the ministry he has been doing for many years in many countries. Glory to God!

VBS WORKSHOPS

Place: Free Will Baptist Press • 3928 Lee Street • Ayden, NC

Dates & Times: Friday, February 16, 2007 @ 7 P.M. or Saturday, February 17, 2007 @ 10 A.M.

Representatives will be available from
Standard, Group, and Gospel Light Publishing

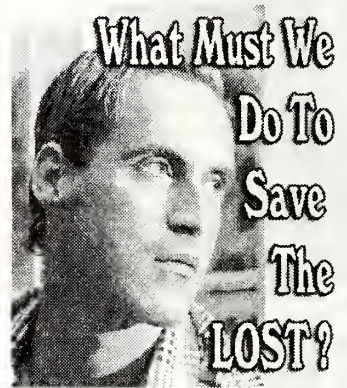
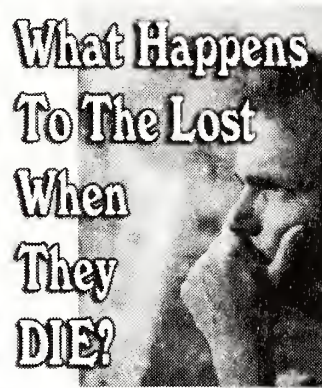
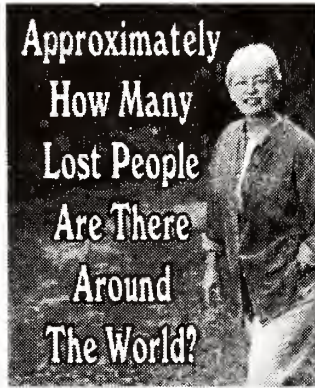
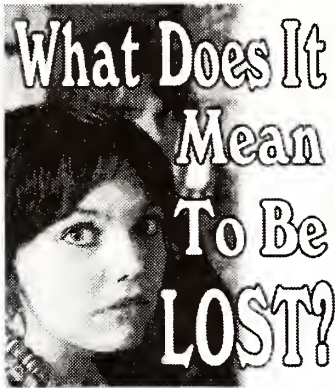
For more information, call (800) 849-3927 and speak with a bookstore representative.

Foreign Missions

Annual Telethon

TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007

THEME: THE LOST • THEME VERSE: LUKE 19:10



The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is an excellent time to express our love and thankfulness to God for His rich blessings through prayer and giving.

Goal 2007: A total of \$200,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if we who are saved will open our eyes, see the lost, and give from a heart of compassion to reach those who are spiritually dead.



PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:00 P.M. Dial (252) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will bear testimony of your unselfish desire to share the Life of Christ with the lost around the World.

A CHEERFUL GIVER BLESSES GOD AND GOD BLESSES IN RETURN.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 25, 2007.
True prayer cries daily for revival and sees the world with a broken heart.

-
- **PRAYER GOAL MARCH 25, 2007:** •••••
- All churches joining together in united •••••
- prayer during the Morning Worship Hour •••••
- in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY! •••••
-

OFWB
INTERNATIONAL
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)
POST OFFICE BOX 39
AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA 28513 • (252) 746-4963



SCOUTING BUILDS CHARACTER



The Boy Scouts of America is delivering a message to youth, our Scouting parents, and the general public that morals, values, spirituality, manners, ethics, caring, respect, and duty are as important today as ever. We are committed to our mission of providing a program of ethical values for young people.

There may never be a more important time than now to let the country know that Scouting still believes in America's young people and its traditional family values, and they are worth the investment of both time and money.



ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST ADULT LEADERSHIP IN SCOUTING

- Adults serve as role models and witnesses to the faith in their daily interaction with Scouts.
- Adults are mentors to youth.
- Adults receive extensive Boy Scouts of America training in leadership.
- The Original Free Will Baptist Scouting Ministry provides lay leaders an opportunity to serve the advancement team.
- The unit committee supervises the program in the church.
- A Scouting coordinator acts as liaison between the church and the denominational director.
- Adults serve as religious emblems counselors for the God and Country Program.
- Scouts remain with the churches that charter a Scout unit and become active in the church's youth ministry.
- Adults involved in Scouting become leaders in the Out-Reach/In-Reach Evangelism of the local church.
- Adult Scouts become leaders in Spiritual Transformation Training.
- Scouts are mentors for merit badge accomplishments, Eagle Scout development, and public/church recognition accomplishments of youth.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.



SCOUTING IS A YOUTH MINISTRY

To learn more about Scouting in the OFWB denomination and how you and your church can have a Scouting ministry to reach your community and how you, and your church can participate in the God and Country Program, please contact your Commission on Scouting, the Rev. David C. Hansley, Executive Director, at (252) 746-4963; or e-mail <director@ofwbhomemissions.org>, or write to P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.



SPEAKER: MR. EDDIE HAMMETT TOPIC: "SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN A SECULAR AGE" MARCH 22-24, 2007

Eddie Hammett is the author of four books dealing with preparing the church for a more effective ministry in the 21st century. His current writing project, *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60*, is due to be released in October 2007.

Mr. Hammett's call to ministry is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" inside and beyond the walls of the traditional church.

Mr. Hammett has served as Senior Leadership/Discipleship Coach for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for the last 16 years. He is a graduate of Furman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with post-graduate studies at Duke Divinity School, Southeastern Seminary, NC State University, and Fielding Institute.

The cost is \$110 per person (main, motel or lodge) and \$95 per person for dorm space. Included: two nights lodging, three meals on Friday, and two meals on Saturday (breakfast and lunch).

Name: _____ For health reasons, I require a ground level room.
 Address: _____ Yes _____ No _____
 _____ Building preference:
 City: _____ 1st choice: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____ 2nd choice: _____
 Church: _____ No preference—Cragmont can assign

Return the above form with a \$50 deposit for each person (balance due upon arrival)
 Mail to: Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711
 For further information, call Cragmont at (877) 669-7677

CRAGMONT EVENTS—2007

Pastor/Deacon Retreat at Cragmont
March 22-24

"Spiritual Leadership In A Secular Age"
Eddie Hammett—Seminar Leader

Third Annual Tractor Pull at Four Oaks
May 4-5

Co-sponsored by the Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship

Fourth Annual Spring Swing Golf Tournament
April 19

Ayden Golf and Country Club, Ayden

Seminar on Worship at Cragmont
May 17-20

John Williams—Seminar Leader

"The Cragmont" 28th Annual Golf Tournament
August 2-3

Happy Valley Golf and Country Club, Wilson

"The Cragmont" Golf Appreciation Getaway
September 16-19
Cragmont

Eastern Conference of Original FWB
October 24-26
Cragmont

A Cragmont Christmas
November 29-December 2
Cragmont

“WORSHIP: RETELLING THE STORY”

Worship is the single most important thing that the church does. Of late we seem to be very confused as to what worship is and how we should do it. Because worship is so important in our churches today, Cragmont Assembly is offering the seminar “Worship: Retelling the Story.” This seminar is more of a “why to” approach with the hope that the “how to” also will be answered as we proceed through the seminar. We have designed it to begin on Thursday evening, May 17 with the evening meal and end on Saturday, May 19 with lunch, allowing everyone to get back home for worship at their own church on Sunday.

The cost of the seminar is \$110 per person (lodge or motel) and \$95 per person for dorm space. Included: two nights lodging, evening meal on Thursday, three meals on Friday, and two meals on Saturday. Space is limited to motel, new lodge, and dorms, so register soon.

Name: _____

For health reasons, I require a ground level room.

Address: _____

Yes _____ No _____

City: _____

Building preference:

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

1st choice: _____

Church: _____

2nd choice: _____

No preference—Cragmont can assign

Return the above form with a \$50 deposit for each person (balance due upon arrival)

Mail to: Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711

For further information, call Cragmont at (877) 669-7677

2007 CAMP AND CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| April 13-15 | Morning Star |
| June 4-6 | Minister's Conference |
| June 6-9 | Dayspring Women's Conference |
| June 11-16 | Cragmont Youth Conference |
| June 18-23 | Christian Cadet Conference |
| June 25-30 | Youth Frontier Conference—YFA/AFC |
| July 1-8 | Bed, Breakfast, and Blessing |
| July 9-14 | General Youth Conference II |
| July 16-21 | General Youth Conference |
| July 23-28 | Young People's Bible Conference |
| July 30-Aug 4 | August Women's Conference |
| August 6-9 | Pee Dee Youth Conference |



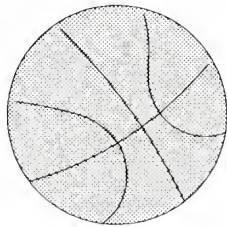
Work on the New Gym has begun.

CHURCH VISITATION SCHEDULE

A new year brings many things happening at Cragmont. Please take advantage of the opportunity to have Bryant Hines come and visit your church, class, group or auxiliary to keep you up-to-date with all that is going on. Call him at (252) 633-2683 or (252) 670-8424 or e-mail at <bryanthines5@earthlink.net> to schedule a visit to your church. Also, don't forget to check us out on the web at <www.cragmontassembly.com> for all the latest news.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE'S 24th Annual Basketball Church Night Saturday, February 17, 2007



**Scholarship awarded to
the church with the
largest attendance!
Drawing for
Door Prizes!
Half-time activities
for all ages!
Mount Olive College
Trojans vs.
Queens
University Royals
5 P.M., Women's Game
7 P.M., Men's Game
Kornegay Arena
Special Tickets \$1**

**To reserve your tickets,
call Tim Woodard in the
Admissions office today!
(919) 658-7793
(800) 653-0854
or e-mail:
<twoodard@moc.edu>.**

FALL COMMENCEMENT HELD

The largest graduating class in Mount Olive College history was challenged to establish goals and maintain values in order to be successful. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. Murphy Osborne, a dynamic motivational speaker who has spent his career in higher education. He went on to tell the 402 graduates, "The reason you are sitting here today is because you set a goal and you attained it. Maintain your values, set appropriate goals, and go out and change the world."

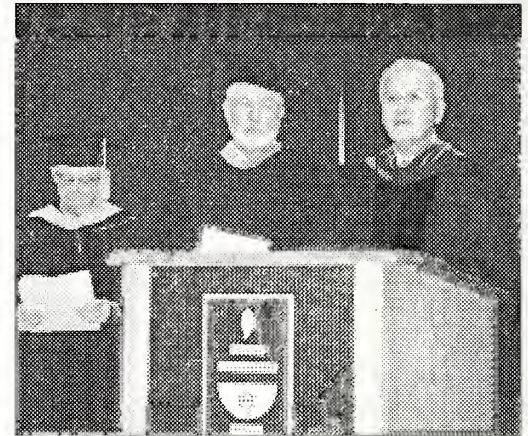
Throughout Osborne's extensive career he has spoken at over 20 different colleges and universities and served on 22 boards. "Mount Olive

is a miracle in the process," he assured the crowd. "By all measures, it should have died years ago. It has been kept alive by outstanding, tenacious leadership, devoted staff, outstanding supporters, a good product and a great deal of prayer. In recent history, its creativity and progress have been built on its past and has been an example envious of private colleges and universities across the south." Osborne finished by congratulating the graduates, "for selecting a college that not only offers a formal education but also offers it in a spirit of personal caring and concern."

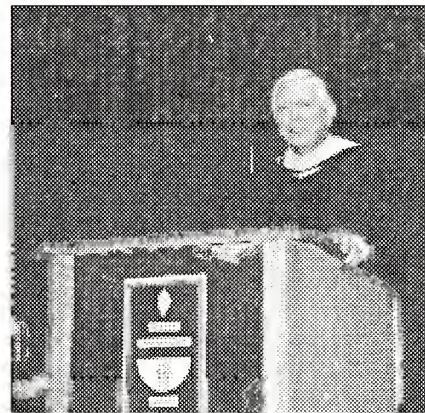
This 53rd graduation ceremony was held in the Kornegay Arena on Saturday, December 16, 2006. The total 402 graduating seniors included 150 from the Mount Olive campus, 35 from the Goldsboro location, 80 from the New Bern location, 62 from the Research Triangle Park location, and 72 from the Wilmington location. There were 3 graduates from the newly opened Washington campus.

The only individual honor—the Thomas R. Morris Award for academic excellence and a \$3,000 scholarship—was presented to David Marquez-Vivas of Venezuela. He graduated with high honors in biology and has applied for a veterinary internship in Las Vegas.

The president of the school's alumni association, Mr. Kenneth Randall Wilkerson, congratulated the new graduates. The college's concert choir and the Mount Olive Community instrumental ensemble performed special music; Johnna Nelson, a graduating senior, and Daniel Castro sang the national anthem; 2006 Class President Chase Smith offered the invocation and the Rev. Chris Wood, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, pronounced the benediction.



(L-R) Dr. Eugene Sumner, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee; Darrell Horne, Chairman, Board of Trustees; and President Byrd.



Dr. Murphy M. Osborne, Distinguished Friend of MOC, gave the Fall 2006 Commencement Address.

Dr. William Byrd, president, gave the closing remarks. He concluded by saying, "Be well, do good work, and stay in touch."

COMMENCEMENT WORSHIP MESSAGE: BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

by Ms. Marci Rollins-Smart

Prior to the graduation ceremonies, Mount Olive College held a special worship service in the Southern Bank Auditorium located in Raper Hall. Marci Rollins-Smart, the guest speaker, gave an inspirational message entitled, "Bloom Where You Are Planted."

Rollins-Smart is a 2002 graduate of Mount Olive College where she earned her bachelor's degree in religion. At MOC, Rollins-Smart earned several awards including the W. Burkette Raper Award for Excellence in Ministry, the Founders Leadership Award, and the Freshman of the Year Award. She completed her master of Divinity degree from Campbell University Divinity School in December 2006 where she received a full tuition scholarship.

Rollins-Smart has served as a graduate assistant at Campbell University Divinity School, a chaplain intern at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and the youth minister at Reedy Branch OFWB in Winterville. She currently is employed as an editorial assistant and writer of Sunday School literature for the Free Will Baptist Press. She is married to the Rev. Kelley Smart, associate pastor of Free Union OFWB near Walstonburg.



(L-R) Marci Rollins-Smart; Dr. Greg Day, Campus Minister; and Dr. Opey Jeanes, Vice President for Special Services.

Today is the beginning of the rest of your lives. In just a few hours you will walk across the stage in College Hall and receive your diploma. Okay, so you won't receive it right then—you'll have to wait until after the graduation service and then make your way over to the registrar's office and get it then! Nonetheless, today is a day you never will forget. You have worked hard to get to this point. For some, today will provide you with a degree needed for your dream career. For others, the degree you will receive today will be one of many degrees required to get you where you want to be. Regardless of which type of graduate you are, today is still the beginning of the rest of your life.

I remember well the months leading to my graduation from Mount Olive College in May 2002—just four and a half years ago. I remember deciding that a four-year degree in religion wasn't enough for me—that I needed to go to Divinity School. I remember how difficult it had been to make the decision as to which Divinity School to attend. I never had experienced that type of decision before—Mount Olive College had been the only college I had applied to after high school. And I remember trying

to find a youth ministry position that would work well with my Divinity School choice and schedule—and then being offered three jobs almost all at once and having to decide which one to accept.

Yes, I remember those stressful days very well. Looking back, I see how I made some good choices and I made some not-so-good choices during those times. Through it all, I can see God's hand at work in those decisions, which helps me now that I am facing many of those same decisions again. You see, I took my last exam in Divinity School last week—and I'll be walking across a stage to receive my Master of Divinity Degree in May. But this time, I'm less stressed, because I understand better than I did four and a half years ago that God has a plan for each of our lives—if we will be patient and follow God's will.

I think that is similar to what the prophet Jeremiah told the exiles living in Babylon in Jeremiah 29:4–14. Listen now as I read Jeremiah 29:4–14: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the

fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare. "For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. 'For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,' declares the LORD. "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, ' plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, ' and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, '

and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

This letter from Jeremiah was written to the Hebrews who had been exiled to Babylon very shortly after they were sent to live there. The nation of Judah had lost its political independence and was now a Babylonian province. While some of the Hebrews were sent to live in Babylon, others—such as Jeremiah—were left to live in the native country. Life in either place was not what the Hebrew children wanted. Those sent to live in Babylon felt their promised land had been taken away from them. Their worship of God was connected so closely with their nation and temple that they didn't see how it was possible to continue serving God in another land. Nor did they understand God to be with them there. Jeremiah wasn't in much better of a situation in Judah. The Babylonians had burned much of the city, including the temple and royal palace. Those around him were questioning how they could worship God without a temple—the very place they thought God lived.

In the midst of all this confusion and disappointment, Jeremiah had an encouraging word for the exiles. It probably wasn't what they wanted to hear. Jeremiah told the exiles that part of God's plan for them was to settle down in Babylon and wait for a better future.

Although we're in very different circumstances than the exiles in Babylon were, I think this passage from Jeremiah has very good advice for us. As we look at this passage more closely, I want us to seek God's direction for our lives and then be patient as it is revealed. As we do that, I think we will be able to do as the title of my sermon says, and "Bloom Where You Are Planted." Here's the first of three points.

I. In order to see God's will for our lives, we must search for God (vv. 12-14).

We spend a lot of our time searching for things, don't we? My husband is forever misplacing his keys or his

cell phone or his pager, and calls on me to help him search for them. Our T.V. remote was missing for a long time. We searched everywhere for that thing: on the floor, under the furniture, behind the couch, between the cushions—but it was nowhere to be found. We finally went out and bought another one! Of course, it turned up under the couch cushions one day not long after the new purchase.

What does it mean to search for God? God doesn't inhabit a physical body like we do—so searching for God isn't the same as looking out in the crowd today for your friends and family. So what does it mean?

Well, Jeremiah said in verses 12-14, "Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD." We search for God through our prayers, by attending Bible studies and church services, by reading the Bible and other religious materials, and so on.

And why do we search for God? So we can listen to what God has to say. God sometimes speaks in an audible voice—but most of the time, we hear God through the inspired words of others, through the reading of the Bible (God's Word to us!), and through the still small voice that comes to us in the form of the Holy Spirit. Much of our personal prayer time is spent listing off all the things we want God to do for us. We think prayer is about us talking and God listening. However, a better view of prayer is us stilling ourselves, being quiet, and listening to what God has to say to us. It is in that way, that we will come to see God's will for our lives.

Notice again the words in verses 13 and 14: "'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD." If we sincerely search for God with all our hearts, we will find God. And in that search, God will reveal the plan for our lives. But sometimes that plan takes a while. Which leads us to our second point.

II. Sometimes we need to settle down where we are and wait for a while (vv. 4-9).

Jeremiah's words to the exiles were much different than they were hearing from the false prophets and teachers. The false prophets and teachers were saying the Hebrews only would be in Babylon for a couple of years. But Jeremiah said, "No, try a lifetime—try about seventy years!" In other words, most of the people who would return to Judah when the exile was over weren't even born yet! So, Jeremiah told the exiles to build permanent houses, plant gardens, have children, allow their sons and daughters to marry and do the same. If they waited to do these things when the exile was over, there wouldn't be anyone to return to Judah. They might as well settle in and bloom where they were planted.

This passage reminds me of the story of a former Original Free Will Baptist missionary I met while doing some research on women in our denomination. Her name is Barbara Becton Gúzman, and she attended Mount Olive Junior College in the early 1960s. She left her home in rural eastern North Carolina to go be a short-term missionary on the Arizona/Mexico border the summer of 1964. She had anticipated returning home after six weeks and completing her four-year degree at another institution. However, she felt led by God to do differently. Recalling a book written by another Original Free Will Baptist woman—Joyce Proctor Beaman—Barbara decided to "bloom where she was planted." She remained in Arizona until 1999—working for the Lord in a variety of ways and settings.

Sometimes we think we have our futures all planned out. We know exactly what we want to do and exactly what we need to do to get there. But sometimes, God has other plans for our lives. Now that doesn't mean that God has predetermined everything that is going to happen in our lives and we have no choices in the situations. Ultimately, we have the free will to decide what to do and what

not to do. But at the same time, when we seek God's will and try to follow it, things tend to go a lot smoother!

Maybe you're one of those graduates who need to just wait a while—and bloom where you're planted. Sometimes when we rush into job decisions or decisions concerning furthering our education, we make the wrong choices. Sometimes we aren't ready for the responsibility that comes along with the career we ultimately want. Education can do a lot at preparing us for our careers, but sometimes time is needed as well. Maybe the job position you are in or the one you are being offered isn't what you ultimately want to do, but maybe you need to be in a lower position for a while before moving up. Remember most presidents had to prove themselves successful at being lawyers, or senators, or governors before being able to hold the chief position.

Whether we need to stay put for a while or if we are being led to move on, the third point of my sermon should reassure us all.

III. We can be assured God has a plan filled with promise and hope for our futures (vv. 10-11).

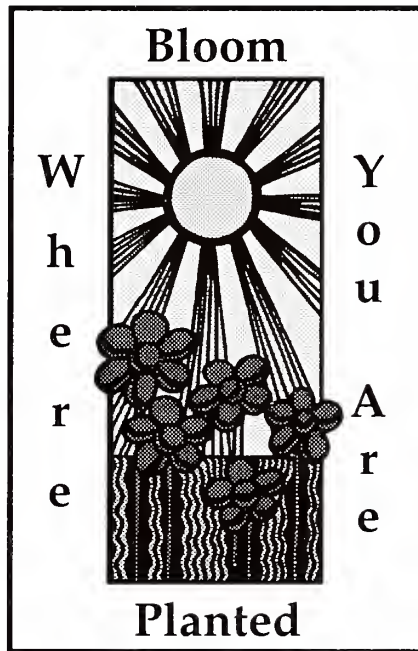
"'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"

Ultimately, Jeremiah said, God was going to restore the Hebrews to their promised land. Did it mean life was going to be a bed of roses for the Hebrews after their return? No—God doesn't promise that to any of us. Did it mean they would never be conquered by another nation again? No—God wasn't really all that concerned about building an earthly empire.

What it did mean was that God was going to make them a people—if they would seek God with all their hearts. And when they sought God with all their hearts, they would find that God was more concerned about their spiritual lives than about where they worshiped or lived. The ultimate hope for their future came in the form of Jesus the Christ. This is the ultimate hope

for our futures as well. It is through Jesus that we have the hope of forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life.

Just as there were two dimensions—a physical and a spiritual—to the hope and promise for the Hebrew children's futures, there are two dimensions to ours as well. As I just said, the spiritual dimension comes in the form of Jesus the Christ. The physical dimension is what is yet to be revealed.



As candidates for graduation, I'm sure you've been asked by many people recently, "So what do you plan to do now?" I hated that question four and a half years ago, because I didn't really know. Now that I'm about to graduate from Campbell University Divinity School, I still don't know what I'm going to do next. But I don't hate the question so much anymore. I know God has a plan for my life and I'm waiting for that plan to be revealed.

As the old gospel hymn states: "Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand" (Stanphill "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" 1950).

Things may not work out the way we want them to go—but with God leading us and guiding us, things will

work out to be better than we could ever imagine. Sure, there will be ups and downs in our lives. But God will be right there beside us during every stretch of the road—and will carry us through the tough times.

CONCLUSION

It must have been very difficult for the Hebrews in Babylon to hear Jeremiah's words. They wanted to return to their homeland, rebuild the temple, and reinstate their own king. But that simply wasn't going to happen. They needed to learn to place God at the center of their lives—and perhaps having to endure some things they didn't want to deal with was the best way for them to learn that lesson. Jeremiah told the exiles that part of God's plan for them was to settle down in Babylon and wait for a better future.

Today, I want us to seek God's direction for our lives and then be patient as it is revealed. Picture our lives as a puzzle. Where we are right now is just one piece of the puzzle. And we don't know what the whole picture is going to look like until the whole puzzle is put together. Furthermore, it is God who is directing us as to how to put that puzzle together. So in order to know how to put the puzzle together, we need to seek God and listen.

None of us know exactly where we will be planted in the future. But the important thing is to "Bloom Where You Are Planted." God has a plan for each of our lives—if we will be patient and follow God's will. Maybe part of that plan is to wait where we are and bloom in the soil we're in right now. Or maybe God is directing us to uproot and move somewhere else to bloom. Whatever the case may be—know that God has a plan filled with promise and hope for our futures.

I'll close with the words of Corrie Ten Boom, a Christian who ended up being sent to a concentration camp for her family's role in hiding Jews from the Nazis:

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a KNOWN God."

A TIME OF GIVING

The 2006 church dinners for Mount Olive College experienced another very successful year. As of January 3, 2007 gifts in the amount of \$506,888 have been received from the 18 county-wide dinners. "It is with deep gratitude to the Original Free Will Baptist Church that the 2006 Dinner report is presented below. With a generous spirit and much effort from more than 430 volunteers and many others, this report is made possible. One of the most rewarding parts of the dinners is the relationship the College shares with Free Will Baptists. We thank the volunteers, all those who gave, the Trustees, the Mount Olive College family who have been so supportive, and Free Spirit and the Mount Olive College Singers who provided a musical program at each of the 18 dinners," said Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support and coordinator of the dinners.

2006 FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH DINNER PROGRAM AS OF JANUARY 3, 2007

County	2005		2006			Over/ Under	County Chairman
	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Goal		
Beaufort	71	\$ 13,851	57	\$ 12,151	\$ 14,255	-\$2,074	Billy Gurkin
Carteret	63	11,520	71	11,935	11,550	385	Sheri S. Lewis and Edgar Pake, Jr.
Craven	87	20,820	90	22,025	22,025	---	Julie Wetherington Cox
Duplin	71	19,453	69	19,436	20,500	1,064	Tommy Benson
Edgecombe	59	10,641	81	12,231	10,600	1,631	Doug Owens
Greene	199	51,183	209	52,206	51,800	406	Randy Beaman & Genevieve M. Taylor
Johnston-Wake	216	58,405	222	58,727	57,000	1,727	Keenan Hinnant and Dee Farmer
Jones	37	8,290	38	8,460	8,375	85	Gene Burkett
Lenoir	136	26,030	161	28,464	26,900	1,563	Cleo S. Hinson
Nash	37	8,296	40	8,630	8,675	-45	John R. Manning
Onslow-Brunswick	18	3,895	23	3,620	4,150	-530	Ronnie Parker
Pamlico	32	7,015	32	7,285	7,350	-65	Judy Thaamun and Joy Caroon
Pee Dee	56	9,797	49	9,392	9,800	-408	Danny McPherson
Pitt	219	46,886	220	47,469	47,075	394	William Moore
Samp,Harn,Cumb	179	47,390	182	50,135	47,925	2,210	Ricky Warren
Wash, Mart, Tyrr, Pasq	73	21,253	70	20,671	21,425	-754	Lloyd W. Jones Jr.
Wayne	233	84,304	229	84,175	83,650	525	Barbara Lancaster
Wilson	231	51,289	209	49,876	52,125	-2,249	Johnny Sullivan
Dr. Billy R. Yawn—Special	1	5,000					
Special Gift—Anonymous	1	4,000					
Total	\$2,019	\$509,318	\$2,052	\$506,888	\$505,150	\$1,738	

SESSOMS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED

An endowed scholarship fund in memory of Henry Alvin Sessoms and his wife Ada House Sessoms, natives of Sampson County, has been established at Mount Olive College by their daughter, Dorothy S. Gant of Durham.

The scholarship will be a permanent endowment funded through a charitable gift annuity by Mrs. Gant and her late husband, James O. Gant. In selecting recipients for awards, priority will be given to members of whose families are related to Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church near Newton Grove.

At the time of the death of Mr. Sessoms in 1987, he and Mrs. Sessoms had been married sixty-three years; and at the death of Mrs. Sessoms in 1999, she was the oldest member of Oak Grove Church.

The agreement creating the scholarship declares that its purpose is "to provide a meaningful and lasting memorial to Ada House and Henry Alvin Sessoms" and "to provide financial assistance for worthy and qualified students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to attain an education."



The late Henry Alvin Sessoms and his wife, Ada House Sessoms, in whose memory an endowed scholarship has been established at Mount Olive College.

Mr. Sessoms grew up in the Salemburg Community, and at age seventeen helped haul on a two-horse wagon the bricks from Roseboro to build the Salemburg Baptist Church. For 48 years he worked in Sampson County for the North Carolina Department of Transportation and was honored by both Governors Terry Sanford and Robert W. Scott for his dedicated services. He helped to design and construct the "Circle" at Newton Grove.

Mrs. Sessoms was a homemaker and caterer, specializing in wedding cakes. Her father was the founder of House Milling Company, later known as House-Autry Milling Company.

In addition to Mrs. Gant, Alvin and Ada House Sessoms were the parents of Henry Curtis Sessoms, a staff Sgt. in the U.S. Air Force,

who died from an accident in 1961 at the age of thirty.

In establishing the scholarship endowment, Mrs. Gant expressed the hope that it would serve as a living memorial to her parents by providing a legacy of their lives of service to future generations.

PRESCOTT FAMILY HONORS HUSBAND AND FATHER

The family of E. Matthew Prescott has chosen an honorable way to give honor to their father and husband. They have named an office in the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall in memory of Matthew Prescott. Carol Prescott, wife, and each of their children were present for the Raper Hall dedication in November and are shown standing just outside of the office holding a replica of the plaque that will be placed at the entrance of the office. Standing from left to right: Jaclyn Ireland, granddaughter, Becky Prescott, daughter, Lynn Prescott, daughter-in-law, Carol Prescott, wife, Stephen Prescott, son, Phillip Prescott, brother, Nancy Prescott Dunham, daughter, Jonathan Williams, grandson, Pamela Prescott Ireland, daughter.



COMING EVENTS

MOC CAREER/JOB FAIR • THURSDAY, MARCH 15 • KORNEGAY ARENA

Connect with employers from business, government, and education to discuss career opportunities; network and build relationships with employers; and discuss internships, part-time or volunteer jobs, full-time or summer jobs. The Career Fair is from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. followed by the Job Fair from 1 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. For more information, contact Ann Peacock at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

HISTORY OF ELWOOD LANE

by the Rev. R. W. Allman and others

(The information in this article was compiled from previous articles that appeared in The Free Will Baptist on April 19, 1944, Vol. 59-No. 16 and December 2, 1953, Vol. 68-No. 47.)

The Elwood Lane Free Will Baptist Church was organized by the Reverend R. P. Sawyer, August 4, 1935, at the home of Mr. Flinn Eller, on Lane Street. Charter members were: the Rev. and Mrs. Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Safrit, the Rev. and Mrs. Paul Jenkins, M. L. Knowles, and W. C. Gentle. Since that time the church has developed into one of the most active organizations in the city. In 1953, the church boasted a membership of 193 and an average Sunday School attendance of 134.

When the church was first organized, regular services were held in private homes, all of which were located on Lane Street. After a few months of regular services in private homes, the congregation began to grow and a store building was rented in North Kannapolis.

Shortly after moving into the store building the time for electing a pastor was at hand, and since Mr. Sawyer had tendered his resignation as pastor, the congregation elected the Rev. Paul Jenkins, a licensed minister of the church, as their pastor. But he being only a licensed minister was barred from pastoring the church.

The Rev. J. J. Brooks, Moderator of the Beaver Creek Ministers Conference, and pastor of Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist church of Kannapolis, agreed to accept the church under his watchful care, appointing Mr. Jenkins as assistant pastor.

Under the direction of Mr. Brooks, a drive was made for funds with which to erect a new church in Elwood Lane. Mr. B. W. Durham donated a lot for the church and soon actual plans were underway for its construction. The new church was erected in 1936 on Central Drive in Elwood Lane. Mr. Brooks was elected pastor with Mr. Jenkins as assistant pastor. In 1937, Mr. Jenkins was ordained as a regular minister and was elected pastor of the church. The church also added five nice Sunday School rooms, and has purchased additional lots, adjoining the church lot, for the purpose of building a parsonage in the near future. By 1944, the church was debt free, and running on a full time basis, having services each Sunday at 11 o'clock and 7:30.

The congregation began construction on a new church building located on Central Drive along side of the old church in 1953. The new building was 36 feet by 76 feet with a full basement for additional Sunday School rooms. At that time, they had an active League, Woman's Auxiliary, Girl's Auxiliary, and sponsored Troop 46 of the Boy Scouts.

As of 1944, five men had gone out from the church for the purpose of preaching the gospel: the Rev. Paul Jenkins, the Rev. Bernie Griffin, the Rev. Everette Conley, the Rev. R. W. Allman, and the Rev. Robert Woodard. The Rev. David Parrish is the current pastor.



ROCK SPRINGS FWB CHURCH—BAILEY, NC

We have been busy at Rock Springs with lots of opportunities for our members to serve the Lord and participate in "fun" activities.

The Rev. Walter Blackman has been leading a Bible study group on Monday nights. This has been an inspiration and an opportunity to learn and discuss the Bible in a relaxed atmosphere.

In October our senior citizens group, "The Joy Club," took a trip to the mountains. They stayed at Cragmont overnight. What a wonderful experience to have devotions at Cragmont. Several members commented that you just cannot help but feel closer to the Lord while at Cragmont.

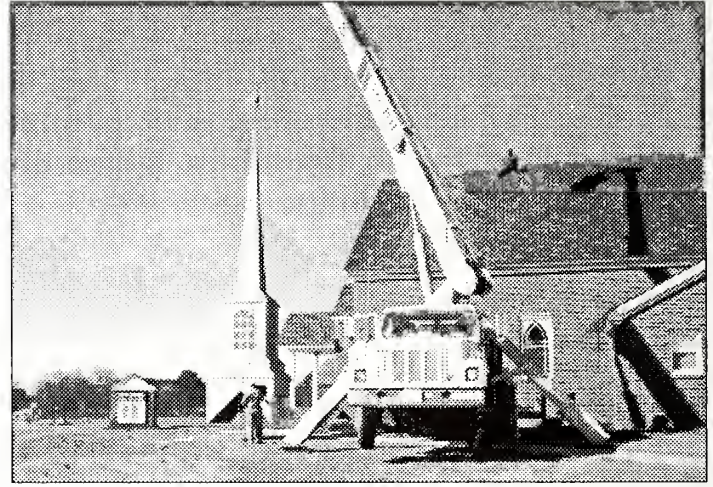
During our Homecoming service on October 15, we remembered our members who have gone on to be with the Lord from October 2005—September 2006: Annie Mae Tuck, Louise Perry, LaRue Manning, and Billy Joe Lamm. These wonderful saints have greatly influenced so many of our lives. What a comfort to know we will see them again when we will not have tears of sorrow or pain for missing them!

On October 28 we had a "Woman's Day" event. The day started with registration, breakfast, and door prize drawings. Rena Hill was our speaker/singer. Rena has a wonderful testimony to share about how sharing our scars can help someone else during their times of trouble. Rena is not only humorous in delivering her life experiences, but extremely talented. We were fortunate to have her share her talent and testimony with us.

In November we had our Harvest Day celebration with games and activities for our children. The teens were a tremendous help in preparing for this event and by running activity stations for our younger children.

Other fellowship opportunities came with our Pre-Thanksgiving meal prior to Wednesday night prayer meeting. We enjoyed getting together so much on that Wednesday night we followed up with refreshments after the Oak Grove Boys shared their God-given talent with us on November 19.

A group went to see the Meadow Lights near Benson on December 1. On December 3, another group went Christmas caroling to our members in nursing homes, shut-ins, etc. The Joy Club followed up on this with a Christmas meal at Strickland Dail Dining in Snow Hill and then taking poinsettias to our nursing home members. Strickland Dail



The roof was repaired under the steeple and the steeple cleaned during December.

Dining has such a wonderful buffet that the Woman's Auxiliary also went there for a Christmas meal.

We had the roof repaired under the steeple and the steeple cleaned during December.

In the midst of all of our Christmas events, the biggest event in December was our service on December 10 when we had a baptism service for 15 new converts to Jesus' family. When we have to pull chairs into the aisles for a service, that's a great day! We had brothers, sisters, cousins, friends, and families being baptized. The tissue box was passed around the church while tears of joy were being shed to know we will see these souls in Heaven! Some members were so small our wonderful pastor had to lift them in his arms for the appropriate photos by family members. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are: Ben Taylor, Seth Taylor, Danny Taylor, Frances Boykin, Caleb Edmundson, Josh Edmundson, Grant Sherrod, Brittany Eatmon, Justin Eatmon, Brandy Sharpe, Christina Boykin, Bridgette Boykin, Lauren Boykin, Erica Anderson, and Brianna Bass. What a Christmas present!

If you think this is a lot for the end of 2006, just wait until 2007. We are scheduled to have a sound system installed in the church along with new carpet and pews. And this is only the beginning!



*Don't Forget!
Valentine's Day is February 14.
Spread the Love of God!*

SMYRNA CHURCH STAYS BUSY DURING FALL

Submitted by Helen Smith

Fall was a busy time for Smyrna Church in the Meadow Community. We held our annual Harvest Festival and many members and friends joined together for a time of fun, food, and fellowship.



Pictured is Sunday School Superintendent Ricky Raynor presenting Gayle Whitman a container full of chocolate candy. Gayle won the candy by guessing the exact number of pieces of candy that was in the container.



Also pictured is Braden Raynor telling his mom, Susan, "I want that banana right there." Braden and Susan were sharing in the arrangement of fruit that adorned the communion table during the Thanksgiving season.

LOVE SHINES AT CHRISTMAS AT POWHATAN



Sandra Peedin, past-president of Powhatan's Woman's Auxiliary, directed the lighting ceremony for the annual "Tree of Hope." Each angel ornament represents the donation of \$5 to the American Cancer Society in honor or memory of a cancer victim and bears their name. Each name was called out during the service.

The Youth of Powhatan had their Christmas celebration with a covered dish meal and bowling outing on December 8. There were several visitors and many adults who came out to help support the young people.

The Woman's Auxiliary presented the pre-Christmas program on Wednesday evening, December 13. Some of the different symbols of the season were discussed as to origin and religious importance.

The annual "Tree of Hope" was celebrated on Saturday, December 16, to honor the memory and current struggles of victims of cancer. Started by member Vicky Bagley who lost her fight on Thanksgiving Day, 1999, the ceremony gives family members, friends, and co-workers a chance to remember their loved ones and raise support for cancer awareness and research. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the angel ornaments were given to those who had purchased them to take home as a keepsake. Powhatan thanks all who made donations and especially Lowe's Home Improvement for the donation of a live tree to be planted and used for future memorials. Around \$250 was raised for the American Cancer Society and will count toward the 2007 Johnston County Relay for Life.

The Christmas play on December 17 was a big hit and featured great scenery. The Victorian church front was left up with the lamp posts for several weeks following the play. The stained glass window at the top of the scene reflected colors across the ceiling of the sanctuary when the light was right. Thank you to Jeanette and Sandra Canady and Natalie Norris for directing and to all who took parts or helped with scenery, costuming, or just came and enjoyed the program which demonstrated that Jesus is truly the light of Christmas that should burn in each of us through the whole year.

LOCAL PASTOR TAKES HIS HEAVENLY FLIGHT

Tribute to The Reverend Eldon L. Brock

Pastor of Hillside Free Will Baptist Church, Grifton, NC

by Laura Yockey

(Reprinted by permission from The Times-Leader, Wednesday, January 10, 2007 edition.)

The former pastor of Hillside Free Will Baptist Church has, as sung at his funeral has gone to "Rest High Upon that Mountain." Rev. Eldon L. Brock, 74, beloved friend and pastor to his congregation and many in the Grifton area passed away on Decemeber 28, 2006.

Church members and friends share in the loss and memories of a caring man.

His wife of 51 years, Joyce Brock of Kinston, sat down to share her heart as she recalled what those who knew him loved best about him. "His kind, gentle caring ways," she began. "Wherever he went, people knew him, he never met a stranger."

"I think he would sit down and listen to anybody who needed advice and he could give it well," joined in Grace Braxton, a friend of the late pastor. "He was a good all-around Christian man, always concerned about people. He adored Burnie [Braxton's husband]" she said.

Sharing his heart, Mrs. Brock continued in her recollections of her husband. "He cared for people and he cared for their souls. He would go lacking for himself to be able to provide for someone else."

"He was a faithful truthful man of God," says parishioner Joann Jones-Mertens. "He was always there for me, no matter what, day or night."

Fellow parishioner Bud Lewis lacked no praise in speaking of his late pastor and friend. "You just can't find a better man than Preacher Brock," he said. "He is greatly missed."

Having been a licensed minister of the Gospel for 42 years and ordained for 37, it is no surprise that Mrs. Brock shares her husband's most joyful times were spent doing what he loved best, ministering with and for his people. "I think he was happiest when he was working for the church," she says adding that her husband loved people, good times at church, and his family.

After serving 12 years in Grifton as pastor of Hillside Free Will Baptist Church, Pastor Brock has left behind a congregation who greatly miss him but await their opportunity to see him again. As church member Joann Jones-Mertens put it, "I know God is proud to have [Pastor Brock] in His beautiful kingdom; he is home now. It's not goodbye, it's I'll see you in Heaven one day."

Having enjoyed Christian poetry and hymns, Pastor Brock enjoyed the poem *High Flight*, and songs like "Go Rest High Upon That Mountain," and especially, "I Will Meet You in the Mornin'." "He's right there waiting," says Mrs. Brock.

In addition to his wife and church congregation, Pastor Brock is survived by one daughter, Diane Johnson of Grifton and four grandsons, Scott and Tyler Gresham and Shaun and Brandon Johnson of Grifton.

His wife shares a favorite poem of her husband:

MISS ME, BUT LET ME GO

When I come to the end of the road
and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled
room; Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long,
And not with your head bowed
low. Remember the love that we
once shared;

Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all
must take, and each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of
heart, Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in doing
good deeds,
Miss me but let me go.

Author Unknown

**I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith... (2 Timothy 4:7).**



Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

2006 Honor Roll of Donors

for the The Press to \$125,000! Capital Campaign

This list represents gifts/pledges received since the Campaign's beginning on April 1 through the end of 2006. The "Press" offers its heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to our campaign. God bless you! If you would like more information on our campaign or would like the editor to come and speak to your church or group, you may contact the editor, Darren Davenport, by phone (1-800-849-3927 ext. 227) or by e-mail (editor@fwbpress.com).

Total Gifts/Pledges (as of December 31, 2006) = \$21,125

Foundation Builders (\$5,000+)

There are none at this time.

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There are none at this time.

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Rev. Wayne and Dr. Deborah King
Rose Hill FWB Church
Saratoga FWB Church
Stancil's Chapel FWB Church

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Ayden FWB Church
Becky Jo Sumner
Bethel Church (Cape Fear), Woman's Auxiliary
First Church, Greenville, Woman's Auxiliary
First FWB Church, Smithfield
Free Union FWB Church (Central)
Free Union Church (C), Layman's League
Free Union Church (C), Lydia Circle
Harrell's Chapel Church, Woman's Auxiliary

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Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lancaster
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Watson's Grove FWB Church

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

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April 13-15, 2007

Speaker: Ann Copeland

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

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June 6-9, 2007

Speaker: Joan H. Little

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Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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The DaySpring Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen,
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Bryant Hines, director of GYC I—(252) 633-2683; <bryanthines5@earthlink.net>.

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Refreshments will be served.

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Hate cannot destroy hate,
but love can and does. Not
the soft and negative thing
that has carried the name and
misrepresented the emotion,
but love that suffers all things
and is kind, love that accepts
responsibility, love that marches,
love that suffers, love that bleeds
and dies for a great cause—
but to rise again.

—Daniel A. Poling

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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- Hand deliver, or
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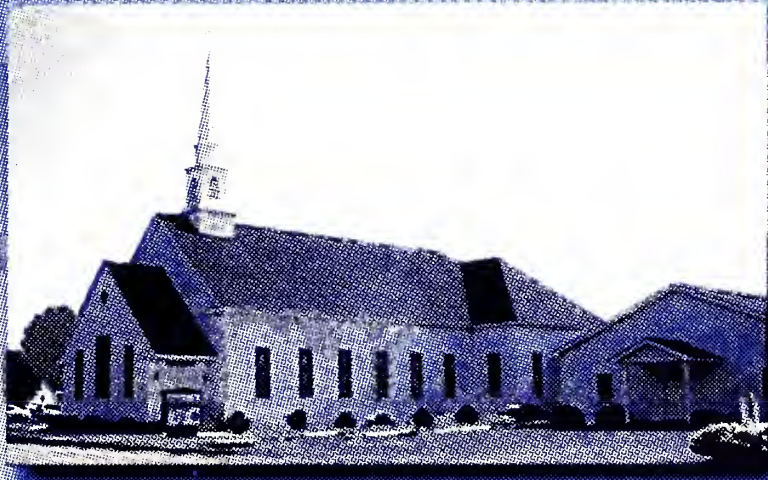
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March 2007



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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER March 2007



FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Central Conf. Layman's League, Winterville Church, 6:30 P.M.—dinner, 7 P.M.—business	6	7	8	9	10 Eastern District Youth Convention, Juniper Chapel, 9 A.M.
11 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Vivian B. Harris Memorial Lecture, Rodgers Chapel, 9:30 A.M.	21 FIRST DAY OF SPRING	22 Seminar: Spiritual Leadership in a Secular Age, Cragmont Assembly (22-24)	23 Donor/Scholarship Recipient Appreciation Luncheon Murphy Regional Center, MOC	24
25 OFWBI Telethon Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	31

COMING SOON:

April 3—Take Me Out to the Ballgame, MOC, 7 P.M., MOC vs. Kinston Indians
 April 13-14—Phi Beta Lambda, 50th Anniversary Celebration, MOC
 April 24—Central Conference Board of Ordination, First Church, Greenville, 10 A.M.

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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CONTENTS

March 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 3

FEATURES

- 6 Exploring the Shepherd Size Congregation: 50–150 Members
- 7 Is This What We Really Want?
- 9 Enabled by the Spirit

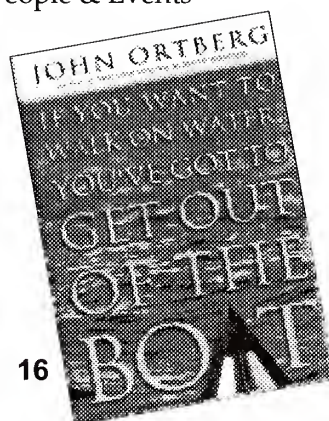
COLUMNS

- 4 Focus
by Darren E. Davenport, Editor
- 4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer
- 5 Readers Respond...
- 31 Golden Oldies



DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Monthly Planner
- 29 Camp Vandemere
- 30 NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 33 People & Events



DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 12 OFWB International
- 14 Children's Home
- 15 Home Missions & Evangelism
- 16 Retirement Homes Ministry
- 17 Sunday School Ministry
- 20 Cragmont Assembly
- 23 Mount Olive College

ON THE COVER

Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC. Be sure to read *Golden Oldies* on page 31.

POWER VERSE

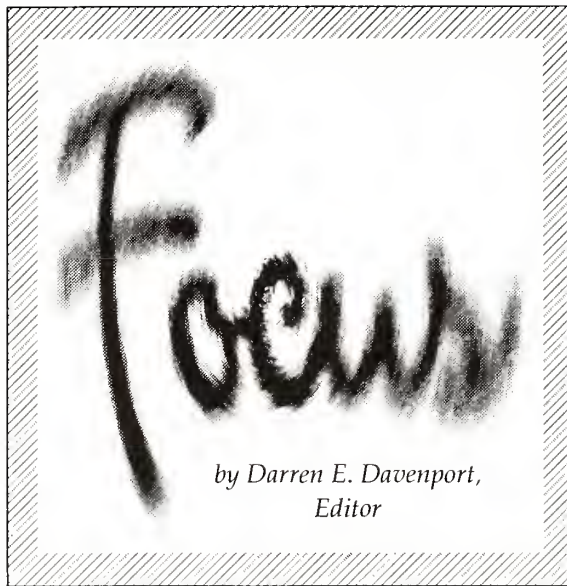
The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge,
and he overthroweth the words
of the transgressor (James 1:22).

RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

My oldest stepson, Joshua, will be turning 18 this month—18 years old! It seems like such a big number for a child, or should I say adult? He's certainly ready to be an adult, or at least he thinks he is. I believe he will find that he may need us just as much as ever in the coming years. The Bible teaches us that we should "train up [children] in the way [they] should go: and when [they are] old, [they] will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). My stepson is quite a mannerly and courteous person. I believe he is probably one of the most mannerly kids I know (no bias intended). Don't get me wrong, he has made some mistakes and has a "teenage" temper at times, like others his age, but I think he's equipped for his future. He plans to be a professional firefighter and has some good experience under his belt with his volunteerism. More importantly, though, he has been taught the importance of Christ and his personal relationship with Him. And even though he's not perfect, He knows that he can't go wrong when

he makes choices with Christ as His guide. I think he has learned valuable lessons, experience he will take with him.

Raising godly children, today is more difficult than ever. The world is working against us! But with Christ, they will prevail. Pray daily for your children. Be Christ-like examples for them. Pray that they will seek God as their Guiding Light. Children are gifts from God and we owe it to Him to be the best we can be—to seek His will—to give them the Foundation they need for the life ahead!



by Darren E. Davenport,
Editor

WHAT'S WRONG WITH "CHURCH"?

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

In the past few years, when riding throughout our part of the state, I've noticed that quite a number of churches have dropped the word "church" from its name and replaced it with the term "ministries." For example, Edison's Chapel Church has suddenly become "Back to the Truth Ministries." This has made me wonder if there's something suddenly wrong with the word "church." Has this word, as many others have in recent years, become offensive to some, or is it an effort to attract more people? If so, there must surely be better biblical methods. Of course, some would say that it really doesn't matter, which is the same logic as saying "Happy Holidays" is just as good as saying "Merry Christmas," but when such terms are no longer visible to the public's eye, the witness of the church is weakened.

A church consists of "called-out ones," coming from the Greek term, *ekklesia*. Believers in Christ Jesus have been called out from the world. Their purpose is to serve their Lord. The church is not like any other organization. It is of God, made up of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. All believers everywhere make up the universal, or world-wide church. Each local congregation serves as a unit of the universal church. While there are local congregations that are not associated with a denomination, most churches carry a denominational label.

The first mention of the Church in the New Testament comes from the words of Jesus in response to Peter's confession, "...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus' reply is powerful in its theological impact: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father, ...who is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:17-18).

In Old Testament times, God had His "called-out ones." C. I. Scofield in *The New Scofield Bible* writes: "The word 'church' ...is used of any assembly and in itself implies no more than a gathering of people who have been called forth...Israel was a 'church,' but not in any sense the N.T. church—the primary point of similarity being that both were 'called-out' and by the same God."

Christians constitute an assembly when they gather for worship, or for other purposes of ministry. There are many facets of ministry falling under the church, as well as others that fulfill a ministry separate and apart from the church. I will have to stand firm upon the words of Jesus. "I will build my Church." I am first and foremost a member of a church and I am a member of "the Church." I minister under auspices of my church. And so do all the "called-out" ones.



Readers Respond...

Editor: In the February 2007 article, "Adam, Where Art Thou?," it is asked why didn't God cry out for Eve. The term "man" often means humans or mankind—not just males.

Genesis 1:26-27: *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

God made man "in our image" and gave the plural male and female "man" dominion over creation. Full equality was the initial plan in the Garden of Eden. "Eve" was the name choice made by Mr. Adam for his mate in Genesis 3:20, but God did not ever refer to the woman as Eve.

Genesis 5:2: *Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.*

Why didn't the Lord call out, "Eve, where art thou?" Because the Lord used "Adam" as the name for them both and would never have called out for "Eve."

Rita Otto Jones
Powhatan Church

This forum gives readers an opportunity to participate in respectful, though often passionate, dialogue on important issues. Your opinion is welcomed! If you are responding to a previously published article, please remember to address articles only, not the authors, and limit your response to 200 words or less. Be sure to include your name, also. Responses with no name will not be published. Send your responses by e-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>, by fax to (252) 746-9248, or by mail to Editor, The Free Will Baptist, P.O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513.

Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Saturday, March 17, 2007
Smith's New Home FWB Church
Deep Run, NC

Registration: 9:30 A.M. — Starts: 9:50 A.M.

"Triumph Over Adversity" (1 Peter 2:21)

Judith Kennedy, guest speaker

Western District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Wednesday, April 4, 2007
Mount Zion FWB Church
Kenly, NC

Registration: 9 A.M.
Starts: 9:30 A.M.

Theme: **"Taking Jesus"**

Guest Speaker: Becky Jo Sumner



Directions to church:

From Wilson, take 42 West about 16 miles,
turn right on Hawley Road. Church is
located at the end of the road at the "T."

Youth Weekend/Revival

Jackson Heights FWB Church
285 Cameelia Street, Kinston, NC

March 16-18, 2007

Friday at 7 P.M.—*Willing Heart* in concert; Saturday at 6 P.M.—Youth Rally with guest speaker, Curtis Ramsey (all area youth invited); Sunday Morning—Youth are filling all capacities during Sunday School and Morning Worship. Austin Grant will be the youth speaker; Sunday at 6 P.M.—Youth testimony service.

Exploring the “Shepherd Size” Congregation: 50–150 Members

by the Reverend John Hill, Pastor, First Church of Goldsboro

As a student of the Original Free Will Baptist church, I am in constant thought on the issues that surround the work within our congregations. After reviewing our annual yearbooks from 2000 to the present, I wanted to explore the life of the average OFWB congregation whose membership is between 50–150 active worshipers respectfully. This exploration is intended to enlighten and encourage pastors who serve these style churches. All remarks and evidence is made in general and may be adapted to fit any local congregation. This and the following article, “Moving Beyond the 150,” are the results of my research.

Dr. Israel Galindo, Professor of Christian Education at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, wrote a well-developed book exploring the seemingly hidden forces within a congregation. Published by Alban Institute, *The Hidden Lives of Congregations* is one of the top five books for 2005. Through his contributions, and others like him, we can gain a perspective into the life of a “Shepherd Size” congregation.

Let us begin by making one pointed declaration: a congregation of 50 worshipers is as much a church as any 1,000+ member mega-church! God’s spirit is just as active, the Gospel is just as true, and the work is just as important in a small congregation as it is in a huge one. In the great sea of church growth books, a pastor can become disillusioned by the allure of the mega-church approach to ministry. Pastors too often regard their ministry as a failure in their attempt to grasp at the mirage of an impossible dream. God has called together your congregation for a specific purpose to a specific community to reach specific people for the cause of Christ!

What does a “Shepherd Size” congregation look like? This is any gathering of worshipers whose membership averages 50–150 attendees. It normally has one full-time pastor, but often will employ at least one part-time auxiliary staff person (music, secretary, youth, et.) The overarching characteristic is the primary role of the pastor.

The pastor is expected to function as “Chief Shepherd” of the flock. The congregation often will set high expectations forcing the pastor to become a micromanager and an overfunctioner working between 60–80 hours a week. It is apparent that by being overworked by the never-ending need for visitation and weekly operations, the work of developing and equipping laypersons for the work of ministry often is left underdeveloped, if not non-existent. This lack reinforces this dependency on the pastor. Such a dependency eventually will take its toll on the minister and the minister’s family. Emotional, physical, and spiritual burnout almost is inevitable and impending.

The dependency on the pastor is at times boundless. The pastor is expected to provide clear vision as well as set the pace for fulfilling the Christian mission. The task often is left up to the pastor while providing quality spiritual care of the congregation. The daunting task of knowing intimately each member of the congregation is primary.

Why are there challenges in growing a congregation over 150 worshipers? It appears that there are natural (or at times unnatural) challenges that seem to inhibit a church from moving past the 150 threshold. Admitting the 150 ceiling is quite fluid and may indeed come at 160, the threshold and the related

challenges are inevitable. As the congregation approaches 150 the group becomes anxious and conflicts will arise. The conflict itself is always meaningless and trifle; yet it will result in the numerical loss of members until the number rests fewer than 150. Magical? Hardly!

What’s with the magical 150? The magical 150 represents the maximum number of quality relationships one can maintain. Beth Ann Gaede edited a book discussing the transitions of congregations (*Size Transitions in Congregations*, Alban Institute, 2001). The approach of the magical 150 is a perceived threat to *what* and *how* the members intimately *know* each other. The anxiety within the church is related directly to a fear of the loss of intimacy. Countless times common phrases surface such as “I don’t know everybody anymore!” or “I don’t want to be just a number!” In congregations under 150, members know exactly who to call for what at any given time of need. As the church grows over this 150, critical mass members feel lost and disengaged.

It is a further challenge for the members in their access to the (previously) always available pastor. The pastor must start making appointments to visit and council the congregation. Comments avail such as “I’ve been a member for 30 years and now I have to make an appointment?” Often the necessity of adding staff becomes a challenge to the pre-150 mindset.

Many would agree that one staff person for every 100 persons is necessary to provide adequate and quality pastoral care of the membership. (This is assuming that one must minister to both those inside the church and those extended family members who are without a pastor.) However, often members will

fail to see the auxiliary staff person, or deacon, as an equal substitute for the pastor. Nonetheless, continued development of deacon ministry and the addition of staff will remedy the challenges of this transitional congregation.

The Shepherd Size congregation is an animal of its own species! It doesn't act like any other congregation size, nor does it require an average run of the mill pastor. This

common size congregation requires a pastor who is emotionally and spiritually in tune and less of a CEO micromanager. One cannot mistake busyness for effectiveness! The Shepherd Size congregation must foster quality relationships over structure! Through the above research and various interviews, it is apparent that a majority of our churches may be searching for pastors who can effectively facilitate

relationships between the pastor and the flock as well as among the sheep.

In the next article, "Moving Beyond the 150," I will seek to provide assistance to those congregations that have reached a plateau at the magical 150 threshold. Your comments and inquiries are welcomed. *Criticism produces scholarship!* Please e-mail me at <johnhill@bbnp.com>. ▲

IS THIS WHAT WE REALLY WANTED?

by the Reverend Mark Hogan
mhogan10010@yahoo.com

As I was watching a special on Anderson Cooper 360 about what it means to be a Christian, I began to wonder if this is what we really wanted.

Many reading this may remember the time post World War II, when it seems that this was truly a Christian land. At least, most of Middle America felt this way. We had a little slice of Ward Cleaver on every street. Then during the turbulent 60s the church began to lose its prominence and place in the wider culture. Suddenly, many of the things we took for granted were being called into question. Authority was being challenged. Sexual and moral barriers were being stretched to the breaking point. Mainline denominations accommodated their message to become less offensive. Bible believing Christians were mere characterizations of the Scopes Monkey trial. We were considered anti-intellectual unsophisticated rubes wearing overalls and smoking corncob pipes.

By the 1970s many evangelical Christians were feeling maligned and marginalized. Believers who felt that American culture was sliding into moral decline, began to galvanize around a few hot button issues. This movement was led by charismatic figures such as Jerry Falwell, Robert Grant, Pat Robertson, D. James Kennedy, and others. They rallied

fundamentalist and evangelical Christians against such issues as abortion, pornography, and school prayer. In short, they wanted a seat at the table and to be taken seriously once again.

Thus began the emergence of the religious right. Ronald Reagan was seemingly the first American President who really understood the power of this constituency in our country. One might say that the culmination of this movement was the election and reelection of unabashed evangelical believer, George W. Bush. According to the Pew Forum some 88% of traditional evangelicals voted for President Bush in the 2004 election.

We wanted to have a seat at the political table. We wanted to be taken seriously. We wanted to be heard. We wanted a little slice of the spotlight. That certainly has been accomplished. Pastor Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, is the number one bestselling nonfiction hardcover book in history. On Christmas Eve morning this year he was the featured guest on "Meet the Press." *The Left Behind* series has racked up some 60 million dollars or more in sales worldwide. "Larry King Live," regularly invites evangelical ministers to comment on current affairs. Joel Osteen, who has to house his congregation in a

converted basketball stadium, speaks regularly to major media outlets. It seems almost every week one can find some media outlet doing an analysis of evangelical Christians.

However, we also must realize that with this notoriety, comes a scrutiny. This is a scrutiny that we cannot control or manage. It is a scrutiny that heaps all "Bible believing Christians" into one big pile. We certainly have no control over whose face is slapped up on the TV screen as "speaking" for God. And don't forget how much we love scandals in this country, especially religious scandals. Within a month, two prominent evangelical pastors were "ousted" due to homosexual affairs.

I suppose the question is, how has this emergence into the public square impacted society as a whole? Are there fewer abortions? Is there less pornography? Are there fewer divorces? The Barna Group states that "Among married born-again Christians, 35% have experienced a divorce. That figure is identical to the outcome among married adults who are not born again: 35%" (*The Barna Group Website*). Although abortion rates are falling, is there data to suggest that it is related to our emergence into the public square? Maybe—maybe not. Pornography is a 12 billion dollar a year business in the US alone, and 57 billion

worldwide. Do you think that the trend in our culture is generally toward righteousness?

I am afraid that we somehow believed that if evangelical Christians only had a seat at the political table these tragic trends would reverse. Of course, they haven't. So then, the question becomes, what is the believer's biblical responsibility in terms of the socio-political environment? Are we too closely linked with a particular political philosophy truly to be the church that Christ desires? Have we started to read our theology through partisan political spectacles? I would suggest that for the church to be the church, it must be above and beyond any political party affiliation. It must be truly independent in order to challenge the political power structures or principalities and powers. Someone said that the church is not designed to reflect the spirit of the age but to correct it. How can we do that when we are too closely aligned with any political party and its agenda? A statement by a church member has stayed with me. She said, "I think that if Jesus came to this world He would be exactly like Rush Limbaugh." Rush may be a broadcasting genius, but he isn't Jesus. This spurred much personal soul searching within me and caused me to begin to reflect seriously on our civic responsibility. What makes us distinctly Christian in the public sphere?

As Christians, we understand our basic civic responsibilities of submission to governmental authority, paying taxes, praying for our leaders, and caring for the poor. We remember such Scriptures as:

- "Everyone must **submit himself to the governing authorities**, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those

who do so will bring judgment on themselves" (Romans 13:1-2 NIV emphasis added).

- "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for **kings and all those in authority**, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV emphasis added).
- "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be **openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy** in your land" (Deuteronomy 15:11 NIV emphasis added).
- "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to **preach good news to the poor**. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed**" (Luke 4:18 NIV emphasis added).

Thus, it is imperative that the Christian take his or her civic responsibility seriously. However, it is dangerous for us to think that spiritual problems ultimately will have political solutions. We must approach our "Christian Politic" with a caution from the Apostle Paul where he warns us to, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV). Jesus said, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16 NKJV).

In the C.S. Lewis timeless classic, *The Screwtape Letters*, an elder demon is instructing a novice demon on how to tempt a young Christian he is assigned to tempt. When it comes to politics, he gives the young demon the following advice:

"About the general connection between Christianity and politics, our position is more delicate.

Certainly we do not want men to allow their Christianity to flow over into their political life, for the establishment of anything like a just society would be a major disaster. On the other hand we do want, and want very much, to make men treat Christianity as a means...a means to anything—even social justice" (126).

During the 1980 presidential campaign, Ronald Reagan asked the nation, "Are you better off now than four years ago"? Perhaps we should ask the question, are we better off than we were 20 years ago? So whether you watch Fox News, CNN or CBN to get your daily dose of political information, no matter if you consider yourself Democrat, Republican, Independent, or Green for that matter, if you are a believer, you must consider yourself a Christian first. While we do not need to withdraw from the public square into the kind of cultural isolationism that may have led the country down some of these destructive paths to begin with, perhaps we do need to step back and reflect theologically rather than only respond emotionally. Perhaps we need to trade in our political blinders for spiritual glasses. Maybe we need less voting guides and more spiritual guidance. I say this as one who has as staunch an evangelical voting record as anyone. Perhaps we need to be reminded of the words of one of the oldest and greatest Christians of an earlier generation, who said, "Revival does not begin with the masses. It begins in the hearts of individuals who long to know and taste the goodness of God's eternal mercy and grace" (Charles G. Finney, quoted from In Touch Ministries Website). Perhaps we need to be reminded that our first and greatest mission is to make disciples.

Is this what we really wanted? Maybe its time to begin an earnest conversation about what kind of political legacy we want to hand to the next generation of Christians. ▲

Enabled by the Spirit

(The following sermon was presented by the Reverend Johnny Sullivan at the Central Conference meeting held on November 9, 2006 at Marlboro Church, Pitt County.)

Each day pastors and churches must be ready to face many challenges and obstacles. Along the journey and in front of every servant leader are curves, bumps, and mountains to climb. When in the trenches of ministry and facing the burden of spiritual giants, we must be reminded that God is always there to fight and go with us. Together the church must be focused on its mission and pinpointed in its desire to face many challenges. Before us is the call to share the Gospel, meet needs, and plan for the future.

It is assuring today that God's Word states emphatically through Isaiah that **God will hold our hand!** God is a victorious God. Jesus is the all time, undisputed, undefeated champion of love and the Gospel message is what all people need.

The Bible says in Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (NKJV). We must look to God and be reminded, as Isaiah was, that the same God who provided strength, help, and protection then, will supply today.

A.W. Tozer wrote a book titled *How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit*. Listen to what Tozer says: "Our Lord Jesus Christ advertised that He was going away to the Father and He was going to send back for His people a wonderful gift, and He said, "Stay right here until it comes, because it will be the difference between failure and success to you" (28).

I hope this morning that we notice what Tozer is saying. In essence he is telling us that the difference between failure and success is relying upon that precious gift, the Spirit of God. Ladies and gentlemen, we must rely upon the Spirit of almighty God as

His church, the Central Conference, and the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination to enable us to minister, manage, motivate, and mentor in the local church.

I believe we must rely upon the Spirit of God today more than we ever have before. God can and is able to do all things but we must make a commitment to surrender to the cause of Jesus and make ourselves available to Him, no matter the demand. The question that needs answering is this: "Are we willing to do our part or will we be slothful, lazy, and disobedient?"

I praise the Lord that He has a way of taking ordinary people and using them to do extraordinary things. Our churches are full of gifted and talented people waiting to be used by God. I am reminded all the time of the many misfits God used. For example, God used:

- Simon Peter to preach his greatest message and have his greatest ministry after he denied the Lord.
- Moses was a murderer.
- Jacob was a deceiver.
- The Apostle Paul was a thorn in the side to the early church, yet he saw the light on the Damascus Road and became a great patriarch for Jesus Christ.

The journey of the Christian has many twists, turns, and spins; yet, the assurance of Jesus Christ makes the task at hand easier to tackle. We must learn from our past and let that foundation teach us what we need to do as we embark upon the future. God's people must bind together. We need to bathe our churches, the Central Conference, and this denomination in prayer and recommit ourselves to the road before us.

In Isaiah 41, we see several

assurances from God. They are the promise of His presence, His person, and His power. For us to continue in ministry we, too, must rely upon these truths as we follow the destination God has before us. Over and over in this text God is telling His people ...*Fear not, I will help you* (v. 13 NKJV).

God's presence can trample fear. In the New Testament, the Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." In this passage the Apostle Paul is exhorting and cheering Timothy onward. Let me tell you something my friend, the spirit of fortitude, diligence, and victory is needed today in our churches and this must begin in the pulpit.

Brethren, we have the gospel story to share. Share it with passion, fervency, and desire. We must look forward to a new day in Jesus Christ and encourage the unsaved to come to Christ, the apathetic to get involved, and people filled with pride and arrogance to get their attitudes off of themselves and set it on Jesus! Every time the clock ticks it is saying, "Now, now, now." Many want to put off until tomorrow when God is calling us to get it done today. Too many people say, "Someday, things will be better in my life. Someday, I will have a better relationship with God and enjoy more of His goodness." Unfortunately, someday never comes. **TODAY IS THE ONLY DAY WE HAVE** and it is time we get up and start moving as God's people. The same God who promised to be with Isaiah is promising to be with you and your church as you serve the risen Lord. The presence of God, promised to lead us in ministry, is available right now.

The Bible says in Job 42:2: "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee," in Luke 1:37, "For with God nothing shall be impossible," and in Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

You and I cannot do this alone! Our God is on the throne. He is alive forevermore! That should compel us to a stronger passion and will to be our best for Him. To serve, we must remember that we have been enabled by the Spirit. This call is not to those of us just in the professional clergy, but to all the gifted and talented believers sitting in our congregations.

Christians must dedicate themselves to prayer and study of the Word of God. Young and old must be willing to walk through the open door of opportunity. This might mean leaving our little comfort zone and heading into uncharted territory. To be effective, the church must grab the hand of Jesus Christ as He reaches out and walk with God in faith through the process. To use God's gifts and talents in service, we must rely upon God's power as He enables us to minister. Beloved, rely upon His Spirit and His presence as He directs. There is work to be done, ladies and gentlemen, and it will take effort on our part to fulfill the destiny God has before us.

The people in our congregations are going to follow our spiritual temperature. Either we are on fire for Jesus Christ or we are cold. Either we want our churches to grow spiritually and numerically or we want them to die. We cannot sit idly by any longer nor expect anyone whom we serve to do a thing we are not willing to first do ourselves. Jesus set examples for others to live. The pulpit must set the example for people in our churches to follow. They need to see God's servant leaders wrapped up in prayer, Bible study, humbleness, conviction, and a loving heart. The day and time of excuses is over.

People are dying every day and going to a Devil's Hell. The good news is that this war is not over, even though we may have lost some battles along the way. God promises to abide, but we must make the commitment to be loyal and faithful to whatever almighty God directs us to do.

Revival is needed in our land and this can start in the Central Conference. Ladies and gentlemen, we must not fear tomorrow. We must face the future in gratitude and thankfulness for yesterday but in belief that God will provide. As stated already this morning, God will do His part. Are we willing to do ours? Listen to these famous quotes: (1) "Success is finding the way God is going and going that way!" (2) "The train of failure usually runs on the track of laziness" (unknown). (3) "A winner makes commitments, a loser makes promises" (unknown). (4) An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it" (Orlando A. Battista). (5) "Ability will enable a man to get to the top, but it takes character to keep him there" (Anonymous). (6) "Life can only be understood by looking backward, but it must be lived by looking forward" (Søren Kierkegaard).

These truths should be the rally cry of every church and minister represented here today. God's power will support, sustain, and strengthen us as we move forward. We must be a people of vision and make viable plans for the future. Only God knows the day and hour that Jesus will return. And until then, we must remember what these passages of Scripture tell us: (1) 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2) Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

Today the ministers of our denomination must look to the Spirit of God to effectively manage the church.

A good manager is one who will plan, coordinate, delegate, follow, market, and lead. To be effective, a child of God must seek God's power and wisdom. The church cannot be lackadaisical in its approach and continue to watch the moral decay of society. The church needs to do something now in the name of Jesus. We must allow ourselves to be enabled by the Spirit as we manage God's work. Christians must take a stand and bind together for the sake of Jesus and His church. This takes time men and women; time spent in prayer and submission to God to heed as the Holy Spirit directs.

Each church should set goals, define our present situation, identify any barriers ahead and develop a plan or set of action for reaching the standard set.

Pastors should: Follow Jesus, study, pray, work hard, serve with and through people, be responsible and accountable, set priorities, be an example, think spiritually and conceptually, meditate, and look to Christ when difficult decisions come.

The church must: Rely upon the Bible, the precious Word of God as the foundation as we manage the affairs of the Lord Jesus Christ. In operating under His care, we can fulfill the purpose God has before the church as we go forth to share the Gospel. To accomplish this, the church must stand on the promises, seek His guidance, and plan for the future. Research has proven that formalized strategic planning pays off. Pastors must manage and continually monitor all facets of the church so that the organization can adapt to new situations and repair existing ones. That plan includes managing God's work today and if tomorrow comes, being prepared.

Motivation is needed in our churches and it must begin in the pulpit. Motivation channels, causes, and sustains people's behavior. Every day pastors are working with and through people for the cause of Jesus Christ. The adversary on the other hand is out there beating up society. It is important we share the truth

from God's Word and encourage God's people to reflect Jesus Christ in everything they do or say.

Too many Christians and congregations live defeated. Robert Collyer said this, "At some time in our life we feel a trembling, fearful longing to do some good thing. Life finds its noblest spring of excellence in this hidden impulse to do our best." The world is full of overly cautious people who are waiting for a perfect time before ever doing anything. Deep down, people want to feel useful and important. They want to belong and to be recognized as individuals.

As we shepherd the flock, we must make sure each person and ministry of the local church feels important and useful. It is important to keep those we serve with informed and listen to their viewpoint. This sharing of information will help harmonize routine decisions and will please God and the parties involved. Compromise is the language of Satan and too many are giving into his desires and plans.

Pastors, let us positively reinforce our people. Leadership is the process of directing and influencing the activities of those within our group toward a set of projected goals and standards. God has outlined for us in His Holy Word what we are to do. Therefore, let us be busy bodies insuring that what we have promised God to do, that we will do.

Each day is a gift from God wrapped up in His love. The church has been enabled by the Spirit. Let's be proactive!! Be an encourager and not a discourager to your fellow believers and those who need Jesus Christ. Motivate them to give their life to Jesus, serve the Lord and His church. We have been enabled by the Spirit of God and there is no need to be afraid.

To establish a foundation for the future, the church must rise above the horizon and mentor its next set of

leaders. A mentor will guide and encourage less experienced members. Moses was a mentor to Joshua; Jesus was a mentor to His disciples. Who are you willing to mentor?

Life affords no greater privilege or responsibility than leading the next generation. The youth and young adults are not the church of tomorrow. They are a part of the church right now! We in leadership positions must accept the challenge and duty to help the church from this generation to the next. It is crucial that we accept this task at hand right now and not delay it any further. Tomorrow's leaders are in your local church. Are we encouraging them to serve Christ? Are we encouraging them to answer the call to full-time service in the Gospel ministry? Are we challenging them to go beyond the open door? Are we helping them along the way, the same ways many that have gone on to be with the Lord helped you and me years and years ago?

To shape the future of our churches, the Central Conference, and this denomination, this process must begin immediately. For too long, we have waited for the right time. Beloved, there is no better time to begin than right now. It is important that those of us who have valuable lessons to share take the opportunity to be seasoned veterans and show those who have the potential and desire to serve God the way.

The scope of this text today and this message is to silence any fear and encourage our faith. Just remember this passage today from Isaiah 41: 8-13: *But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not;*

for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

The enemy is all around us and there is much to be alarmed about. May we depend upon God who is always present and all-sufficient? Every pastor, lay-person, and church represented here today has been enabled by the Spirit. Now is the time to move, my fellow Christian. It is time to minister, manage, motivate, and mentor. The Apostle Paul stated emphatically, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Don't wait for the perfect time to begin. Are we willing to do our part or will we be slothful, lazy, and disobedient? Rely upon the Spirit of God as He enables us to make an impact for Christ in our churches, communities, the Central Conference, and in our denomination. ▲

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FREE WILL BAPTISTS REACHING AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL THROUGH

Foreign Missions
OFWB International



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Dear Friends,

The month of March is Foreign Missions Month in our church calendar. During this month we encourage all churches to emphasize missions in their Worship Services and Sunday Schools. This is the month we have our Annual Telethon for Foreign Missions. Our goal this year is \$200,000.

I cannot over emphasize the importance of this Sunday to our ministry. Our budget for 2007 has increased due to the weakness of the US dollar in the countries where we work. We need to expand the work on every field, but to do this will require that all of us see the lost as they are without Christ, with no hope for eternity. We must determine to pray fervently, give sacrificially, and witness boldly that all people, world-wide, will have the opportunity to trust Christ as Savior.

Thank you in advance for what you will do on Telethon Sunday, March 25, 2007.

With a burden for the lost,

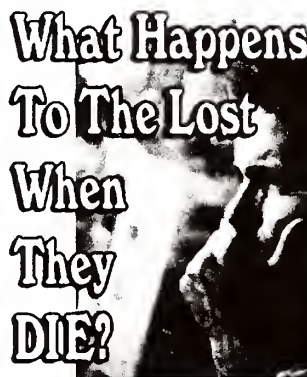
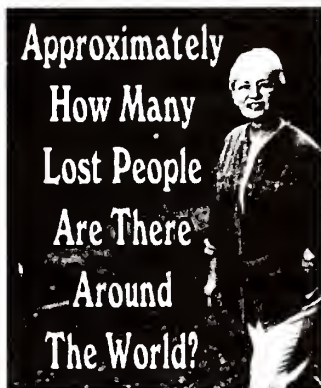
Harold Jones
Executive Director

Foreign Missions

Annual Telethon

TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007

THEME: THE LOST • THEME VERSE: LUKE 19:10



The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is an excellent time to express our love and thankfulness to God for His rich blessings through prayer and giving.

Goal 2007: A total of \$200,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if we who are saved will open our eyes, see the lost, and give from a heart of compassion to reach those who are spiritually dead.



PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:00 P.M. Dial (252) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will bear testimony of your unselfish desire to share the Life of Christ with the lost around the World.

A CHEERFUL GIVER BLESSES GOD AND GOD BLESSES IN RETURN.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 25, 2007.
True prayer cries daily for revival and sees the world with a broken heart.

.....
• **PRAYER GOAL MARCH 25, 2007:** •

• All churches joining together in united •
• prayer during the Morning Worship Hour •
• in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY! •
.....





“CHANGE FOR CHILDREN”

We will begin preparations for our 2007 Change for Children Campaign later this month. Letters will be mailed to the churches urging them to start praying now for this campaign.

With your support, we will continue to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of the children we serve.

PROGRAM UPDATES

In collaboration with the Environmental Interventions in Children's Home Project of University of South Carolina, a Wellness Team was formed at the Children's Home. This team consists of staff and residents. This project will be ongoing for 2 years. The goal of the team is to build awareness among residents (and staff) of healthy eating habits. They encourage the residents to try new foods, and have added additional fruits and vegetables to the daily menus. Also, in February an exercise program/schedule was implemented.

With this program, the residents are able to learn healthy eating habits and participate in exercises, all while having fun.

NEEDS LIST

Cleaning Supplies

Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent

Personal Care items (antiperspirant for boys and girls)

Laser Jet Printers for cottages (call for details)

Exercise Bicycle

Handheld GPS Navigation units (2)

Valances and Curtains for Cottages

Cage Ball 72

Mini Blinds for Cottages (call for sizes)

Vinyl Shower Curtain Liners

Microwave

Twin Sheet Sets & Comforters

CAMPUS VISITS

On January 26, members of Pilgrim Home Church came by to drop off supplies that had been collected by the woman's auxiliary.



(L to R) Dorothy Whaley, Annie Mae Moore; President, Inez Coombs—Pilgrim Home Church, Kinston, NC.

On February 6, members of Pine Level Church came for a visit to drop off bicycles, bed linens, and other much needed supplies. The Philathea Sunday School class started the collection drive, but it soon became a team effort, as the church and visitors added donations to the collection.



Members of Pine Level Church, Pine Level, NC

We thank everyone who takes time out to visit and share with the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. We will strive to continue providing the best possible care for His children.



CLOSED FOR REPAIR ???

by the Reverend Bobby Futrell

What would you do if you showed up for church one Sunday and a sign on the door said, "CLOSED FOR REPAIR!" "Come back at an unknown future date; maybe things will be better." I'm sure you would be incensed, or at least a little ill, that a church would be closed for REPAIR!

May I offer another hypothesis? Three hundred seats sit mostly unoccupied, because people hate to invite others "cause they'll see this mess of ours!" Some folks would be so proud but not the folks at Free Spirit; they come meeting after meeting because they come for a proper reason—they come to praise the Lord.

If you will take time to "reason together" with me, you'll see a devoted group of people who feel that had it not been for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Free Will Baptist Board of Home Missions and Evangelism we'd have nothing! Our floors may have settled un-level, our walls may be settling out of plumb, and our 'crawl space' may have been flooded and remain wet, but we have Jesus as our Lord and Savior; and, anyway we're on our way to Heaven; what difference do these minor inconveniences matter?"

This small but growing group of Christians may have its problems with facilities but no problems with the Facilitator. They each know and are willing to say "...I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12), and they are persuaded that He is able not only to keep that which they have committed, but daily rely on His sustaining them in their individual walk with Him! How about it folks? Wouldn't you like to be a part of a fellowship like that? How about it fellow ministers? Wouldn't you like to share with a congregation with such purpose?

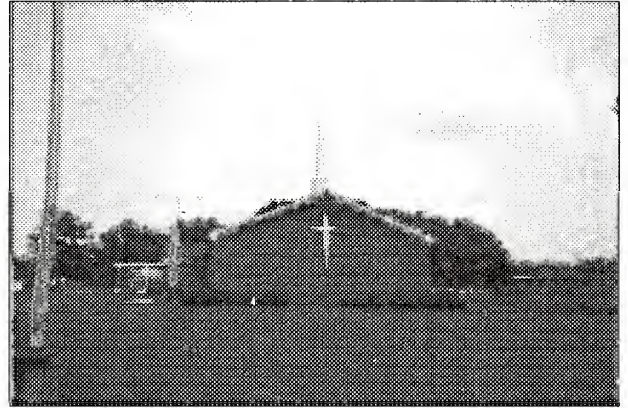
These people come together with only one hope. That hope is not that someone will help them overcome the problems of their place of worship's disabilities, but that others might come to know the Supplier of all good gifts and graces, the One who gives them the most un-alterable and unfailing of all power, the One who ever lives and makes intercession for them, the Lord Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God!

If you would like to be blessed the way they (we) are blessed you can do one or more of several things:

1. Pray for them (us) daily,
2. Come visit with them (us) any time they (we) are assembled,
3. Send help to assist them (us) as they (we) continuously strive for improvement,
4. Receive a special offering for Home Missions and Evangelism so they (we) may help others come to Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God as their (our) personal Savior!

Does your church need a special blessing? Remember Malachi 3:10 says, "Try it and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts," *Just see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it ...*" (added italics are my interpretation).

For all and each one of us at Free Spirit, may I say our prayer for you is just like Numbers 6:24-26 says: "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."



Free Spirit Mission/Church—Wilson, North Carolina



The Reverend and Mrs. Bobby Futrell



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

by Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director

Greetings from your Retirement Homes Ministry. The Board of Directors and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all our churches and individuals for their generous donations during 2006. We were concerned for a while that we were going to fall really short in making our budget for the year. You came through and our revenue during the last two months was great. We only missed our projected revenue for the year by about \$800. Praise God!

In the January Issue of the *The Free Will Baptist*, I issued a challenge to all our churches to take a special offering for Retirement Homes to help us do some repair work and also to purchase a new lawn mower for use around the property.

The challenge has been met by several of our churches and a big thank you goes out to First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro for their donation that will purchase the lawn mower we need. They took this on as a project and completed it in short order. Isn't it amazing what God can do when we let Him work?

The Disability Equipment Availability Program is in high gear. As our people have begun to learn of this program, the request for equipment has increased. At the time of this writing, Retirement Homes has on hand only one wheelchair, two hospital beds, and no lift/recliner chairs. If you know of anyone who has these items around their homes that they do not need and would like to donate them, please let me know so I can make contact. I hate to have to tell our people that I cannot help them because all of our equipment is already out. Help if you can.

I would also like to thank the pastors for inviting me to come and speak in their churches about the Retirement Homes Ministry. It is great to get to meet brothers and sisters in Christ from so many of our churches. It continues to bless my heart when I see our people doing exactly what our motto says, "People Helping People in Jesus' Name."

IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER, YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT

A Book Review by Ray Wells

Author: John Ortberg

Theme: To challenge the church membership to exercise their faith by becoming true followers of Christ, not just in words, but by a willingness to move out of their comfort zone.

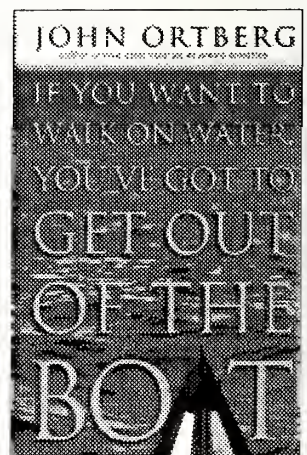
The author uses as a spring board for his book, the story of Peter walking on the water found in Matthew 14:25-33. In the first chapter, he challenges the comfortable pew syndrome of the average church member.

We are asked at the very outset to put ourselves in Peter's place and decide whether we will follow the call of Jesus to step in faith into the storm or to remain safe within the confines of the boat. That is the challenge the reader is faced with in every chapter of this very thought provoking and challenging book.

Our boat, according to the author, is whatever we are tempted to trust in, especially when life becomes a bitter storm. Our boat is whatever pulls us away from the high adventure of extreme discipleship.

This book is one of the most practical books I have read. It should be a must read for every OFWB minister and church member. As you read the book, you will hopefully discover for yourself, as I did, if you are up to the challenge to get out of the boat. The book closes with this word from the author, "This is your chance of a life time. It is time to do something religious. Just remember one thing: 'If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat.'" (203).

If there ever was a book to challenge us as a church and denomination, this book is the one. It is time for us to accept the challenge of doing something great for God, but we can't do it sitting in the boat (pew).





OFWB SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY: THE CINDERELLA SISTERS

by Pepper Worthington, Professor of Literature and Language, Mount Olive College

CINDERELLA SISTERS

"No cooking! No cleaning! No dusting! No hoeing! No mowing!" exclaimed a Cinderella Sister as our group of thirteen bounced our way up the North Carolina highway toward our retreat haven in Black Mountain. Cragmont awaited the caravan of Cinderella Sisters, a group initiated into hilltop existence by the forever creative Mary Dudley, director of the OFWB Sunday School Ministry.

Entering into this special collection of Free Will Baptist ministers' wives and widows, I asked high-spirited Mary, "How did you choose the name Cinderella Sisters? We are not like Cinderellas, are we?" I asked as David Charles Hansley drove us out of the flatlands of North Carolina into the rising smoke-shadowed mountains of our state. Black Mountain beckoned us, because the journey of this group of wives and widows was a journey of bonding. Glue isn't the only thing that holds things together. Free communication under the umbrella of grace also grips the Spirit together during the onslaught of sudden or gathering storms.

"We have similarities to Cinderella," Mary explained. "You know Cinderella was always cleaning up and her sisters worked against her. The story does have her find a prince, and our wives here believe sometimes their husbands are seen as princes. What we are all about is sharing our experiences. We want to help one another. What we say on the hilltop stays on the hilltop."

"That it does!" echoed one Cinderella Sister.

"What do we do when the glass slipper doesn't fit anymore?" asked another Cinderella Sister.

"We get together and talk about those hurting glass shoes," explained a Cinderella Sister.

I was beginning to like being a part of this OFWB sisterhood. Time slowly teaches us that we are not in control of much of the fairy tale false beliefs, because modern life is often more about the glass being half full. When the glass is half full, the spirit may panic, may drop into depression, and may be tempted to lose faith.

"We believe relationships are crucial," added Mary Dudley.

Glue isn't the only thing that holds things together. Free communication under the umbrella of grace also grips the Spirit together during the onslaught of sudden or gathering storms.

"We bring our experiences to one another and we laugh a lot," added a Cinderella Sister.

"A lot!" laughed another.

"You know, God doesn't cause bad things to happen. They do happen. But God is still here when we come back," said a Cinderella Sister.

"My glass is half full!" shouted another.

As the white van with the attached small white rolling luggage trailer bumped and banged across rough roads, the journey to the hilltop reminded us that the way to faith demanded more than a passing wish;

the journey demanded a certain *intrepidity*, a spontaneous willingness, a suspension of disbelief. We could head for Cragmont and discover something, even though we had no specific plans calculated for the spiritual process. Mary Dudley insisted, "God is in charge."

Another minister's wife echoed, "God has a plan."

"God is waiting for us to move," said one Cinderella Sister.

I realized the strong bond among the Cinderella Sisters, and I began to experience a small strong security in their presence, a safety room of communication, commitment, and comradeship. I was on a journey, but I had no idea what would take place in the winter woods of Cragmont.

ARRIVAL AT CRAGMONT

Upon arrival to Cragmont, the smiling Quinton Robert Vicks greeted us with an innocent gusto. "Welcome, ladies!" he shouted as he waved his hat. Quickly he helped with the luggage while Arlinda Williams gave everyone the key to a Cragmont room—a home of rest and renewal on the hilltop. Arlinda and John Williams had prepared a delicious meal of roast beef, potatoes, string beans, and biscuits for us, their hands busy at meeting creature comforts in order to prepare for the spiritual comforts—meditation, confession, prayer, and devotion the gifts of the Spirit on the hilltop.

CHAPEL DEVOTIONS AT CRAGMONT

"God meets us where we are," began Mary Dudley, devotional leader

for the Cinderella Sisters Retreat. "God doesn't impose an agenda on us. God is a faithful companion even as we get lost on the road or fall into potholes. God is a Spirit who invades us, works through us and allows that process of growth to take place. We don't become less. We become more of what we are. Ministers' wives want to serve and be of use, but all of us need to feel that we are called by God," she said.



Deborah B. Dunn, author of *Trapped in the Magic Mirror*, sits in a rocking chair in front of the fire at Cragmont.



Mary Dudley stands beside the banner of Cinderella—a logo for the Cinderella Sisters.

"Christ is the Great Illuminator!" declared Mary Dudley as the candles flickered in Cragmont's Chapel. "When our electricity goes off in a storm and our house is pitch dark, we panic. Bruce put a neon light in my kitchen so I would know to go to that neon light when the house was dark

and there was no electricity. When that happened during a storm, I didn't panic. Close your eyes now," commanded Mary. We did. The room seemed engulfed in darkness as if covered by a thick blanket.

Mary spoke, "When in total darkness, visualize the Light of Christ. Do not panic. In the big picture, Jesus is the Light. Jesus is life itself. Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is the Great Illuminator."

CINDERELLA SISTERS

The Cinderella Sisters rocked in the large wooden rocking chairs at Cragmont, the fire blazing thanks to the faithful attendance of Quinton. Deborah B. Dunn, author of *Trapped in the Magic Mirror*, led a discussion which stays on the hilltop. However, Deborah Dunn's words of wisdom to the Cinderella Sisters might be shared here, because these words have a truth of comfort to all OFWB, men as well as women, and children also. Among her gems of wisdom sprinkling the hilltop weekend are these:

- Pain and suffering is spiritual warfare.
- In our power struggle, Christ wants us to get on our knees.
- We must be debased before we are exalted.
- What we do should not be about us but about God.
- We must not succumb to our personality doing but to God's doing.
- One door closes. Another door opens.
- I may plan my day, but the Lord directs.
- There may be several different beginnings in our life as we go along.
- We are not to be authors of confusion or misunderstanding.
- Hiding is easy. It is the seeking that is difficult.
- Christ as the Light will overcome the darkness.
- Nursing wounds is one thing. Healing wounds is quite another thing.



Sisters present Quinton an umbrella.

HILLTOP BONDING FOR THE CINDERELLA SISTERS



The Cinderella Sisters line up on the front steps of Cragmont. They hold up their banner of Cinderella. Among the Cinderella Sisters are: Mary Dudley, Sandy Thick, Sylvia Hansley, Jo Alford, Lorraine Garner, Pepper Worthington, Jean Brown, Barbara Brown, Leah Trogdon, Shirley Forsythe, Wanda Gordon, Lillian Grubbs, Selena Sutton, and Michael Warning as escort.

I'm not sure how to describe what happened at Cragmont during the Cinderella Sisters Retreat, but a bonding bubbled up and overflowed, cooling some of the thirst of a sense of brokenness at the root of common human experiences. Though each Sister came from a different soil, culture, service, and time, the common tie of a journey toward faith, toward seeking a glass half full, toward forgiveness, and toward understanding

happened. Sisterhood is about not feeling abandoned. Sisterhood is about a support group united through common dilemmas and common hopes.

The OFWB Cinderella Sisters grew into helpful sisters, each knowing Cinderella's shoe doesn't fit, but the Prince awaiting is Christ the Illuminator. Our husbands need for us to throw Cinderella's slipper away and move closer to a walk with God, which will bring us to a closer walk with our husbands and with others.

The Cinderella Sisters are out there in the OFWB denomination and with the leadership of Mary Dudley, a door is open for more sisters who want to journey to the hilltop in January 2008. Contact the Sunday School Ministry for more details.

RETURN HOME

David Charles Hansley protected the Cinderella Sisters in his van as well as Michael Warning, who held the little stool for women to step down from the van. I thought how appropriate for the "disaster relief man" Hansley himself to protect some of the Cinderella Sisters, because disaster for these Sisters might be around the corner were it not for a loving support group. Warning sang songs all the way back from the hilltop to the flatlands—his voice like an angel's voice covering the rocky movements of a packed van.

Once back home to the Disaster Relief Warehouse, I turned to my singing husband and said, "God happens."



Cinderella Sisters rock in their own rocking chairs in the Chapel at Cragmont. (L-R): Barbara Brown, Jean Brown, Shirley Forsythe, and Leah Trogon.



Arlinda Williams (left), Daniel Daughtry (middle) and John Williams (right) enjoy a meal out with the Cinderella Sisters.

*"When in total darkness, visualize the Light of Christ.
Do not panic. In the big picture, Jesus is the Light.
Jesus is life itself. Jesus is the Word of God.
Jesus is the Great Illuminator."*



TOPIC: "SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN A SECULAR AGE" MARCH 22-24, 2007 SPEAKER: MR. EDDIE HAMMETT

Eddie Hammett is the author of four books dealing with preparing the church for a more effective ministry in the 21st century. His current writing project, *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60*, is due to be released in October 2007.

Mr. Hammett's call to ministry is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" inside and beyond the walls of the traditional church.

Mr. Hammett has served as Senior Leadership/Discipleship Coach for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for the last 16 years. He is a graduate of Furman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with post-graduate studies at Duke Divinity School, Southeastern Seminary, NC State University, and Fielding Institute.

The cost is \$110 per person (main, motel or lodge) and \$95 per person for dorm space. Included: two nights lodging, three meals on Friday, and two meals on Saturday (breakfast and lunch).

Name: _____

For health reasons, I require a ground level room.

Yes _____ No _____

Address: _____

Building preference:

1st choice: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

2nd choice: _____

Telephone: _____

No preference—Cragmont can assign

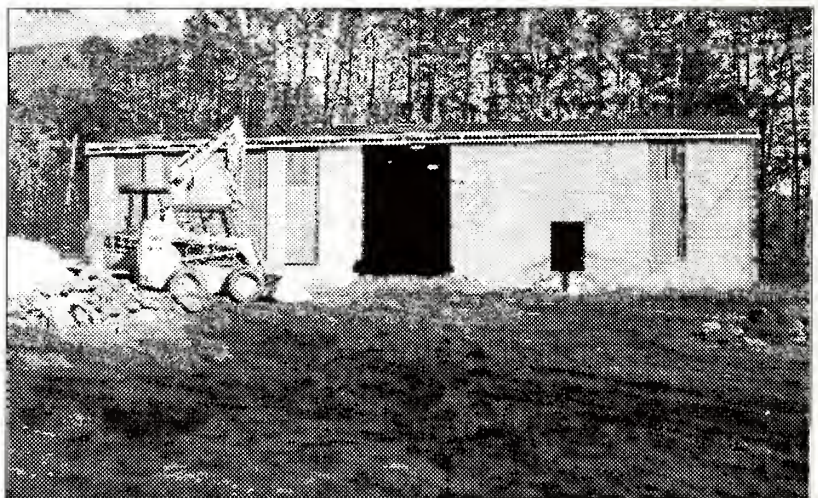
Church: _____

Return the above form with a \$50 deposit for each person (balance due upon arrival)

Mail to: Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711

For further information, call Cragmont at (877) 669-7677.

WORK ON THE NEW GYM HAS BEGUN



TOPIC: WORSHIP: RETELLING THE STORY

SPEAKER: THE REVEREND JOHN WILLIAMS • SEPTEMBER 6–8, 2007

Worship is the single most important thing the church does. Of late, we seem to be very confused as to what worship is and how we should do it. Because worship is so important in our churches today, Cragmont Assembly is offering the seminar "Worship: Retelling the Story." This seminar is more of a "why to" approach with the hope that the "how to" also will be answered as we proceed throughout the seminar. We have designed it to begin on Thursday evening, September 6 with the evening meal and end on Saturday, September 8 with lunch, allowing everyone to get back home for worship at their own church on Sunday.

The cost of the seminar is \$110 per person (lodge or motel) and \$95 per person for dorm space. Included: two nights lodging, evening meal on Thursday, three meals on Friday, and two meals on Saturday. Space is limited to motel, new lodge, and dorms, so register soon.

Name: _____

For health reasons, I require a ground level room.

Address: _____

Yes _____ No _____

Building preference:

City: _____

1st choice: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

2nd choice: _____

Church: _____

No preference—Cragmont can assign _____

For further information, call Cragmont at (877) 669-7677.

2007 CAMP AND CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 13–15, 2007

Joan Little

7063 Stantonsburg Road

Farmville, NC 27828

(252) 753-3217

Christian Cadet Conference

June 18–23, 2007

Wes Boyd

794 Church of God Road

Goldsboro, NC 27534

(919) 736-9436

General Youth I Conference

July 16–21, 2007

Bryant Hines

2407 Wild Turkey Road

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 633-2683

Ministerial Association of OFWB

June 4–6, 2007

John Hill

312 Pineview Street

Lucama, NC 27851

(252) 239-1958

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

June 25–30, 2007

Frankie Baggett

5403 Weyerhauser Road

Ayden, NC 28513

(252) 746-7850

Young People's Bible Conference

July 23–28, 2007

Rudy Owens

1515 US 70-A

Selma, NC 27576

(919) 965-2796

Day Spring Conference

June 6–9, 2007

Joan Little

7063 Stantonsburg Road

Farmville, NC 27828

(252) 753-3217

Bed, Breakfast and Blessings

July 1–8, 2007

Cragmont Assembly

1233 North Fork Road

Black Mountain, NC 28711

(877) 669-7677

August Women's Conference

July 30–August 4, 2007

Joan Little

7063 Stantonsburg Road

Farmville, NC 27828

(252) 753-3217

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 11–16, 2007

Angela Mattox

4711 Edgewood Dr.

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 637-5345

General Youth II Conference

July 9–14, 2007

John Robert Harris

2514 Olde Dutch Court

Kinston, NC 28504

(252) 208-1781

Pee Dee Youth Conference

August 6–9, 2007

Bryant Hines

2407 Wild Turkey Road

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 633-2683

2 Day Tractor/Truck Pull Pulling for Kids

Sponsored By Cragmont Assembly, Inc. and
Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship
"Christian Camping In the Blue Ridge Mountains"

Friday, May 4, 2007

Mini Pull

7 P.M.

Hot Rod and Stock

Lawn Mowers

Pulled by:

Neuse Mini Tractor

Pulling Association

Saturday, May 5, 2007

12 P.M.

Antique

Farm (Smokers)

Turbo, V-8 Modified

Pulled by:

Carolina Antique Tractor

Pulling Association

Kiddie Pull Both Days (Ages 4-8)

All Proceeds Go Toward Paying Off the New Camper's Lodge

Four Oaks Pulling Track

659 Tettersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

Take I-95 to Exit 87 Four Oaks to Hockaday Rd., 2 miles to Tettersville Road. Turn right 1 mile; track on left. Shade trees for everyone at the track.

Admission \$7—Children (4-12) \$4

No Alcohol, Drugs, or Profanity Allowed

For more information, call:

Jim Best (919) 796-2775 • Bryant Hines (252) 670-8424



**DONOR/SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
FRIDAY, MARCH 23
LOIS K. MURPHY REGIONAL CENTER**

MOC is planning an appreciation luncheon for endowed scholarship donors and recipients. Invitations will be mailed. For more information, contact Vickie Robinson at (919) 658-2502 or <vrobinson@moc.edu>.

**VIVIAN B. HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE
TUESDAY, MARCH 20
RODGERS CHAPEL**

Join us for the 17th Annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture beginning at 9:30 A.M. This spiritual lecture will be presented by Dr. William (Bill) Clemmons, retired professor of Christian Spirituality and Myers Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. The lecture is free and the public is invited to attend. A buffet lunch will be available in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. For more information or to make lunch reservations, contact Dr. David Hines at (919) 658-2502, (800) 653-0854 or <dhines@moc.edu>. Funding for this event is provided by the Vivian Harrison Endowed Fund.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

**The Office of Alumni Relations and
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE**

Invites you, your family, and your church group to join us

**Tuesday, April 3, 7 P.M.
Mount Olive College vs. Kinston Indians
Grainger Stadium in Kinston**

For Reserved Tickets

**Contact the Office of Alumni Relations by March 19
(919) 658-7761 • <driley@moc.edu> • Fax (919) 658-7185**

Great time for Alumni family fun!

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Spring Athletic Weekend

Mount Olive College will hold a Spring Athletic Weekend April 13–15. High school students interested in admissions can attend a morning session, beginning at 11 A.M. which will include lunch. The afternoon includes sporting events in tennis, soccer, softball and baseball. To make a reservation for the admissions session, contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, at <twoodard@moc.edu> or at (800) 653-0854.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

High school seniors who have not yet made a college decision are encouraged to make application to MOC using our free online application at <www.moc.edu>. Scholarships and federal and state assistance is available. March 15 is the preferred date for applications.

Enrollment Opportunities at Six MOC Locations

The Office of Admissions is still accepting applications for spring online courses. Contact Tim Woodard for more information at <twoodard@moc.edu> or at (800) 653-0854

One night a week programs are now enrolling at MOC locations in Mount Olive, Wilmington, Washington, New Bern and Research Triangle Park.

Evening College at Mount Olive

Modular Religion Major: March 12, 2007
Early Childhood: March 19, 2007
Healthcare Management: March 29, 2007
Healthcare Management at Johnston
Community College: May 17, 2007
Criminal Justice Online: May 19, 2007 TENTATIVE
Heritage Plus (Associate Degree Program): May 22, 2007
Management of Information Systems (MIS): May 24, 2007

Management and Organizational Development:
May 31, 2007

MOC at New Bern

Heritage Plus (Associate degree Program): March 28, 2007
Healthcare Management: April 4, 2007
Heritage Plus (Associate Degree Program): May 14, 2007
Modular Religion: May 21, 2007
Management and Organizational Development:
May 30, 2007
Early Childhood: June 21, 2007
Criminal Justice: October 8, 2007

MOC at Research Triangle Park

Management and Organizational Development:
March 6, 2007
Early Childhood: May 3, 2007
Criminal Justice: April 16, 2007
Healthcare Management: May 16, 2007, May 29, 2007

MOC at Wilmington

Early Childhood: March 6, 2007
Management and Organizational Development:
February 5, 2007, April 12, 2007
Heritage Plus (Associate Degree Program): April 24, 2007
Healthcare Management: May 17, 2007

MOC at Washington

Early Childhood: March 5, 2007
Heritage Plus (Associate Degree Program): April 17, 2007
Management and Organizational Development:
April 23, 2007
Criminal Justice: October 8, 2007

PHI BETA LAMBDA

will celebrate its

50th Anniversary, April 13–14, 2007.

All former PBL members are invited to share in this celebration.

For more information, contact either
Sonya McCoy O'Brien at <so'brien@moc.edu>
or Dianne B. Riley at <driley@moc.edu>.

Dear Friends of Earl and Marie Glenn,

As special friends of Earl and Marie, we wanted to express appreciation to them in a way that would be worthy of the contribution they have made to our lives and Original Free Will Baptists. It was with this thought in mind that we initiated a Scholarship Endowment at Mount Olive College in their name. Earl is the only surviving member of the Original Board of Trustees of the College which was elected in 1953. In addition Mrs. Glenn served as registrar of the College for a number of years and two of their children are graduates of the College. Already a growing number of their friends have asked to share in this honor to Earl and Marie and we thought you might also want to share in honoring them.



Marie and Earl Glenn

(The following comments were given by Dr. Raper recently at the presentation of this scholarship endowment to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn.)

"Earl and Marie Glenn, you have done so much for so many, and those whom you have blessed want to say thank you and they also want to perpetuate your ministry that it may continue to bless others.

"Your friends have initiated the Earl and Marie Glenn Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College. This will be a permanent endowment that will provide scholarships for students from the churches you have served or for any qualified Free Will Baptist student.

"You will remember the prayer of the psalmist 90:17: *Establish thou the work of our hands upon us: yea the work of our hands establish thou it.* This scholarship endowment will do just that."

We would like to invite you, your church, and others who appreciate the contribution Earl and Marie have made to our lives and to Original Will Baptists to join with us in this endeavor. *Maybe they were your Cragmont Counselors; maybe Earl officiated at your wedding; maybe Marie was an auxiliary example or your choir director; maybe Earl was the minister who led you to the Lord.* Let's show them our love and appreciation in a way that will carry their name on for a long, long time.

Gifts may be sent to:
The Glenn Endowment: c/o Dianne Riley
Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365
(Checks should be made payable to: Mount Olive College for Glenn Endowment.)

An acknowledgement card will be sent to Earl and Marie advising them that you have remembered them with a gift to this endowment in their honor. Thank you in advance for joining with us in this special way to honor two very special people.

Sincerely,

John C. Pate

Bobby Trivette

Dot L. Pate

Shelva H. Trivette

FORENSIC SCIENCE MAJOR OFFERED

With popular television shows like CSI, Cold Case, Forensic Files, and others, it's no wonder that there has been an increasing interest in the field of forensic science. These shows are promoting Forensic Science to students across college campuses who want to pursue careers as criminalists. But all the glamour of those late night television shows lacks quite a bit of reality. In other words, they make it look a lot easier than it actually is.

According to Dr. Michael McCann, associate professor of chemistry at Mount Olive College, "Forensic Science actually requires a thorough grounding in the biological and chemical sciences along with criminal justice, statistics, math, and physics."

Forensic Science, also known as scientific investigation, involves analysis of materials at crime scenes, as well as knowledge of the psychology of criminal behavior. Analysis of evidence on television appears fast and simple. But in actuality, the processing and analysis of evidence can take weeks or months to complete.

Students who enroll in the new Forensic Science major at MOC will soon find out just how challenging the work can be. Expected to be in place in the fall of this year, the Bachelor of Science Degree in Forensic Science will include providing students with the knowledge needed to collect, analyze, and preserve physical evidence. Coursework will include biochemistry, analytical chemistry, physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, forensic anthropology, human anatomy and physiology, criminal justice, statistical methods, and calculus to name a few.

In addition to hiring Dr. McCann to head up the new program, Mount Olive College has made a \$400,000 investment in state-of-the-art equipment that will provide students with hands-on experience in testing and analyzing data for crime scene investigations. Using the new equipment, students will analyze drugs, do-DNA fingerprinting, identify biological fluids, etc. Also, as a part of the curriculum, students will participate in a forensic science internship in places like the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation or the United States Secret Service where they will work with professional forensic scientists on approved projects.

According to Dr. McCann, this program will not be for the faint of heart. "Forensic science is primarily a science. According to FBI statistics for 2005, only about half of all violent crimes are ever solved. So the forensic scientist needs to be clever, diligent, and able to use all the scientific tools at her or his disposal."

In addition to the forensic major at Mount Olive College, The Tillman School of Business is considering a suite of courses in the specialty area of forensic accounting. This is a growing area of practice and the number of accounting firms that have specialist forensic accounting opportunities is expanding. Indeed, *U. S. News and World Report* called forensic accounting one of the 20 hot job tracks of the future. The Tillman School of Business welcomes early inquiries and expressions of interest.

For more information about the upcoming forensic science program at Mount Olive College, contact Dr. McCann or the Office of Admissions at (919) 658-2502. For inquiries about forensic accounting, contact Dr. Kenneth Stokes at <kstokes@moc.edu>.



Dr. Michael McCann

SOMETHING IS BREWING AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College has many on-campus clubs and organizations designed to entertain, engage, and uplift students. There are musical organizations, academic clubs, and prayer groups; but until recently, there was not one single club that combined all of those elements.

Senior Jamie Thompson, with close friends, Heather McPherson and Tyler Barwick saw the need and brewed up a special house blend they pegged as The Big Coffee.

Thompson commented on how the idea was percolated. "We saw a need on campus for an organization that was both fun and at the same time had

a good message." Thompson views the group, not just as a club, but as a ministry.

The Big Coffee meets every Wednesday night at 8:31 P.M. on the patio outside of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The time may seem random, but according to the organizers, "There was a method to the madness." The odd time was chosen because the members hoped it would "stick out" and be easily remembered by students around campus. Ironically, the name itself has absolutely no connection with coffee. There is no coffee served at the meetings; not even some simple directions on how to make a good cup of

java. The name was random at best and just happened to stick.

Like the sound of beans brewing, the sound of music can be heard during the weekly gatherings. "There is ALWAYS singing," Thompson stated. "We sing Christian songs, oldies, songs off the radio, popular songs, corny songs—we sing it all." There are often skits and games to go along with the singing, complete with costumes meant to induce laughter.

"We dress up like crazy characters: dancers, hillbillies, referees, and game show hosts, because we want to introduce games in a creative way," says Thompson. One of the more recent

activities sponsored by the club was a peanut butter sandwich-making contests. The twist was that the sandwiches had to be made by foot.

Once the games wind down, there is a time set aside for worship where the participants share life stories that relate to Bible lessons. The goal is to send a message without being overpowering.

"The Big Coffee is all about creating an environment that is not intimidating or threatening," Thompson stated. It seems to be working. The club started out with only a few students, but now have an average of around 40 students participating in the weekly meetings. For Mount Olive College, The Big Coffee seems to be a "steep" in the right direction.



The Big Coffee participants enjoy singing at their meetings.

TRIP TO FRANCE PLANNED



Group by Seine, Paris on the 2006 France trip.

Mount Olive College is planning a 16-day tour of Burgundy, France, which is open to the public. The summer program, scheduled for July 16–31, will cover language, art, archaeology, and culture.

The two-week study abroad experience will include site tours of museums, medieval villages, French farms, an extended tour to historic Dijon, two days in Paris, and much more.

Participants will stay in a local village school. The modern facility includes classrooms, two large kitchens, an indoor swimming pool, and living quarters. From purchasing ingredients at a local market to preparing French cuisine, participants will become immersed in the culture and customs of Burgundy, France.

Available as a three semester humanities course credit or as a non-credit tour, the curriculum will cover French History from the 11th century to the French Revolution, everyday French language, landscape art and architecture, contemporary culture and customs, and musicology.

The cost of the trip is \$2,300 per person and includes lodging, in-country travel, meals, tours, and tuition. "A real bargain for the value," notes Dr. Christopher Dyer, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. "This summer tour is a chance to indulge in French history, art, and architecture. To experience this in the context of medieval villages, cathedrals, museums, archeology sites, and other natural and cultural attractions of central Burgundy, Dijon, and Paris will truly be the trip of a lifetime," Dyer continued.

Sarah Finch, a junior MOC student who participated in the trip last year stated, "On my trip to France, I was awestruck by the sheer magnitude and fame of the touristy attractions; but what caught my eyes, my senses, and most of all my heart, were those little treasures that are not in any tour guide book. I enjoyed the undiscovered things that, in a way, make up what is France!" She went on to explain, "Sometimes some of the best things in life are right around the corner or down the street. What a wealth of beauty was just waiting for me to find it! A new world was opened up to me, and I spent a dazzling few weeks making memories and experiencing Paris."

Applications for the 2007 travel experience can be picked up from the Office of the Registrar or from the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences or call (919) 658-7777; e-mail <cdyer@moc.edu>. The deadline for submitting applications is April 26. An orientation session explaining more details on the trip will be held on Thursday, April 26, in the Southern Bank Auditorium located inside Raper Hall. Reservations will be limited to the first 25 paid applications. A deposit of \$600 is due by April 26.

LORELLE MARTIN SCIENCE LECTURE ENDOWED AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Most anyone who has ever attended a science class at Mount Olive College knows the name Lorelle Martin. For years she was "the" science department at the College, having served as chair of the department for 30 years. Even after retiring from the institution in 1987, Mrs. Martin's impact on the students she taught and on Mount Olive College itself has not faded. Thanks to one of her former students, Dr. E. Lee Glover of Everett, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Martin's legacy will continue in perpetuity for future generations.

During the College's Annual Alumni Weekend, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus of Mount Olive College, on behalf of Dr. Glover, announced the establishment of the Lorelle F. Martin Science Lecture Endowed Fund. According to the agreement, the purpose of the fund is to broaden and enrich the education of students by providing them an opportunity to learn from eminent scientists on major topics, both historical and current, in the field of science.

The fund was initiated in 1991 by Dr. Glover with an annual gift to the College for support of speakers for the Lorelle F. Martin Science Lecture. The very first speaker was Dr. Janie McLawhorn Fouke, now provost for the University of Florida at Gaines-



Dr. W. Burkette Raper presenting a copy of the endowment agreement to Mrs. Lorelle Martin.

ville. Many other well-known and influential scientists have delivered addresses at the annual spring lecture. Now, in its 15th year of existence, Dr. Glover wanted to ensure the continued support of the program, and has, therefore, generously endowed the fund.

A student at Mount Olive College in the late 1950s, Dr. Glover has always had a deep appreciation for Mrs. Martin for the encouragement and support that she provided to him during his studies. It was in fact, Mrs. Martin who inspired Dr. Glover to pursue his interest in the biological science field and to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Dr.

Glover went on to become a biology professor and retired from Montgomery College in Maryland after serving the institution for 30 years.

In commenting about the endowment Dr. Raper stated, "Lee Glover is one of the best friends this College has. His gift represents the importance of what faculty can do for students in a caring environment. One of the major strengths of this College has been fostering student-faculty relationships. Our mission has always been to view education in terms of the total development of students both academically and personally."

"This is very humbling," stated Mrs. Martin. "I am grateful that a student would remember me like this." Mrs. Martin remembers Dr. Glover as well, "Lee was very diligent and dedicated to succeeding in his studies. He worked hard and it paid off," she said. Although it has been nearly 50 years since attending Mount Olive College, Dr. Glover still calls and sends notes to Mrs. Martin several times a year.

"It's that kind of influence between faculty and students that sets Mount Olive College apart from other larger institutions. Mount Olive College truly has a transforming influence on the students it serves," Dr. Raper concluded.

**Daylight Saving Time Begins March 11.
First Day of Spring is March 21.**

CAMP VANDEMERE

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

Greetings to you from the Board and Manager of Camp Vandemere. God Is Good, All The Time—These six words sum up what has been a catalyst of blessings at Camp Vandemere during the first couple of months of 2007. New groups have come on board to conduct additional weeks of camp, progress is being made on the basketball/tennis court project adopted by the board, the lighthouse replacement project has been fully funded and the lighthouse has been ordered and expected to be on site in four to six weeks, efforts have begun to enhance the facilities to conform to being more handicap accessible, and God's people are pouring out bountiful gifts to help the camp attain its mission of reaching the youth, as well as other members of our denomination and surrounding area.

The initial work to be done on the basketball/tennis court project has been completed by moving the existing road between the chapel and dorms to the area behind the chapel at the perimeter of the property. To date, approximately 25% of the total estimated cost of \$30,000 to complete this project has been received. If anyone would like to donate toward this project, please earmark your contribution and send it to the camp manager or treasurer. This project is a continuing effort to increase the opportunity for our youth and adults to come together in spiritual fellowship and relaxing environment.

The 2007 camping season is just around the corner. This year promises to be another rewarding time in spreading the Gospel to many young people and adults during the 10 scheduled weeks. Below is a list of the week dates, director names, and contact information:

Women's Week	June 4–June 7	Stumpy Quinn, (252) 638-6404 Judy Kennedy, (910) 298-4311
Daniel's Chapel	June 10–June 15	Walt Tyndall, (252) 753-5005
General Youth Camp #1	June 17–June 22	The Reverend Tim and Gail Heath, (919) 809-0045
Lighthouse Keeper's Week	June 24–June 29	Curtis and Cristy Ramsey, (910) 324-1507
Spring Hope	July 8–July 13	Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346 Debbie Warren, (252) 637-4560
New Bethlehem	July 15–July 20	Sandy Williams, (252) 745-9840
General Youth Camp #2	July 22–July 27	The Reverend Wesley Taylor, (252) 745-3171
First Church of Wilson	July 29–August 3	Doug Radford, (252) 230-9742
Branch's Chapel	August 5–August 10	The Reverend Terry Dennis, (919) 284-6144
First Baptist of Beaufort	August 13–August 17	John Thompson, (252) 671-3515

If you would like more information on the camp weeks being offered this year, please contact one of the directors above or the camp manager. The fee for a full week of camp this year is \$90.00 per camper. The activity fee will be set by each director, depending upon the level of activities for each camp week.

Weekend retreats have been another way to minister to different groups during the past year and the upcoming schedule is filling up fast. If your church, Woman's Auxiliary, Layman's League, or other auxiliary organization would like to utilize the camp's facilities, please contact the manager for date availability.

Great strides are still being accomplished in the retirement of the existing debt incurred during past hurricanes. The Board is still asking for any monies over and above your current contributions to the camp's operating fund to help in this debt retirement. At present, only \$27,900 is outstanding.

As stated in the January publication, a few items are still needed to help make improvements to the facilities and grounds: New dining area chairs (like the ones in the chapel); additional golf cart (one was given to the camp two years ago and has helped in maintaining the camp duties); trailer for highway hauling, carrying, etc. (6' wide by 12' long or larger). If any church or group would like to take any of the items listed as a project, please contact the camp manager.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Camp Vandemere through prayer and financial means. Each and every one of you is why Camp Vandemere keeps growing toward the goal of ministering to our youth and adults through the camp weeks and weekend retreats.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 (camp office)
(252) 514-3222 (cell)

Damon Kennedy, Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 (home)
(910) 296-7100 (cell)

Camp Vandemere, Inc., 215 Third Street, Vandemere, NC 28587

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES



Footprints convey that someone has gone before us, leaving us a marked way; and remind us that we also can leave a marked way for those who come after us.

by W. Burkette Raper, President

A HISTORY MAKING EVENT

Under the partnership program with Mount Olive College, Campbell University Divinity School is offering two courses on the Mount Olive campus during the spring semester: "Old Testament," taught by Dr. Barry Jones, associate dean of Campbell Divinity School; and "Original Free Will Baptist History and Heritage," team-taught by Dr. Michael R. Pelt and Dr. Alan Lamm of Mount Olive College.

This event marks the first time ever that a graduate course on Original Free Will Baptists has been taught in an accredited seminary or divinity school. In teaching this course, Dr. Pelt and Dr. Lamm are serving as adjunct professors of Campbell Divinity School.

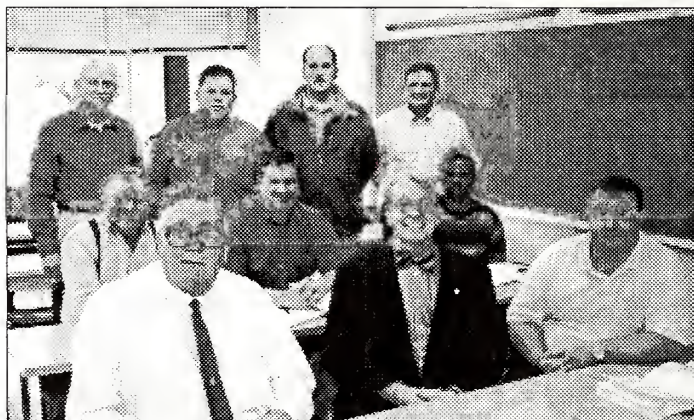
As is well known, Dr. Pelt is not only qualified to teach at the graduate level, but he is also the author of *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, which is highly regarded as the most authentic publication on the history of our church. Dr. Lamm, chairman of the department of history at Mount Olive College and also an ordained Original Free Will Baptist minister, has done extensive study on the history of our church and, like Dr. Pelt, is also well qualified to teach at the graduate level.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR MINISTERS

One of the primary objectives of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is to provide scholarships for pastors who wish to equip themselves for the highest level of excellence in Christian ministry. To this end, the Foundation has established a scholarship fund, made up of voluntary gifts, to assist ministers in attaining the kind of education they need to provide the services our churches deserve.

The directors of the Foundation, who include lay persons as well as ministers, believe that Original Free Will Baptists want pastors who can "rightly divide the word of truth" (see 2 Timothy 2:15), as did our forefathers who drafted our *Articles of Faith*.... The history of our church in America, which predates the founding of our nation, is the story of a noble people whose heritage and faith merit preservation and perpetuity to future generations. To advance our faith, we must have pastors who know our faith and the biblical foundation upon which it rests.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, we believe that Original Free Will Baptists want pastors who are not "...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow



Students currently enrolled in Campbell Divinity School courses on the campus of Mount Olive College: (Left to right): Row One: David Vesper, pastor of Beaufort Church; Dr. Barry Jones, Campbell Divinity School, professor of Old Testament; Todd Sutton, pastor of Daly's Chapel Church, Seven Springs; Row Two: Fred Baker, pastor of Robert's Grove Church, Dunn; Kelley Smart, associate pastor, Free Union Church, Walstonburg; Ralph Johnson, Mount Olive College magna cum laude graduate, Best Grove Missionary Baptist, Goldsboro; Standing: Dr. Michael R. Pelt, professor of Original Free Will Baptist History and Heritage; Ricky Warren, pastor of Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn; Joshua Whitfield, licensed minister, Rooty Branch Church, Mount Olive; and Calvin Heath, pastor of Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly. (Not pictured, Dr. Alan Lamm of Mount Olive College, team professor with Dr. Pelt, Original Free Will Baptist History and Heritage).

up unto him in all things, which is the head, even Christ," (Ephesians 4:14-15).

Already, significant progress is being made in establishing endowed funds that will provide ministerial scholarships at both undergraduate and graduate levels. In the meanwhile, gifts are needed from individuals, churches, and church-related organizations for the Scholarship Fund. The goal of the Foundation is to help our ministers prepare for the quality of service that is worthy of their calling. Through an adequate program of scholarships, Original Free Will Baptists can say to every pastor: "You have the opportunity to attain the education you need to fulfill your calling."

Checks for the Scholarship Fund For Ministers should be made payable to: N.C. Foundation For Christian Ministries, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. The Original Free Will Baptist church will be made stronger by your investment in this great work.

FALL SEMESTER 2007

Students who wish to enroll in the partnership program between Mount Olive College and Campbell University Divinity School are encouraged to begin their application process now. Requests for application forms and related information should be addressed to: Campbell University Divinity School, P.O. Box 4050, Buies Creek, NC 27506. (Phone (800) 760-9827, ext. 1865) In making application for admission, prospective students should also apply for financial aid available through the Divinity School.

AN INVITATION—NOTE THE DATE

The second annual meeting of the Foundation will be Tuesday, April 24 in the Fellowship Hall of Stoney Creek OFWB Church, Goldsboro. This event will be an open meeting for those interested in the ministry of the Foundation and are invited to be our guests for dinner at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will be followed by a report on our work. The meal will be free, but advanced reservations by name will be necessary. Write or call the N. C. Foundation For Christian Ministries, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, phone (919) 658-3855.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LITTLE ROCK CHURCH

(This article is compiled from articles appearing in The Free Will Baptist on August 28, 1940, Vol. 55–No. 48, and February 25, 1981, Vol. 96–No. 8. More recent information was obtained from the church history published by the Mount Olive College Press in 2001.)

Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church was organized May 15, 1871, in Cross Roads Township near the town of Lucama, in Wilson County, North Carolina, at the place known as the Elarice (Elias) Barnes' School House. The name "Little Rock" was derived from a baptismal site used by the church and other area churches until 1956. On Davis' Creek about one-half mile from the church there is a large outcropping of granite rock on one side of the creek with a smaller rock protruding from the ground on the other side. A natural basin was formed between the two which in earlier years made an ideal place for baptisms. The candidate would step down from the little rock into the water, hence the name for the church, "Little Rock."

Elder Daniel Davis and Joseph Sauls with the assistance of Jesse Rose (deacon of Union Grove Church, Wayne County) organized Little Rock with the following charter members: Sally Newsome, Milley Daniel, Eliza Woodard, Elizabeth Lucas, Mary Atkinson, and Aquilla "Quilly" Moore. The congregation originally met at the schoolhouse which was located "across the creek" (Davis Creek) on the corner of the Cordy Lucas and Charles Barnes farms. Later, the church's meetings were moved to its present location in a school which was set in a small group of pines. The previous location then became known as "the Ball Park."

In 1884, a new school was constructed where Lucama Elementary School is now located. At Little Rock, a building committee was elected to plan a new church building. "Uncle" Larry Lucas gave the land to the trustees. The originally used school building, no longer

necessary, was moved near the railroad adjoining the new Masonic Lodge. The construction was completed and the new church was ready for its "yearly meeting" in August, 1887.

Elder Davis served as pastor for twenty-two years until 1893 and then again in 1897. He had organized several churches and rode on horse-back to serve as pastor to each of them. Elders R. H. Holland, Joseph Sauls, J. D. Pate, R. W. Perkins, William Bryant, and Elder P. T. Lucas served as assistants during those years, preaching when Elder Davis could not be at Little Rock.

In 1901, a second building committee was elected to raise money for a new church and the auditorium now used was constructed. This debt was paid prior to the yearly meeting in 1907.

Little Rock's congregation has helped in the organization of other area churches. On December 17, 1921, a motion was made to assist in the establishment of a church at Daniels Chapel and thirty-three members transferred to become members of this new church. Also, in 1921, a motion was accepted to help the Union Meeting and Western Conference establish a church in Wilson. More than twenty-five members transferred to this church.

In 1927, a Finance and Building Committee was appointed and began work immediately in enlarging the main church auditorium and adding a good sized educational plant which consisted of several large Sunday School classrooms. Most of the standing timber was contributed by individuals and time, labor and money by others. The remainder was financed by a loan over



a period of years. The Philathea Class purchased an unusually fine piano for the main auditorium and also put electricity and chandeliers throughout the building. The Ladies Aid purchased a stove and book racks for the seats. With the completion of these rooms, Little Rock had, according to all available records, the first Sunday school rooms added to any FWB Church in North Carolina.

With a growing church, further improvements were needed. In 1938, an improvement committee was elected and the following improvements were made: the church repainted inside and out; new frosted windows installed; floors scraped and waxed; seats painted; new carpet, tracking, choir rail, draperies, and stove all in the amount of \$1200. A new roof was built from proceeds of a gift received from the estate of J. H. Lucas. All indebtedness was cleared by 1940. Still another improvement was made in 1949 when coal stoves were replaced by a gas heating system at a cost of \$939.

In 1951, the Rev. and Mrs. James A. Evans donated a lot on which the church could build a parsonage. The parsonage was completed in September of that same year.

By 1956, the church needed more Sunday School rooms. A committee made plans for these additional rooms which could be used as fellowship rooms. At the same time, plans were adopted for the renovation of the auditorium and the installation of a baptistry. All new furnishings were added to the building.

In 1965, another building project was planned for a vestibule to be added for the beauty and comfort of the church. In 1970, stained-glass windows were pledged by individuals as memorials, and installed. Also in 1970, a building fund drive for the installation of aluminum siding on the entire church was begun. The following year, new roofs were installed on the church, educational building, and parsonage. Plans for remodeling the sanctuary were presented and adopted by the church in October 1973.

In October 1976, the church voted to construct a fellowship building to help meet the fellowship needs of the congregation. Provisions for two additional Sunday school rooms were included. In September 1977, arrangements were made for the church to purchase approximately one-half acre of land adjacent to the present property.

In September 1980, the remaining debt on Heritage Hall (the fellowship building) was retired. It is significant to note that during a three-year period in which the church spent \$45,000 on a new building, the giving to our de-

nominal enterprises increased each year. The church has also participated in raising money to feed the poor, aiding local needy families in various ways and annually supporting the work of the Gideon's International.

In 2001, the church began a building campaign with the goal to expand the present facility in a two-phase program. The first phase, a new educational building, has already been completed. The next phase will be to enlarge the present sanctuary and choir loft by utilizing the classrooms in the present facility.

Following is a list of the pastors of the Little Rock church: Daniel Davis (1871-1893, 1897), P. T. Lucas (1893-1897), J. H. Worley (1897-1899), C. R. Pierce (1899-1901), L. T. Phillips (1901-1907), G. W. Davis (1907-1908), R. Strickland (1908-1909), G. W. Ferrell (1909-1912), J. R. McCaskey (1912-1914), R. F. Pittman (1914-1918), S. H. Styron (1923-1936), R. N. Hinnant (1936-1939), M. E. Tyson (1939-1942), M. L. Johnson (1942-1951), N. B. Barrow (1951-1959), L. B. Woodall (1959-1961), Frank Harrison (1961-1969), and De Eakes (1969-present).

Ministers ordained from Little Rock include: J. K. Ruffin, W. W. Skellet, E. T. Lucas, James A. Evans, Dick Ward, P. T. Lucas, Buddy Sasser, Alan Lamm, and Harold Owens. Ministers who were at one time members of Little Rock and later ordained include: Raymond Sasser and J. B. Narron.

In 1975, the church hired its first salaried choir director, Mr. Randy Barham. Others who have served in that position are Ms. Cathy Eatmon, Mrs. Elizabeth Winstead, and Ms. Melissa Joyner. Ms. Cynthia Kennedy has served in that position since 1995.

In 1998, the congregation approved the hiring of a part-time youth minister. Jason Young was the first to fill that position, followed by Charles "Bear" Waters. Previously, Bryant Hines and Donald Coates had worked with the youth for short periods of time while completing their work at Mount Olive College. At the time of Bear's departure in 2002, the church made the position full-time. The Rev. John Hill filled the position until last year. Marci Rollins-Smart began her work in this role in February of this year. Peggy Lamm serves as part-time secretary for the church.

Little Rock church has been wonderfully blessed during its 135 years. It takes seriously its mission work as a church. The prayer of Little Rock Church is that it will continue faithful in the ministry. As with Abraham, God promises to bless His people and He expects His people to be a blessing to all people!

MRS. LIZZIE WINSTEAD DAWSON HONORED FOR HER FAITHFUL SERVICE

Submitted by Carolyn Jernigan and Bonnie Lockamy

Mrs. Lizzie Winstead Dawson
In Appreciation
For Your Many Years of Dedicated
Faithful Service to Our
Lord and Master

In sharing your love for Jesus Christ
Through example and teaching of His Word
At Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
We honor you on this 26th day of November, 2006
11 A.M. Service

Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
Spivey's Corner, North Carolina 28334



Lizzie Dawson and her family: (L-R): Lisa Anderson and Lizzie Dawson. Standing: (L-R): John Kachel, Pat Kachel, Michael Anderson and Victor Kachel.

Lizzie Bell Winstead Dawson was born on October 29, 1920 in Person County, North Carolina. She was the eighth of eleven children, and was blessed to be a part of a very loving, Christian family.

Lizzie attended church and school in the quiet, quaint community of Leesburg, North Carolina. When she was in the eighth grade, her family moved to Sampson County. At the end of eighth grade year, she met Norvell Dawson. It was practically love at first sight. On June 11, 1938, two weeks after Lizzie's high school graduation, they were married. The wedding took place at the home of Rev. Minot Godwin, a Free Will Baptist minister, who performed the ceremony. They had three children, six grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. Lizzie and Norvell worked very hard together on their farm located on Dawson Road.

When Pat and Don were in high school, Lizzie attended Harbarger's Business College and took a secretarial course. She became secretary at First Baptist Church in Dunn and worked there many years.

After retirement from First Baptist Church, Lizzie realized a life-long dream of visiting the Holy Land. She

wanted to share this wonderful experience with as many people as possible and she did so in many churches and civic organizations.

Lizzie was never idle, and liked to try new things. When in her 50s, she learned to water ski. She made pottery, and learned to paint using oils, acrylics, and watercolors. She made beautiful quilts and learned to do all kinds of needlework. The homes of her children, grandchildren, and friends are blessed with these treasures.

But Lizzie, your family knows that the greatest treasure you have given to them is the example of your Christian life. Your love for your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and your strong faith has greatly influenced their lives. As a young adult, Lizzie had a burning desire to serve the Lord, and she had a deep burden for the lost.

She was a Sunday School teacher for many years in the teen class and later taught the Betty Dawson class (now Joy class). She taught in Bible School for several years. As an auxiliary member, she wrote lessons and study courses for printing. She would teach the study courses and also conduct weeks of Bible study at Cragmont Assembly for the Auxiliary weeks of

camp. She wrote literature from 1970-1973 for the teenager leaguers for the Free Will Baptist League and several study guides for the youth of our denomination. Each summer, all of us look forward to Lizzie teaching a Sunday School lesson for our combined adult classes.

She loved the shut-in ministry because she could teach the Sunday School lesson to those not able to get out and come to Sunday School. She has always been faithful in attendance and supports our church monetarily. She has directed Christmas and Easter plays with youth and adults. She loves missions and is a faithful witness to the lost.

If we asked, by a show of hands, how many of you have been taught by Lizzie Dawson, all but the four-eight-year-olds would raise their hands. This lady has been a special Christian friend, church and denominational supporter, listening ear, and devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and great grandmother to all present.

It is an honor to have her in our presence today. Miss Lizzie, as we call you, this plaque is for you to enjoy and remember the love with which it is given. You have influenced each of our lives with your Christian living.

MILDRED DAIL HUMBLER CELEBRATES 101 YEARS

Submitted by Sybil Tripp

Mildred Dail Humbler celebrated 101 years on January 31, 2007. She was born in 1906 to Hettie Barbar Dail and the Rev. W. A. (Alonza) Dail in Winterville, NC.

Mildred, whom they called (Sis), is the oldest of 10 children: Wilton Dail, Walter Dail (former Mayor of Winterville), Jennings Dail, Daisy Tripp (Lynn), Hettie Ruth Johnson (Van), Bill Dail, and Arthur Dail (deceased); Beatrice Ennis (Walter) and Louise Webb (Raymon) surviving.

She helped take care of the siblings while her mother did the laundry and other work around the house.

Mildred graduated from Winterville High School and also Eureka College in Ayden, NC. While in college she came home on weekends and scrubbed the floors and did the washing for her



Leslie and Mildred Humbler

mother and the family. Then she would go back to school on Monday.

After graduation, Mildred went to work for White's Department Store in Greenville, NC, where she retired. It was there where one day a customer

named Leslie Humbler, came in to purchase something and that was when her life changed. They began dating and one day she came home and told her mama she was going to get married. Her mama started crying and all of the kids were wondering why their mama was crying. "I'm going to get married," Mildred told them.

Mildred and Leslie were married and attended Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC, where she taught Sunday School. Then, in her later years, she became a member of Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, Ormondsville, NC.

God gave them two sons, Steven Humbler (deceased) and Harold Humbler of Ayden, NC. Mildred resides in Britthaven Nursing Home in Ayden, NC and still welcomes visitors.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Rose Johnson, Pastor Roger Hill, Charlotte Hudson, Jake Hudson, Carl Warren, Carolyn Underwood, and Tom Underwood of Oak Grove Church were presented pins and certificates for perfect attendance in 2006. The presenter was Willa Dean Daughtry.



YOUTH SUNDAY

Submitted by Helen Smith

Looking like professionals, Erin Parker serves as song leader and Evan Raynor (standing on a stool) is perfecting his speaking abilities while serving as Sunday School Superintendent on Youth Sunday, December 30, 2006, at Smyrna Church in the Meadow community.

"The youth come through in flying colors each fifth Sunday serving as Sunday School officers and teachers and the last Sunday of 2006 was no different," reports Sunday School Superintendent, Ricky Raynor.

REGISTRATION FORM — MORNING STAR WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

April 13-15, 2007

Speaker: Ann Copeland

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Emergency Contact (Person & Phone) _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

You do not have to be an Auxiliary member or even a church member to attend the conference.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to: Joan H. Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828.

A balance of \$55.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM — DAYSPRING CONFERENCE

June 6-9, 2007

Speaker: Joan H. Little

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

Emergency Contact (Person & Phone) _____

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DaySpring Conference is being planned as "provide your own transportation" with no afternoon trips scheduled.

Afternoons will be free for your relaxation, travel, shopping, and enjoyment.

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July 30-August 4, 2007

Speaker: Kathy Hayes

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Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
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- Hand deliver, or
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*The 95th Annual Session
of the
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
May 22 - 24, 2007
Kornegay Hall On the Campus of Mount Olive College*

“Go... Tell the Story”
(Mark 16:15)

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, May 22

Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet—Murphy Center—5:30 P.M.
Great food, gifts, service awards, information, fellowship
Music by the Mission Valley OFWB Church Choir

Convention Worship Service — Kornegay Hall —7:30 P.M.
Speaker: The Reverend James Howard Nobles,
Pastor of Mission Valley OFWB Church, Pee Dee Association

Wednesday, May 23

Opening Session—Kornegay Hall—9:00 A.M.
Worship Speaker: The Reverend Ashley Summerlin,
Pastor of Jackson Heights OFWB Church, Eastern Conference

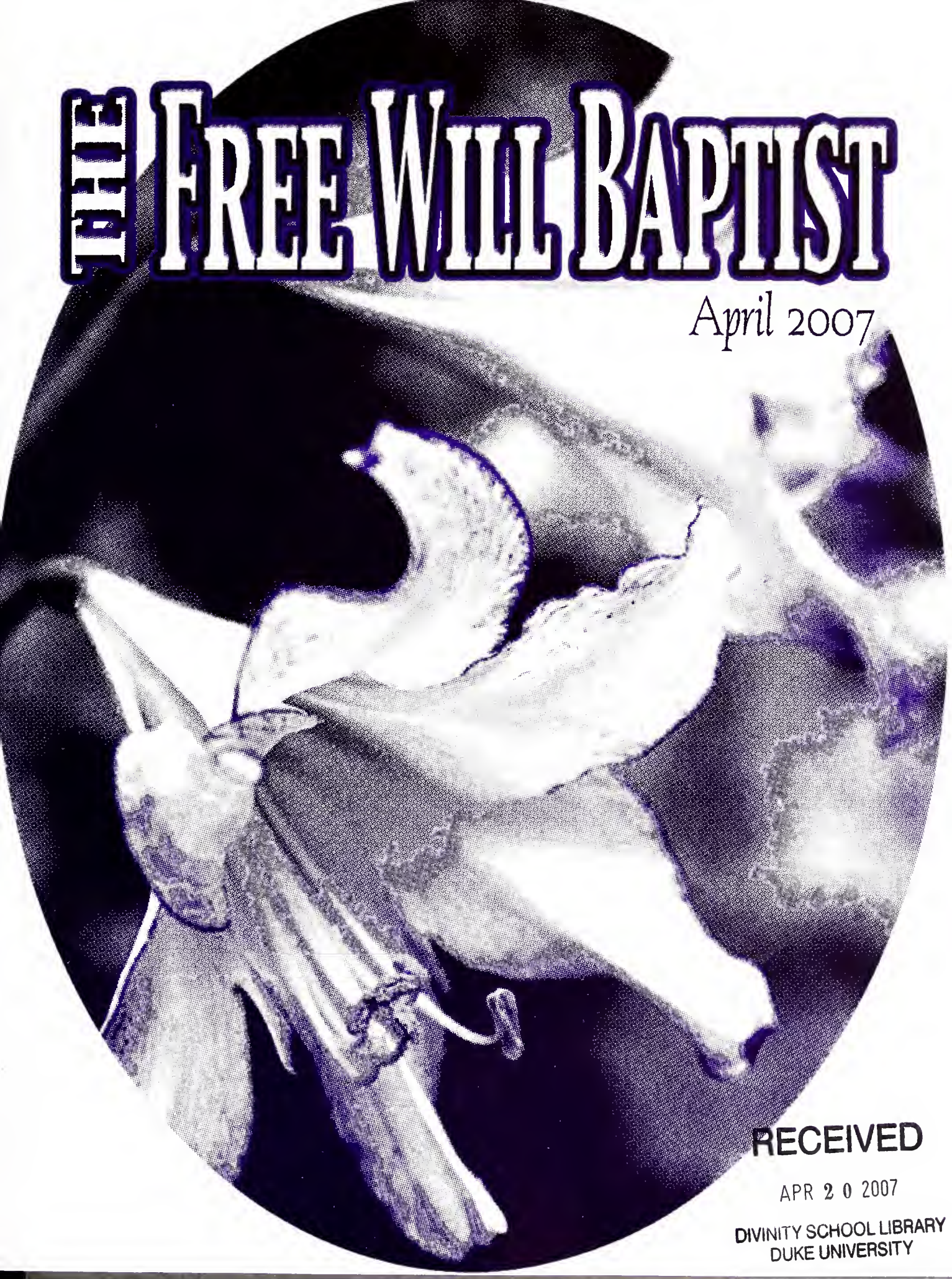
Sunday School Banquet—Murphy Center—5:45 P.M.
Annual Mission Rally—Kornegay Hall —7:30 P.M.
Sponsored by the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism

Thursday, May 24

Closing Session—Kornegay Hall—9:00 A.M.
Worship Speaker: The Reverend Barry Stallings,
Pastor of Pleasant Grove OFWB Church, Western Conference

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

April 2007



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HOME MISSIONS MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 MOC Literary Festival (3-4) MOC Family Night	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 MOC Spring Fest (13-15) MOC Spring Concert Cragmont Morning Star (13-15)	14
15	16	17	18	19 Cragmont Spring Swing Golf Tournament, 1 P.M.	20	21
22 GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY	23	24 Central Conference Board of Ord., First Church, Greenville, 10 A.M. NC Foundation for Christian Min., Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, 6:30 P.M.	25	26	27 MOC Spring Fling	28
29	30	31				

COMING SOON:

NOTES:

May 4—Cragmont Tractor/ Truck Pull, 7 P.M. Four Oaks Pulling Track
 May 5—Cragmont Tractor/ Truck Pull, 12 P.M. Four Oaks Pulling Track
 May 10—NC Woman's Auxiliary Convention, Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, 8:30 A.M.
 May 22-24—95th Annual Session of Convention of OFWB
 May 23—OFWB Convention Mission Rally, 7:30 P.M.

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CONTENTS

April 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 4

FEATURES

5 Moving Beyond the 150!



22

COLUMNS

4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

28 Golden Oldies

DEPARTMENTS

2 Monthly Planner

24 NC Foundation for
Christian Ministries

26 Woman's Auxiliary

27 Camp Vandemere

28 People & Events

ET CETERA

21 My Guardian Angel

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

6 Home Missions & Evangelism

9 OFWB International

10 Cragmont Assembly

13 Children's Home

14 Sunday School Ministry

15 Mount Olive College

23 Mount Olive College

POWER VERSE

But he was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities: the
chastisement of our peace was upon him; and
with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).

HATS OFF TO SOUND SIDE

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

In several of my past writings in the Free Will Baptist, I have alluded to my pastoral work in Tyrell County, NC, which began in 1952 when I served three OFWB churches in that county. One of those churches was Sound Side Church that I served on three different occasions for a total of almost seven years. This church has always been special to me and my family, as well as the other churches in the county.

For several months I have been receiving Sound Side's monthly newsletter that focuses on happenings in the church. The February issue truly impressed me when I noted the page titled, "Happenings in our own backyard." I then called the pastor, Brother Royce Reynolds, and later Mrs. Kathy Cahoon to learn more about the new ministry, "Backyard Ministry." In essence, its purpose is to serve the church and the local community by helping repair and fix up the homes and properties for those who cannot do it themselves. In brief, here follows examples of things they are doing:

Their first project was to replace vinyl siding, framing a door, and doing some painting and reorganizing a shop for Mrs. Margaret Cahoon. The work was done in six hours by eleven volunteers.

Mrs. Mary Brickhouse was having a problem with snakes. One got into her kitchen through a hole in the door frame. The BYM team replaced the door and a storm door. They also built some steps and added a roof over the steps.

Mrs. Viola Brickhouse's heating bills were too high. Her house had no underpinning and water from the roof was running under the house. Six volunteers installed the underpinning and painted it, with the hope the heating bill will be much less.

Mrs. Pollard had a leaking roof. Sixteen volunteers spent 2 ½ days replacing her leaky roof. In connection with the work, Phil McAdams, director, wrote the following bit of verse:

Reflections

*"Mrs. Pollard had a drip in the middle of her bed.
When it rained it always seemed to hit her in the head.
We fixed the leak so she wouldn't cry,
Now she can sleep warm and dry."*

Mrs. Margaret Lassister's awning frames needed replacing and she needed a new storm door. They also scraped and painted her storage shed.

In each of these projects, volunteers served lunch for the workers.

The idea for BYM came from information that was passed on to the Sound Side group that helped in disaster relief in Mississippi some months ago. To finance the projects, the Woman's Auxiliary and members raised \$800. Funds also came from private donors. Sound Side Church is to be commended in proving that "Charity begins at home."

Westside Church is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year and has several exciting events in the near future to help commemorate that milestone. On Sunday, April 22, 2007, Jerri Mercer, from Chinquapin, will present a special evening of Gospel Music. The program will be at 6 P.M. in the Family Life Center

The Reverend Don Ribeiro will be the evangelist for a revival starting Sunday evening, April 29-May 2. The Praise and Drama teams from Ormondsville Church will also be taking part in the services each evening. The services will be held in the Family Life Center and will start at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday evening and at 7:00 P.M. for the subsequent services.

The church will celebrate the special birthday with its traditional Anniversary Sunday during the morning worship hour at 11 A.M. The specifics are still being planned but the day promises to be a time of reflection, celebration, and inspiration. Following the service, a homecoming style lunch will be served in the Family Life Center.

The Westside family invites all former members and friends to join with us for any or all of these occasions. The church is located at 1205 Lynn Drive in Kinston. You may call the church at (252) 522-4505 if you desire more information about any of these events.

Moving Beyond the 150!

by The Reverend John Hill, Pastor, First FWB Church of Goldsboro

In the previous article, "Exploring the Shepherd Size Congregation: 50–150 Members" I described the nature of the animal of a congregation whose active worship attendance ranges between 50–150 attendees. One can see that this style congregation has its own distinctive style and function. However, in the task of evangelism to draw all humans to a saving faith in Christ we are challenged to grow congregations and ultimately the kingdom of God.

This article seeks to aid those whose congregation has reached a plateau at the 150 threshold. This seemingly Mount Everest of a hurdle is bewildering in light of the natural challenges that face the congregations. In the light of the importance of intimacy of relationships within this style congregation, how does one move beyond the magical 150?

The task of transition originates (as with everything else in the Shepherd Size congregation) with the pastor. The pastor must begin to slowly alter day to day activities and decision making to reflect some of the following:

- 1. The pastor must focus on lay leadership development and "owned" ministries.** The context of this development is up to the congregation. It may involve Sunday School teacher training, deacon visitation training, witnessing retreats, mission trips, youth leader seminars, YFA leadership programs, etc. These programs help members to "own" an area of ministry and more importantly exercise the call God has placed on their lives for the building up of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4). *"Train Yourself Out of a Job!"*
- 2. Heighten, create, or tweak communication methods!** Communication! Communication! Communication! Invest in new ways to communicate with members. Move beyond the morning bulletin reading and streamline your news letters to communicate clearly and precisely! Be intentional with advertisements, flyers, and the wording of notes. Invest in the gathering of email addresses for a weekly (FREE) email newsletter update. Purchase a phone-tree automatic phone messaging system and use it frequently! Open as many communication lines as possible and keep them flowing clearly and swiftly. Miscommunication or the lack of communication is the greatest roadblock to success and change.
- 3. Move toward ministry development and away from organizational maintenance.** When laypersons are trained effectively and own an area of ministry the pastor can move on to new endeavors and callings. Spend time thinking about new ways to reach the community around you. You may find that some programs need to be eulogized and buried. Be intentional about what ministries are offered to whom. Think team approach!
- 4. Bring on auxiliary staff.** The pastor can eventually move to a Chief of Staff role while balancing the role of Chief Shepherd. Consider one staff person for every 100 members. While 100 members is not a challenge, the extended relationships with those 100 are very important. Hire staff to complement your church's strongest suits. If you have few children and youth but a great Sunday School, hire a Minister of Education instead of a Youth Minister! Invest in your strengths or else your heightened weaknesses will fit like an awkward shoe!
- 5. Move toward a more democratic majority for decisions.** One must begin to rely less on power structures within a family or individual for church decisions. This is the hardest challenge to overcome. Seek a majority and encourage freedom of choice and opinion.
- 6. A gradual, but necessary, equalization of time between church business and visitation.** This shift is the next most difficult for me to admit. There must be a balance of the need for office time handling general operation and time for the members. However, if deacons and visitation teams are effective, it will greatly aid the shift beyond the 150 threshold.
- 7. A deeper connection to denominational resources, ministries, and networks.** As the church begins to grow, the denominational outreach programs and services become increasingly important. As referenced above, leadership training, deacon training, Sunday School teacher training, youth worker development, and other such services are often provided by denominational ministries. Connect with a ministry director to coordinate ways to develop new ministry opportunities within your congregation.

Malcolm Gladwell explores in his work, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* (Little Brown, 2000), this basic truth of moving beyond the 150 threshold. Seeing the magical 150 as a (physics term) "critical mass," once the barrier is broken the church tips into the next phase of growth.

The work of congregational growth is a challenge few have the nerve to face. However, with insight into the hidden dynamics of congregations one can make wise steps to coach a church into a new area of Christian ministry. Consider the above as possible suggestions of ways little changes can bring major changes. *The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single foot step!*

I welcome your feedback and questions! Please e-mail <johnhill@bbnp.com>.



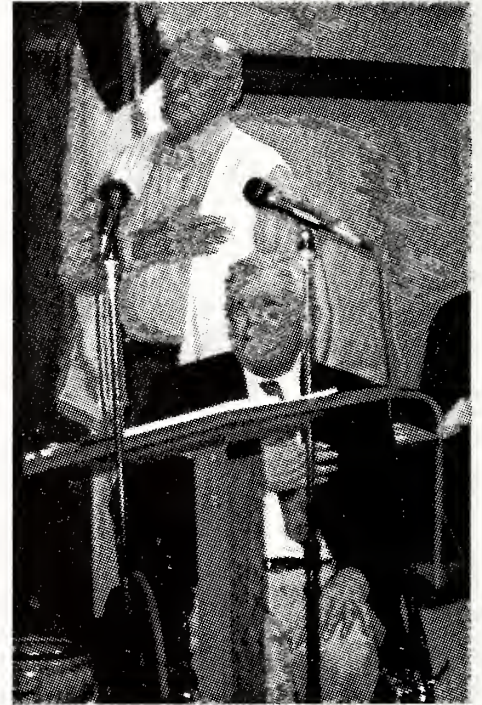
THE HARVEST CONNECTION DISASTER RELIEF MARCH MEETING

by Pepper Worthington, Professor of Language and Literature, Mount Olive College

David Charles Hansley and Roy Wetherington welcomed the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief participants at the March meeting at the warehouse headquarters. "All of you here have given and you know you will have a return. All of us who walk with the Lord will find He will give us life forever, for we are laborers together with God," Hansley said. "Let every man take heed on what foundation he builds. Let us be laborers who are helping to build the Kingdom."

"Holy Father, thank you for this day and for the opportunity to serve you. Teach us to love you, so we can share our love every day. Speak to us today, Lord. Bless our ministry as we continue to help others. We pray, Father, that you will hear the voices crying out to you, those seeking a direction in life. Help us to hear your voice. Bless us so we can say it has been good to have been here today."

PARTICIPANTS AT THE MARCH MEETING OF THE HARVEST CONNECTION



Earl Hughes (standing) and Hulon Whitehead (seated) make a presentation of the American flag and the Christian flag to the Harvest Connection at the March meeting.

KRISTIE AND TAMMY MAY SING



Kristie May (guitar) and her mother Tammy May, of Hillside OFWB Church of Grifton, sing "I Haven't Changed My Mind About Serving the Lord" at the March meeting.

SIX STEPS OF BUILDING A FOUNDATION WITH GOD



David Charles Hansley and Roy Wetherington led the March meeting of the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Team.

Hansley then mentioned six steps of building a foundation with God. (1) Christ comes to live within so that what is built is an image of Christ. (2) Each one needs an ambition. Use that personal gift or talent and go with God. (3) Each one must have an affection or love for others, because God's love is within. (4) Everybody needs to do something, to act in order to reach people for Christ. (5) Learn all about the work which is to be done. Study and go forth into the field. (6) Give God the glory.

Tim Heath led the morning prayer.

A mother and daughter duo sang for the March meeting. Kristie May played the guitar and sang with her mother, Tammy May, the song, "I Haven't Changed My Mind About Serving the Lord." Their voices rang with the words: "I will serve the Lord no matter what it might cost me. I know I can rely on the promises of God's Word. I'll be so glad to be living with the Lord in sweet accord. I haven't changed my mind about serving the Lord. I know I can rely on the promises in His Word."

Participants came from across North Carolina to the Harvest Connection March meeting. Among the places represented were Aurora, Greenville, Deep Run, Kinston, Clayton, Garner, Morehead City, New Bern, Newport, Mount Olive, and others. Two participants, Earl Hughes and Hulon Whitehead, presented the Harvest Connection an American flag. They represented 1,300 local members of Woodman of the World, Kinston Lodge #46. Earl Hughes noted, "The American flag is always on the right hand side of the speaker when the speaker is on the platform. If the

speaker is on floor level, the American flag should be placed on the right hand of the people."

MESSAGE: DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY



Dr. W. Burkette Raper was the speaker at the March meeting of the Harvest Connection.

"Let us look at the three words in the Disaster Relief Ministry," noted Dr. W. Burkette Raper as he addressed the large gathering of Original Free Will Baptist disaster relief workers. "Disaster refers to widespread destruction and distress. The destruction may annihilate a house, furniture, car, water supply, memorabilia, or material things. These are man-made things. But the distress is more an inward feeling, an anxiety, a strain, a pain. A house may be condemned as unsafe and this destruction may leave someone with no place to live, no way to go to work. Material needs are important, but people also need help in their distress. They need compassion, love, and a sense that somebody cares."

Dr. Raper paused, then reflected upon both the destruction and distress that come from man-made disasters, as well as from acts of nature, oftentimes referred to as acts of God. "It really doesn't matter to the victim whether the disaster is man-made or an act of nature. What the victim wants is relief."

DISASTER CALLS FOR RELIEF

"What a victim of disaster wants is some relief from the loss of material

things. Victims feel pain. Relief is aid in times of disaster. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan who paid attention to the needs of the man who had been robbed and beaten. The Red Cross and FEMA may pay attention to the needs of a victim, but the Harvest Connection is a ministry. Your program is one step further than philanthropy, because you bring in the vertical dimension of agape. Horizontal love is possible, but the vertical dimension of God's love in us is important in this ministry," declared Dr. Raper.

MINISTRY AS AGAPE— THE VERTICAL DIMENSION

"The Greeks had more than one word for love. For example, *eros* referred to *erotic love*," explained Dr. Raper. "God's love was called *agape* by the Greeks. Agape love originates with God. God's love comes vertically down to us from God. Then the love we show to our fellowman reflects God's love within us. Your Christian ministry in the disaster relief program is a ministry, because God's love comes down and you are sharing your love with people in distress. You have a different sense of compassion than the FEMA staff. You are helping people deal with the distress of their inward pain. Your ministry does not come from the government, but from God. You are vessels of God's love to others. Think of yourself as a Christian relief ministry in time of disaster," suggested Dr. Raper.

SUGGESTIONS IN PERSPECTIVE AND FOCUS

"People need not only help with things, but they also need the pulse of your love, care, and compassion. They need to feel God's agape through your work," noted Dr. Raper.

"And," he continued, "you in your disaster work need to be prudent in the perimeters of your work and your service. You cannot go everywhere. You cannot meet the needs of all the people. Do what you can. Chart your own course," he said.

"Select the situations where you can make a difference. Go where there is a need and where you can do the most good, whether close by or far away. Remember that the money is first given to God. Then these gifts are used to advance the work of God," he added.

"What you want to do in your ministry is to send the message that you care not out of sympathy, but out of love. You send emergency kits out of love. You send shoe boxes out of love. You send work crews out of love. Your message is you care out of love. Your message is more Christian because you have a vertical dimension, an inner spirit, a vertical relationship with God," suggested Dr. Raper.

SLOGAN OR CODE LETTERS: DCH

To end his message, Dr. Raper smiled broadly, looked at David Charles Hansley, and said, "Why not use the slogan or code letters DCH for your program? After all, David Charles Hansley is the man behind this ministry. D can stand for disaster, destruction, or distress," laughed Dr. Raper. The participants applauded while David Charles Hansley blushed. The letter C can stand for care, compassion. The letter H can stand for help or hope. In your work you can bring to disaster the DCH factor," concluded Dr. Raper.

Everyone stood to applaud. High noon had arrived and it was time for lunch and pictures of the disaster relief work in Louisiana and Mississippi. One sign stood out in the sunlight: *Katrina Was Big, But God Is Bigger.*

**April
is
Home Missions
and
Evangelism
Month**

Sunday,
April 22, 2007

**Good
Shepherd
Sunday**



Your funds will help us to
"Touch Lives for a Lifetime."



DAY OF PRAYER PALAWAN BIBLE COLLEGE • PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Marvie F. Cuba

Prayer is Christian communion with God, the recognition of His presence in praise, thanksgiving, and intercession. The Palawan Bible College students, faculty, and staff, the National Department, Mission Department, Kindergarten faculty and staff, together with other church workers join together in a day of prayer at various times during the year.

This year our speaker was Pastor Armando R. Manzano, pastor of the Canigaran First Free Will Baptist Church. He delivered God's Word from Psalm 55:16-17. He shared the importance of prayer in a Christian's life.

We lift our praises, thanksgiving, and prayer requests to the Lord for the work here in the Philippines, throughout the world, and to our brethren in other countries. We believe that prayer does the things that our hands cannot do. The program was successful and ended in a time of fellowship.

Please continue to pray for us, especially in God's ministry in this institution, the Palawan Bible College, that God will continue to bless those individuals who have a true commitment to serve in His ministry for the glory of God the Father. Thank you and may God bless us all!



Marvie Cuba leading the group in a time of prayer.



Pastor Armando R. Manzano



The Palawan congregation in prayer.

MISSION RALLY OFFERING

The Annual Convention Mission Rally will be May 23 at 7:30 P.M. in Kornegay Arena at Mount Olive College. We hope you will make every effort to attend. Your special gift at this rally will enable the Board of Foreign Missions to continue reaching around the world with the Gospel. Thank you in advance for your generosity. **REMEMBER! YOUR GIFT MUST BE EARMARKED "FOREIGN MISSIONS" OR PLACED IN A SPECIAL ENVELOPE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE RALLY. (Home Missions will be in charge of the Rally this year.)**

Short-Term Team Ministry Mexico 2007

June 16-23

July 7-14

July 14-21

August 4-12 (Camp Morelos)



“Worship: Retelling the Story”

Speaker: The Reverend John Williams

September 6–8, 2007

Worship is the single most important thing that the church does. Of late, we seem to be very confused as to what worship is and how we should do it. Because worship is so important in our churches today, Cragmont Assembly is offering the seminar “Worship: Retelling the Story.” This seminar is more of a “why to” approach with the hope that the “how to” will also be answered as we proceed through the seminar. We have designed it to begin on Thursday evening September 6 with the evening meal and end on Saturday September 8 with lunch, allowing everyone to get back home for worship at your own church on Sunday.

Cost: \$100 per person
(main or motel)

\$95 per person
(dorm)

Includes: 2 nights lodging
Supper on Thursday
3 meals on Friday
2 meals on Saturday
(breakfast and lunch)

**Register soon! Space is limited to the motel, main, and dorms.
For further information call Cragmont toll free at (877) 669-7677.**

2 Day Tractor/Truck Pull

Pulling for Kids

Sponsored By Cragmont Assembly, Inc. &
Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship

“Christian Camping In the Blue Ridge Mountains”

Friday, May 4, 7 P.M. (Mini Pull)

Hot Rod & Stock
Lawn Mowers
Pulled by: Neuse Mini
Tractor Pulling Association

Saturday, May 5, 12 P.M.

Antique Farm (Smokers)
Turbo, V-8 Modified
Pulled by: Carolina
Antique Tractor Pulling

Kiddie Pull Both Days (Ages 4–8)

All Proceeds Go Toward Paying off the New Camper's Lodge

Four Oaks Pulling Track

659 Tetersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

Take I-95 to Exit 87 Four Oaks to Hockaday Rd., 2 Miles to Tetersville Rd.

Turn Right 1 Mile Track on Left, Shade Trees for Everyone at the Track

Admission \$7—Children (4–12) \$4

No Alcohol, Drugs or Profanity Allowed

For information call: Jim Best (919) 796-2775—Bryant Hines (252) 670-8424

Fourth Annual Cragmont Spring Swing Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 1 P.M.

Ayden Golf and Country Club

Registration Form

Ayden Golf and Country Club is located just off Highway 102 East of Ayden

- * Cost: \$60 per Player—\$240 per Team
- * Format: Four Man Super Ball
- * Shotgun Start at 1 P.M.
- * Field Limited to Twenty-two Teams
- * Prizes Awarded at the end of the Day

Handicap Each Player As "A, B, C, or D" Senior (60+) Division Available
Make Checks Payable To: "Cragmont" and Return With Registration To:

Bryant Hines,
2407 Wild Turkey Rd
New Bern, NC 28562
Telephone: (252) 670-8424

Player 1 (Captain) _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Player 2 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Player 3 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Player 4 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

2007 SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 13–15, 2007
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Bed, Breakfast & Blessings

July 1–8, 2007
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Rd.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

Ministerial Association of OFWB

June 4–6, 2007
John Hill
312 Pineview St.
Lucama, NC 27851
(252) 239-1958

General Youth II Conference

July 9–14, 2007
John Robert Harris
2514 Olde Dutch Ct.
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 208-1781

Day Spring Conference

June 6–9, 2007
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

General Youth I Conference

July 16–21, 2007
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 11–16, 2007
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5345

Young People's Bible Conference

July 23–28, 2007
Rudy Owens
1515 US 70-A
Selma, NC 27576
(919) 965-2796

Christian Cadet Conference

June 18–23, 2007
Wes Boyd
794 Church of God Rd.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 736-9436

August Women's Aux. Conference

July 30–August 4, 2007
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

June 25–30, 2007
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd.
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

Pee Dee Youth Conference

August 6–9, 2007
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683



2007 CHANGE FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

Dear Church Friends:

It is time to start preparing for our tenth annual "Change For Children" campaign. Our previous nine campaigns have been successful, and we trust that this year will prove to be even more so, thanks to you and many Free Will Baptists who saved their change for the children. These campaigns have increased awareness of our childcare ministry and generated financial support for crucial months during the summer.

Your church will receive information, collection bags, and bulletin inserts in early April. We would like for you to have your congregation start preparing now, by doing the following.

We request that you:

- pray for your Children's Home ministry
- encourage your church family to save their change during Children's Home month
- designate a Sunday in May as Children's Home Day.

This Campaign will encourage families and church groups to work together collecting their change, and provide youth and new members the opportunity to learn about the Children's Home. By increasing awareness of your childcare ministry, financial support will increase, allowing us to continue to meet the needs of His children.

The needs of the children we serve are constantly changing, but the one constant that stays the same is they are "God's children," and they need and deserve our help. The support you give allows us to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve, not only by supplying their physical needs, but also by providing a place and opportunity for them to be introduced to our Lord and Savior, and grow spiritually.

Campus Visits

On February 10, 2007, Tyler Rogers visited the Children's Home. He is active in the RA's at his church, Central Baptist, in Wendell, and had chosen the Children's Home as his missions project. Tyler had collected canned food, dry foods, and other supplies for his project. He came to drop off the supplies, and toured the campus while here. This was a great example of Children helping Children! Thanks Tyler for all of your hard work.

Are you on our Mailing List?

If you are not currently receiving a copy of *Children's Home Life*, our quarterly newsletter, please let us know. The newsletter is a great way to keep up with what's going on at the Home. Also, if your church has a Directory, we would love to have a copy of it so we can keep our records up-to-date.

Needs List

- Twin Sheets & Comforters
- Cleaning Supplies: Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent
- Personal Care Items for girls and boys
- Handheld GPS Navigation Units (2)
- Summer Trip Sponsor (\$3000)



On February 7, 2007, members of Steven's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Benson, NC, along with their pastor, the Reverend Richard McKeel and his wife, Nova, came to the Children's Home to drop off supplies and tour the campus.



Members of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Middlesex, NC visited the Home on February 8 to share a hot dog meal with the residents.



CINDERELLA SISTERS STUDY DEBORAH DUNN'S *TRAPPED IN THE MAGIC MIRROR*

by Pepper Worthington, Professor of Language and Literature, Mount Olive College



Deborah B. Dunn

Journey of Cook Communications Ministry, 2006). As a part of the Carolina ChristCare team, Deborah Dunn herself claims to have "caught the vision for teaching churches how to respond to disaster" (p. 10). Her book grew out of her therapy practice where she began to spot the disaster of women using a Magic Mirror to distort their thoughts, seeking an illusive fairy tale life rather than a God-sourced life. An addiction to "romantic thinking" and an "idealized vision of the perfect life" may bring disaster not only to the wives of our ministers but also to the ministers themselves.

FATAL FIVE FALSEHOODS

What does Deborah Dunn tell us is the danger of the illusion of seeing a perfect life reflected in a Magic Mirror? What voices speak to us from the Magic Mirror? Dunn lists four main voices: "our critical parents, our carnal friends, the media, and our own selfish wills" (49).

False voices may lead to Dunn's "fatal five falsehoods." These five beliefs, Dunn asserts, may be fatal for women in particular. What are the five fatal falsehoods? Dunn states them clearly: (1) "If I strive to be beautiful, sexually attractive, and successful by the standards of the world, my husband will be entranced by me. This will make me feel good about myself, and I will bask in the reflected glory of his love" (2) "If my husband really loves me, he will change into the man I need him to be." (3) "If my husband doesn't treat me well, God has forgotten me." (4) "If I love others more than I love myself, they will need me. Being needed will make me feel loved. I must always put the needs of others first." (5) "If bad things happen to me or if I don't have the desires of my heart, there must be something wrong with me" (49-50).

FIVE TRUTHS

Dunn emphasizes the danger of these five falsehoods by emphasizing five truths: (1) "Only God has the power to make you feel good about yourself." (2) "Real love means accepting people as they are." (3) "God has not abandoned you,

Mary Dudley and the Rev. David Charles Hansley met Deborah Dunn in the Disaster Relief program, thus paving the way for the wives and widows of OFWB ministers a chance for a Sunday School Ministry Seminar weekend with the author of *Trapped in the Magic Mirror* (Life

even when your husband doesn't treat you well." (4) "Being needed is not confused with being loved. A person exhibiting true love strives to help the other person to be less needy by encouraging individual spiritual and emotional growth." (5) "God does not give you the desires of your heart unless your heart is fixed on Him" (50-51).

ORIGINAL DESIGN

What can a woman or a man for that matter do to develop a life away from the Magic Mirror of idealized thinking? Dunn suggests an intriguing idea, what she calls a look at the Original Design as the "true nature" that was "coded" into the genes: "the personality, interests, skills, and abilities" (144) given to us by God at our birth. To find this Original Design, Dunn suggests going back to the happy memories "between the ages of six and eleven" (143). Dunn states: "I chose the prepubescent age because that is the age when most children know how to play, love God wholeheartedly, and are less concerned with what others think about them" (144).

Discovery of the Original Design of the Self must also be developed with an effort to build emotional intelligence. Such intelligence may be enlarged by three things: (1) therapy, (2) reading the Bible, (3) thinking logically (165).

OVERCOME CO-DEPENDENCE

Dunn describes co-dependence as a confusion, "a relationship in which a person confuses loving someone with needing that person, to the point that she sabotages the personal growth of herself and the other person in order to stay in the relationship" (179). To overcome co-dependence, Dunn recommends several changes: (1) Avoid the tendency to rescue or be rescued in order to overcome the need of not being needed. (2) Allow the stronger Self to lean on a weaker Self so that both grow in the relationship. (3) Learn "that the only thing you truly need is God" (183). (4) Allow God to flow through your work. (5) Learn to empower yourself and others. (6) Develop friends who put God first. (7) Explore.

THE MAGIC MIRROR VERSUS GOD

The emphasis of the Magic Mirror is to reflect our own reflections, Dunn believes, but true joy comes from discarding the focus of our own reflections and the search of looking for God. Smash that Magic Mirror! Dunn insists: "Focus on the Lord. Give Him your desires and your heart, and allow Him to transform you into His image" (219).



MOC BOARD MEETS AND MAKES PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Mount Olive College Board of Trustees met in February in New Bern for its annual working retreat, during which time the Board and President J. William Byrd laid out a development plan for leadership of the College. The plan includes beginning a search for a Provost of the College in March of this year. Once appointed, the Provost will be responsible for the internal operations of the College in all areas except for Institutional Advancement which will continue to report to the President.

According to Dr. Byrd, this added leadership position comes at a pivotal time in the life of the institution.

"The growth of the College in every regard has been aggressive and has therefore placed increasing demands on the institution with regards to leadership and management," Dr. Byrd stated. "I am appreciative of the Board's satisfaction with the progress of the College and am grateful that they value and understand the importance of continuing this momentum by carefully planning and preparing for future leadership."

Dr. Byrd is quick to note that this announcement is not a retirement on his part, but a transition in leadership and a new role for him. On July 1, 2008, Dr. Byrd will be appointed Chancellor of the College. In this new role, he will concentrate on external relations and special projects with continued oversight of Institutional Advancement.

A search for a new president will begin in early 2008.

"My decision to change roles at the College is guided by a strong desire to spend more time with my family and to serve

the College in broader and more innovative ways," Dr. Byrd stated.

Dr. Byrd has led a transformation at MOC that began with the development of the College's nontraditional programming in 1993. He has improved the College's financial strength and directed the most comprehensive strategic planning effort in the school's 55-year history. During the years with Dr. Byrd at the helm, Mount Olive College has made many advances including growing to serve students in six locations in Eastern North Carolina, expanding the curriculum and the enrollment, increasing the endowment and adding new facilities. In the past 12 years under Dr. Byrd's leadership, the College has made over \$20 million dollars in capital improvements, including the addition of a state-of-the-art communication's facility, a Wellness Center, a new academic complex named in honor of W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper (Raper Hall), and several additions to the College's athletics facilities including a new baseball field house, a new softball field and dugouts, a soccer field, and new tennis courts. Dr. Byrd has also led the institution through a comprehensive organizational restructuring that included strengthening of the College's Mission and focusing on core values through the College Covenant.

"The Board values and appreciates Dr. Byrd's leadership," said Darrell Horne, chair of the Board of Trustees. "I admire his vision, his passion and his leadership during the past 12 years and, as Chair of the Board, I look forward to his continued relationship with the College as we make this transition."

Three's A Charm

by Sarah Finch, Student Intern

In September of 1991, the Mount Olive Tribune featured a photograph of three young brothers attending the groundbreaking ceremony of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The caption boldly asked, "Are these future Mount Olive College students?" It went on to speculate, "They could very well be since their father and several of their uncles attended MOC."



What started out years ago as merely a guess has since turned into reality. Brothers Matthew, Andrew, and Nathaniel Grubbs, sons of the Reverend Paul and Mrs. Teresa Grubbs of Lowland, are following a long line of family heritage by attending Mount Olive College.

"The Grubbs family has a long history with MOC," stated Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support. "I really don't know of any other family who has had more students attend the College than the Grubbs family,"

It all started with Lillian Grubbs and her late husband, the Reverend Herman Grubbs, who first became acquainted with MOC in 1958, when they attended a FWB Convention in Florida and met Dr. W. Burkette Raper, then president of MOC. And as the story goes, the rest is history. In his book, *A History of MOC*, Dr. Raper dedicated an entire chapter to the Grubbs family because of their extended involvement with the College.

In addition to Lillian and Herman, eight of their children and now three of their grandchildren have attended or are attending MOC.

Nathaniel, the eldest son of Teresa and Paul, came to MOC in the fall of 2001 to pursue a degree in biology. Originally looking for an institution that would offer him financial aid, Nathaniel found much more.

"MOC has small class sizes, quality faculty, and a helpful admissions department," he said.

While at MOC, Nathaniel was active in several clubs and organizations including, FFA. He worked closely with others to initiate a collegiate chapter of FFA, one of only three such chapters in the state. He was also active in the Biology Club, the MOC Ambassadors, and assisted Jean Ackiss in the Office of Church Support throughout his four years at MOC.

Nathaniel's favorite MOC professor and mentor, Willis Brown, inspired him to pursue a career in academics.

"I plan to stay in academics either as a professor or as a researcher, if not both," Nathaniel said. Nathaniel is cur

It all started with Lillian Grubbs and her late husband, the Reverend Herman Grubbs, who first became acquainted with MOC in 1958, when they attended a FWB Convention in Florida and met Dr. W. Burkette Raper, then president of MOC. And as the story goes, the rest is history.

rently attending NCSU, earning his master's degree in genetics.

Matthew Grubbs, the middle brother, enrolled at MOC in 2003. Because of his affiliation with the OFWB church, Matthew knew MOC was a good choice for him.

"Mount Olive College is a place where you will know most of the students and the professors will know you by name," he said. "It is a place where you can discover your purpose in life and grow in your relationship with God."

Matthew speaks highly of the professors at MOC. "I have enjoyed Dr. Rigsbee's challenging and intellectual classes and also Dr. Watson's courses in voice. And, my religion professors bring a unique characteristic to the classroom with the common goal of bringing out the best in their students," he stated.

Like Nathaniel, Matthew has led an active four years at MOC being involved in the MOC Ambassadors, the MOC Concert Choir and Free Spirit, and serving as the student assistant to the Campus Minister. In addition, he provides campus tours to potential students and assists with the weekly student led prayer and worship groups.

In May, Matthew will receive his bachelor of arts degree in religion with a minor in music. And, this summer, he



The Grubbs family ties are strong and true! Brothers Matthew, Andrew, and Nathaniel (l-r) lovingly joke around in front of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, the campus cafeteria.

plans to marry Amy Daughtry, whom he fell in love with while at MOC. Matthew also plans to pursue his master's degree in counseling and would eventually like to go overseas as a missionary, something he has already experienced first hand with his parents who were missionaries in both the Philippines and Bulgaria.

"I love to help people through talking with them about where they are in life and giving them insight into what gifts and talents they have to offer," Matthew said. He is currently the Youth Director at May's Chapel OFWB Church in Wayne County and a member of their choir.

Matthew's giving personality and compassionate spirit have already made an impact within his own family. According to Andrew Grubbs, the youngest of the three brothers, "Matthew has helped me on numerous occasions when I have really needed him and he has taught me a lot by his example throughout my life."

Andrew entered Mount Olive College in 2006 pursuing a degree in psychology. Coming from First Original FWB Church in Plymouth, Andrew enjoys the many Christian events held on campus.

"MOC is a good place to be. There are lots of things going on all the time. The people and the religious activities are a huge benefit to students," he explained. As an OFWB scholar, Andrew was already assured to receive a scholarship from MOC. As part of that commitment, he volunteers in the Office of Church Support. He is also active with the MOC Ambassadors, the Undergraduate Alumni Association, the Kornegay Krazees, and he helped initiate a new band called The Power of G.R.A.C.E (God's Riches At Christ's Expense).

Andrew enthusiastically explained that the band ministers to people by playing contemporary music for churches and campus events. Andrew plays the bass guitar and a bit of saxo-

phone. Getting in a little publicity, Andrew added, "We are more than happy to play for any group or organization."

Andrew and his brothers did not always know that they would attend Mount Olive College, but they all are very glad they did. Attending MOC fostered special relationships between the brothers because of their shared experiences.

"Andrew and I have grown closer over the past couple of years, and we have had great conversations about people and places that are so vivid in my memory and are such current experiences for him," related Nathaniel.

Matthew echoes that sentiment, "Now that we are older we have become closer and we hang out more. We do not share any of the same professors right now, but we interact at different events on campus, which is helpful and encouraging for both of us."

As youngsters, these guys did not always get along, but what more could you expect from a household with three boys! They played, fought, laughed, hung-out, teased, and generally acted like normal siblings. Now that they are more mature, their individual personalities and talents are shining through and the incredible character of the Grubbs family is evident.

Andrew's quiet, self-contained, but crazy-at-times attitude brings quite a contrast to Matthew's outgoing and lively demeanor. Not shy about talking to strangers though, Matthew also has a caring, thoughtful streak which makes him easy to approach. Nathaniel represents the highly educated end of the spectrum and prefers to see the world through unbiased eyes.

When you get these three together you can see how they each have a part to fill and how important they are to one another. Their family closeness and love creates a bond that will continue throughout their lifetimes and will always include their shared experience of attending Mount Olive College.

Coming Events

MOC FAMILY NIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 3 GRAINGER STADIUM, KINSTON

Bring your family to MOC Family Night at 7 P.M. as the MOC Trojans take on the Kinston Indians. Advance tickets are \$4 and can be purchased by contacting Alumni Relations at (919) 658-2502 or <driley@moc.edu>.

MOC LITERARY FESTIVAL TUESDAY, APRIL 3- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

The Mount Olive College Literary Festival will be held on April 3-4, 2007. The featured poet will be Sarah Lindsay. Sarah Lindsay was born in Iowa in 1958 and educated at St. Olaf College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

SPRING CONCERT FRIDAY, APRIL 13 SOUTHERN BANK AUDITORIUM IN RAPER HALL

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will perform *The Creation* by Franz Joseph Haydn as its feature, which will include orchestral accompaniment and soloists. The concert will begin at 7:30 P.M. The cost will be \$5 per person. For more information, contact Dr. Alan Armstrong at (919) 658-2502 or <a1armstrong@moc.edu>.

SPRING FLING FRIDAY, APRIL 27 • 7:30 P.M. SOUTHERN BANK AUDITORIUM IN RAPER HALL

Come join the Mount Olive College Singers for a performance of songs made popular by Disney Movies. The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Larry Oldham at (919) 658-7184 or <loldham@moc.edu>.

Coming Events

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

"Spring Fest 2007"

April 13-15

Bring your family, friends and prospective students—Come to one event or all
Enjoy lunch under the big tent or bring your own picnic—See our three new MOC buildings

Friday, April 13

- 8 P.M.—College Choir Concert – Southern Bank Auditorium – Raper Hall
- Reception prior to Concert for Mount Olive College Society Members

Saturday, April 14

- 9 A.M.—5K Trojan Trot—10 A.M. One Mile Fun Run
- 9 A.M.—Youth Basketball Clinic—Kornegay Arena
Youth Baseball Clinic—Scarborough Field
- 9:30 A.M.—Men's Soccer 7 v 7 tournament
- 11 A.M.-1 P.M.—Admissions open house—prospective students
- 11 A.M.-1 P.M.—Cookout—Under the tent (\$5)—or bring your Tailgate lunch
- 12 P.M.—50th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration for Mount Olive College's Zeta Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda—Murphy Regional Center
- 11 A.M.-2 P.M.—MOC Bookstore—open in Poole Administration Building
- 12 P.M.—Men's and Women's Tennis—MOC vs. Anderson
- 2 P.M. — Softball—MOC vs. Queens (DH)
- Trojan Club Hospitality Area open to current and prospective Trojan Club members
- 4 P.M. — Baseball—MOC vs. Pfeiffer (DH)

Sunday, April 15

- 10 A.M.—Student Led Worship—Rodgers Chapel
- 1 P.M.—Baseball—MOC vs. Pfeiffer
- 2 P.M.—Softball—MOC vs. Fayetteville State (DH)

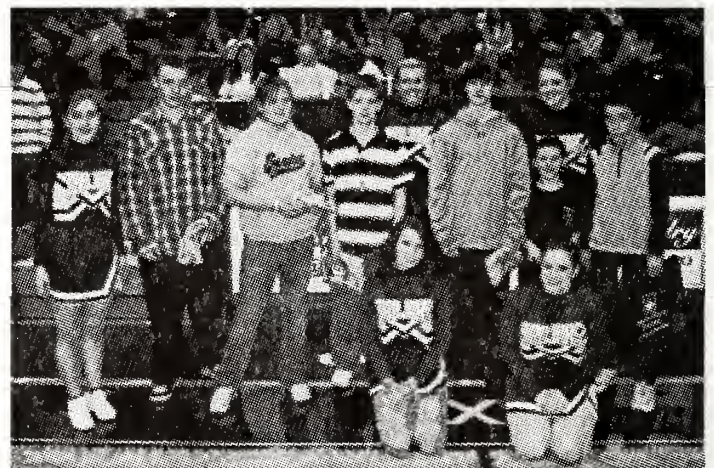
Present this card for free admission to Athletic Events
For more information as to places, times, and reservations, etc.
Contact Dianne B. Riley (919) 658-7761 <driley@moc.edu>
634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365

FWB Church Night Winners



Softball Throw Winners

Shown here are the winners of the Half-time Pitching Contest, which was open to anyone who attended the game and was in grades K-12. They are posing with the Mount Olive College Cheerleaders.



Half-time Shootout Winners

Participants had to compete in a preliminary shoot-off before half-time in order to have a chance to make a shot in Kornegay Arena during half-time of the men's basketball game. Shown are the winners of the Half-time Shootout, along with the Mount Olive College Cheerleaders. All of these participants were from FWB churches attending the game.

Church Night 2007



Bethel FWB, Johnston County



Daniel's Chapel



First FWB of Goldsboro



Free Union, Beaufort County



Fremont FWB



Haymount



Hopewell FWB



Little Creek



Marsh Swamp



Oak Grove, Craven County



Pine Level FWB



Piney Grove, Duplin County

Church Night 2007



Pleasant Grove, Duplin County



Powhatan



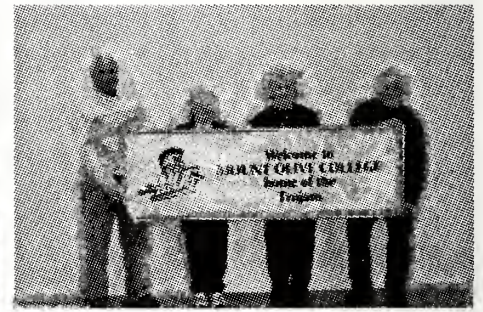
Sandy Plain



Sarecta



Shady Grove



Smith's New Home



Smyrna



Spring Hill FWB



St. Mary's FWB



St. Mary's Grove



Westside



Williamston & First

My Guardian Angel

by Tiffany Richards, Cypress Creek Church
YFA/13 years old, Christian Writing Fiction

Not too long ago, my best friend Samantha, broke her leg and I went to the hospital to visit her. I sat in the waiting room while I was waiting for the nurse to let me in. After a few minutes of waiting, an old man walked in. He was dirty and his clothes were torn. No one in the room would let him sit next to them, so I offered him a seat next to me. When he sat down he started talking to himself, only it sounded like he was talking to another person. He stopped talking and looked at me. He had realized that I was listening to him.

"My wife is in room A513," he said.

"What happened to her?" I asked.

"She got into a terrible car accident," he said.

I didn't want to ask because I thought he might be embarrassed, but I decided to ask him anyway.

"Who were you talking to a while ago?"

"God. He is the only person, besides my wife, that loves me." I looked at him in a confused way.

"How do you talk to someone that is not there?" I asked.

"He is there. He is always there," he said.

"Then why don't we see Him?" I asked.

"We're supposed to have faith that He is there even though we don't see Him. Why are you here?"

"My friend broke her leg and I'm here to visit her. She's in room C698," I said.

"Well, God is taking care of her right now. We should pray for her."

"What if God doesn't hear us praying? He must get really busy listening to everyone's prayers all the time," I said.

"God is never too busy to listen to anyone," he said.

"Can we pray for them right here, right now?" I asked.

"You can pray anywhere," he said.

We knelt down on the floor and began praying to God that Samantha and his wife would be okay. When we were finished, we sat back in our chairs and he told me more about God and how He gave us His only Son so that our sins could be forgiven.

A few minutes later, a nurse with blond hair and red lipstick came out of a room. "Are you here to see Samantha?" she asked me. I nodded my head. I turned my head to say good-bye to the old man, but when I turned around, he wasn't there. *Where could he be? He was just there a second ago. Maybe he went to see his wife.* The nurse led me to Samantha's room. I decided to tell Samantha about God and all that He has done for us. We prayed together and then the nurse came in and told me that my mother was here to pick me up. I told Samantha good-bye and that I would see her soon. My mother was waiting outside the room for me. I asked her if I could visit a woman in A513 and she said "Yes." I took the elevator on up to the second floor. When I reached the room, there was another nurse standing in the hallway.

"Excuse me? Is it all right if I go in there?" I asked. "Of course," the nurse said and led me into the room and told the sickly woman that I was here to visit her.

"Hello there," said the old woman.

I smiled and said, "Hi. I met your husband in the waiting room and he told me that you got in a car accident so I thought I would come up here to visit you." The old lady looked confused so I asked her what was wrong.

"My husband passed away ten years ago," she said.

"But I just saw him in the waiting room," I said. I told the lady that I hope she started feeling better and left.

How could someone who had already died be talking to me? Maybe God sent him down to tell me about Him. If it weren't for him, I would probably have been lost forever. I'm lucky to have met my guardian angel.



PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963

CONVENTION NEWS

The 95th Annual Session
of the
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
May 22-24, 2007

Kornegay Hall On the Campus of Mount Olive College

“Go...Tell the Story”

(Mark 16:15)

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, May 22

Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet—Murphy Center—5:30 P.M.
Great food, gifts, service awards, information, fellowship
Music by the Mission Valley OFWB Church Choir

Convention Worship Service —Kornegay Hall—7:30 A.M.
Speaker: The Reverend James Howard Nobles
Pastor of Mission Valley OFWB Church, Pee Dee Association

Wednesday, May 23

Opening Session—Kornegay Hall—9:00 A.M.
Worship Speaker: The Reverend Ashley Summerlin,
Pastor of Jackson Heights OFWB Church, Eastern Conference

Sunday School Banquet—Murphy Center—5:45 P.M.
Annual Mission Rally—Kornegay Hall—7:30 P.M.
Sponsored by the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism

Thursday, May 24

Closing Session—Kornegay Hall—9:00 A.M.
Worship Speaker: The Reverend Barry Stallings,
Pastor of Pleasant Grove OFWB Church, Western Conference

**The 95th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
May 22—24, 2007**

TUESDAY, May 22

5:30 P.M. Third Annual Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet, Murphy Center
Music by the Mission Valley OFWB Church Choir

2:30-3:30

Mount Olive College will provide tours of the Raper Building, the Communications Center, and the Pope Wellness Center.

7:30 P.M. **Convention Worship Service**
Pastor James Howard Nobles, Message

5:45 P.M.

Sunday School Banquet—Murphy Center

7:30 P.M.

Mission Rally—Kornegay Arena
Hosted by the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism

WEDNESDAY, May 23

8:00 A.M. Registration Opens—Kornegay Arena

THURSDAY, May 24

9:00-9:10 Singing, Scripture, Prayer

8:30 A.M.

Registration Re-opens

9:10-10:30 **Opening Session**

9:00-9:15

Singing, Scripture, Prayer

Call to Order
Welcome to Mount Olive College
The President's Message
Executive Committee Report
Finance Committee Report
Convention Services Report

9:15-10:00

The Convention Reconvenes
Announcements

Reports of Denominational Ministries

Ancillary Ministry Reports

Sunday School Ministry
OFWB Press Foundation
Mount Olive College
OFWB International
Cragmont Assembly

Camp Vandemere
Layman's League
OFWB League Convention
Ministerial Association

Congregational Singing & Fellowship

10:30-10:45 **Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA**

10:00-10:15

Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Youth Convention
Carolina Bible Institute

10:45-11:45 **Worship Service**
The Reverend Ashley Summerlin, Message

10:15-11:00

Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA

11:45-12:00 **Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA**

11:00-11:15

Worship Service
The Reverend Barry Stallings, Message

12:00-12:15 Recognition of Fraternal Delegates and Special Guests
Recognition of Conference Moderators
Nominating Committee Report

11:15-12:15

Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA

12:15-1:15 **Lunch in the Murphy Center**

Closing Session

1:15-1:30 Singing, Scripture, Prayer

Chaplain's Commission Report
Report of the NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
Election and Installation of Officers, Boards, and Committees
Resolution Committee Report
Registration Committee Report
Report of the Memorial Committee

1:30-2:30 **Reports of Denominational Ministries**

12:15

The Convention is Adjourned

OFWB Retirement Homes
Minister's Program
OFWB Children's Home
Church Finance Association
Home Missions & Evangelism

The 96th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will convene May 20-22, 2008.

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES



*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us, leaving us a marked way;
and remind us that we also can leave a marked way for those who come after us.*

A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE FOUNDATION

The North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is a non-profit body chartered by the state of North Carolina to which individuals, families, churches, and related organizations may make charitable gifts and establish endowed funds. Its distinctive mission is to provide for Original Free Will Baptists a means, heretofore not available, to advance the work and mission of our church.

The Education of Ministers

Because of the critical need for pastors who can provide the quality of services our churches need and deserve, a priority of the Foundation is to make scholarships available for both licensed and ordained ministers who wish to equip themselves for excellence in Christian ministry. To this end, the Foundation has established an annual "Fund for the Education of Ministers" to which churches and individuals may make gifts. Through this fund, the Foundation is providing approximately \$18,000 to nine ministers during the current academic year.

In addition to the annual fund, the Foundation has established an endowment goal of \$1 million for the education of those preparing for Christian ministry. An endowment in this amount will yield approximately \$50,000 annually for scholarships. A major objective of the Foundation is to help make inadequate preparation for the ministry a choice—not a necessity.

Endowments For Churches And Ministries

A distinctive service of the Foundation is to provide an opportunity for those who have the vision to establish endowments. An endowment is a permanent fund, which is not spent but invested. Each year income from the fund can be used to support Christian work, including a local church, ministries of Original Free Will Baptists, and other charitable purposes.

For most church members, when their hearts stop, their support of their church and its work stops. It does not have to be that way. Through a program of professional managed endowed funds, the Foundation provides a means whereby our work can continue beyond our lifetime. Establishing an endowment does not require wealth as much as it does a plan. An endowment can be our footprint to future generations.

The Foundation will work with the donors' financial advisors and legal counsel to properly structure their gifts and to assure that the agreement conforms to the Internal Revenue Code.

Churches and individuals who would like more information on establishing an endowment are invited to contact W. Burkette Raper, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365; phone (919) 658-3855; e-mail <wraper@moc.edu>.

AN INVITATION—YOU ARE INVITED

- What:** Second Annual Meeting of the NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- When:** Tuesday, April 24, beginning with dinner at 6:30 P.M.
- Where:** The Fellowship Hall of Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church,
752 Stoney Creek Church Road (Highway 111, three miles North of Goldsboro)
- Program:** Report on the work and progress of The Foundation including endowments established with The Foundation and scholarships provided for ministers.
- Cost:** Be the guest of The Foundation. Reservations, including name and church, are requested by April 18.
- Mail:** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
- Phone:** (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250
- E-mail:** wraper@moc.edu

This event will enlarge your vision for the future of Original Free Will Baptists!

Attention

Free Will Baptist Women

North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
The Eightieth Annual Session
May 10, 2007

Hosted by the Western Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Pleasant Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church
near Pikeville, North Carolina

Program

Theme: Life Can Be Better
Scripture: *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).*

Theme Song: *Seek Ye First*

8:30 A.M.
Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall
Registration
Coffee

8:45 A.M.
Auxiliary Praise and Worship Choir
Sanctuary

9:00 A.M.
Session Begins
Devotions
Music
Business
Biblical Message
FWB Ministries
... and more

CAMP VANDEMERE

The 2007 camping weeks are listed below.
This year promises to be another rewarding time
in spreading the Gospel to many young people
and adults during the ten scheduled weeks.

Women's Week	June 4-7	Stumpy Quinn (252) 638-6404 Judy Kennedy (910) 298-4311
Daniel's Chapel Church	June 10-15	Walt Tyndall (252) 753-5005
General Youth Camp #1	June 17-22	The Reverend Tim and Gail Heath (919) 809-0045
Lighthouse Keeper's Week	June 24-29	Curtis and Cristy Ramsey (910) 324-1507
Spring Hope Church	July 8-13	Eva Mae Clark (252) 637-5346 Debbie Warren (252) 637-4560
New Bethlehem Church	July 15-20	Sandy Williams (252) 745-9840
General Youth Camp #2	July 22-27	The Reverend Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171
First Church of Wilson	July 29-August 3	Doug Radford (252) 230-9742
Branch's Chapel Church	August 5-10	The Reverend Terry Dennis (919) 284-6144
First Baptist of Beaufort	August 13-17	John Thompson (252) 671-3515

If you would like more information on the camp weeks being offered this year, please contact one of the directors above or the camp manager. The fee for a full week of camp this year is \$90 per camper. The activity fee will be set by each director, depending upon the level of activities for each camp week.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Camp Vandemere through prayer and financial means. Each and every one of you is why Camp Vandemere keeps growing toward the goal of ministering to our youth and adults through the camp weeks and weekend retreats.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 camp office
(252) 514-3222 cell

Damon Kennedy, Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Rd.
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 home
(910) 296-7100 cell

Camp Vandemere, Inc., 215 Third Street, Vandemere, NC 28587



Pictured left to right are current Sunday School Superintendent Ricky Raynor and Lee with Pastor Richard Whitman looking on.

NEWS FROM SMYRNA

While celebrating February as Sunday School Month, members of Smyrna Church (Cape Fear) recognized the church's first Sunday School Superintendent, Jake Lee, on Sunday, February 18.

Lee assumed the duties of Sunday School superintendent in 1952 after the church began in the home of his parents, J. Paul and Letie Lee, following a tornado that destroyed the home.

With the help of people in the community and the American Red Cross, the Lee's built a small home where their two-story home had stood and the church resulted from community prayer meetings in the new Lee home. His mother submitted the name of the church.

SENIOR MEMBER HONORED AT HILLSBERRY

The Fall Fellowship dinner at Hillsberry Church was a special event this year since it celebrated the 90th birthday of Mrs. Hazel Williams on September 3. Somehow, the ladies of the church managed to keep the party a surprise, truly a minor miracle, since Mrs. Williams is in the center of everything planned and carried out at Hillsberry!

Miss Hazel, as she is lovingly called, has been an inspiration to the church family for years. Despite her advancing age, she is faithful in her attendance both on Sunday and Wednesday evening and has served as president of the Ladies' Auxiliary for several years. In addition, she maintains a telephone ministry among the members, keeping tabs on the shut-ins and keeping them up to date on church activities.

The widow of Beecher A. Williams, who served as Hillsberry's Sunday School Superintendent during his lifetime, Miss Hazel maintains her home with her son Al, who serves as Hillsberry's faithful usher. Both are a vital part of our small church family.

During her party, Miss Hazel was presented a cake and several gifts, each given with love and gratitude of her church family.



Pictured left to right are "Miss Hazel" Williams and the Rev. Earl Thigpen.

GROUND-BREAKING SERVICE AT ELIZABETH CITY

by Mrs. Sudie Copeland

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 9 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, October 3, 1951, Vol. 66-No. 39.)

In a regular conference, which was held on Saturday night, April 21, 1951, it was voted by the majority of the church to put Saint Paul's Free Will Baptist Church in the process to be sold. After being properly advertised for ninety day, and in the next sitting of the regular conference, held on July 21, 1951, it was voted on to sell to the highest bidder, and to build a new church in a better locality.

The building was sold to Dr. Z. D. Owens for \$13, 850. Dr. Owens gave to the church all the windows, all the gas heat-church.

The Rev. Charles W. Brown, pastor, began looking for a new site on which to build a new church and on August 7, they secured two lots 50 by 120 feet on the corner of Cedar and Ash Streets. The committee then began making plans for the new church and it has already been started. It will be thirty-four feet wide and seventy-five feet long, auditorium will seat about two hundred and twenty-five people. We plan to be in the new building by November 11, 1951.



the Building Committee, immediately began building, and on August 7, they secured two and Ash Streets. The committee then began making plans for the new church and it has already been started. It will be thirty-four feet wide and seventy-five feet long, auditorium will seat about two hundred and twenty-five people. We plan to be in the new building by November 11, 1951.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see him. Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

(Matthew 28)

H**I****C****H****I****S**
M**R****I****S****E****N**

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

REEDY BRANCH CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking a part-time Youth Minister/Director. Immediate employment is desirable, but not mandatory. Desired hours are a minimum of 20 and no more than 30 per week. Salary is negotiable. Person must be able to provide excellent references. Applicants are required to have a moral, Christian background and be willing to teach fundamental OFWB doctrine. For more information, please call (252) 756-7852.

LA GRANGE FIRST CHURCH is looking for a full-time pastor who is willing to live in the La Grange area (3 Bedroom/2 bath parsonage is available). Interested ministers should send a letter of interest and/or resumé to: La Grange First FWB Church, Search Committee, PO Box 642, La Grange, NC 28551.

PINEY GROVE CHURCH, Beaufort County, is seeking a pastor. Interested persons should contact Billy Gurkin by phone at (252) 758-2676 or (252) 717-5107.

THE REVEREND TIM LAWRENCE is available for supply, interim, pastoral, and evangelist work. He may be reached by phone at (252) 504-2775 or (252) 732-5832.

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for pastoral, supply, revivals, or interim duties. He may be reached by phone at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.

PASTORAL POSITION AVAILABLE

Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church in Spivey's Corner, N.C. has an immediate opening for an experienced pastor.

The successful candidate will:

1. Have significant church pastoral and leadership experience.
2. Understand and be able to lead a strong church building effort and have a zeal for evangelizing the lost.
3. Be a dynamic speaker and teacher of God's Word.
4. Aggressively seek the opportunity to grow and develop our church.
5. Strongly support the tenets of the Articles of Faith for the Original Free Will Baptist Convention and actively support and participate in convention activities and mission support.
6. Have the ability to lead, motivate, and train a voluntary church staff.

For further information, please send a resumé to or contact: John Kachel, Chairman, Pastoral Search Pulpit Committee, 1109 Dawson Road, Dunn, NC 28334; (910) 567-4400.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPIRIT-FILLED DAY!

Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary
Presents

Spring Spiritual Retreat

A morning filled with music,
more music, and even more music!
A morning full of praise & fellowship
to worship our Lord

Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church
April 21, 2007

Registration beginning at 9:20
Opening of retreat at 9:30

Guest Speaker: Deborah King
Praise Choruses led by Dianne Riley

Lunch will follow!

Display/Advertising Rates

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There is no charge for article submissions.

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

***PHONE-IN AND HANDWRITTEN INFORMATION IS ACCEPTABLE—BUT WE CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS!**
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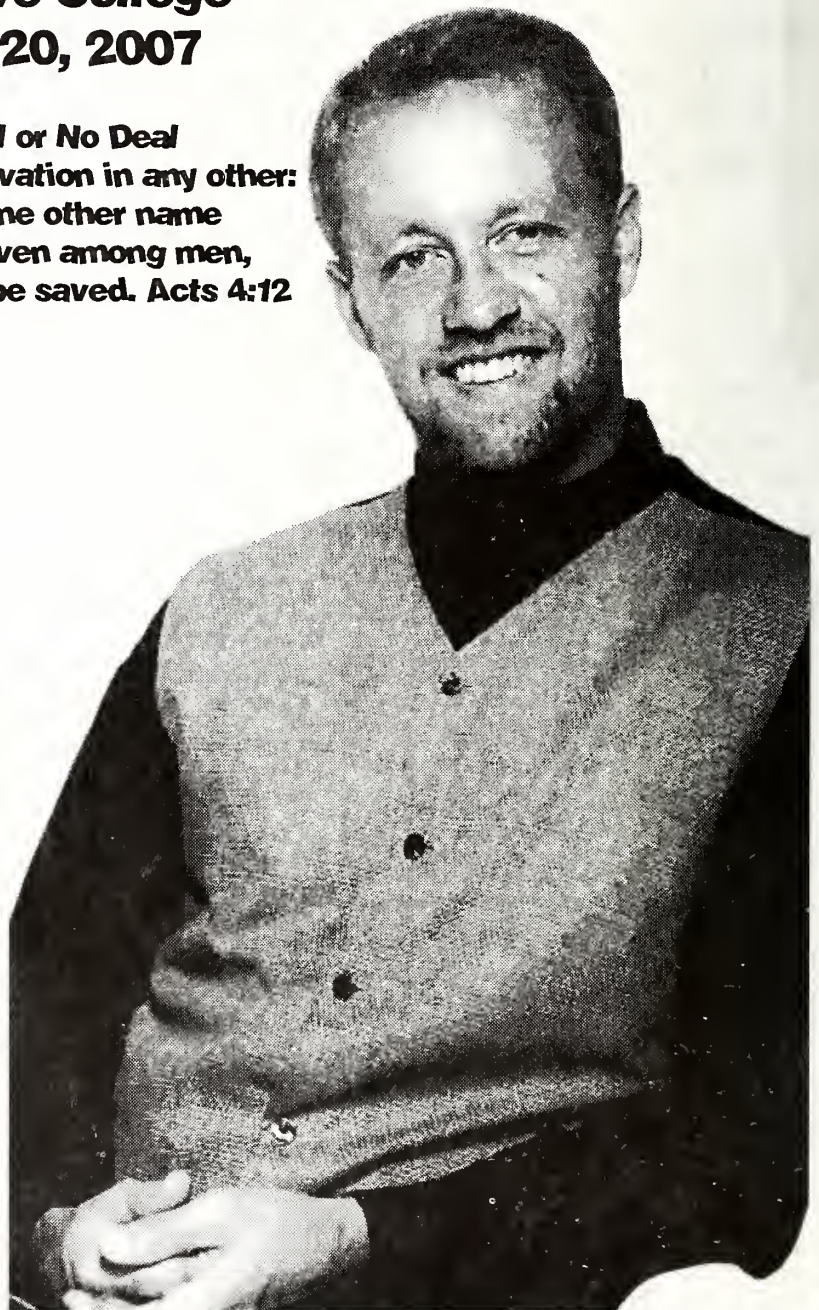
**Youth Convention of
Original Free Will Baptist
Mount Olive College
May 18—20, 2007**

**Theme: Deal or No Deal
Neither is there Salvation in any other:
For there is none other name
under heaven given among men,
Whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12**

**Jeff Smith
With
Salt and Light Ministry
will be conducting
Devotional Messages
and work shops.**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP TIME
WITH
THE SON SHINE'S
FROM CLEVELAND, GA.**

**A Convention of Inspiration
with a Deal or No Deal
decision for the future.**



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

May 2007

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER May 2007



CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Cragmont Tractor/ Truck Pull, 7 P.M.	5 Cragmont Tractor/ Truck Pull, 12 P.M.
6 Cragmont/Day Spring Conference (6-9)	7	8	9	10 NC Woman's Auxiliary Convention, Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 95th Annual Session of Convention of OFWB	23 95th Annual Session of Convention of OFWB OFWB Convention Mission Rally, 7:30 P.M.	24 95th Annual Session of Convention of OFWB	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

COMING SOON:

June 4-6 Cragmont/Ministerial Association of OFWB
 June 6-9 Cragmont Day Spring Conference
 June 11-16 Cragmont/Youth Conference
 June 18-23 Cragmont/Christian Cadet Conference
 June 25-30 Cragmont/Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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CONTENTS

May 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 5

FEATURES

- 5 Consider Community
- 7 Discovering Our Pathway: Knowing God's Way By Surrender
- 8 Rock Music in the Church



34



36

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Monthly Planner
- 26 Woman's Auxiliary
- 29 NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 30 Camp Vandemere
- 31 People & Events

COLUMNS

- 4 Focus
by Darren E. Davenport, Editor
- 4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer
- 32 Golden Oldies

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 10 Children's Home
- 13 Cragmont Assembly
- 16 OFWB International
- 18 Sunday School Ministry
- 19 Mount Olive College
- 22 Convention News
- 24 Home Missions & Evangelism
- 25 Retirement Homes Ministry



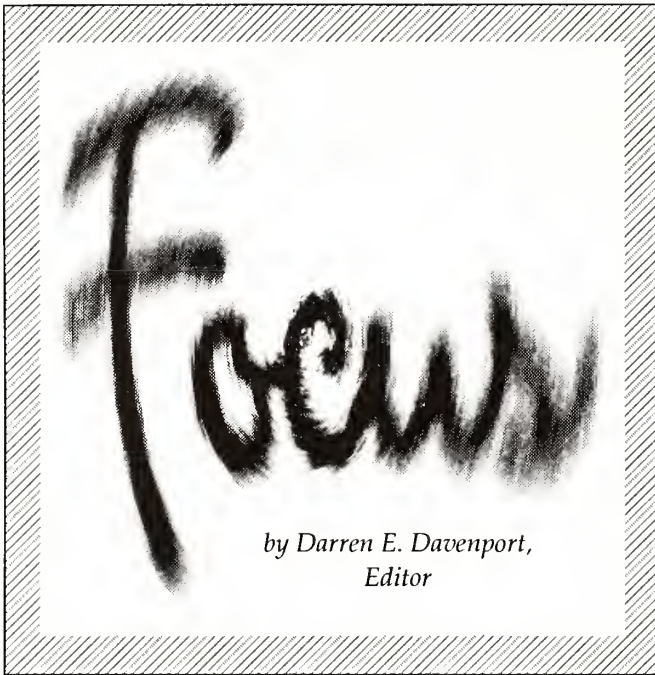
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POWER VERSE

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:1, 4a).

SUNRISE AT THE BEACH

My youngest stepson, Dusty, my wife, Carla, and I recently attended an Easter sunrise service held near Fort Macon while on a much needed weekend getaway at Atlantic Beach. This was a first for my family. The service was beautiful and inspiring, to say the least. We sang several praise hymns and choruses while watching the sun slowly rise above the peaks of the green patched sand dunes. It was so majestic. It was so relaxing. It was so reminiscent of what Easter represents to our lives—the Son, Jesus the Christ, rising from the grave after the horrible ordeal He went through for us—just three days earlier! How remarkable and indescribable that kind of love is toward such an underserving people. For those of us who know Jesus as our Savior, we, too, know that we have so many blessings for which to count. For those who do not know Jesus, though they may not consciously be aware, they are waiting, even longing, for someone to share with them His Love. I pray we become more externally focused and seek to reach those people!



by Darren E. Davenport,
Editor

IT'S RUSH, RUSH, RUSH

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

We recently read with interest and amazement about the train, made by the French, that set a speed record of 357.2 mph. To those who saw it bounding down the special built track saw only a blur. As the old saying goes, "We've come a long way" since the days of the first trains. Back then, according to the historical account, there were those who feared the breath would be sucked out of the passengers if they exceeded more than twenty-five to thirty-five miles per hour. Passengers on the French V-150 stated that their ears began to hurt, and they were glad when it ended.

On a smaller scale, we face a mad rush to get where we are going as fast as we can. Speed limits are posted, but they are often ignored. Our super highways, modern air terminals, super-charged autos, supersonic jets, etc. allow us to do so. As we travel these highways, we wonder "why the rush?" If you decide to travel in the right lane and keep within the speed limit, sooner or later some driver behind you will blink their lights, urging you to increase your speed, or get in another lane, which you may not be able to do. At times there are so many vehicles on these highways that we wonder if anyone is at home, or at work. And we wonder where everyone is going. Incidentally, anyone can get to work on time if they leave on time (barring unusual circumstances).

It is true that we live in an impatient world; therefore, we find ourselves in a mad rush to reach our destination

or accomplish our tasks, regardless of the danger and the negative impact and pressure that we put on ourselves and others.

Has this rushing impacted our spiritual lives to the extent that we do not have time for the things that really give meaning to life? How many times have we rushed to church with little thought as to why we are going at all, and what will be the results on our souls when we do go? And what about all the times in between—times when we did not pray, read, and meditate upon His Word, thus preparing our hearts for His blessings?

There are times when we need to "Be still..." and know that God is God (Psalm 46:10). Such was the urgency after the psalmist alluded to the troublesome realities of life, but at the same time realizing that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

There were times when Jesus withdrew from the clamor and rush of life in order to meditate and pray. How often do we long for that quiet place, when there is no rush and noise to distract us, a time when we can draw nigh to God without distractions, when our minds and hearts can truly focus on Him—our Lord and Master?

The hymn, "Be Still, My Soul," is based on Psalm 46:10. It is seldom sung these days, but it would certainly be appropriate to do so once in a while. Maybe its words would help us to be more patient, and to slow down enough to allow God's blessings to flow.

Reflections
Reflections



CONSIDER COMMUNITY

by Mark Hogan

When Isaac blessed Jacob and sent him to find a wife, he said, "May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples" (Genesis 28:3 NIV). The phrase that captures my attention is, "until you become a community of peoples." While we understand this has reference to the Abrahamic promise of the old covenant, I want to focus on this concept of community.

Sociologist Robert Nisbet once said, "The rediscovery of community is unquestionably the most distinctive development in nineteenth-century thought" (1966:47). I wonder if the church today has made this discovery? When one looks at what is taking place in many neighborhoods around the country, we often get the impression that many evangelical churches have taken the idea of being in the world but not of it and applied it to the community in which they reside. Our church is in the neighborhood but not of it.

Among evangelical churches, this is a throwback to the old Social Gospel controversy. Because we were fighting for the evangelical faith against the inroads of theological liberalism, we tended to withdraw into isolated enclaves. We were concerned with personal salvation not the transformation of society. Additionally, a rugged individualistic spirit is deeply embedded within the American psyche. "In the United States, individualism was at the heart of an expansionist entrepreneurial culture, popular views about progress and poverty focused on treating persons in light of what Alexis de Tocqueville called 'self-interest rightly understood'" (Kemper and Adams 6). Interestingly, in surveying the religious institutions involved in building communities, "Warren and Wood, discovered in their survey that, white evangelicals and fundamentalists are no-

ticeably absent, considering their prominence in American Society" (Kemper and Adams 14).

I recently spoke to a mission's pastor, who was told by his mission organization to abandon a ministry that had been in the same neighborhood for over 30 years. When the neighborhood's demographics began to shift, they decided it was time to call it quits. They are however, whole-heartedly supporting the launch of a new ministry a few miles away. This new endeavor is in a brand new middle to upper middle class, Caucasian, outer-ring suburb of a major city in the Southeastern United States. This scenario is being repeated in every corner of the country. It seems that we are following the marketing schemes of Starbucks or Barnes & Noble. While I understand that new churches are more likely to see conversion growth than established churches, I still believe that we need to consider the investment we already have in existing communities. We must calculate the cost of abandoning our local communities in search of greener pastures (or pastorates). When I was serving churches in areas that were less than ideal, I was often reminded that as a pastor I should "bloom where I was planted." Now I wonder if we shouldn't apply that same wisdom to our churches today. There is a reason that God plants churches in specific locations. The fact that the area sees decline or demographic shifts does not diminish the need for the Gospel in that community; in fact it may heighten it.

It has been said that the book of Isaiah is a miniature of the entire Bible. The first 39 chapters speak of law and judgment like the Old Testament and the second 27 chapters speak of comfort and hope like the New Testament. In chapter 58 Isaiah prophesies concerning

the true nature of worship. He notes that the people of Judah seem to be hungry for God, "they seem eager to know my ways...they seem eager for God to come near... 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers" (vv. 2-3). It seems that for all of their religious practice there was little personal application of their faith. He explains that their "fasting ends in quarrelling and strife" (v. 4). It appears that their fasting was only external and superficial. Their faith had become only a religion, something that existed for them to feel good about themselves but without any real impact in the world. Isaiah then goes on to describe the kind of fasting or religious practice that God really intended. Consider the following components of the practice of true biblical faith:

- ...loose the chains of injustice (v. 6)
- ...set the oppressed free... (v. 6)
- ...share your food with the hungry... (v. 7)
- ...provide the poor wanderer with shelter... (v. 7)
- Clothe the naked (see v. 7)
- Refuse to turn your back on others (see v. 7).

The truth is that religion serves its members and Christianity serves others. What will happen when we begin to consider community and turn our focus out-ward? According to Scripture,

"Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail" (vv. 8-11 NIV emphasis added).

The church and the people of God are blessed not when we retreat into our holy huddles but when we embrace and engage our communities. What does this mean for my local church, my spiritual home? What if your church was suddenly lifted from its foundations and a convenience store replaced it; what would happen in your

community? Would you be missed? Is there any tangible evidence that your church is more than a Christian social club? Is your church more than a fraternal organization that services its members? Would your absence be felt beyond your four walls and stained glass windows?

Dr. Wayne L. Gordon, inner-city pastor and president of the Christian Community Development Association says that, "nothing other than the community of God's people is capable of affirming the dignity of the poor and enabling them to meet their own needs. It is practically impossible to do effective wholistic ministry apart from the local church. A nurturing community of faith can best provide the thrusts of evangelism, discipleship, spiritual accountability, and relationships by which disciples grow in their walk with God. One problem today has been that the church is not involved in developing its communities. Often, the church has been an unfriendly neighbor in communities across our country. Churches are guilty of being open only on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights and being almost irrelevant to the needs of the people around them. Christian Community Development sees the church as taking action towards the development of its community" (*Christian Community Development Association Website, Philosophy*).

I would challenge every pastor and church leader to consider your community. To determine that you will do at least one thing during the

next calendar year that will touch your community beyond your church membership. Do something that has almost no chance on its surface of resulting in higher membership or larger offerings. You might be surprised how God will begin to bless you and your membership when you begin to consider the community in which God has placed you. It is a community for which Christ died. The specific street corner or cornfield where God has placed you is sacred ground. Determine that you will stay in your neighborhood until you too "become a community of peoples."

The church and the people of God are blessed not when we retreat into our holy huddles but when we embrace and engage our communities.

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DISCOVERING OUR PATHWAY: KNOWING GOD'S WAY BY SURRENDER

by Celia Hales

In 1972–1973, I was an editorial assistant at the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation in Ayden, North Carolina—the same denominational publishing company that brings us this magazine, *The Free Will Baptist*. I learned a great deal by copy editing the Sunday School quarterlies as well as the magazine. I was being exposed ever more deeply to my maternal family's church home, and this knowledge has, 30 years and more later, served me well. I was only 26 at the time.

My life to that point had been a bit of a struggle, though my family loved me deeply and demonstrated that love consistently. I worried too much, often about many things beyond my control. I was a believer, but I did not yet know how tenderly God cares for us in good and bad times alike. Those nine months in Ayden seems a lifetime ago, for indeed I am now living an early retirement. I am returning to my roots as I write for *The Free Will Baptist*.

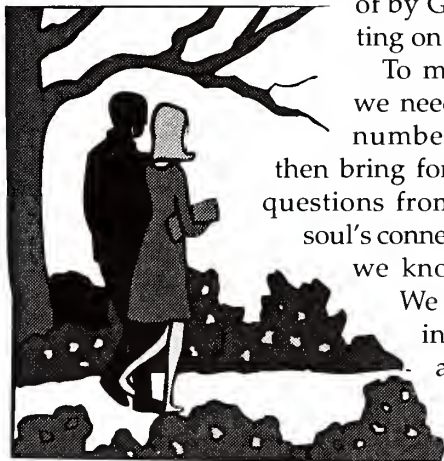
If I had to name only one aspect of faith or reason that has bound me to God over the years, it would be the concept of surrender. One can make plans and follow through, have a career, marry, and perhaps have a family, but realizing the depths of God still requires surrender to a pathway that we can only dimly see. We need to say "yes" to life, the peaks and the valleys alike.

I am rereading now an article I wrote for *The Free Will Baptist* in 1979. From the viewpoint of my seasoned years now, it doesn't go far enough to elucidate the genuine wonders of God that come only with surrender to God's best pathway. In 1979, I wrote of one memorable solitary evening in which I intuited that God's help to us is a free offer only to the Apostle Paul's concept of faith without works being dead. In that magical evening, I was drawn instead to Jesus' concept of the lilies of the field, taken care

of by God without any fretting on their part at all.

To mesh Paul and Jesus, we need to ask ourselves a number of questions and then bring forth answers to those questions from the depths of our soul's connection to God. How do we know God's pathway?

We know best by listening to God's guidance at every turn of the path and then putting into practice



what our heart is telling us. How does God make known that guidance? I believe this knowing may come in a myriad of ways: prayer; dreams (waking and sleeping); Bible reading; the wise counsel of one near and dear to us; the "still, small voice" heard in the depths of our soul. Actually, I think we really know when we have strayed from the path because everything immediately becomes a lot harder. If we have forgotten surrender to God, we are trying to walk a bleak way depending on self. And the only redeeming part of depending on self alone is following the conscience that we have developed up to that point in life.



How do we trust God enough to surrender to Him? Well, we don't have to go the whole way all at once. God is patient with us, and He takes with great gentleness and love a conflicted mind and spirit that hold a little willingness to turn to Him. We take one step forward, holding God's hand, and we do find that the second step is a little easier and the third easier still. Now, we may not have consistent steps yet, because we may be inclined once again to depend on self alone. But God is standing ready to steady us on our pathway whenever we look up to the heavens and ask for His help. (It helps to ask.)

No one has a trouble-free life. From the outside we may hide our need from our neighbor, but God can easily speak through our neighbor, too. So we do have some choices about the harmony and ease of our lives.

Never forget that all of us have a helpmate in God, just as Eve was intended to be the "helpmeet" of Adam. Since 1972 and my first articles in *The Free Will Baptist*, I have found my prayers to God deepen and grow in strict measure to my own faithfulness to those prayers. Answers do come. We rush about and worry when we forget that, like Jesus' lilies of the field, we have a heavenly Father who keeps us close and patiently knocks on the door of our hearts.

Celia Hales lives with her husband in Oxford, Mississippi. She was the religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis for ten years of her 19 years of service there. Her maternal family were all members of the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church, and her mother, Joyce Hill Hales, still holds membership there.

ROCK MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

by the Reverend Danny Smith

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:18–20).

Introduction

In a book written in 1979 (some 28 years ago) discussing musical trends of the church:

"Just how rock music style will influence church music in the future, whether for purposes of witness or even the worship service, cannot be determined. Someday in 1997, a university professor can write an exhaustive recount of what really happened back there in the late 60's and 70's and the truth will be known. Until then, most accounts will be lopsided" (*Christian Music in Contemporary Witness* 140). That "someday" is today. Can we determine where Christian rock has taken us? Is it the only way to reach young people? Is it the end time music of revival; or the end time music of apostasy? Ultimately, you will have to make your own choice. Today, let's see...

The Laws of God

In any discipline, the laws of God are set, precise, and are constant, i. e., the Law of Gravity. To go against the laws of God is to create a perversion, such as 1) to go against the law of marriage creates adultery, 2) to go against the law of language creates a lie; 3) to go against the laws of music creates a discord. Rock and roll music is a known transgression contrary to the normal musical code—music of rebellion.

The Unlawfulness of Satan

He abides not in the truth, but is willing to transgress the laws of God for his own purposes. If he can take what is ordained by God and pervert it, it brings glory to himself and not to God.

Satan has done this with music. Three questions to ask: 1) Out of whose womb was rock and roll music birthed? (the Spirit of God or the spirit of the world?) 2) Is it acceptable to God to receive a blemished or a tainted sacrifice? (should we take the music of the world and offer it as a holy sacrifice?)

"Any attempt to amicably blend the lyrics of the gospel with the despair of heathen sound would be morally contradictory: that would place gospel-rock groups in a precarious position: we would have the spectacle of profanity in God's temple without realizing it" (Ibid 157).

3) Are there boundaries with respect to worship of God which we must not overstep?

"Hebrew leaders who ministered in the temple took great care to avoid music that was associated with sensuous pagan worship. Instruments that were associated with women, with raucous merrymaking, or with pagan worship were banned from the temple orchestra" (*Bible Almanac* 494, 496).

Now, let's examine Leviticus 10:1–3:

"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censor, and put fire therein,

and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace."

There are in the Bible two sons of Aaron called of God to minister before the altar—yet they offered strange fire unto the Lord and they were removed by God. They had worshiped the Lord in an unprescribed fashion. They had brought some of their fleshly desires into the holy place.

Was it drinking (see v. 9)? Was it being filled with pride? Was it being hypnotized by a dominant personality or a musical beat? Moses said to be careful when you worship the Lord—to put a difference between the holy and the unholy and between the unclean and the clean (see v. 10).

C. I. Scofield says: "It was 'will worship;' it typifies any use of carnal means to kindle the fire of devotion and praise" (*Scofield Reference Bible* 138). What would Scofield say today at our Christian rock concerts? Everyone knows that rock music is of the flesh—it's visceral music; it bypasses the brain and goes directly to the body. It is sensual and carnal, yet we use it today in an attempt to excite devotion and praise to God. Is it not strange fire?

All of this brings us to the question of:



What is lawful and/or unlawful music?

All lawful music has at least three characteristics: rhyme, rhythm, and round.

Rhyme is the words. Words come from the heart. "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34b). We can have a good heart or a bad heart. Out of the spring of our heart will flow either berries or briars. Example: In Orange County, NC, there was an arrest of a teen attempting a Columbine repeat at his high school. He did shoot two students. As he was being arrested, he was spewing out accusations of anger. He was angry with his father. If his words had been set to music, it would have been unkind words.

Rhythm refers to the beat. All music has a beat. Beat in itself isn't wrong; it's just when beat is all you hear that it takes away from all the other components of the music. Without a beat, the band couldn't march. Without a beat, the song leader can't motion. All rock and roll music places the beat on the backbeat (or the usually unaccented beat). This syncopation of the beat is a perversion of musical law.

Round. All good music has a melody, a tune that you can carry around in your head. In all good tunes, the meter of the melody perfectly matches the meter of the words. In rock music, words are stretched, screeched, and sometimes left out while the beat fills in the gaps. This is poor poetry and poor music. Example: Once, when David was fleeing for his life at the hands of King Saul, he found refuge in a cave. He had hung his harp in the breezeway. When the morning winds blew, they strummed the strings on his harp and he wrote Psalm 57. Verses 7–8 read: "...O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. Awake up, my glory; awake psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early...I will sing unto thee among the nations."

A Hebrew scholar has said: "When the psalm (which are the words) match up with the harp (the lyre—an instrument of strings) then we have: lyrics from the lyre which perfectly match the strumming of the psaltery all coming from a heart fixed upon God" (Dr. O. T. Spence). This is exactly the meaning of Ephesians 5:19–20.

What is unlawful music?

We've mentioned a few already. 1) The Devil is the author of all rebellious music. He transgresses the law of musical form. 2) Unlawful music appeals to the flesh. If it produces the act of the modern dance, it is in reality the foreplay of a mating couple. Compare the difference between "Dancing With the Stars" on television with Bobby and Sissy on "Lawrence Welk," or the great difference between ballroom dancing and the jit-

terbug rock. 3) When the music becomes the message and not the medium of the message, it becomes unlawful music. Music is to be the channel through which a message is given. Yes, there can be a message in a song. Christian rock turns it around. The music is all important. Without the music, the words wouldn't be too interesting. When the music is the all inclusive element, it becomes an idol, not the means to an end product itself. 4) For the music to become its own idol is a tool that Satan can use to bring worship to himself, therefore making it unlawful music.

Satan knows his time is short, if indeed we are in the last days. He is willing to take risks to deceive and damn souls. What greater risk could he take than to promote the Gospel with words—just so they are couched in the form of rock and roll? He is not afraid to quote Scripture. He is not afraid to appear as a minister of light. He is not afraid to use miracles, signs, and wonders—just so you are dancing to the tune of the pied piper.

You say—"You're judging!" Yes, I am. The Bible gives me the right to make righteous judgment. When you mix truth and error together, you get the spirit of antichrist.

I believe unlawful music will be the universal language which brings in the reign of the Antichrist.

Did you know that religious rock first began in England, not amongst Bible-believing Christians, but in the midst of the liberal Anglican Church? The Roman Catholic Church caught on and began using it in their youth Masses. The Mormon Church sees no wrong in rock and roll music. For years, fundamental churches kept it out, but now there seems to be a universal acceptance.

There are some churches, some denominations, and some colleges that still take a stand against Christian rock. I want to be a part of that group. I want to be pure when Jesus returns.

Conclusion

Can God use rock and roll Gospel? Yes, He can. He is large enough and wise enough to use anything for His purposes. He allowed Lucifer in Heaven, a serpent in the garden, and a pig on the ark. He allowed a donkey to speak to Balim, a cock to signal to Peter, and He can use Christian rock to bring in the end time deception. The Bible warns: "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs, and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed..." (Mark 13:22–23).

Let us close with these words of admonition: "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:10–11).

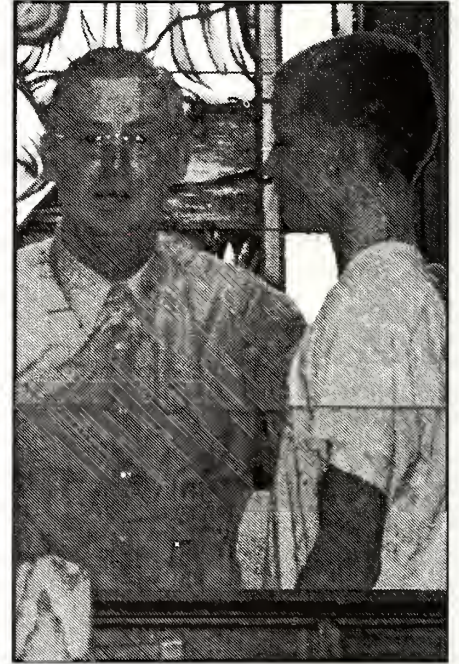


FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME—MAY 23, 2007 A MISSION FIELD FOR 87 YEARS

May is designated as Children's Home month in Free Will Baptist churches. When you think about the history of the Children's Home, it's easy to reflect only on the material things provided for the children and families we serve. However, when you take time to look into the lives of the children and families we are serving, you will realize that the responsibility we have taken on is much greater than food and shelter. When a child is taken into care, they automatically receive food, shelter, and necessities for day-to-day life. But while they are here, we are taking every opportunity to share something much greater with them—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Children's Home is a mission field of sorts. We are not ministering on foreign soil, but we are ministering to many children who see the Word of God as foreign. For many, their first experience of church and God's Word is when they come to stay at the Children's Home. Since 1920, we have had opportunity to minister to more than 1925 children. Each child is given a Bible, and encouraged to participate in church worship services and nightly devotions. We covet the continual prayers of Christian men, women, boys, and girls, that the spiritual seeds that have been sown will not fall on barren soil, but spring forth and mold our children into Christian young adults.

We thank you for helping us share in His love.



Dr. Taylor and a resident during baptism



Pastor Allen Stanley at the Lord's Table

STAFF WORSHIP SERVICE

Throughout the year, the Children's Home staff assembles together to worship. March 28 was just such an occasion. Staff gathered in Memorial Chapel for a Pre-Easter worship service. Pastor Allen Stanley brought the message, urging everyone to stop and take time to reflect on the magnitude of love that was shown through Christ's suffering on the cross, and the promise given by His Resurrection.

Staff members, Brenda Vanderpool—receptionist and Kaye Narron—children's services worker shared inspirational poems for the congregation.

After the congregational singing of "Because He Lives," Pastor Stanley administered the ordinance of Holy Communion, and the service was ended.

This was a very uplifting service, and it once again, gave the Children's Home staff the opportunity to come together and worship.

PENDING RETIREMENT

King Solomon wrote, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). I believe it is time for me to enter a different phase of my life. On December 1, 2007, I will complete twenty-five years of service at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Considering the length of my tenure, and after much prayer and contemplation, I will be relinquishing all responsibilities, duties, and administrative authority at the Home, as of December 31, 2007.

I want to express my appreciation to all who have influenced my life during my tenure:

The faithful people, known as Original Free Will Baptists, who heard God's call to enter the ministry of caring for children in need, and have sustained this ministry for the past eighty-six years;

The numerous people whose prayers and financial support have enabled the care for children and families;

The Board of Directors, who entrusted me with the leadership of the Home and gave me the level of confidence and support needed to meet the daily challenges. I appreciate the Board's support as I retire, and its direction as we transition;

The personnel, who, through their commitment to the Home's ministry and its mission, strive to ensure we always do our best; and

The children who allowed me to share in their lives and invest in their future.

Sharing of Thoughts

I have made my decision with much thought and prayer. I think I have given proper time and allowed for God's resolution within my soul; it is time for me to retire.

I am blessed to have had the privilege to serve in the leadership of this ministry. I have had the privilege of serving God, the church, and humanity through this ministry. I have had the honor of working with dedicated men and women serving on the Board of Directors. I appreciate the leaders of our Convention through the years and the ministry directors who have always been supportive; they are my comrades in the faith.

I ask for your prayers. I am trusting the Father's guidance, care, and love.

Yours, In His Grace,
Bobby R. Taylor

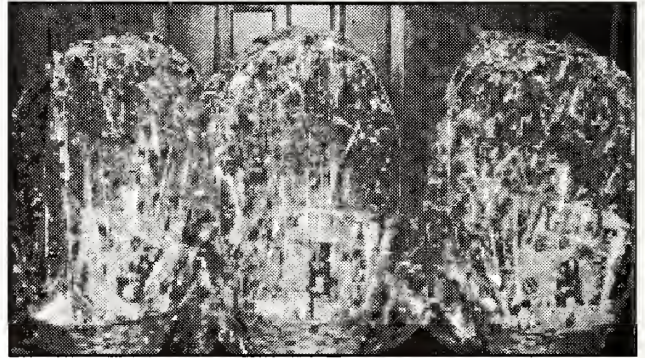
CAMPUS VISITORS

Mr. Steve Little, Division Manager for Nash Finch Company, Lumberton, NC, visited the Children's Home in March and, on behalf of the NFC Foundation, presented a check for \$2,750 to Dr. Taylor for the Children's Home. Nash Finch Company is one of the most successful food companies in the nation.

The NFC Foundation, incorporated in the State of Minnesota in June of 1997, is the charitable arm of the Nash Finch Company. It was created as a private entity for the benefit of children and families primarily in those geographic areas where company associates live and work. Since 2001 alone, the NFC Foundation has contributed to a wide variety of worthy endeavors including hospitals, women's and children's shelters, nurseries, scholarship programs, industry educational and safety efforts, medical research, food banks, orchestras, museums, farm family assistance, local housing projects, etc. The primary source of funding for the NFC Foundation is an annual charity golf tournament.



(l-r) Mr. Steve Little of Nash Finch Company presents a check for the Home to Dr. Taylor.



Easter Baskets provided by St. Mary's Grove Church

On April 5, 2007, members of St. Mary's Grove Church brought 30 Easter baskets for the children at the Home. This project was spearheaded by Mrs. Yvette Evans. We appreciate your efforts and the efforts of the women at St. Mary's Grove.

INTERESTING FUNDRAISER

Recently, it was posted on our needs list a request for chairs for Heritage Hall. We had an immediate response toward helping meet this need, through funds raised in a very "unique" way.

The ladies of Marsh Swamp Church had a special calendar. For thirty days, they would pull off a sticker from the calendar. Beneath the sticker would be a challenge. Some of the challenges were: eat a tangerine and pay a certain amount for each seed in the tangerine; the next day pay a certain amount for each child you have and each grandchild you have; the next day might be pay a certain amount for every pair of shoes you own—some women really got hit hard with this challenge. I spoke with some of the ladies at the Western District Auxiliary Convention last month, and they talked about how much fun the challenge was.



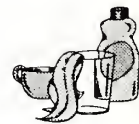
Needs List

* Twin Sheets & Comforters



* Laundry Detergent

* Dish Detergent



* Dishwasher Detergent

* Personal Care Items for Boys and Girls

* Summer Trip Sponsor (\$2500)





“Worship: Retelling the Story”

Speaker: The Reverend John Williams

September 6–8, 2007

Worship is the single most important thing that the church does. Of late, we seem to be very confused as to what worship is and how we should do it. Because worship is so important in our churches today, Cragmont Assembly is offering the seminar “Worship: Retelling the Story.” This seminar is more of a “why to” approach with the hope that the “how to” will also be answered as we proceed through the seminar. We have designed it to begin on Thursday evening, September 6, with the evening meal and end on Saturday, September 8, with lunch, allowing everyone to get back home for worship at your own church on Sunday.

Cost: \$100 per person
(main or motel)

\$95 per person
(dorm)

Includes: 2 nights lodging
Supper on Thursday
3 meals on Friday
2 meals on Saturday
(breakfast and lunch)

**Register soon! Space is limited to the motel, main, and dorms.
For further information, call Cragmont toll free at (877) 669-7677.**

FOURTH ANNUAL PASTOR/DEACON SEMINAR ANOTHER SUCCESS!

Approximately seventy-five pastors and deacons representing fifteen Original Free Will Baptist churches participated in our fourth annual seminar. Mr. Eddie Hammett from Hendersonville, NC was the seminar leader. The theme for 2007’s seminar was “Spiritual Leadership in a Secular Age.” This was a “hands on” seminar which allowed for much group study, dialogue, and discussion. Next year’s seminar is already being planned—we hope you will plan to be a part of it next year.

2 Day Tractor/Truck Pull

Pulling for Kids

Sponsored By Cragmont Assembly, Inc. & Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship
"Christian Camping In the Blue Ridge Mountains"

Friday, May 4, 7 P.M.

(Mini Pull)

Hot Rod & Stock Lawn Mowers

Pulled by:

Neuse Mini Tractor Pulling Association

Saturday, May 5, 12 P.M.

Antique Farm (Smokers)

Turbo, V-8 Modified

Pulled by:

Carolina Antique Tractor Pulling

Kiddie Pull Both Days (Ages 4-8)

All Proceeds Go Toward Paying off the New Camper's Lodge

Four Oaks Pulling Track

659 Tetersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

Take I-95 to Exit 87 Four Oaks to Hockaday Rd., 2 Miles to Tetersville Rd.

Turn Right 1 Mile Track on Left, Shade Trees for Everyone at the Track

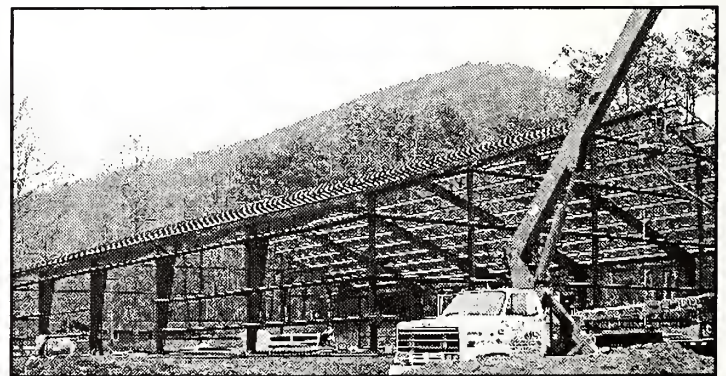
Admission \$7—Children (4-12) \$4

No Alcohol, Drugs or Profanity Allowed

For information call: Jim Best (919) 796-2775—Bryant Hines (252) 670-8424

GYM CONSTRUCTION AT FULL SPEED!

Concrete poured—steel beams bolted in place—roofing completed—our newest addition to the mountain is well underway! With a scheduled completion date of May, 2007 this new multi-purpose recreational facility will be ready for summer camping's recreation, worship, and fellowship activities. While the building is paid for—the interior necessities (chairs, tables, staging, basketball goals, PA system etc.) have yet to be funded. Helping to purchase these needed items would be a great project for any men's or women's group, youth group, Sunday School class or church. Approximate costs are as follows: basketball goals—six needed at \$2,000 each; staging—\$2,500; tables—16 needed at \$80 each; and chairs—300 needed at \$25 each. Pick an item—make it happen! Call John at Cragmont (877) 669-7677 for further details.



Camping season is almost upon us! Registrations are coming in to all seven of our summer camp offerings. If you have not registered for a week of summer camp at Cragmont and would like to attend, please contact the Director/Registrar of your week of preference SOON! Bed space will go quickly! Don't miss the experience of a week of summer camp at Cragmont. Register now!

2007 SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 13-15, 2007
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Ministerial Association of OFWB

June 4-6, 2007
John Hill
312 Pineview St.
Lucama, NC 27851
(252) 239-1958

Day Spring Conference

June 6-9, 2007
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 11-16, 2007
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5345

Christian Cadet Conference

June 18-23, 2007
Wes Boyd
794 Church of God Rd.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

June 25-30, 2007
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd.
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

Bed, Breakfast & Blessings

July 1-8, 2007
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Rd.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

General Youth II Conference

July 9-14, 2007
John Robert Harris
2514 Olde Dutch Ct.
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 208-1781

General Youth I Conference

July 16-21, 2007
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

July 23-28, 2007
Rudy Owens
1515 US 70-A
Selma, NC 27576
(919) 965-2796

August Women's Aux. Conference

July 30-August 4, 2007
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Pee Dee Youth Conference

August 6-9, 2007
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gifts to this year's Telethon. We are thankful for every gift received. Our prayer is that God will bless you many times over for your deep concern to reach "the lost" around the world.

Since I am submitting this on April 5 for the May issue of *THE FREE WILL BAPTIST*. I will not publish an amount in this issue, but will send a letter to the pastors as soon as we are sure all contributions have been received.

Thank you for your faithfulness

Harold Jones

Executive Director

BAPTISM SERVICE IN PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by the Reverend Dario S. Basingil

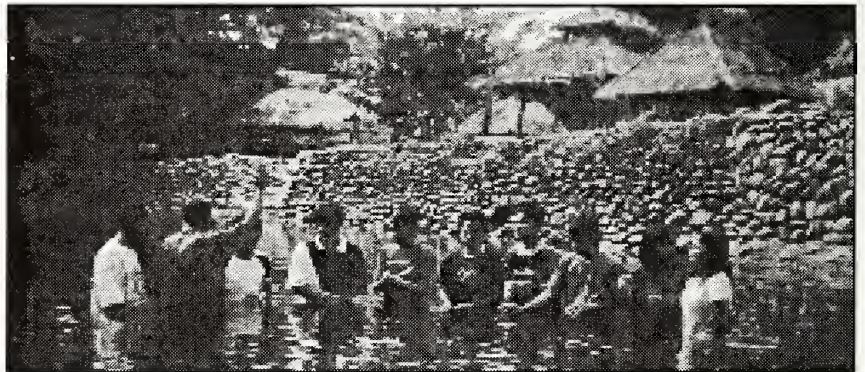
The Free Will Baptist Main Church, located in Barangay Bancao-Bancao, Rizal Avenue Extension, Puerto Princesa City, had a Baptismal Service on December 1, 2006. It was held at Balsahan River located at Central Iwahig Penal Colony, approximately twenty-one kilometers away from the city proper of Puerto Princesa.

The officiating minister was the Rev. Dario S. Basingil, assisted by Pastor Bobby Marquez. We had eight young people who decided and in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, were baptized by immersion.

The eight young people were Delvie Nabartaje, Josiah Lagrosa, Harold Basingil, Joezer Basingil, Gilbert Monares, Matthew Deriada, Marinel Rosales, and Faith Nabartaje. The Rev. Basingil explained to the young people the meaning of "baptism." Baptism is a ceremony which pictures our union with Christ in His Death, Burial, and Resurrection. When we stand in the water to be baptized, we testify to the fact that we have been crucified with Christ. When we are placed under the water, we picture our burial with Him, and when we are lifted up out of the water we picture our resurrection with Him so we also might live a new life.

Therefore, the Lord Jesus commanded everyone who believes on Him to be baptized. By baptism we give public testimony to the fact that we belong to Jesus and that we are united with Him in His Death, Burial, and Resurrection.

We thank the Lord for His guidance and preparation of a place for us to have the service like this. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless them to become mature Christians. Praise the Lord with us!



Free Will Baptist Main Church Baptismal service for eight young people.



BETHEL MISSION IN RAMOS ARIZPE, MEXICO

by the Reverend Antonio Escobar

The Bethel Mission is moving forward in a good way, and we see progress every day. What is important and fundamental is that each person and family in this mission is being taught the biblical doctrine of our church. Our purpose is not only that families unite with the mission, but that each person becomes a good disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank the Lord for those who recently became members: Brother Salvador, Sister Julia, and Brother Noel. Before receiving them into fellowship, it was explained to them the responsibility as members and their duties to the Lord. They responded with a willingness to share their material sources

as well as their spiritual work. They are presently responding faithfully. I had to travel to Piedras Negras for a few days and I left them in charge of the worship service at the Mission. I thank God for this and the leadership that is beginning to develop among these families.

I have begun a program of study with these families and hope that each one grows spiritually, and develops the gifts and talents that the Lord has given them. We pray that the good Lord continues to add to the church those who will be saved. We pray that this year, 2007, evangelism, missions, and the overall work of the Lord will grow stronger.



New members of Bethel Mission.



MISSION RALLY OFFERING

The Annual Convention Mission Rally will be May 23 at 7:30 P.M. in Kornegay Arena at Mount Olive College. We hope you will make every effort to attend. Your special gift at this rally will enable the Board of Foreign Missions to continue reaching around the world with the Gospel. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

REMEMBER! YOUR GIFT MUST BE EARMARKED "FOREIGN MISSIONS" OR PLACED IN A SPECIAL ENVELOPE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE RALLY.

(Home Missions will be in charge of the Rally this year.)

Short-Term Team Ministry

Mexico 2007

June 16-23

July 7-14

July 14-21

**August 4-12
(Camp Morelos)**



**66th Annual
Sunday School Institute
March 3, 2007
Mount Olive College
450 People
45 Seminars
Learning, Food, and Fellowship
*Were You There?***





COMPUTER LAB NAMED IN HONOR OF WILLIAMSONS

Mount Olive College recently held a luncheon to honor members of the B. Harold and Annie Bell Lamm Williamson family and to express appreciation to the family for their gifts to the College.

Wilson County business leaders and members of Milbournie Church, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson were longtime friends and supporters of MOC. In July of 2001, at the very start of the Mount Olive College New Century Capi-

tal Campaign, the Williamson family gifted property to the College. As a meaningful memorial and a great legacy, the student computer lab in the College's new Communications Building will bear the Williamson name. The Williamsons have also established an endowment to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

"By establishing this endowment, the Williamson family has created a legacy for themselves,

and at the same time they have provided a place for students to study," stated Jeff Daughtry, director of Planned Giving at Mount Olive College. "Long after the building has served its usefulness and thousands of students have benefited from the use of the lab, the legacy of the Williamsons will continue on in perpetuity."

The 800 square foot Williamson Computer Lab has 24 computer workstations, including two stations with wheelchair accessibility. Special anti-glare lighting has been installed to make extended viewing of the computer screens easy on the eyes. Student lab assistants are available to help users with software and hardware questions.

According to Dr. Carol Carrere, vice president for Institutional Planning and Support, "The Williamson Computer Lab provides computer support and learning resource technologies for Mount Olive College students in a self-paced quiet and comfortable laboratory environment. The lab enhances students' classroom experience, while providing an outlet for printing assignments, and allowing for leisurely web browsing and listening. We are very appreciative of this gift."



Members of the Williamson and Lamm families, along with their pastor, the Rev. Billy Toler, attended an appreciation luncheon at MOC.



Brothers and sisters to Annie Belle and Harold Williamson back row (L-R): Jo Ann Bushong and Bobby Williamson. Front (L-R): Ruby Williamson and Varina Bryant. Also pictured is Jeff Daughtry, director of Planned Giving.

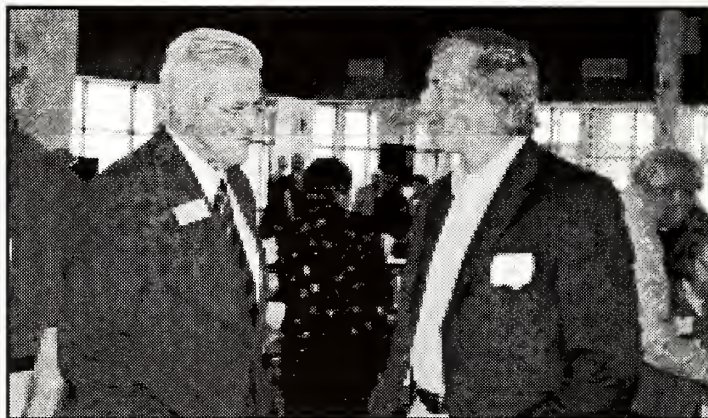
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET HOSTED

At Mount Olive College, over 580 students receive a variety of scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition and books. In fact, during the 2006/2007 academic year, MOC provided more than \$2.4 million of institutional aid to students.

The College's Annual Scholarship Banquet gives student scholarship recipients an opportunity to meet the benefactors who have generously helped support their educational goals. It is a time for the students to pause and say, "thank you."

"Going to Mount Olive College has been an awesome experience which I will never forget," said Meredith Tew, a psychology major from Dunn, NC. "Being in a Christian atmosphere and such a close-knit community has made a world of difference in my college career. Without the financial support to the College from donors, I would have missed out on many opportunities that have truly opened my eyes, and I am grateful for everything that Mount Olive College has offered me. I am very blessed to have many people who inspire me to succeed, and without donors I wouldn't have had the chance to make my dreams come true." Tew, who plans to graduate in May, is the recipient of the Minot Elijah and Lou Bell West Godwin Scholarship.

Junior English education major Sara Strickland of Goldsboro echoed Tew's sentiments, "Mount Olive College is my second home. It embodies the spirit of family and love that everyone desires. Yet, at the same time we are receiving a wonderful education and getting wonderful opportunities. I would not be here without the generosity of many. I thank all who have helped make this possible for



Dr. Byrd, President of MOC, and Donnie Lassiter from Selma, NC.

me and wish for all God's blessings be upon them."

Using anecdotes and colorful tales, Al Warrick, keynote speaker at the event, spoke of the importance of reaching back and helping those in need. He quoted a familiar Scripture, "to whom much is given, much will be demanded," proving that it is better to give than to receive.

"God has blessed us in many ways; regardless of what we have, if we don't share it, then, it's no good," Warrick stated. Putting a personal touch on the event, Warrick shared, "I am nothing more than the gifts people have given me."

Endowed Scholarship supporters like Dalton and Ruby Proctor, who attended the appreciation luncheon, feel it is important to give back. Ruby, who attended college on a scholarship, feels particularly compelled to provide that same kind of financial support to students. Dalton said, "An endowed scholarship program is a way of telling students that we believe in them and that we care about their future."



Pictured (l-r): Al Warrick, keynote speaker, Matthew McLamb and Nancy Galeno, scholarship recipients.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES NEW MAJOR IN CHEMISTRY

People want to know what is in the water they drink. Farmers want to know what's in their soil. We all want to know what is in the air we breathe. Chemistry can ultimately answer all of those questions.

According to Dr. Michael McCann, associate professor of chemistry, at Mount Olive College, "The career possibilities in the field of chemistry are endless."

He went on to note that students graduating with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry could work for clinical labs, pharmaceutical companies, chemical companies, polymer and plastic companies, crime labs, drug enforcement agencies, and the list goes on.

"I personally think that a graduate with a degree in chemistry has demonstrated an above average ability to think critically and logically and show the capability to understand difficult material," McCann stated.

For all those reasons McCann believes graduates in the field of chemistry are well-suited for many jobs that are both in high demand and in well paying careers, such as high technology and biotechnology.

Mount Olive College will begin offering a major in chemistry this fall. It will be a complement to the College's new forensic science major, also expected to be available this fall.

Students pursuing a bachelor of science in chemistry can expect to take a year of general chemistry, another year of organic chemistry, two semesters of physical chemistry, and one semester each of analytical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and biochemistry.

The addition of the chemistry major coupled with the new forensic science major, both of which will be available in the fall, speaks volumes about the growth that Mount Olive College is experiencing. Both the forensic

science and chemistry majors will be housed in the College's newly constructed Raper Hall which boasts eight science labs with adjoining faculty offices, four conference rooms, a spacious auditorium, and \$400,000 of new state-of-the-art scientific instruments.

According to Dr. Ellen Jordan, vice president for Academic Affairs, the setting in Raper Hall is pristine, relaxed, high quality and, therefore, conducive to deep thinking and reflection.

"There is a new sense of interdepartmental collaboration and excitement about building on the strengths of each individual program," Dr. Jordan stated. "Raper Hall is not just a facility, it is a haven for students to explore their talents, dialogue with their peers and nourish the creativity and leadership skills that our faculty are known to inspire."

For more information about Mount Olive College's new majors in chemistry or forensic science, contact Dr. Michael McCann at (919) 658-2502.



The Rev. John Hill, alum of MOC and new pastor at First Church, Goldsboro, spoke in a Chapel service recently. Some of the students greeting him after the service were (left to right) Lauren Cooke and Andrew Alphin, Westside Church, John Hill, Matthew Grubbs, May's Chapel youth minister, and Andrew Grubbs, First Church, Plymouth.



Gary Barefoot, curator of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College and the late Dr. A. Purnell Bailey standing in front of the plaque recognizing the gift of the Bailey Collection to MOC.

Mount Olive College Graduation Set for May 12

Mount Olive College will graduate approximately 350 students at its fifty-third spring commencement on Saturday, May 12, 2007. The commencement speaker will be Lt. Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue, a distinguished, North Carolina elected official. Preceding graduation Mount Olive College will hold its traditional worship service in the Southern Bank Auditorium of the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall. The Rev. Frank Harrison will be the keynote speaker. Reservations for the Commencement Ceremonies are available by ticket only. Please contact Jean F. Ackiss, director of church support, for more information.



The 95th Annual Session
of the
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 22-24, 2007

Kornegay Hall On the Campus of Mount Olive College

“Go...Tell the Story”

(Mark 16:15)

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, May 22

Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet—Murphy Center—5:30 P.M.
Great food, gifts, service awards, information, fellowship
Music by the Mission Valley OFWB Church Choir

Convention Worship Service —Kornegay Hall—7:30 A.M.

Speaker: The Reverend James Howard Nobles
Pastor of Mission Valley OFWB Church, Pee Dee Association

Wednesday, May 23

Opening Session—Kornegay Hall—9:00 A.M.

Worship Speaker: The Reverend Ashley Summerlin,
Pastor of Jackson Heights OFWB Church, Eastern Conference

Sunday School Banquet—Murphy Center—5:45 P.M.

Annual Mission Rally—Kornegay Hall—7:30 P.M.

Sponsored by the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism

Thursday, May 24

Closing Session—Kornegay Hall—9:00 A.M.

Worship Speaker: The Reverend Barry Stallings,
Pastor of Pleasant Grove OFWB Church, Western Conference

The 95th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 22–24, 2007

TUESDAY, May 22

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 5:30 P.M. | Third Annual Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet, Murphy Center
Music by the Mission Valley OFWB Church Choir | 2:30–3:30 | Mount Olive College will provide tours of the Raper Building, the Communications Center, and the Pope Wellness Center. |
| 7:30 P.M. | Convention Worship Service
Pastor James Howard Nobles, Message | 5:45 P.M. | Sunday School Banquet—Murphy Center |
| | | 7:30 P.M. | Mission Rally—Kornegay Arena
Hosted by the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism |

WEDNESDAY, May 23

- 8:00 A.M. Registration Opens—Kornegay Arena
- 9:00–9:10 Singing, Scripture, Prayer
- 9:10–10:30 **Opening Session**
- Call to Order
Welcome to Mount Olive College
The President's Message
Executive Committee Report
Finance Committee Report
Convention Services Report
- Reports of Denominational Ministries**
- Sunday School Ministry
OFWB Press Foundation
Mount Olive College
OFWB International
Cragmont Assembly
- 10:30–10:45 **Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA**
- 10:45–11:45 **Worship Service**
The Reverend Ashley Summerlin, Message
- 11:45–12:00 **Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA**
- 12:00–12:15 Recognition of Fraternal Delegates and Special Guests
Recognition of Conference Moderators
Nominating Committee Report
- 12:15–1:15 **Lunch in the Murphy Center**
- 1:15–1:30 Singing, Scripture, Prayer
- 1:30–2:30 **Reports of Denominational Ministries**
- OFWB Retirement Homes
Minister's Program
OFWB Children's Home
Church Finance Association
Home Missions & Evangelism

THURSDAY, May 24

- 8:30 A.M. Registration Re-opens
- 9:00–9:15 Singing, Scripture, Prayer
- The Convention Reconvenes
Announcements
- 9:15–10:00 **Ancillary Ministry Reports**
- Camp Vandemere
Layman's League
OFWB League Convention
Ministerial Association
- Congregational Singing & Fellowship**
- Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Youth Convention
Carolina Bible Institute
- 10:00–10:15 **Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA**
- 10:15–11:00 **Worship Service**
The Reverend Barry Stallings, Message
- 11:00–11:15 **Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA**
- 11:15–12:15 Closing Session
- Chaplain's Commission Report
Report of the NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
Election and Installation of Officers, Boards, and Committees
Resolution Committee Report
Registration Committee Report
Report of the Memorial Committee
- 12:15 **The Convention is Adjourned**

The 96th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will convene May 20–22, 2008.



PASSIONATE: ABOUT MAKING DISCIPLES

“The night cometh when no man can work” John 9:4.

It is time to be PASSIONATE! Evil forces are more rampant than ever. We are commanded to make disciples. Night is coming! We must be prepared TO GO TELL THE STORY.

With the support of your church, we have made tremendous progress during the past year. Hundreds of people and families have been assisted, and numbers have received Christ. Our priority is to continue to REACH THE LOST.

Our work is not complete because the doors of opportunity continue to open. That is why we are hoping we can count on you and your church to continue to demonstrate a PASSIONATE CONCERN FOR THE LOST.

TAKE THE PLUNGE!

“J. P. Penguin leads the way to Merced, California for Vacation Bible School for five congregations of the Lao Evangelical Church. There is a team of 32 people who are joining the Sunday School Ministry and Board of Home Missions and Evangelism as we travel across country on a short-term mission trip to facilitate Bible School and mentor the folks in the churches as they learn about the inner workings of Vacation Bible School. The team will be leaving on July 7, 2007 and will be returning on July 17, 2007. We will be paying for all materials associated with the VBS. We are trying to keep the cost down as much as possible; therefore, we invite your church, Sunday School, or organization to partner with us to “Go...Tell the Story.”



Send your contribution (earmarked California VBS) to Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. For more information, call (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org>.



THE LIGHTHOUSE MOVEMENT

Becoming part of The Lighthouse Movement may be the single best thing you can do to let the light of your prayers continue to blaze with hope in your neighborhood. It's a movement bringing together more than three million Christians with a vision to share Christ's light with every man, woman, and young person in America. Call (252) 714-9283 to discover how your church can become involved.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee, great and mighty things, which thou knowest not (Jeremiah 33:3).

2007 MISSION RALLY

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism will host the 2007 Mission Rally this year at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at Kornegay Arena Mt. Olive College Mt. Olive, NC.

REMEMBER— your financial gift will help us GO . . . TELL THE STORY!



RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director

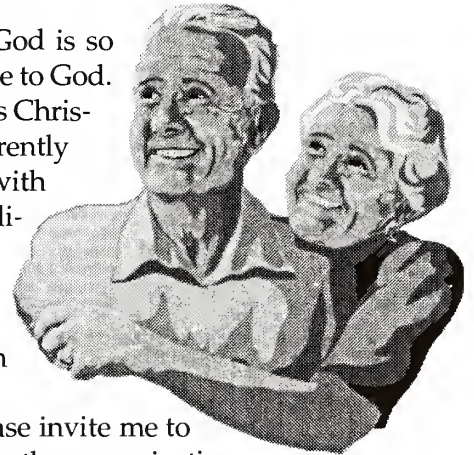
Spring has finally arrived and everything around us is looking so pretty. God is so wonderful to provide all this beauty for us to enjoy each and every day. Praise be to God.

As I think of things that are provided for us by God, I also think of how we, as Christians, are supposed to provide for those who are less fortunate than we. We currently have 18 clients (Mrs. Audrey Jordan, who was a client, was called home to be with the Lord in February) who depend on the generosity of our churches and individuals to help them have a more pleasurable life.

We seek your continued support, both financially and prayerfully, for this wonderful ministry. This ministry has been in existence for 33 years and has been a great help to many of our ministers, their wives, and our lay people in times when they needed a little help.

If you would like to know more about the Retirement Homes Ministry, please invite me to come and speak to your church, Woman's Auxiliary, Layman's League, or any other organization you may have in your church. I also invite you to come by our display at the Annual Convention and talk with me.

This is a late-breaking item. There has been made available to us a wheelchair lift that will fit a full size van with double doors that open outward. This is almost a new unit and we would like for someone who really needs it to have it. If you or someone in your church needs a lift such as this, contact me at headquarters for more information.



Don't forget:

Sunday, May 13, 2007 is

Mother's Day!



Woman's Auxiliary

North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Eightieth Annual Session—May 10, 2007

Hosted by the Western Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Pleasant Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, North Carolina

Theme: Life Can Be Better

Scripture: *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*
(Matthew 6:33).

Theme Song: *Seek Ye First*

- 8:30 A.M. **Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall**
Registration—Sara Parker, Vice-President
Coffee
- 8:45 A.M. **Auxiliary Praise and Worship Choir**
Directed by Lynn Prescott with women
from each district participating
- 9:00 A.M. **Business Session**
Devotions
Music
Business—Joan Little, President
Biblical Message
Memorial Service
- 10:20 A.M. **Worship Service**
Music
Scriptures and Prayers
Message—Kathy Hayes
- 11:55 A.M. **Business Session II**
Music, Scripture, and Prayer
Committee Reports
Life Membership Award
Denominational Ministries
- 1:00 P.M. **Lunch**

Directions to Pleasant Hill Church—Host

Maps are given on the church's web page. The address is <pleasanthillfwb.org>.

Coming from Wilson, travel the new Hwy 117 South to Exit 94, Pikeville. At the top of bridge turn right onto Pikeville-Princeton Road, travel 5 miles to Capps Bridge Road. Turn left at Capps Bridge Road and travel 1.1 miles to Gurley Dairy Road. Turn right onto Gurley Dairy Road; the church will be on the right at top of hill.

Coming from Mount Olive, take new Hwy 117 North to Goldsboro. Then take Hwy 70 West; at the seventh traffic light on Hwy 70 turn right onto 581 North. Travel 3 miles on 581 to Gurley Dairy Road. Turn left, travel 2 miles on Gurley Dairy Road; the church will be on the right.

Coming from 70 East to Goldsboro, take Hwy 70 West. Travel by-pass to Hwy 70 (Exit to Raleigh) Travel Hwy 70 West, at the seventh traffic light on Hwy 70 turn right onto 581 North. Travel 3 miles; turn left onto Gurley Dairy Road; the church will be on the right.

Traveling from Hwy 95 and Hwy 40, take Hwy 70 East toward Goldsboro. Travel Hwy 70 East to Princeton. Hardee's will be on the right. Turn left at traffic light onto Rains Mill Road travel 3.6 miles. (Rains Mill Road becomes Pikeville-Princeton Road at the Johnston County-Wayne County line.) Travel to Gurley Dairy Road. Turn right onto Gurley Dairy Road; travel 1 mile; the church will be on the left.

Pleasant Hill Church—1080 Gurley Dairy Road, Pikeville
Phone: (919) 734-6110 church office
(919) 734-3320 parsonage the Rev. Chuck Owens;
Mrs. Paula Owens
(919) 735-7790 Brenda Rollins
(919) 920-6646 Joe Rollins

Motels can be seen from Hwy 70 By-pass by taking the Best Road and Spence Avenue Exits
*From the East, turn right onto the service road to Jameson Inn—1408 South Harding Drive—(919) 778-9759
and Comfort Suites of Goldsboro—2613 North Park Drive—(919) 759-0098*

*From the West turn right onto Spence Avenue for two additional motels
Holiday Inn Express—909 North Spence Avenue—(919) 751-1999
Hampton Inn—905 North Spence Avenue—(919) 778-1800*

Days Inn of Goldsboro—2000 Wayne Memorial Drive—(919) 734-9471
Country Inn and Suites—2302 Norwood Avenue—(919) 581-0503

EASTERN DISTRICT COVENTION HELD AT SMITH'S NEW HOME CHURCH

Submitted by Vickie Wade, Secretary

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met at Smith's New Home Church on March 17, 2007. The theme for the Spring Convention was "Triumph Over Adversity."

The Camp Vandemere Choir opened the Convention.

President, Wanda Costner, called the meeting to order. The Rev. Harold Jones offered the prayer for the convention.

Scripture from 1 Peter 2:18-25 giving examples of Christ's suffering was presented by Hazel Smith followed by a poem entitled "Let Go and Let God."

Mary Susan Humphrey and Saborah Smith from Smith's New Home presented special singing.

The roll was called with 30 auxiliaries reporting.

Happy Taylor recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to Deep Run and Folkstone auxiliaries for achieving A-1 status.

Courtney Taylor presented the Camp Vandemere report. She advised that June 4-7 will be the Women's Week. Their new project is providing rocking chairs for the porch in front of the dining hall.

Denominational reports were presented by: Cynthia Batten from The Children's Home. She advised that they currently have 27 children. They are involved in a Wellness Program for staff and children promoting good eating habits. The Change for Children blue bags will be going out to the churches in late April for collection in May. She asked us to keep Jessica Bullock, one of their former students, in our prayers as she heads to Iraq with her Army unit.

Harold Jones represented Foreign Missions. He advised that Telethon

Sunday is March 25. A team has just gone into Manila to begin work there in setting up churches. He asked that we add the lost to our church prayer list.

Cliff Gray presented the report of the FWB Press. They need writers for the Sunday School literature. Anyone interested should see him. "The Press to \$125,000" is still short of its goal. They have received approximately \$30,000 to date.

Sandy Thicke brought greetings on behalf of Ronnie Taylor and the Retirement Homes Ministry. They currently have 19 clients with others on the waiting list. They need additional funds before they can take on additional clients. She reminded us of their Wellness/Disability program and equipment that is available at no charge.

Happy Taylor represented Mount Olive College. She advised the new buildings have been dedicated and are in use. The Communications Building is a companion to the Moye Library and houses the historical center and has the capability of transmitted classes from there to all the other sites at the same time. Raper Hall is an academic complex. There are currently 6 locations.

Wesley Taylor of Camp Vandemere shared the status of the sports area with us. The road has been moved to get ready for the new area. They have received \$9,000 and are slated to begin construction in April so they will be completed by camping season. This will provide an area for volleyball, basketball, and tennis with lighting for night games. The new steeple has not been put on the chapel but is going to add much to the campus when it is completed.

Mary Dudley represented Buddy Sasser, who was away doing a revival in Whiteville. She advised the new gym has been started at Cragmont and the old tabernacle building will be used for dry storage.

Home Missions is currently working on a building in the Waveland, Mississippi area.

Sunday School Ministry just held its annual workshops in Mount Olive and had 400 attendees. They will be going to California to work with the H'mong people July 7-17 for a short-term trip. The 32 people who are going are paying their own way but the ministry will be paying for incidentals and materials needed for the trip. August 10-11 will be the Coastal workshops and seminars for women. The cost is \$50 for 2 days and materials and meals are included.

Our guest speaker was Judith Kennedy, who asked that we pray that her words might glorify God. She said "God cares." Our convention Scripture is 1 Peter 2:21. Peter learned suffering from Jesus—he wrote about it. If we follow Jesus we will face adversity. Peter writes to give us hope that we can rise above adversity and we can if God is with us.

The instructions we receive from God are to help us grow in spirit. Judy asked us where do our feet go; what do our hands do; what do our ears hear; and what do our eyes see? Do we guard and protect them from where they go, what they hear, and what they watch? Remember trash in is trash out...we make the choices!

What is God calling us to do? God wants us to grow spiritually and live lives victoriously for Him. We, as

Christians, are not feeding ourselves on the Word of God. Jesus defeated His enemy with the Word; do we? God knows all about us and has a plan for us. We need to fulfill it.

Special music, "I Thirst" was presented.

The President called the business session back to order.

The youth report was read by the secretary.

The Treasurer's report was given by Velma Morris. Thirty auxiliaries were represented by letter; \$179.20 was sent in as per capita dues; \$622.50 was registration, and \$200 toward the Camp Vandemere sports project.

A motion was made and seconded

that the offering go to the sports project at Camp Vandemere.

The Registration and Credentials Committee reported 30 auxiliaries were represented by letter with 12 Eastern District officers, 18 delegates, 4 ministers, and 44 visitors present with a total attendance of 108.

The Resolutions Committee presented the following report:

1. That the auxiliaries will be led by the Holy Spirit to "Go and tell the story."

2. To encourage the younger women of our churches to join our auxiliaries and attend the conventions.

3. Express our appreciation to

Smith's New Home Original FWB Church for their hospitality with a rising vote of thanks.

A motion was made and seconded that the reports be accepted as given.

Mary Dudley advised us that the president of the Central Conference Woman's Auxiliary, Jane C. Tripp, died last week. She asked if we would send a card to their convention expressing our sympathies for their loss. Amy Scott, Benevolence Chairwoman, will take care of this.

The Rev. Walter Sutton, pastor of Smith's New Home Church, offered the benediction and blessing for our lunch.

The meeting was adjourned.

CENTRAL DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEETING

Submitted by Judy Moore

Spring is in the air! New life is springing forth. We see God's work all around us—especially in the Central District Woman's Auxiliary Convention!

A wonderful, inspiring convention was held on March 24, 2007 at Black Jack OFWB Church. There were 135 in attendance. Vice-President Kathy Hayes welcomed everyone to the convention. Tribute was given to Jane Trip, our president, who passed away in early March. The Central District will truly miss her enthusiasm and dedication to the Lord and His work.

The theme of the convention was "Serving a Holy God." The Scripture reading came from Leviticus 19:2: "... Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD, your God am holy." Doris Baker of Rose Hill gave a response and Brenda Joyner of Marlboro gave a devotion.

Jean Ackiss gave a very inspiring program entitled, "Serving a Holy God In Our World Today." The Central District Woman's Auxiliary Convention is doing many great and won-

derful things.

The convention voted to send \$200 to the H'mong people of California to help with their Bible study; \$100 to the Foreign Mission telethon, held on March 25, 2007; and \$100 to Cragmont, in memory of Jane Tripp. A love offering was also taken up for The Memorial Baptist Church, located in Greenville that was damaged by a fire.

Auxiliaries of the Central District brought items for kits for The Harvest Connection and dishtowels and dishcloths for The Children's Home.

A Life Membership award was presented to Shirley Williams of Hickory Grove. The State Convention will be held at Pleasant Hill Church in Pikeville on Thursday, May 10, 2007.

The youth of the Central District presented, "He Is" on March 30-31.

Marlboro, King's Crossroads, and Little Creek churches were recognized for reaching the goal of an A-1 auxiliary.

Teresa Ball is designing Christian Jewelry. All proceeds from the sales

will go toward Foreign Missions.

A study course will be held on May 17, 2007 at 7 P.M. at Little Creek Church. Jean Ackiss will speak about the auxiliary's *Manual of Methods*.

Buddy Sasser and representatives reported on the work going on in our denominational ministries.

The following slate of officers were elected: President, Mary Pittman; Vice-President, Kathy Hayes; Recording Secretary, Shirley Williams; Treasurer, Margaret May; Benevolence Chairwoman, Ann Copeland; Program Chairwoman, Dorothy Burrese; Study Course Chairwoman, Faye Adams; Missions Chairwoman, Judy Jones; Youth Chairwomen, Lynn Watson and Rebecca Webb; and Corresponding Secretary, Judy Moore.

Let God use you in a mighty way to carry His message to His children.

Hope to see you at the Fall Convention, which will be held on September 24, 2007!

North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries



*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us, leaving us a marked way;
and remind us that we also can leave a marked way for those who come after us.*

ENDOWMENT TOTALING \$1,348,397 ESTABLISHED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2006

A distinctive service of the Foundation is to provide Original Free Will Baptists a means for establishing endowments for local churches, denominational ministries, and other charitable purposes. During its first year of operation—January 1–December 31, 2006—gifts were made to the Foundation for ten endowments in the total amount of \$1,348,397. These funds are now invested; and beginning in calendar year 2007, the beneficiaries of these endowments will receive approximately \$65,000 annually from the following endowments:

1. Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists
Scholarships for Central Conference ministers attending seminary or divinity school
2. Mae Haddock
Established by Don Ribeiro, M.D., in memory of his mother, for the Youth Ministry of Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church (Greene County)
3. Donnie E. and Linda Vann Lassiter Family
For scholarships to students in eastern North Carolina attending various colleges, universities, and schools, including undergraduate liberal arts and Christian ministry at Mount Olive College and graduate theological study in seminary and divinity school
4. Legacy
An endowment to which gifts may be made in honor or memory of persons. Gifts may later be transferred to named endowments:
5. Casey-McCormack
For Casey's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church and scholarships to students preparing for Christian ministry at Mount Olive College or graduate study in seminary or divinity school
6. Michael R. Pelt
Established by former students and friends of Dr. Pelt in appreciation for his thirty years as chair of the department of religion at Mount Olive College and for his continued services to Original Free Will Baptists. For the graduate education of ministers—scholarships for seminary and divinity school
7. W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper
For support of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries as determined by the Board of Directors
8. Walter and Evelyn F. Reynolds
For support of the work and ministry of Friendship Original Free Will Baptist Church (Greene County), as determined by the church
9. Michael Rouse Family
Scholarships for students preparing for Christian vocations at Mount Olive College or Campbell University, or any seminary or divinity school
10. Silverthorne Family
For four beneficiaries (25%) each:
 1. Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church (Pamlico County) for the maintenance of the church cemetery
 2. Camp Vandemere
 3. Free Will Baptist Children's Home
 4. Mount Olive College Library, for the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection

Total Endowment Gifts (January 1–December 31, 2006)	\$1,328,397.39
Charitable Gift Annuities	\$ 20,000.00
Lifetime income to the donors, after which assignment to Endowment	
Total Endowment Investments (January 1–December 31, 2006)	\$1,348,397.39

For More Information

Individuals, families, churches, and denominational ministries who would like more information on establishing an endowment with the Foundation are invited to contact W. Burkette Raper, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365; phone (919) 658-3855; e-mail <wraپر@moc.edu>.

Camp Vandemere

Ten weeks of camping have been set aside this year
to minister to our youth and adults, as well.

Sign up to receive blessings down on the shore of the Bay River at Vandemere.

Women's Week	June 4–June 7	Stumpy Quinn, (252) 638-6404 Judy Kennedy, (910) 298-4311
Daniel's Chapel	June 10–June 15	Walt Tyndall, (252) 753-5005
General Youth Camp #1	June 17–June 22	The Reverend Tim and Gail Heath, (919) 809-0045
Lighthouse Keeper's Week	June 24–June 29	Curtis and Cristy Ramsey, (910) 324-1507
Spring Hope	July 8–July 13	Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346 Debbie Warren, (252) 637-4560
New Bethlehem	July 15–July 20	Sandy Williams, (252) 745-9840
General Youth Camp #2	July 22–July 27	The Reverend Wesley Taylor, (252) 745-3171
First Church of Wilson	July 29–August 3	Doug Radford, (252) 230-9742
Branch's Chapel	August 5–August 10	The Reverend Terry Dennis, (919) 284-6144
First Baptist of Beaufort	August 13–August 17	John Thompson, (252) 671-3515

If you would like more information on the camp weeks being offered this year, please contact one of the directors above or the camp manager. The fee for a full week of camp this year is \$90.00 per camper. The activity fee will be set by each director, depending upon the level of activities for each camp week.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 (camp office)
(252) 514-3222 (cell)

Damon Kennedy, Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 (home)
(910) 296-7100 (cell)

Camp Vandemere, Inc., 215 Third Street, Vandemere, NC 28587

NEWS FROM POWHATAN

Submitted by Rita Jones

Twenty-three members attended the MOC Basketball Night on February 17 and were part of the capacity crowd that enjoyed seeing both the women's and men's teams victorious.

Youth member Nikki Jones attended the North Carolina Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NCS DAR) state convention in Pinehurst on February 24. She is a sophomore at NCSU, a past Cape Fear District officer, and past state youth officer in the OFWB Youth Convention. Based on her application, grades, and recommendations, she received a \$1,000 award to apply toward her goal of becoming a high school history teacher in North Carolina.

Powhatan hosted the talent celebration held at the Cape Fear Youth Rally on March 3. Young people from Hopewell, Bethel, and Powhatan performed worship songs. The "Singing Hands" Choir from Powhatan also performed. Member Hayley Benson submitted a Christian Writing piece in

the YFA age category.

On Saturday, March 17, a hot dog lunch was scheduled and a group of about 60 came to view the movie, "Facing the Giants." There were lots of young folks present including Crystal Guy and some of her friends from Mount Olive College. The next day's evening service involved Crystal giving a slideshow presentation from her recent trip to Mississippi to work in the hurricane recovery efforts with others from MOC. She said the trip was hard work but a true blessing. Crystal is a past state youth officer and the second past officer from Powhatan to travel with a college group to work in the Gulf area. Nikki Jones went in March, 2006, with the NCSU group from *Campus Crusade for Christ* and gave a report to the church last summer. Crystal said the smell is not as bad now since much of the gutting has already been done, but she was surprised at how overgrown things were and how much caked mud was still

on everything. The people there continue to need our prayers and support.

Plans are being made for members of our youth group to attend the Youth Convention May 18-20 at MOC with the theme, "Deal or No Deal." It is always a fun weekend of fellowship with youth from across the state and often encourages youth members to consider MOC as a future college choice.

Praise Report—Seven young people were baptized on April 1 along with two candidates from Auburn Christian Church who joined us in a baptism service. Pray for them in their new Christian walk.

In Memoriam—Margaret Ellis Johnson, age 91, quietly went to be with the Lord on Friday evening, March 30. She was a pillar of Powhatan and her smile and holy kiss greeted everyone who entered our doors. Remember her family and the church family during this time of loss.

OUR OWN MISSIONARY

by Charlene Pate

On Sunday, March 25, Sound Side Church honored our own "missionary," Mrs. Madge VanHorne. She was surprised to see approximately 20 members of her family there to join in the celebration of her service to her church and community.

Pat Armstrong opened the service stating, "This is an extremely special Sunday for our church. First, it is our Annual Telethon Sunday for Missions. Second, it is my honor and privilege to announce that today the Young Adult Sunday School Class, along with the whole church, wishes to honor our own missionary, Mrs.

Madge VanHorne." With a look of surprise on her face, Mrs. Madge received an unannounced standing ovation.

Mrs. Madge began teaching the teenage class in Sunday School in 1950, and taught that class until the early 80s. During the early 80s, she helped to establish the Young Adult Sunday School Class and served as teacher until December of 2006. Pat Armstrong now serves as the teacher of that class.

"Mrs. Madge has been a teacher, speaker in prayer meetings, Bible studies, and woman's auxiliary programs, and conducted Bible studies in

her home with old and young alike. She has always been the driving force behind our Bible school and food sales directed to raise funds to help send our young people to Cragmont for summer camp," stated Mrs. Armstrong. Mrs. Armstrong also stated Isaiah 30:15 as Scripture that came to mind when thinking of Mrs. Madge.

Fleddie Reynolds, wife of current pastor, the Rev. Royce Reynolds, read Proverbs 31:10-31: "Who can find a virtuous woman...." She introduced those who came to celebrate this day with Mrs. Madge.

Surprise guests included some of the people she had taught, either in high school or in Sunday School, who followed their calling into the ministry. Speakers included, the Revs. C. H. Overman, David Charles Hansley, Bobby Taylor, and Joseph Wynns.

The Rev. David Charles Hansley announced that a new Disaster Relief Unit that is being built will be brought to Sound Side Church and will be dedicated in honor of Mrs. Madge.

The Rev. Royce Reynolds, on bended knee, apologized for all the trouble he'd given her in high school, which broke silence into laughter. He also stated that there were no words to explain what she has meant to his life, and also spoke on behalf of his brother, the Rev. Billy Reynolds, who was unable to attend due to illness.

Her Sunday School class sang a medley of songs including "They'll Know We Are Christians," "Silent Night," and "Surely the Presence."

Ned Brickhouse, member of the class, presented a plaque for Outstanding Service as Teacher for 36 years of service.

Melanie Armstrong presented her with a book by the youth entitled, "Memories of Mrs. Madge," which included letters and drawings. Jake and Sammy Brickhouse, representing the youth of the church, were next in honoring Mrs. Madge. Sammy recited all the books of the Bible. Jake Brickhouse stated, "Mrs. Madge, you are a beacon of light for the Lord...." Afterward, Sammy and Jake sang a song for her entitled, "Face to Face With Amazing Grace." James Cahoon, chairman of the Board of Deacons, read a formal resolution from the church honoring her as "a faithful and dedicated servant...." At the end of all presentations, Mrs. Madge replied, "I have no words to express how much all of you mean to me...I love you all!"

The service continued with our missions message by Mr. Reynolds, taken

from Romans 10:13. He ended the service by saying, "It's not what we can send, but how many we can send." Afterward, lunch was served in the fellowship hall where a special table was prepared with pictures of Mrs. Madge over the years.

On April 1, the Young Adult Sunday School Class presented their annual Easter program, which has been written and directed by Mrs. Madge every year, each time saying "...this is my last year doing this."

Mrs. Madge has been a role model for us all. She believed in some of us when we didn't believe in ourselves and encouraged us to serve the Lord. she will continue to inspire us all for years to come. I end this by saying there will never be another Mrs. Madge, but she has inspired us all to walk with our Lord and Savior daily and to serve our church and community, so that we may also be a beacon of light for others.

HISTORY OF SMITH'S NEW HOME FWB CHURCH

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 5 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, September 19, 1962, Vol. 77-No. 37 by Mary Davenport.)

It was on August 24, 1894, that Elder H. Cunningham and W. I. Smith met with the community known then as Pickidily to organize a Free Will Baptist church.

These people began using the Pickidily schoolhouse as their meeting place. Later in the year John B. Nobles gave the people an acre lot on which to build a church. The members gathered together to cut down trees and to bring them to the lot to be sawed by Egbert and Millard Waller. The only cost of the building was the nails.

Elder H. Cunningham was elected to pastor of the new Smith's New Home FWB Church; he served as pastor until 1899. William Brown was elected as the first clerk, with Jesse Tyndall serving as treasurer.

The following ministers served as pastors from the church's inception until 1943:

J. E. Howard, 1899-1901; H. Cunningham, re-elected 1901-1916; G. W. Kennedy, 1916-1921 and 1928-1930; Lloyd Vernon, 1921-1925; J. R. Davenport, 1925-1928; Clifton Rice, 1930-1934; A. L. Davidson, 1934-1938; Bruce Barrow, 1938-1939; N. D. Wiggs, 1939-1940; L. H. Wetherington, 1940-1943. In the year 1944, during the pastorate of the Rev. N. D. Beaman, the woman's auxiliary made plans for a new and larger building.

This new building served the church until the ministry of the Rev. Clinton Lupton, who pastored 1945-1948, at which time a rapid growth caused a building program to be started.

The Rev. C. L. Patrick accepted the duties as minister in 1948-1952 and saw the starting and completion of seven Sunday School rooms at the rear of the building.

The church continued to grow under the leadership of the Rev. C. M. Coates, who pastored from 1952-1954.

In 1954, because of the growth of the church, another building program was started under the direction of the Rev. Robert M. Fader. Four more Sunday School rooms and a reception hall were added to the front of the building. The interior of the church was redecorated. It was during this time that the Lord's Acre program was adopted by the church to obtain a building fund.

Mr. Fader served as pastor until 1958, at which time the Rev. Willie E. Stilley accepted the pastorate until 1959.

The Rev. J. B. Starnes accepted the pastorate and served from 1959-1960, at which time a baptistry was begun and completed.

The Rev. Robert M. Fader was recalled to pastor the church in 1960; (he was still there in 1962).



THE CENTRAL DISTRICT YOUTH PROGRAM IS ON TO SOMETHING!

by Marci R. Rollins-Smart

“What are we trying to do to people?” That’s the question Christian Education professor Bruce Powers asks in his books and classes. And it’s the question we all should ask ourselves whenever planning anything in the church—whether it’s worship, fellowship, or service.

Last year, the leaders of the Central District Youth made one of the best moves I’ve seen in our denomination’s youth programs in a long time. They decided to follow the lead of the State Youth Convention that had done away with competition at the state level several years prior. Sure, there were churches and individuals who were upset. Competition had become a BIG thing in the Central District to the point that they had to rent out South Central High School’s auditorium in order to fit all the people! But the motivation behind ending competition was the question: “What are we trying to do to people?”

They decided that the church was not the place for competition. Children and youth compete at school for everything in sports, in music, in art, in writing, in parliamentary procedure, and even in grades! They shouldn’t be made to compete at church as well. After all, competition only teaches children and youth to do things for the Lord for a “tangible” reward. It doesn’t teach them to use their gifts and talents for the Lord out of an act of worship and out of a desire to spread the Gospel.

These realizations led the leaders of the Central District to take on a huge endeavor: a conference-wide Easter drama known as “He Is.” I’ll admit I was skeptical when I heard about this plan. They had an organizational meeting prior to Christmas and then didn’t practice until after Christmas. Children and youth gathered at different churches every Saturday after Christmas until time for the production. I wasn’t sure how well this was going to

turn out. I knew how much work was involved in a small church production, let alone merging many churches together! And asking children and youth to dedicate every Saturday for several months to something like this? I had my doubts.

But the time came and I went to the “He Is” production held at the Greenville Convention Center. I still don’t know how they pulled it off—but they did. Professional looking backdrops, great drama, and excellent singing—it was the best thing I had seen our churches do with children and youth in a very long time. Several people commented that there were more Free Will Baptists in one viewing of the production than there ever has been gathered at any one time! Best of all, tickets were free in order to encourage people to invite those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

This year’s production of “He Is” was even better than last year’s. Yes, the number of children and youth who participated drastically decreased from the previous year, but that is to be expected from anything that requires so much dedication. However, the production itself was just as professional and just as moving as it was the year before. And, they plan to do it again next year.

I know there is a lot of concern in all of our districts about the district (and state) youth programs. Some other districts have tried doing away with competition and then had fewer people in attendance at their meetings than before. The problem is they didn’t replace competition with something better. Good, quality activities and programs take a lot of creativity, planning, and work and that’s what it’s going to take for our district and state youth programs to see a change for the better. But, I can’t think of anything more worthy of our creativity, planning, and work than the children and youth of our churches.

He
Is



ELEANOR BRADSHAW BAKER RECEIVES LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

by Wilma Parker

At the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary convention that was held on March 17 at Smith's New Home Church, Mrs. Eleanor Baker was presented with the Life Membership Award. This came as a great surprise to her, but not for her family and friends, who were present to share the day with her. The following tribute was shared at the presentation.

Eleanor Bradshaw Baker was born in Kinston, NC, on July 24, 1930. Her parents, Robert Ashley and Ada Sumrell Bradshaw, had twelve children. Seven surviving children include five girls and two boys. Eleanor is affectionately called "Lady" by her siblings. This practice began when an older brother, Robert, called her "Lady" when she was born. Eleanor and her siblings are extremely close. All who can, meet every Tuesday evening at Abbott's Buffet for a family get-together. This often includes three sisters, a brother, a sister-in-law, and a brother-in-law.

Eleanor attended Kinston City Schools and in 1952 married Rivers Baker. Rivers and Eleanor had three children, twin girls, Debra and Sandra, and a son, Kenneth. Another son, Michael Braswell, was born earlier during Eleanor's first marriage. Rivers and Eleanor reared their four children in a loving home. They were married for 45 years. Rivers, a local barber, died in 1997.

Each of their four children have families of their own and include four grandchildren. They are Ryan Taylor, Jeffrey Braswell, Kasey Rouse, and Kelly Baker. Grandson, Ryan Taylor, has made Eleanor a great-grandma twice. His children are Avery and Briley Taylor.

Eleanor has a very appropriate married name because she is a well-known "Baker" around town and especially at Westside Church. She and Rivers were often referred to as the "Barber" and the "Baker." Baking cakes is a very welcomed ministry of Eleanor's, especially for the receivers. Eleanor can celebrate all occasions with a cake: weddings, showers, birthdays, anniversaries to name a few. She even has a practice of baking "just because" cakes. Any person in Lenoir County who turns 100 years

of age, regardless of race or religion is likely to receive a birthday cake from Mrs. Eleanor "Lady" Baker.



Eleanor is a twelve-year survivor of breast cancer. She is very active in Westside's Relay for Life team. She is an encourager and a testimony to those who are battling cancer.

Being semi-retired, Eleanor works part-time at the Villager Gift Shop. She is an active member of Westside Church. She is a member of the Young at Heart Sunday School Class, and is president of the woman's auxiliary. She serves the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary as Field Secretary and is currently secretary of the Lenoir County Sunday School Fellowship Suppers.

Her sister, Hazel Marie, recently shared that once, when Eleanor was a small child, her parents made a rare one-day visit to Richmond, Virginia to see a show of some interest. Eleanor was left at home with older siblings and declared that her mama and daddy had gone to Richmond, Virginia, which she assumed was definitely a foreign country. She often shared that, unlike her parents, she had never been outside the United States. When she was reminded of this little childhood story, she quickly and aptly responded that she still has not visited outside the United States. They all had a great laugh.

For those who have been blessed with knowing Mrs. Eleanor Bradshaw Baker or "Lady," we're glad that God planted her in our little neck of the woods of Kinston, North Carolina and especially at Westside Free Will Baptist Church.

Thank you, Eleanor, for being the person God intended you to be, and yes, we'll have another slice of cake, please.



Remember our country's
soldiers on
May 19—Armed Forces Day
May 28—Memorial Day



THE HISTORY OF WESTSIDE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH—MAY 2007

In February 1977, a group of worshipers met in the home of Jack and Marlene Everett on Murray Hill Road in Kinston to pray and seek God's guidance in their spiritual life. It became apparent to the twenty-nine persons present on Sunday March 6, 1977, that a new Free Will Baptist Church on the west side of town should be organized. The offering on that first Sunday morning was \$833.75.

With B. C. Ball, Lester Dail, and Charles Lancaster rotating as lay speakers each week it seemed the group was surrounded with God's love. God blessed them abundantly and there was no doubt they were following His leading and doing His will. The members immediately started making preparations to be accepted into the Eastern Conference of the North Carolina Free Will Baptist Organization. On May 3, 1977, the Eastern Conference Executive committee met with the group and conducted the Organizational Ceremony. The members chose Westside Original Free Will Baptist Church for the official name. There were 46 Charter Members and \$4,031.24 in the treasury. Today, 16 of those members continue to serve the Lord at Westside, 3 have moved, 15 are members elsewhere, and 11 have gone to be with the Lord.

Throughout the past thirty years, Westside has maintained the purpose of proclaiming the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord to a lost world. Even before being chartered as a church, Westside sponsored a missionary from India, the Rev. Gulam Masih. In 1982, the first World Missions Conference was held at Westside. This has remained an annual event and the church currently helps support twelve World Mission families, four Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission families as well as the Free Will Baptist Home Missions program. Twelve different mission programs all around the world plus local ministries are supported through Westside's faith-promise budget, regular budget and special offerings.

God has richly blessed Westside with nine great pastors during the past twenty-five years. The Rev. Reb Lancaster, who was providentially at the chartering service, became the first pastor. He was followed by the Rev. Clifton Rice on September 3, 1977, who came out of retirement to lead the church through August 1980. On September 7, 1980, the Rev. Wayne King began eleven years as pastor. The Rev. W. H. Willis led the congregation from November 23, 1986 to August 7, 1988, during Mr. King's illness. Mr. King resigned November 1991 to accept pas-

toral duties at the Wilson First Free Will Baptist Church. Dr. K. David Hines served as Interim Pastor from December 1, 1991 until May 3, 1992 when the Rev. Jeff Daughtry became our pastor on Westside's fifteenth anniversary. During Jeff's term, our growth was such that the church members felt we needed an associate pastor who could also serve our youth. The Rev. John Robert Harris began his term as Associate/Youth Pastor in January 2000 and serves with us today. Mr. Daughtry gave his resignation on July 9, 2000 to accept a position at Mount Olive College as Director of Planned Giving. The Rev. Mike Barnhill served as Interim Pastor from October 25, 2000 until May 6, 2001. The Rev. E. S. "Buddy" Sasser began his term as Pastor of Westside on the twenty-fourth anniversary, May 6, 2001. Mr. Sasser was called to serve as the Director of Convention Services and resigned from the church in December 2004. Mr. Daughtry graciously consented to step in and led the church as Interim Pastor from February through April 2005 and the Rev. Chris Singleton was welcomed as the Senior Pastor on April 17, 2005.

The church membership purchased two acres of land from Robert Hill (H and H Development Corporation) November 4, 1977. Mr. Hill gave a third acre to the church at that time. Linwood Taylor, contractor, started construction of the first building on the three acres of land in November 1977. On December 10, 1984, the Robert Hill family (Neil Realty, formerly H and H Development Corp.) gave the church another acre of land adjoining the original three acres. Then on April 5, 1989, M. Bailey Barrow gave the church one more acre adjoining the first four. In 2005 the church purchased another lot and now owns approximately six acres of land on Lynn Drive, which extends from Lynn Drive back to the Bill Faye Park fence.

Since ground was first broken in November of 1977, three building projects have been completed. On April 22, 1998 during a quarterly business meeting, the thirty-year note, having an approximate balance of \$22,000, was discussed. It was voted that \$10,000 would be applied toward this balance (the funds coming from the checking account). At that point, the Lord intervened through Mel Woodard, chairman of the Finance Board, who made a contribution toward the proposed new balance of \$12,000. He challenged those present to do the same during the meeting so the note could be paid off and burned at the May 3, 1998 Anniversary Day Celebration. Within five minutes, the challenge was met. There was no doubt

that the Lord was in this place! The first payment on the note was made June 1, 1988 and the final payment was made April 23, 1998. Therefore, the 30-year note was paid in 9 years, 10 months and 21 days. Ground was broken in May 2005 for the new Family Life Center, located at the rear of the existing buildings. During February 2006, the FLC hosted a Valentine's Banquet and Wednesday night suppers with the official dedication of the facilities held on Sunday, March 12 including dinner and a Gospel Sing with the Mark Trammel trio.

Over the last several years, many improvements and additions have been made to the buildings and grounds. These additions and improvements have made the church more accessible, safe, convenient, and beautiful. Much of the work has been done by our church members. Many items have been donated in memory and honor of loved ones by their families and friends.

Even with the new facilities, there is still room for growth. Several members are involved in prayer group meetings in homes and at the church. These groups are seeking God's direction through prayer to find out His plans and desires for the future growth of Westside.

Westside has come a long way since March of 1977. Westside is a loving and caring church and is so proud of its accomplishments through the grace of our Lord. He continues to shower us every day with His blessings. And as He continues to bless us, we will continue to do His work just as those forty-six charter members determined to do when they signed Westside's charter in 1977 stating, "In good faith and with God's help, we the undersigned, will strive to build an Original Free Will Baptist Church that will be a shining light in Kinston and Lenoir County."

ALMA MOORE RECEIVES LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

During the morning worship service at First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, the Woman's Auxiliary honored Mrs. Alma Moore with a Life Membership award. President Denise Vester made the following presentation:

"Through the years, we have honored one of our own with a Life Membership Award. It is a definite chore to make these choices as there are many deserving women. There is one word that stands out above all others in describing the one we honor today. That word is ALWAYS.

A—Attendance. She has shown promptness and dedication in attending all meetings, whether it's an auxiliary meeting, circle meeting, cottage prayer meeting, or visiting the sick and shut-ins. You can count on her, quietly sitting there with a smile on her face.

L—Love. She radiates love. She loves the Lord, she loves her family, she loves her church, and she loves people in general.

W—Willing. Whether it's baking a cake, visiting a shut-in, or whatever she is called on to do, she does it willingly. Complaining is foreign to her. She has a willing heart.

A—Accountable. A joy to work with, there is no question when she is asked to do something whether she will. You can count on her being accountable in tasks both big and small.

Y—Years of devotion. she has devoted her life of service to others. Whether it's cooking for a bereaved family, altering clothes, or other little things to help someone, her devotion to service is beyond measure.

S—Supportive. Her special gift from God has to be support for others. There are those who lead. But those who lead could do nothing without those who support their leadership. And she is an excellent supportive person."

Also on the program were Woman's Auxiliary members Fannie Lee Dickerson, Becky Stone, Karen Durrett, and Robin Brown, who presented a skit whose theme was to get more young women involved in the auxiliary. The skit was entitled, "The Invitation."



SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Camp Vandemere

Vandemere, NC

June 1–2, 2007

...the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; that they have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28–29).

THEME: The Final Resurrections

Friday, June 1
6 P.M.

Meal (\$10—Seafood furnished by Camp Vandemere)
Business Session

Saturday, June 2

8–9 A.M.

Breakfast (\$5) and Fellowship

9–9:45 A.M.

“The Resurrection of Life”

Mr. Michael Griffin

9:45–11 A.M.

Low Rider Competition

11–11:45 A.M.

“The Resurrection of Damnation”

The Reverend Mike Scott

11:45 A.M.–12 P.M.

Prayer and Meditation

12–1 P.M.

Lunch (\$6)

1 P.M.

Benediction

Westside Original Free Will Baptist Church will celebrate their 30th year as a church, Sunday, May 6, 2007.

Using Matthew 28:17–20 as our Text, our theme is:
GO, TEACH AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

Dr. K. David Hines will deliver the 11 A.M. message during the worship hour. Our ladies trio, (Rebecca Hill, Brenda Johnson, and Wilma Parker), our choir, and former member Angie Daniels Tucker will render special music.

A covered dish lunch will be served in our new Family Life Center at 12:30, followed by special music by Angie Tucker and an inspiring program by the Jackson Heights Praise Team “Psalm 148.”

Westside was founded on Missions and continues to support our Free Will Baptist Missions as well as World Missions. God has blessed us with a beautiful, spacious facility and we give Him Glory for all He has done.

We invite all who will, to join us for a wonderful day of celebration,
May 6, 2007 at 11 A.M.

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

REEDY BRANCH CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking a full-time Youth Minister/Director. Immediate employment is desirable, but not mandatory. A competitive compensation package is available. Salary is negotiable. Person must be able to provide excellent references. Applicants are required to have a moral, Christian background and be willing to teach fundamental OFWB doctrine. For more information, please call (252) 756-7852.

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for pastoral, supply, revivals, or interim duties. He may be reached by phone at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.

The word "Comforter" as applied to the Holy Spirit needs to be translated by some vigorous term. Literally, it means "with strength." Jesus promised His followers that "The Strengthener" would be with them forever. This promise is no lullaby for the faint-hearted. It is a blood transfusion for courageous living.

—E. Paul Hovey

A new quarter of
Sunday School literature
begins the first Sunday of June.

If you need to make additions/changes to your order, contact the FWB Press by phone at (800) 849-3927 and press 3 or by e-mail at <faye@fwbpress.com>.

PASTORAL POSITION AVAILABLE

Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church in Spivey's Corner, N.C. has an immediate opening for an experienced pastor.

The successful candidate will:

1. Have significant church pastoral and leadership experience.
2. Understand and be able to lead a strong church building effort and have a zeal for evangelizing the lost.
3. Be a dynamic speaker and teacher of God's Word.
4. Aggressively seek the opportunity to grow and develop our church.
5. Strongly support the tenets of the Articles of Faith for the Original Free Will Baptist Convention and actively support and participate in convention activities and mission support.
6. Have the ability to lead, motivate, and train a voluntary church staff.

For further information, please send a resumé to or contact: John Kachel, Chairman, Pastoral Search Pulpit Committee, 1109 Dawson Road, Dunn, NC 28334; (910) 567-4400.

Come and Join Us for Our Annual

Youth Night

featuring

Elishah

in concert
and

Justin Smith

guest speaker
from Little Rock OFWB Church

Saturday, May 12, 2007 at 6 P.M.

Yates Family Life Center
Saratoga OFWB Church

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Churches & Ministry Positions • \$8

(maximum of 4 lines)

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(notice of phone, mailing address, and e-mail address changes)

These rates are for first-time runs. Additional consecutive runs are half-price (of equal or lesser size).

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

These advertising rates are for individuals, churches, and auxiliary organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227.

There is no charge for article submissions.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before. You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor.
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*

PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28515.

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

June 2007

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER June 2007



CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Ministerial Association (4-6)	5	6 Day Spring Conference (6-9)	7	8	9
10	11 Cragmont Youth Conference (11-16)	12	13	14 FLAG DAY	15	16 Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip (16-23)
17 FATHER'S DAY	18 Christian Cadet Conference (18-23)	19	20	21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	22	23
24	25 Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC) (25-30)	26	27	28	29	30

COMING SOON:

July 1-8: Cragmont's Bed, Breakfast & Blessings
 July 7-14: Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip
 July 9-14: Cragmont's General Youth 2 Conference
 July 14-21: Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip
 July 16-21: Cragmont's General Youth 1 Conference
 July 23-28: Cragmont's Young People's Bible Conference
 July 30-Aug. 4: Cragmont's August Woman's Aux. Conference

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CONTENTS

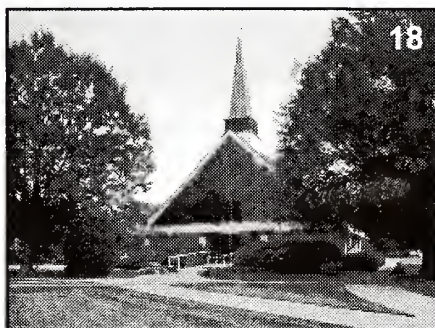
June 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 6

FEATURES

- 5 Keith Wayne Lackey: *Thoughts on Christian Compassion*
6 Branded By God: *My Perspective on "Aquire the Fire"*

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Monthly Planner
23 Free Will Baptist League
26 NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
28 People & Events

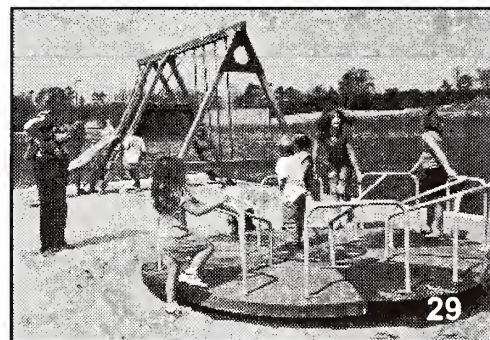


COLUMNS

- 4 Focus
by Darren E. Davenport, Editor
4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer
34 Psalms for the Soul
by Linda Herring, Guest Writer
34 Golden Oldies

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 8 Cragmont Assembly
10 OFWB International
13 Mount Olive College
19 Sunday School Ministry
21 Children's Home



POWER VERSE

I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father (2 John 1:4).

GRATITUDE FOR FAITHFULNESS

The response to *The Press to \$125,000 Capital Campaign* has been overwhelming. Currently, we have raised \$28,171.97. I cannot begin to describe how honored and blessed—and yet so humbled—I feel. The response we have received so far is a tribute to the faithfulness of Original Free Will Baptists to help the “Press” continue and improve our effectiveness as we strive to “Spread the Word through the printed page.” I hope that you and your churches will continue to aid us—even “kick it up a notch”—in our efforts to reach our goal of \$125,000. As the theme verse of our Campaign states: “[We are] press[ing] toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). If you have not already done so, would you consider helping us reach our goal?

by Darren E. Davenport,
Editor

FAITHFUL TO OUR COMMITMENTS

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Near the end of his ministry, the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: “I have fought a good fight... I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). In other words, Paul was declaring that he had been faithful to his commitments, and that faithfulness was firm in all situations and circumstances. In his defense before Agrippa, Paul declared, “...I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision” (Acts 26:19), alluding to his Damascus road experience in which Jesus made him a chosen vessel!

Each believer in Christ Jesus has made a commitment to faithfulness. We have covenanted with God, first of all, that we live for Him. At times we fail Him. Doubt may be the culprit, or many other diversions that seek to pull us away from His divine will for us. Through perseverance, however, we overcome because of what he has done for us—because of His marvelous grace.

Each believer has also promised to be faithful to his church and denomination—the church of which we are a member, and the denomination of which our church belongs. We do have a Church Covenant that is to be read and explained to each prospective member. As a pastor presenting this Covenant, I have never had an incoming member to reject it. Sad to say, many reject it later in failing to abide by it. Our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government* sets forth the requirements for church membership, and clearly de-

finer the duties and responsibilities of church membership. Should a pastor fail to follow the proper procedures as specified in our Rules of Church Government in the reception of members, urging support for the work of our denomination, etc., he would be derelict in his own commitment as specified in the Ministerial Code of Ethics that each minister is required to sign when ordained.

My Ministerial Code of Ethics, as it is specifically designated, deals with the minister’s personal life, his relationship to the church(es) he serves, his relationship to his denomination, his relationship with his fellow ministers, and his public relations.

Early in my ministry, I determined that I would work with and support the church, conference, and denomination that had given me

the opportunity to serve my Lord. I also determined that I would never be a part of a division in a church of which I was pastor. Neither would I ever cause, or lead, a congregation away from its roots. To me this is stealing a church. Those in the past who have done so, or may be prone to do so, should read again the Code which they signed. Now I pose the question, “If you didn’t mean it, if you were not sincere, why did you sign it in the first place?” A covenant is a commitment—a promise to be kept. Within the body of Christ (the church) in this day and time, it seems, covenants are made to be broken in too many cases.

Reflections

Keith Wayne Lackey: Thoughts on Christian Compassion

by Marc Boswell

Keith Wayne Lackey—lover of the Beatles, avid guitar player, able to quote Scripture, quick to share his resources, mindful of socio-economic conditions in Richmond, aspires to learn karate, enjoys frisbee golf, and has a passionate dislike for racism.

Keith Wayne Lackey—suffered his first nervous breakdown at age 15, suffered yet another around age 19, disheveled hair, an unshaven face, a self-professed panhandler, dirty socks and jeans riddled with holes, clinically diagnosed schizophrenic, and has lived in a group home in Richmond for thirty years.

"Oh no, he's going to ask for money," I groaned silently to myself as I saw Keith (whom I did not yet know) sitting on a park bench of Union-PSCE in the fall of 2006. Maybe they were not my exact words, but an unmistakable mixture of disturbance and annoyance occurred in my inmost parts. I had seen him asking for money before, but luckily I had been able to slip past him as he asked others for spare change.

Memories of a not-too-distant campus orientation meeting reminded me that we're not supposed to "give anything to the homeless;" they likely belong to a group home, and we certainly wouldn't want to "start" anything. Let's be honest, a respectable Christian institution shouldn't have loitering on the premises.

Echoes of past discussions flew through my mind: You can't help everybody...they'll just use it for cigarettes, beer, or drugs...let them get a job and support themselves...well we [Christians] *should* help, but there are government agencies in place for 'that sort of thing'....

Admittedly, it's easy to discuss the proper way these should be handled when you live in rural Wilson County (substitute any eastern North Carolina rural area here) where the term "homeless" technically refers to real people, but we certainly don't encounter them or know any—therefore, "homelessness" is more of a mental construct than lived experience.

Fortunately, Keith Wayne Lackey shattered the convenient (yet misguided) mental category in which all homeless people were lumped in my brain. Yes, I passed by him the first time. I offered a "hello," but said I had no change, put my head down, and diligently headed to class. It was true (I tried to convince myself)—in terms of coins. But alas! I remembered the twenty dollar bill I had broken the night before as I paid for my meal at a local restaurant. Although I rarely carry cash, I actually had some one dollar bills in my wallet. *But* I'd already passed him by, already said I had no change, and I had to get to class, so I shrugged my shoulders and forced those thoughts and/or twinges of guilt out of my mind.

But he was still there an hour later on the same bench. Again, my inner monologue began: "No, don't do it—you remember what they told you. You have no money. You can't afford to begin giving away money to these...well...you know. You don't have a job anymore, you're a full-time student, and you should save every little bit you have. You should probably start paying off those student loans."

Thanks to a belligerent, stubborn Holy Spirit, I soon found myself reaching in my wallet and pulling out a dollar or two (probably the former than the latter). But then a strange, potentially "dangerous" thought crossed my mind: Was I not even willing to recognize this person's humanity and ask his name as I awkwardly thrust my one dollar bill his way (after happily and mindlessly giving thirteen times as much to the waitress the night before)?

Giving a dollar to this man certainly did not change my life or his (or force me to quit seminary due to insufficient funds), but choosing to ask Keith his name did change *me*. What I realized is that this poorly dressed, disheveled, "beggar," was indeed a very real person, with a real story which constituted a very real life. The conversation that ensued led to a weekly meeting on that park bench, but Keith no longer asked for money when we met.

Perhaps the deeper need was for a friend in a strange place—by that I refer to myself, perhaps for Keith as well. Perhaps the deeper need was for his story to be recognized as significant, valuable, and important in the life of another. His longing is not unique to the urban poor or those suffering from mental illness. We all share that inner longing, but fortunately we're able to drown out those longings with the help of our modern conveniences: an evening of television, browsing the Internet, or "getting lost" in a good book.

It is fairly safe to say that Keith Wayne Lackey, age 52, does not hold the political connections to help get me ahead in society. He will not be able to take me out to a nice meal. He will not be able to help fund my education; due to his mental illness he can barely remember my name from week to week. But Mr. Lackey stands vicariously in the place of someone much more important than anyone with those resources: "...as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me. [Jesus]" (Matthew 25:40 NKJV).

This article is not a pious admonition or even a good suggestion to give away a few extra dollars in the random event we cross a homeless person or panhandler (while not necessarily a bad idea). Rather, it is an invitation to imagine a church that values and sees as significant those "the world" has deemed insignificant—those whom we find it is much simpler to ship off to a group home when a mental illness limits the amount of "production" they are able to offer society—those whom we'd rather forget about as quickly as possible because if we considered their plight too long, we may feel dis-ease over the leisurely abundance in our own life. In as much as the church witnesses a different lifestyle to the world (commonly referred to as the "kingdom of God" in Scripture), we are called NOT to think it is our dollars which sustain these men and women, but that they are perfectly capable of enriching our lives—imagine if we applied that to our enemies or those across from us in our pews as well. It seems the Lord's Supper indicates as much.

BRANDED BY GOD:

My Perspective on "Acquire the Fire"

by Philip Jackson, Reedy Branch Church

With a little help from Sandy Plains Church, eleven youth and five adults left on March 30 to join about 8,000 other youth in Winston-Salem for a memorable journey to "Acquire the Fire." This event, which is hosted in many cities across the nation, is a spiritual weekend conference that draws many youth because of inspiring speakers such as Ron Luce and Joel Johnson, and Christian music geared toward today's youth.

The event, which started Friday night and lasted all throughout the day Saturday, was filled with much excitement and a worship experience like most of us have never known. With the "Unhidered" leading the worship, the stage was set. With hands held high throughout the coliseum, youth and chaperoning adults alike worshiped the Lord. Saturday's event included an afternoon concert by popular national recording artists "Thousand Foot Krutch" and "Toby Mac."

Highlights of the weekend were messages such as the one Friday night that came from a well known parable—The Parable of the Lost Son. This message taught us how, in our day-to-day walk, we need to step out of the pigpen and into the paradise known as God's family. For those who had already taken that step, the message was to step out of the pigpen and share your faith with others. Saturday morning's message focused on how we needed to "Branded by God" in everything we do, meaning to tune out the secular things that may get in our way and concentrate on godly things. The afternoon message was entitled "Mark of the Warrior." This message taught us how to be followers of Christ in a world that constantly tells us otherwise.

Saturday night's message, entitled "Terrorist in our Living Room," was probably the most challenging. It gave factual information on the things

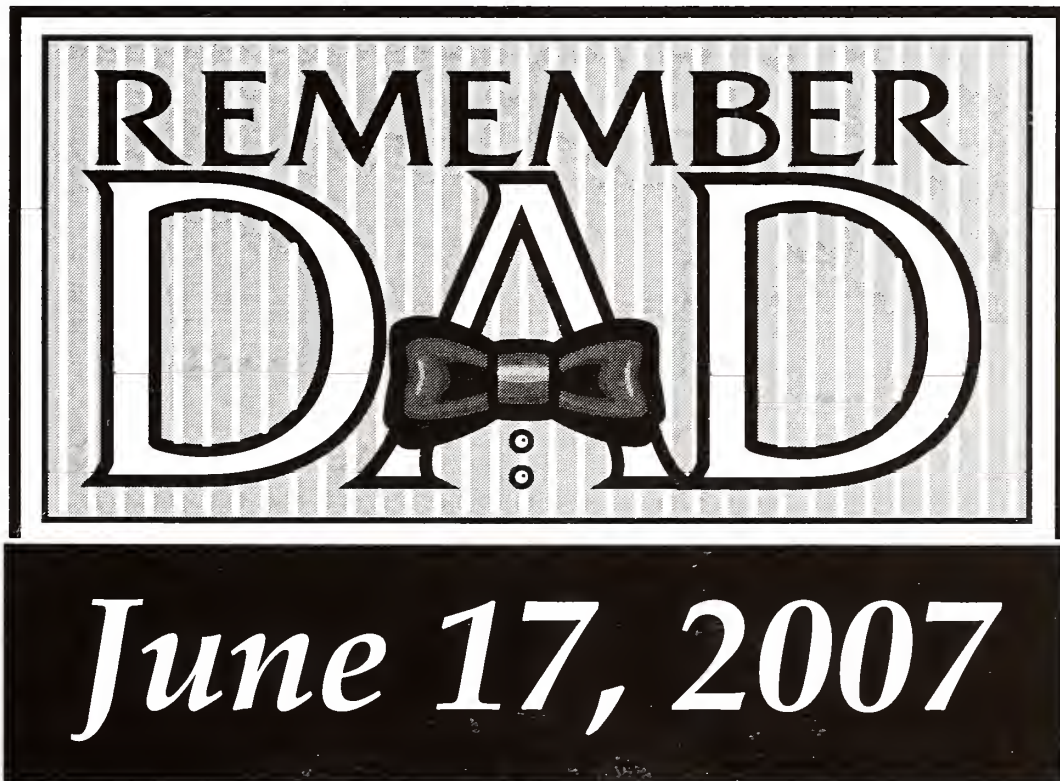
teens face today—things such as drugs, depression, and sex—just to name a few. Some of the most shocking statistical information was given. Did you know that one out of four teens has tried an illegal drug at some point? One out of twelve seriously considers committing suicide, and another one out of twelve suffers from depression. The list goes on and on.

According to a fact given at last year's event, if our generation continues as it is today, only four percent of America will be true Bible-believing Christians. Young people all across the United States are trying to fix this by turning off the TV and computer, and instead, using that time to read the Bible and study God's Word.

At the event, we learned that teens can have a voice in changing the way things are in our society. An example was given of a teen who went into store called Spencer's during the Christmas holidays. When he walked in, he noticed there were pornaments (Christmas ornaments with porno-

graphic images on them) for sale in the store. The teen walked up to the manager of the store and began talking about the harmful things he was selling in the store, including the pornaments. The teen asked if the manager could remove them. With tears rolling down his cheeks from being upset that he was causing harm by selling these things, he removed them and quit his job on the spot. Due to that courageous step taken by the teen, the entire company ordered that all pornaments be removed from the shelves. If Christians do not get together today and change the things we do, take courageous steps, and become "Branded by God," just think what our world will be like in the years to come.

The youth of Reedy Branch would like to thank our Youth Ministry Team and all who helped make this memorable trip possible. It was truly a weekend of blessings and inspiration we will never forget.





JUNE IS CRAGMONT MONTH

Bed, Breakfast & Blessings

July 1–8, 2007

This summer offering has become very popular for vacationing families desiring to spend time in the mountains of North Carolina. You may spend an entire week or any part of it. The cost is \$20 per person/per day, which includes a night's accommodation and breakfast. Cragmont Club membership benefits may be used.

- **BED:** Come to Cragmont for a place of rest and relaxation.
- **BREAKFAST:** Have a hearty meal to start your day.
- **BLESSING:** Listen to inspiring words before you begin your day's adventures.

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Name _____

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Dates _____

Phone _____

Ground Level (yes) ____ (no) ____

(A deposit of \$20 per person is required payable to Cragmont)

Return to:
Cragmont
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

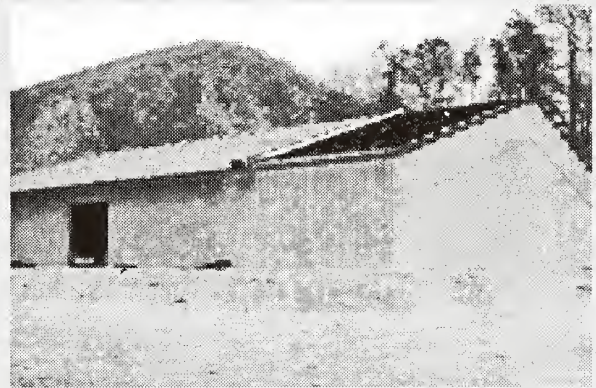
Has Cragmont Visited Your Church?

How long has it been since a representative from Cragmont shared the many happenings and ministry opportunities with your church? Bryant Hines, our Planning and Marketing Director, would appreciate the opportunity to visit your church and share this ministry. He can be reached at (252) 633-2683 or (252) 670-8424 (cell) or e-mail <bryanthines5@earthlink.net.>

GYM/RECREATIONAL COMPLEX NEARING COMPLETION

At the time of this writing the second new building of New Heights Phase II is nearing completion and is scheduled to be used this camping season. This new building is a multi-purpose recreational complex that will give us much needed space for recreation, worship, teaching, and fellowship.

On the immediate needs list is equipping this new facility. Basketball goals, chairs, tables, portable staging, and sound equipment are all needed to make this building fully operational. This would be a great project for churches and organizations. Please consider filling out the form on the next page and helping equip our new facility for use.



NEW GYM EQUIPMENT NEEDS

A WORTHY PROJECT FOR ANY CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION !

Item(s) needed	Cost	Our auxillary will contribute
Three Hundred Chairs	\$25 each	_____
Sixteen Tables	\$80 each	_____
Portable Staging	\$4,500	_____
Sound System	\$3,000	_____
Portable Basketball Goals	\$2,000 each	_____

Church or Group Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____



IMPORTANT NOTICE: NEW POLICY AND DATES FOR STT MEXICO 2008

Beginning with the 2008 Short-Term Teams, the Board of Foreign Missions will accept team members in the following manner:

- We will no longer hold reserved slots for individuals or churches
- Team members will be added as we receive applications along with a \$50 non-refundable deposit. (The earlier you send in your application and deposit, the more likely you will be added to the team of your choice, so do not procrastinate.)
- The maximum number of applications that will be accepted per team is twenty-eight. When each team is full, we will close that week.
- One deadline will be set for applications and deposits to be in our office. On that date, we will close the team and go with the number we have.

This will be fair to everyone and will help us know who is committed to going. We have to negotiate with the airlines, reserve vans, hotel rooms, and determine if we have enough funds for the project. We, therefore, ask all who wish to join a team to please cooperate with us in this matter.

The dates for 2008 are:

- June 14–21
- July 5–12
- July 12–19
- One additional team will be added if needed

December 15, 2007 is the deadline for applications and deposits to be in our office for the 2008 teams.

We reiterate the importance of sending in your application and deposit early.

Contact us at (252) 746-4963, email <harold@ofwbi.org>, or you can download the application at <ofwbi.org> or call us and we will send you one.

Harold Jones
Executive Director



A NOTE OF THANKSGIVING

*by Pastor Arnel Cuba, and wife Marvie and Family
Palawan, Philippines*

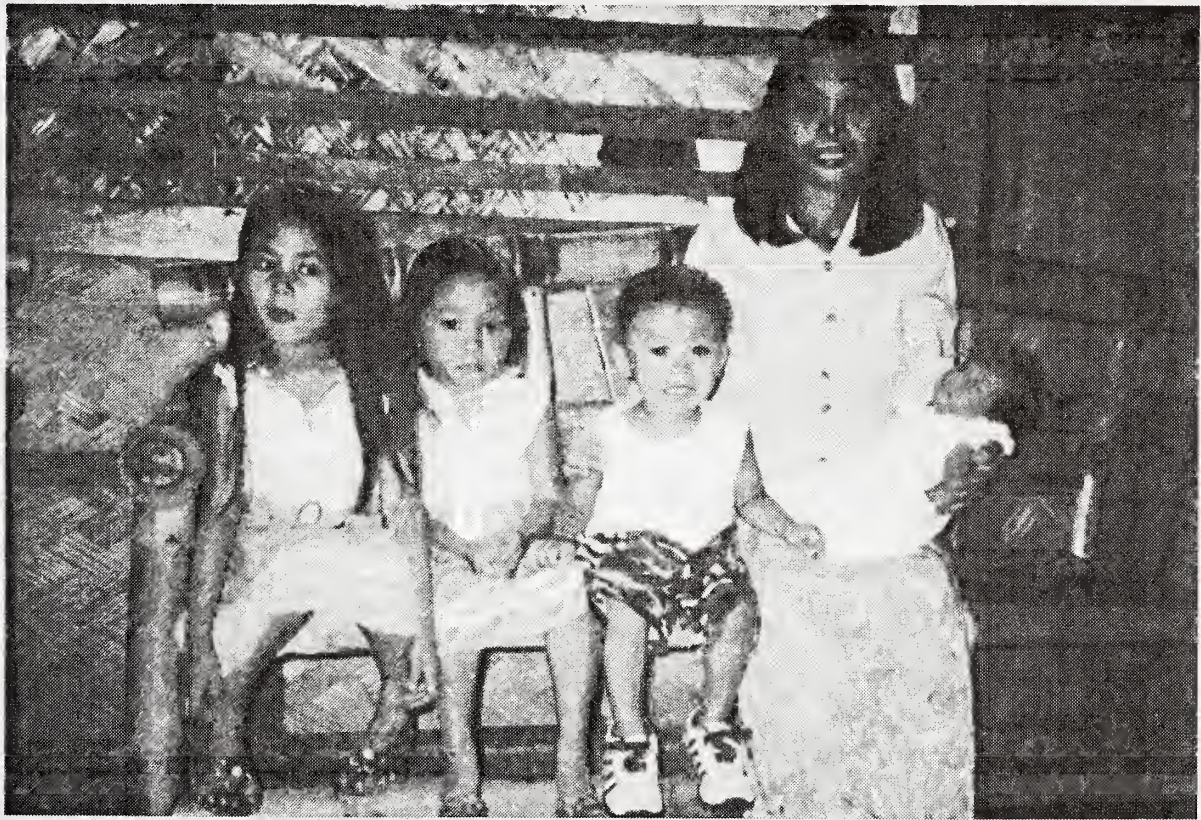
We would like to thank you for the blessings that you have given us. We always thank God for the brethren, Sir Harold, and Ma'am Sandra for the loving and helping hand that you always lend to those who need help or support both physical and spiritual. We have also the motor vehicle. It is very helpful in God's activities especially in the church visitation and Bible studies.

The members of the church are numerous and God continues to add new members because of the church program, "Each One Teach One," and "Kinutsarang Bigas" (spooned rice). This means that every time a member cooks rice, which is three times a day, they put a heaping spoonful of rice in a bag to be brought to the church as an offering each Sunday. The uncooked rice is sold and the money added to the church treasury. The congregation is happily doing this for the Lord's

sake. They are very supportive for whatever activities are done in the church. Every last Sunday of the month we gather together for a lunch fellowship. Through their cooperation physically and spiritually, the following materials were purchased: a dozen plastic chairs, a 29 inch Sanyo color television, karaoke with DVD player, wall fans, and even the beautification of the church.

The Lord has called us to move to Manila to help start a work there. We will be transferring in May. Please pray for us. You are always a part of our prayers and we ask the Lord to give you more and countless blessings in your ministry and to your family.

We are joyful serving the Lord together with our children. We pray that we will grow in love, have a strong faith in God, and always do and follow His will.



*From left to right:
Elvie Joyner, Mary Ann Joy, Ken Arvie, John Kenneth, and mother, Marvie Cuba*

LIBERATION DAY REFLECTIONS

by Willem & Lydia Vanderplas

Dear Friends,

Yesterday we remembered all the soldiers who have given their lives to liberate us from the Nazis who occupied most of West Europe during WWII. Every 4th May the people in the Netherlands keep two minutes silence all over the country. Flowers have been laid at the National monuments in Amsterdam and on the military cemeteries, as well as at the stones and crosses of the known and the unknown soldiers who were killed for our freedom.

Among them are many Americans, Canadians, and British men who died far too young by the violence and chaos of the war. Lydia and I, were 12 years old when the war ended. Until now we have strong feelings of thankfulness and admiration mixed with thoughts of compassion to the war-victims and the families who lost their beloved ones.

On May 5th we celebrate our Liberation Day and also then we remember how the troops of the Allies entered into our small city. What a joy it was that the enemy finally was defeated and we received our freedom back. We could breath freedom again and the yoke was taken away from the shoulders of many people. All men under forty years old had to work for the Germans or to hide. In our home here were most of the time three men who had to hide themselves and regularly there were razzia's, soldiers searching for hidden persons.

We lived in the very west of the Netherlands and survived the so called hunger winter, a time that we saw people falling dead on the road caused by hunger.

The liberating soldiers were very kind to us and we were allowed to brush their boots for that they gave us a nice slice of real bread that tasted as the best cake I ever ate. We brought them flowers and just these things that were available to please them and show our gratitude.

Yesterday and today we learn again that there is no anti-Americanism in the Netherlands and most of the other European countries. Only a very low percentage of the Europeans can be counted as anti-American, mostly because they are against war. All programs on TV show that today and many old soldiers have been invited and are now celebrating with their hosts.

We clearly remember the names of the generals Dwight Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton, and the British Montgomery.

Still today we bring thanksgiving to God and tribute to all who have brought freedom to end a period of misery.

We pray: "God Bless America and let Freedom reign."

Lydia and Willem





MCPHERSON RECEIVES AWARD

Heather R. McPherson of Clarendon received the 2007 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Science and Mathematics.

The 2007 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Science recognizes a senior who has excelled academically and who has demonstrated outstanding service to the science department. The student is named by faculty in the science department.

McPherson, a senior teacher education and science education double major, is the daughter of Willa Dean and Keith McPherson. A graduate of South Columbus High School, she is a member of Wayne County Young Life and Beaverdam Church. McPherson is active in Prospective Teachers Association, Henderson Science Club, Undergraduate Alumni Association, Free Spirit, Big Coffee (campus ministry), and the College Concert Choir. She also received the Who's Who award for college students.



Heather McPherson (left), recipient of the 2007 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Science and Mathematics is pictured with Dr. Jake Brown, Dr. Angela Foster, and Dr. Kazi Rahman, all faculty members with the Department of Science and Mathematics at Mount Olive College.

CONGRATULATIONS



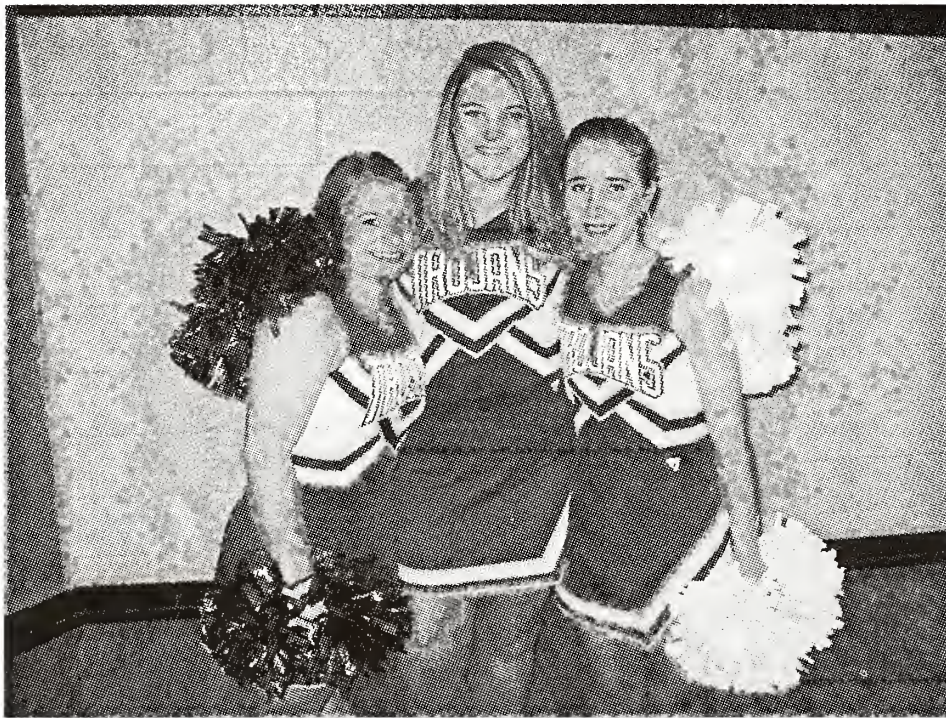
2006–2007 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE ATHLETICS AWARDS

Given to deserving and dedicated student athletes, these awards were presented during the Annual Athletics Banquet recently hosted on campus at Lois K. Murphy Center. Among the many awards presented, these were the four Free Will Baptist students who showed excellence in their sports.

- **Katherine Cahoon**, of Sound Side Church—Coach's Award in Softball.
- **Scott Woodard**, of Raines Crossroads Church—Coach's Award in Men's Golf.
- **Hope McPherson**, of Beaverdam Church—Spirit Award in Cheerleading.
- **Crystal Guy**, of Powhatan Church—Most Improved Award in Cheerleading.

CHEERING FOR MOC

by Sarah Finch



WooHoo—Go Trojans! Three FWB students here at Mount Olive College are exhibiting the school spirit as they participate in the Trojan Cheerleading Team. Crystal Guy of Clayton, Julie Thomas of Kinston, and Hope McPherson of Clarendon each tell their stories about cheerleading.

A native to North Carolina, Crystal graduated from Clayton High School in 2005 and entered college that fall. A member of Powhatan Church and the daughter of Mark and Jackie Guy, she began her cheering career with a Civitan League. Currently a sophomore, psychology major with a minor in biology, Crystal chose MOC because it was a Christian affiliated college. She presently serves as secretary of the Student Government Association (SGA).

Her outgoing and funny personality make Crystal a vital part of the cheerleading team and she also has a special role within the squad.

Apart from being the base for stunts, she is a leader: "I try to be a focused leader, to give supportive criticism and to offer support to others when I am needed."

Crystal expressed how fun it is to be a cheerleader and how you have a mini-family, because all the cheerleaders have fun and care about one another. "We have fun laughing with each other and encouraging each other and we are also there for one another outside of practice too," she grinned. "I enjoy the time that we spend together coming up with creative ideas of what to do at our next game. We try to focus on cheering on the team, as well as getting the crowd rowdy!"

Crystal plans to graduate in May of 2009, but until then she is truly practicing the cheerleader's motto, "To go out there and give it all that we have for our team and to HAVE FUN!"

Julie Thomas of Kinston attended North Lenoir High School until she

enrolled at MOC in 2005. Currently a sophomore, she is the daughter of Brenda and Tony Johnson, and Andy and Beth Thomas. A member of Westside Church, Julie heard about Mount Olive College through her congregation and chose the institution because of its values, small size, and scholarship assistance.

She is currently an intern for the youth pastor at her church, and she is also involved in campus ministries on a weekly basis and she says that she just 'loves' MOC. She optimistically points out the strengths of the Trojan Cheerleading Team saying that, "We all pretty much play an equal role. We all have equal say so and all rotate what we do." A lively cheerleader and a proud supporter of school events, Julie promotes the cheerleading program to others by her own testimony that it is fun!

Sophomore Hope McPherson comes across loud and clear that she is having a 'GREAT' experience at MOC. The daughter of Keith and Willa Dean McPherson, Hope graduated from South Columbus High School in 2005. Her cheering interest started in middle school and quickly blossomed. "I am glad that I chose to be a part of the cheerleading squad, because it is one of my great passions, so it just adds to all the fun I'm having in college," she enthused.

Hope learned about MOC by attending the annual FWB State Youth Conventions held on campus. "My sister came to Mount Olive, and I felt comfortable here," she smiled. "I chose MOC because I was familiar with the campus." Planning to graduate in 2009, Hope is studying to earn a degree in Human Resource Management. Hope com-

mends the college faculty saying, "I don't have just one favorite class or teacher. The professors are very good at teaching and really reaching their students; they have truly made learning an enriching experience for me."

She also enriches other people's lives as she participates in Youth Fellowship Auxiliary activities like singing in church and teaching Vacation Bible School. All her life Hope has been an enthusiastic member of her church, Beaverdam Church. Regarding her college decision, she happily relates, "I am proud to be a product of one of the Free Will Baptist's ministries. Mount Olive College is a good place to call home."

An active member with the College Concert Choir, a leader with Big Coffee (campus ministry) and a helper in the office of Church Support with Mrs. Jean Ackiss and assistant Darlene Mathias, Hope also finds time to clap out her routines and practice her stunts. "I am the Flyer on the squad...they throw me in the air," she laughed. This outgoing girl explained, "Cheerleading is a fun way to show your school spirit and a good way to get to know people," she went on to describe. "We always find ways to laugh and act crazy. We have a good time."

Crystal, Julie, and Hope also cheer with Kristi Hill and Kasey Nixon. Jennifer Ortiz, the cheer-

leading coach, is excited about the program and says, "We encourage any new recruits to visit and see for themselves what Mount Olive College and the Trojan Cheerleading Team can offer them!"

A perfect example of living the motto, these students don't have to be snappy, or have all the right lingo, but they do need one vital thing—and that is school spirit. Along with attending classes, participating in campus events, and enjoying chapel ministries, these MOC cheerleaders are putting their hearts and souls into this athletic endeavor. Not only are they cheering for the Trojans, but they are cheering for MOC!



Sara Finch stands in front of Rodgers Chapel.

JUST A PINCH OF FINCH

"Greetings! My name is Sarah Finch, and I am a junior Honors student. I think that attending an institution that supports higher education, encourages values, and transforms lives is a priceless experience, and that is why I chose MOC! Mount Olive College is a dream-come-true. With a lush, serene campus, and an atmosphere of a small, friendly community, this was a sure decision for me. It is truly a family; a place where I can learn, be challenged, and grow into a responsible adult. As an art major, I get excited each time that I step into the art building because I know that there will always be something new to think about, to inspire, to amuse or to challenge me. I can honestly see where this College trains up young men and women to be great leaders and innovators within today's society. I have a strong desire to be one of those individuals and I know that this is where I can begin that adventure."

A junior, visual communications major, Sarah currently resides in Goldsboro with her family, but she is originally from England. As an active student on campus, she is involved in the International Club, the Art Club, and the Food Evaluation Committee. She is a member of the Commuters Club, for which she was president last year, and she is now serving as the president of the Undergraduate Alumni Association. Miss Finch is an Honors student and an intern in the Office of Public Affairs at MOC, but between classes and work, she finds time to give campus tours to prospective students and to participate in the MOC Ambassadors Program. Sarah thoroughly enjoys traveling and has visited both France and Costa Rica on Study Abroad Trips. She was recently crowned Ms. MOC at the College's annual pageant and she received two honors at Awards Day: the Citizenship Award and the 2007 Alumni Student of the Year Award. Sarah maintains a high grade point average and has been nominated for the National Dean's List each semester. She says that she absolutely loves her experience at Mount Olive College and that she plans to be a children's book illustrator after graduation.

STRICKLAND RECEIVES AWARD

Sara Strickland of Goldsboro was recently recognized as the 2007–2008 Chief College Marshal.

This honor is presented to a junior class student with the highest cumulative grade point average. The qualifications include being enrolled at MOC and having no grade lower than a C on all work attempted at Mount Olive College. Marshals are appointed for a term of one year and they serve at official events such as convocation, special programs, and graduation.

Strickland, a junior English/art education major, is the daughter of David and Becky Strickland. A graduate of Eastern Wayne High School, she is an active member of Walnut Creek Church where she serves as a Sunday School teacher and participates in the Youth Group and the Youth Choir. Strickland is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Students; the MOC Ambassadors; the Prospective Teacher's Association; and is also the reigning Pickle Classic Queen. She was recently inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Lambda chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society that promotes cultural stimulation on the College campus. Last year she received the Faculty Award for Student Excellence and the Braswell Award.

"Mount Olive College is my second home," Strickland remarked. "It embodies the spirit of family and love that everyone desires. Yet, at the same time we are receiving a wonderful education and getting wonderful opportunities."



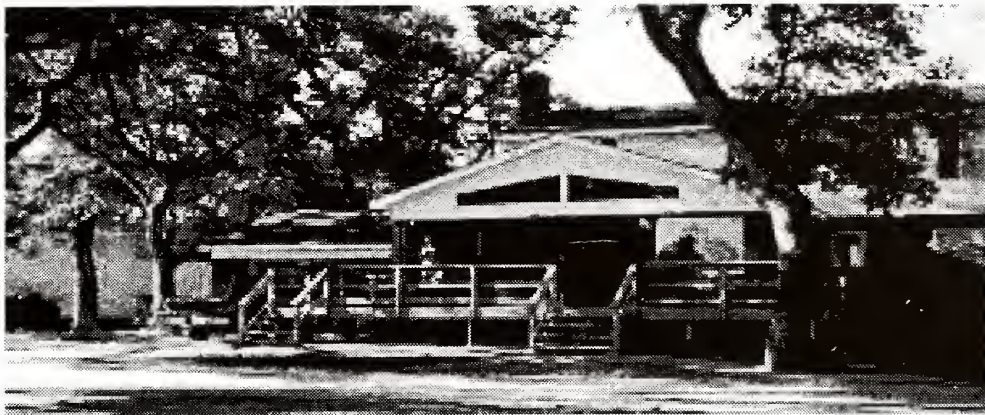
Sara Strickland stands with her education professor, Jake Brown.

Congratulations

GREENVILLE PRIMETIMERS



On a beautiful, sunny spring day in April the Primetimers, a senior citizens group from the First Church of Greenville, visited Mount Olive College and toured the three recently constructed buildings. The group ate lunch in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center and had their picture taken at the entrance of Raper Hall. Groups interested in visiting the College can contact Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support at (800) 653-0854 or (919) 658-7744.



Looking for a Family Vacation Destination? Look No Further!

- Available:** Mount Olive College's Pelletier Creek House
5 miles from Atlantic Beach
Access to Bogue Sound
- Location:** Pelletier Creek House
4704 San Juan Circle
Morehead City, NC 28557
- Features:** Deep water boat dock, conference room, deck, sleeps 14 adults and several children, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, den, cable TV & VCR, quiet neighborhood
- Check in:** 4:00 P.M.
- Check out:** 11:00 A.M.
- Seasonal Rates:** **(Memorial Day thru Labor Day)**
- | | |
|---|------------|
| Weekly—Monday thru Monday or Friday thru Friday | \$1,100.00 |
| Mid Week* | \$ 650.00 |
| Weekend* | \$ 450.00 |
- * Split weeks and nightly will be scheduled during the "season" however subordinate to renting full weeks.*
- Off-Season Rates:**
- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| Weekly | \$ 900.00 |
| Mid-Week | \$ 400.00 |
| Weekends | \$ 325.00 |

For more information, contact Margaret Wells at Mount Olive College at (919) 658-7743 or (800) 653-0854 Ext. 1281 or e-mail <mwells@moc.edu>.

No pets, alcohol, or smoking please.

Make your summer vacation plans TODAY!

A REFLECTION

by Dianne B. Riley, Director of Alumni Relations

Sunday, April 15, 2007

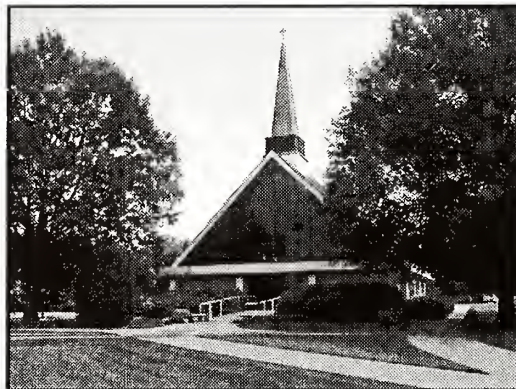
Sunday morning, as I sat in the 10:00 A.M. Worship Service in Rodgers Chapel on the campus of Mount Olive College, my mind slipped back over these last 34 years that I have shared in worship with students. Each Tuesday we have chapel and most of the time it is very student oriented and always very meaningful, but this morning it just seemed to be more special. (It was Spring Fest Weekend.)

I do not know the students as well now as I did when I was in admissions, and in and out of the youth groups at our Free Will Baptist Churches, but Sunday I sat and listened to the Praise Band, the Scripture, the message, and the prayers. The music was different from what I usually like, but the words were about my Lord. I could tell that these students were involved in worship and it was meaningful as they were serving a God that they really love.

I think what really touched my heart about mid-way of the service is that I realized that one student playing in the praise band was the son of two alums that I have known since their high school years on through MOC and even was a soloist at their wedding. Sitting next to me was another student whose parents were both alums and whose mother was in the New Creations back in the early 80s. I then looked at a young lady whose parents were both alums and in my very first class of students when I arrived at MOC. I remember when she was born and how later as a child she taught me to bounce on a trampoline and now she has devotions with her MOC softball team.

The music was different, the dress was different, but their love for the Lord and the witness hadn't changed. Thank you Lord, for making a place for me in your work at Mount Olive College. Thank you, for allowing me to know and love the different students over the years and thank you also for allowing them to love me.

The rain was pouring, the wind was blowing, the weather was chilly, but I had a wonderful day...all day long.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

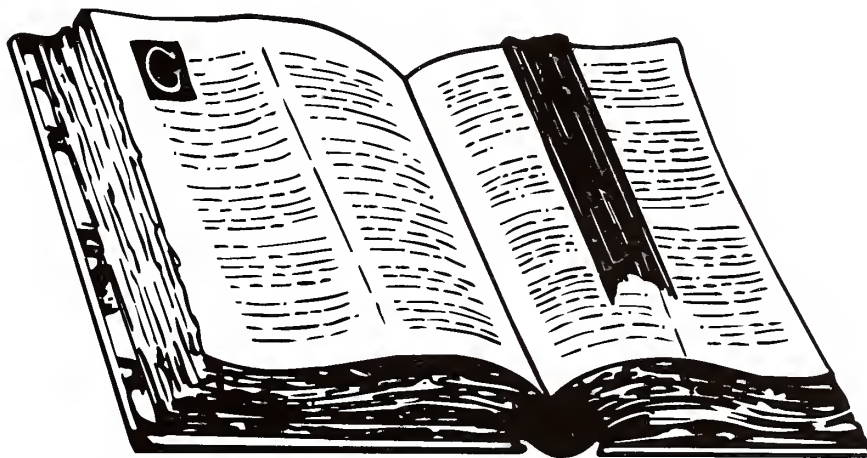
This article is a reprint of the article in The Free Will Baptist on July 6, 1983 written by The Reverend Adrian Grubbs, pastor of Deep Run OFWB Church, Deep Run, NC. If you read carefully, you will find that the message is just as viable today as it was in the 80s. The church MUST never do away with its Christian Education program because it provides the Biblical foundation for the church. It is, in essence, the beginning of small group ministry for it is in small groups of the Sunday School that participants can delve into the 'meat' of the Scripture. The Reverend Grubbs has always been an advocate of quality Christian Education.

Is the Sunday school a thing of the past? Organizations are designed meet a specific need at a particular time in history. Has the Sunday school outlived its useful purpose? Sometimes we become committed to the preservation of an institution for the sake of an institution. Have we done this with the Sunday school? I think not! The need for which the Sunday school was designed to meet is still there—it will always be there as long as there are people. In the Great Commission, the church is charged with the responsibility of not only winning converts, but also teaching them as well—teaching them to be obedient disciples of Christ our Lord.

People change, cultures change, societies change, but the basic needs of people remain essentially the same. Teaching methods change in

order to teach more effectively. The organizational structure may change from time to time to be more functional. But the principles of Christian Education remain basically the same. The Sunday school has proven to be adaptable to a changing world but committed to its unchanging goals.

The ministry of the Sunday school in the church is vital, definite, and monumental. The church would soon cease to be a church without an effective Christian education program. Dedicated people are required to keep the Sunday school organized, staffed, and functioning. Creative persons are necessary for designing curriculum and producing literature. Leaders must be committed to Christian Education, and teachers must be continually involved in training to keep their skills sharp and their goals clearly in focus.





Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Elmer Towns,
Liberty University



COASTAL MACEA

August 10–11, 2007
Riverfront Convention Center
New Bern, NC

Mrs. Mary Dudley
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963
director@ofwbsundayschool.org

Mrs. Angel Lorton
105 Ann Court
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 637-7967
aandj@suddenlink.net

Registration Fees:

- Friday \$25
- Saturday \$25
- Both days \$45

(Fee covers registration and 2 meals)

- Bring five people and get the sixth one free
- Bring ten people and get the eleventh and twelfth free



"People of the Way"

70 workshops
Fun, Food, and Fellowship



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: PRESIDENT/CEO

June 1, 2007

Minimum Qualifications:

- Masters' Degree from an accredited college or university in a field related to the organization's mission and services.
- At least five years of successful leadership/managerial experience, one of which was in a supervisory capacity in the field of child welfare services, education, psychology, social services, religious education, or other allied professions.
- Demonstrated competence in administering service to families, adults, youth and/or children.
- Demonstrated skills to oversee human resources and financial management for an organization with an approximate annual budget of 1.6 million dollars serving an average annual clientele of approximately 123 children.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and proactively with other community providers, and local, state, and federal entities.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are members in good standing with an Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The President/CEO shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Home. The President/CEO shall be responsible to the Board for the proper management and supervision of the Home's affairs.

Salary and Benefits:

- Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits: 403B Plan, health insurance options, life insurance, vacation leave, and sick leave.

Start Date:

- January 1, 2008

Application Process:

- Interested and qualified persons should obtain a Free Will Baptist Children's Home application from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home Administrative Office. P.O. Box 249, Middlesex, NC 27557, telephone number (252) 235-2161.

Completed application should be submitted to James W. Cahoon, Chairman, Free Will Baptist Children's Home Board of Directors, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, NC 27925, no later than July 13, 2007.

It is the policy of Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc. that applicants are considered for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. All applicants are required to meet the moral standard of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.



GRADUATION 2007

High school graduation, the completion of 12 or more years of fundamental education, is one of the first goals sought by young adults. We are pleased to announce that Torrel H. will be graduating from high school on June 9, 2007.

Torrell became a resident of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in November 2006, and resides in Central Cottage, where he enjoys cooking, playing video games, and listening to music. He was able to attend the Senior Prom in April, a real treat for Torrell, and he is anticipating graduation.

After graduation, he would like to attend Nash Community College and enter into the culinary arts program. His goal is to some day become a chef.

Please join us in congratulating Torrell.



CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

The 2007 Change For Children Campaign is in full swing. The "little blue change bags" were sent out in mid-April. Last year we had a very successful campaign, raising more than \$52,000. Every year we hear more and more inventive ways of how churches and youth groups hold competitions to fill the bags. We appreciate the support that is given by churches and we look forward to this year being our biggest campaign ever.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is Sunday June 17, 2007. Please take time to reflect on the special times you have shared with your parents. If you are fortunate enough to still have your dad with you, be sure to give him a call or stop in for a visit. Little things mean a lot. A perfect way to show your admiration for your father, or anyone special in your life is to send a gift to the Children's Home in memory of or in honor of them. A card of acknowledgment card will be sent to the person of your choosing, and the memorial or honor will be printed in our quarterly newsletter. Sharing is caring; take time now to remember that special person in a special way.

Happy Father's Day from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home Staff & Children!



MUDCATS BASEBALL

On July 20 the Layman's League from Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, NC is hosting the 4th annual Paper Products/Cleaning Supply drive for the Children's Home.

For the past three years, this has been a very successful fundraiser. Churches, groups, and individuals bring cleaning supplies or paper products to the ball game and enjoy a leisurely evening at the game, enjoy the fireworks show, and help the Children's Home. This year the Carolina MudCats will be playing the Montgomery Biscuits. Game time is 7:15.

Discount tickets are available for groups of 25 or more. Please call the Carolina MudCats and ask for Stacy to reserve your tickets (919) 269-2287. **See You at the Game!**

Campus Needs List

- Paper Towel**
- Cleaning Supplies
- Laundry Detergent**
- Dish Detergent
- Personal Care Items**
soap
lotion
antiperspirant
shampoo
- Stackable Chairs
Heritage Hall (\$2000)
- Campus Snack Machine
- Bathroom rugs
- Artificial Green Plants
- Pillow Cases**
- Twin Size Sheets &
Comforters
- Recreation Items
Cage Ball (72")
Fiberglass Basketball
Goal with rim (3)
Volley Ball
Tennis Rackets
- Filing Cabinets (4-drawer
fire proof)

** denotes items urgently needed

Free Will Baptist League

2007 LEAGUE CONVENTION

The Convention of Free Will Baptist Leagues met at Mount Zion Church in Roper, NC on March 17, 2007. The theme of the convention was "Armed With God's Sword—the Word." The theme verse was Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The theme song was "Every Promise in the Book Is Mine."

Hillary Williams, our song leader, armed us for the day with chorus singing. We marched into a time of exciting worship with a welcome from Lloyd Jones of Mount Zion Church and a response from Aspen Grove Church. Chelsea Mizell, a young lady from the host church, brought our opening devotion. She used Numbers 21:1 and John 3:14 to remind us we must look to Jesus to be saved. Chelsea also provided a beautiful selection on the piano that gave us our battle cry for the day. In her remarks for the day, President Sharlene Howell stressed the importance of knowing God's Word in the Christian's daily fight in this world.

We were encouraged to continue our "battle training" in the use of God's Sword, the Bible, with the Sword Drill Competition. Our winners were: Logan Edenfield, First Place Junior and Matthew Quick, First Place Intermediate, both from Union Grove Church; Hillary Williams, First Place Senior, from First Church of Goldsboro; Judy Moore,

First Place Adult, from Aspen Grove Church; Marcia Mooring, Second Place Adult, from Union Grove Church; and Sharlene Howell, Third Place Adult, from First Church of Goldsboro. If you are looking for a way to increase your Bible knowledge and your ability to use your Bible check out the League Sword Drill. Study hard and join us for the competition in 2008. (But let me warn you—we don't take ourselves too seriously at the Sword Drill Competition. It is just an enjoyable way to discover our Sword of the Spirit so we can share its message with others—which we do take seriously!)

Our program was filled with interesting Bible knowledge and loads of fun. The Aspen Grove League taught us a "new" Bible game which was a combination of the old hangman game and the "Wheel of Fortune" television game. We learned to play "Bible Squares" which was adapted from the old "Hollywood Squares" game with our own "star" Lloyd Jones in the center square. We absorbed lots of Bible facts and information as we laughed our way through the games.

It was a wonderful day filled with praise to our God and fellowship with Christian friends. The meeting ended with a delicious meal provided by our host church which included some great cookies.

If you are looking for a day of Christian fun for all ages, make plans to join us on March 15, 2008 at the First Church of Goldsboro for our next League Convention.

BIBLE SWORD DRILL 2007–2008

Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Leagues

STUDY GUIDE

I. Scripture Searching THE WORD

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 2 Peter 1:20–21 | 5. Psalm 19:7 | 9. Colossians 3:16 |
| 2. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 | 6. Psalm 19:9–10 | 10. 1 Timothy 4:12 |
| 3. Isaiah 55:11 | 7. Matthew 24:35 | 11. 2 Timothy 4:2 |
| 4. Psalm 18:30 | 8. John 6:63 | 12. Hebrews 4:12 |

II. Unfinished Quotations THE WORD

1. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God..." (Hebrews 11:3).
2. "And God said, Let there be light..." (Genesis 1:3).
3. "...be ye doers of the word..." (James 1:22).
4. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart..." (Psalm 119:11).
5. "Heaven and earth shall pass away..." (Matthew 24:35).
6. "In the beginning was the Word..." (John 1:1).
7. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth..." (Isaiah 40:8).
8. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful..." (Hebrews 4:12).
9. "Being born again...by the word of God..." (1 Peter 1:23).
10. "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God, the heavens were of old...by the same Lord are kept in store..." (2 Peter 3:5–7).
11. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word..." (1 Peter 2:2).
12. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse...And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood..." (Revelation 19:11–13).

III. Character Drill BIBICAL CHILDREN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. David (1 Chronicles 3:1–9 Read verse 9) | 2. Samuel (1 Samuel 8:1–3) |
| 3. Hannah (1 Samuel 1:20) | 4. Isaac (Genesis 21:1–3) |
| 5. Moses (Exodus 2:9–10) | 6. Eutychus (Acts 20:9) |
| 7. Rachel (Jeremiah 31:15) | 8. Herod (Matthew 2:16–18) |
| 9. God (Matthew 15:3–4) | 10. Father and Mother (Deuteronomy 5:16) |
| 11. Lad (John 6:9–10) | 12. Lo-ammi (Hosea 1:8–11) |

IV. Book Drill

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. Zechariah | 5. John | 9. Psalm |
| 2. Ezekiel | 6. Acts | 10. 2 Timothy |
| 3. 1 Samuel | 7. 2 Peter | 11. Nehemiah |
| 4. James | 8. Hosea | 12. Colossians |

V. Topical Drill LOSE REWARD

1. Forsake the Lord (2 Chronicles 15:2)
2. Calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10)
3. Withered (dead) branch (John 15:6)
4. Take heed (Be careful) (1 Corinthians 10:12)
5. Once enlightened (Hebrews 6:4–6)
6. Fail (miss) of the grace of God (Hebrews 12:14–15)
7. Made shipwreck (1 Timothy 1:19–20)
8. Entangled in the world (2 Peter 2:20–21)
9. Become a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:27)
10. Endure to the end (Matthew 24:13)
11. Judas fell (Acts 1:24–25)
12. Change this book (Revelation 22:19)

VI. Doctrinal Drill

1. The Bible teaches that God spoke to holy men to write the Scriptures. (2 Peter 1:20–21)
2. The Bible teaches that God's way is perfect, His word has been tried (tested, proved). (Psalm 18:30)
3. The Bible teaches that God's Word will never pass away. (Matthew 24:35)
4. The Bible teaches that we are to teach, admonish, sing hymns, and songs (Colossians 3:16)
5. The Bible teaches that the Word of God is powerful, sharp, dividing, and is a discerner. (Hebrews 4:12)
6. The Bible teaches that Jesus broke bread and said it represented His broken body (1 Corinthians 11:23–24)
7. The Bible teaches that Jesus took the cup, drank, and said it represented His blood (1 Corinthians 11:25–26)
8. The Bible teaches that God loves the world (people). (John 3:16)
9. The Bible teaches that all have sinned. (Romans 3:23)
10. The Bible teaches that Christ died for our sins. (Romans 5:8)
11. The Bible teaches that God knew us before we were born. (Jeremiah 1:5)
12. The Bible teaches that Hosea's son, Lo-ammi means unfulfilled prophecy concerning Israel as one nation. (Hosea 1:8–11)

Bibles will be provided.

Only references from this guide will be accepted.

Any church or youth group may have:

- Primary (ages 6–8)
- Junior (ages 9–11)
- Intermediate (ages 12–15)
- Senior (ages 16–21)
- Adult contestants.

Primary will compete in Scripture Searching and Book Drill. All other ages will compete in all six areas. This year there will be no limit on participants. However, at the Convention of OFWB Leagues, the church must register with one \$25 fee. The League Convention will meet at First Church of Goldsboro on March 15, 2008.

For Information Contact:

Becky Jo Sumner
450 NC 561 E
Ahoskie, NC 27910
(252) 332-6810
(252) 209-6202



"For even hereunto were you called: Because Christ also suffered for us, Leaving us an example, That we should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION TAKES ROOT

Donations enable the N.C. Foundation for Christian Ministries to pursue its goal of educating ministers.

The N.C. Foundation for Christian Ministries received gifts totaling \$1,359,197 during 2006, its first full year of operation.

The amount was announced at the foundation's annual meeting, which was held at Stoney Creek Church near Goldsboro on April 24.

The foundation was established in 2005 to advance the ministries of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination and other Christian endeavors. The Original Free Will Baptist denomination founded and supports Mount Olive College. The president of the foundation, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, was president of Mount Olive College for 40 years.

Raper and the foundation's treasurer, Dr. Don Riberio of Maury, reported that the foundation now has endowed gifts of \$1.328 million invested, and interest and dividends from that amount can be distributed each year to the foundation's beneficiaries.

Its primary goal is the education of ministers. Raper said this was the greatest need of churches. "Whatever happens to ministry is going to eventually happen to the church," he said.

In addition to the endowed gifts, the foundation has received \$20,000 worth of gift annuities, money of which dividends go back to the donor as long as the donor lives, after which, it is added to an endowment with the Foundation.

During the 2006–2007 academic year, the Foundation made available \$17,600 in tuition scholarships to nine Original Free Will Baptist ministers for graduate theological study. Seven of these

scholarships were for students enrolled in the Campbell University Divinity School, one to Baptist Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA, and one to Union Theological Seminary, also in Richmond.

Dr. Michael G. Cogdill, dean of Campbell Divinity School which offers graduate courses on the Mount Olive College campus, spoke about the importance of the liaison between the two institutions. "We must call out a new generation of leaders in the churches," he declared.

Danny Daniels, regional vice president of Branch Banking & Trust Co. and also a member of Stoney Creek Church, spoke on behalf of the Bank with whom the Foundation has a fiduciary relationship for the investment of endowment funds. The Foundation, in many ways, works like a community foundation. Money in its various funds is pooled for investment to create a large amount that can draw higher earnings.

The North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is a non-profit body chartered by the State of North Carolina to which individuals, families, churches, and related organizations may make charitable gifts and establish endowed funds. The work of the Foundation is the management and investment of these gifts and funds for the support and advancement of charitable purposes.

If you would like more information, you may contact W. Burkette Raper, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365; phone (919) 658-3855; e-mail <wraper@moc.edu>.

(The above article was adapted from a report on the annual meeting of the Foundation written by Mike Rouse, retired editor of The Goldsboro News Argus.)



Endowment founders who were honored at the annual meeting included, from left: Dr. Don Ribeiro and his wife Karen; Evelyn and Walter Reynolds; Billie and Michael Rouse. Also pictured: Donnie Lassiter, a director of the Foundation who presented plaques to the donors.



The Lamplighters Circle of Stoney Creek Church which prepared and served a delicious home-cooked dinner for the ninety people who attended the Foundation dinner.

People & Events



A historic event took place at Cabin Church near Beulaville on Sunday night April 22, 2007 when three generations of the same family were baptized. None of the members have a recollection of that happening at Cabin before, and our pastor, the Reverend Wayne Watson said it was the first for him as well. Those baptized were Billy and Jervine Smith, their daughters Sharon Garris and Sheila Basden, son-in-law Travis Basden, and grandchildren Randy and Brandy Basden. Another young man Bladen Tugwell was also baptized. We are so happy to have them in our family, but most importantly in God's family.



Muriel Tyndall, Sunday School Superintendent of Smith's New Home Church, Lenoir County, is congratulating and presenting a perfect attendance certificate to Betty Heath for 23 years of perfect attendance. Betty teaches the Primary Class, serves as Church Clerk, Program Prayer Chairwoman of the Woman's Auxiliary and is a member of the Choir.

POWHATAN NEWS

An Easter egg hunt was held for the Cherubs on March 31. The kite flying was not as successful as last year due to low winds.

Powhatan officers Ann Narron, Wanda Benson, Julie Capps, and Rita Jones attended the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary meeting held at Lee's Chapel on Saturday, April 7. Betty Strickland received the Dola Dudley Award during the service. Her brother, the Rev. Charles Renfrow (Convention president), brought the morning message. Her daughters offered special music in honor of their mother.

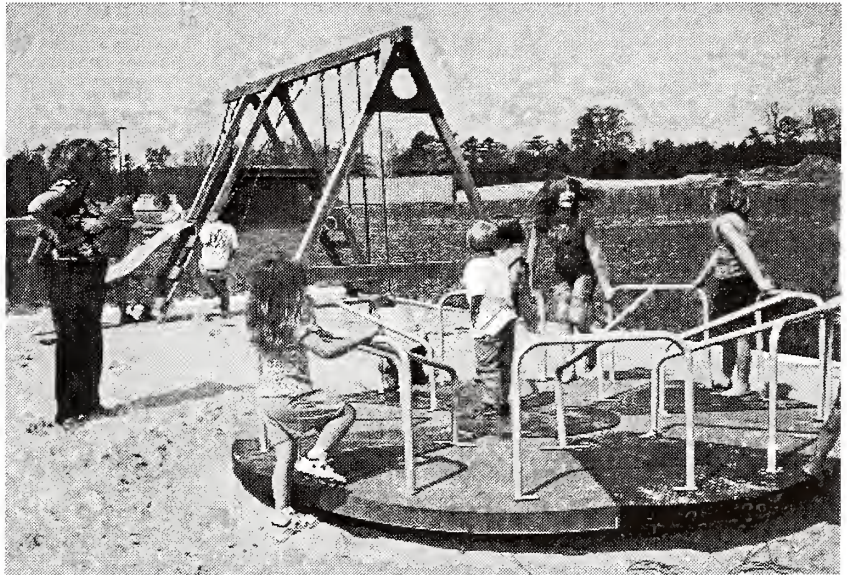
Morning Star had 146 overall with 15 in attendance from Powhatan. The boys' dorm will never be the same! What a blessing to share with sisters from other churches and districts and offer support for one another in this time of turmoil!

Nikki Jones and Kim Reeves, NCSU sophomores who are Powhatan's team captains for the Relay for Life Team for 2007, headed up a fun day on Saturday, April 21. The theme for

Powhatan this year is "Sweet Success" in the fight against cancer, so there was a silent auction of baked goods at lunchtime. The water balloons were an outside treat for the youth while samples of the fried candy bars and fruit were given as treats with lunch. The team plans to sell the fried items at the Relay in June. The total raised was \$389 for the day. Proceeds from a yard sale sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary on April 28

totaled \$323 and also went to the Relay for Life. Jones and Reeves appreciate the support given for the effort by the church family.

The Cape Fear Union meeting at Johnston Union on April 28 was attended by over 50 with Powhatan represented by our Pastor, the Rev. Jim Bogle and clerk Rita Jones. The Rev. Buddy Sasser presented an informative program on "The Articles of Faith..." and "Ministerial Code of Ethics."



After all the eggs were found and the kites failed to fly, the Cherubs still found a place for fun at the swings, merry-go-round, and in the sand!

Correction Notice

The article entitled, "Central District Women's Auxiliary Meeting" on page 28 of the May 2007 incorrectly listed Mary Pittman as the president for the new slate of officers. The correct listing for president is May Pittman.

FIFTH EASTERN UNION MEETING AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

Saturday, April 21, 2007

Submitted by Cheryl F. Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

The Fifth Eastern Union Meeting and Sunday School Convention met on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at Oak Grove Church. Brother Russell Tyson opened with Scripture, prayer, and a hymn. The Rev. Mike Coombs, pastor of the host church, shared the devotion entitled "What Makes a Strong Church," followed by a warm welcome and prayer. Announcements were given from the numerous churches represented (seven churches in all. Six ministers were also recognized). Juniper Five presented special music.

The Rev. Mike Scott reported information about short-term mission trips as a part of the Just Do It Ministry. Realizing that mostly adults participate, he explained the purpose of the short-term mission trips. It began to provide an opportunity for

teenagers to experience missionary work and encourage them to become missionaries. He discussed the conditions that we would consider intolerable, yet they come to worship their Savior. Mr. Scott encouraged all, adults and teens, to participate in a short-term mission trip in the future.

The worship service opened with several inspiring testimonies. The Juniper Five presented special music. The Rev. Michael Bryan brought a spiritual message from 1 Corinthians 15:54-58. His message, entitled "Keep on the Firing Line," encouraged us to always remember that our labors are not in vain. After the closing hymn, benediction, and blessing, the host church served a delicious meal.

The following denominational reports were presented:

- 1. Camp Vandemere**—by the Rev. Owen Arthur
 - Golf tournament information is forthcoming
 - "Singin' by the River" is scheduled for October 19-20
 - Woman's Week is from June 4-8
 - The dining hall is being remodeled
 - Working on outdoor seating for the campfire
 - New lighthouse will be erected on Wednesday, April 25
 - Sports court will be opened in May.
- 2. Harvest Connection**—by Bob Alexander
 - Need more kits.
- 3. Cragmont**—by Blossom Wilson
 - Tractor pull May 4-5.
- 4. Layman's League**—by Russell Tyson
 - Spiritual Life Retreat
 - State Convention for Layman's League at Camp Vandemere
 - Gospel Singing hosted by Harrell's Chapel in Snow Hill
 - Ladies Night is coming soon.

YOUTH SUNDAY AT ST. PAUL FWB CHURCH, NEWTON GROVE

Submitted by Janet L. Warren

Some were smaller than others but all let their lights shine on this day, Youth Sunday, March 18, 2007 at St. Paul Church. They praised God through their words, actions, and service. Sunday School began with Samuel Warwick welcoming the congregation. He led us through songs and the Responsive Reading to our Sunday School quarterly. After classes, he finished by going over the announcements and ended with everyone saying the Lord's Prayer together. The youth assembled in the choir loft for the Worship service led by Natalie Tart. Madison Wilson and Madison Warren lighted candles as the youth came in and asked the congregation to join them in singing. Rachel Thornton led the congregation in the Responsive Reading followed by Bratley Tart, who gave our pastoral prayer. Dana Warwick welcomed everyone and read the announcements. Scripture was read by Jordyn Eason, which was followed by special music. Madison Warren then sang with such love and joy followed by Kaylan Sinclair singing leaving us all knowing how powerful and amazing her God is.

Natalie Tart, who truly praised God with her beautiful singing voice, reminded us that we should praise Him for everything in our lives. Haley Evans shared an inspiring devotion with us. Our youth continued in the service by Taylor Raynor blessing the offering followed by he and Aaron Warwick receiving God's tithes and our offerings. Aaron Warwick shared Scripture with us followed by Brad Evans gathering the children and sharing the Children's Sermon with them, teaching them to let their light shine for others to see. Kaylan Sinclair shared an uplifting devotion. Messages were given by Reid Sinclair, Marcus

Hope, Brittany Warren, and Christopher Warwick. The youth spoke about growing up at St. Paul Church and what it meant to be a part of the church. They spoke about what it meant to be a CHRISTIAN and about what they were facing as they continue to grow as an adult and the paths that life will take them on, knowing that the love, friendship, and spiritual growth they had found here had been a tremendous help as well their parent's love and support. They were thankful they had each been fortunate enough to grow up in a home where God is in the center and they are encouraged to attend church, all of which are contributing factors which helped make them what they are today.

Glen Tart, Chairman of the Deacons and the Rev. Clifton each applauded the efforts of the youth and their diligence in doing God's work. As they said "St. Paul is in the good hands in the future with the youth of St. Paul." They were sure that Jesus was smiling down on each on this special day as they praised Him through worship, dedication, and service. Tyler Sinclair gave the benediction and our Ushers for the service were Evan Hope and Dawson Raynor. It was a wonderful day in the house of the Lord as our youth once again shared with each of us their love, ability, and wiliness to serve. We each received a special blessing by their efforts, words, music, and service. They truly let their lights shine for others to see and for this we are humbly grateful. What a fine example in today's world. May God continue to bless each of them as they continue to grow spiritually as well as physically, may He guide and direct them in His path.

MORNING STAR 2007

(April 13–15)

This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise. Isaiah 43:21



Women from across the state gathered at Cragmont for this annual weekend of spiritual enrichment. There was a wide range of ages present from 91-year-old Reba Cannon of Black Jack Church to three young ladies under the age of 10. Six of our seven districts were represented by the 146 in attendance. The Cape Fear district had the most in attendance by district with 56.

Director May Pittman officially welcomed everyone at the opening services at 8 P.M. on Friday evening. Teresa Ball gave the opening Scripture from Psalm 121. Phyllis McLamb led the singing for the opening service and all other services during the weekend.

May Pittman introduced this year's staff and gave a special welcome to the 24 first timers, telling them to come back next year and bring some friends. She announced that each in attendance needed to designate one person to pay balances in the office following the opening session. She

went over housekeeping information and asked that badges be picked up and worn during the weekend. A headcount was taken by district. The group closed with a prayer and dismissed for refreshments, rocking, unpacking, or general fellowship.

Donna Holland opened Saturday morning with a devotion from Matthew 5:13–16. She said salt is a preservative but that it can lose its strength after a while. We should not lose our strength but should strive to always let our light shine to others to reflect god's love. We should be visible workers, not hidden away, content with our own salvation.

At breakfast, and all other meals, there were two groups served thirty minutes apart because the group was so large. At 9:30, the group reassembled in the chapel. Ann Copeland, a kindergarten teacher from King's Crossroads Church near Farmville, introduced herself as the morning's

speaker. She is a Sunday School teacher, the Co-Program Chair for her Auxiliary, Benevolent Chair for the Central Conference, and a member of King's Crossroads choir. She told the group her topic for the weekend was "Shaped for Serving God."

Ann began by saying that it was indeed a privilege to stand and speak for God, something she said she had Jean Ackiss say once when giving a program. She shared some puppets from her class with us (Ben and Sally) and read to us from a child's book, "Designed by God So I must be Special."

The group proved to be as smart as a kindergartener by listing the four main shapes—circle, square, triangle, and rectangle. She described others that we all see around us in the world. She gave us clay to mold into some shape of our choosing. There were many different designs made. The point made was that we are all different shapes and colors but that we all have an inner shape for God's service in some form. We are uniquely made to serve God in some way. She referenced Scripture from Psalms and Ephesians describing us as fearfully and wonderfully made and being his workmanship. God has a grand design and each of us has our place to fill in that design.

An acrostic for the word shape is Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. We do not all have the same gifts, but we all should have a heart that is passionate for serving God. Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, says the average person possesses between 500 and 700 special skills, so do not let anyone tell you they cannot do anything in the work of the church. Different abilities are needed for different tasks, but everyone can help out and not just be a pew-warmer.

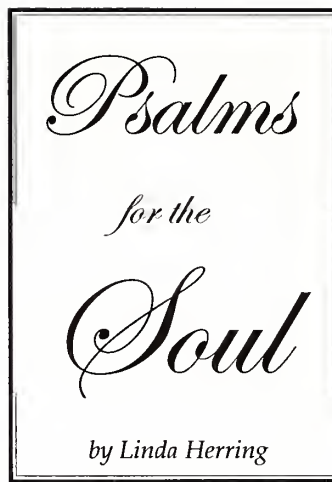
In describing personality, Mrs. Copeland described a stained glass window, having lots of different size and color chips that form a whole pattern. Each sparkles when the sun shines through it, just as each of us do when we letting God's light shine through us. She told us to use our life experiences to help encourage others as

they face trials. She listed several Bible heroes and heroines who used their gifts for God and received great blessings for it. She said Esther was one of her favorite stories because she was in the right place at the right time with the right shape to get the job done for God. She closed the sessions saying we all need to praise God for our salvation and give our best back to Him in whatever way we can. The traditional group photo was taken on Saturday before lunch, and these will be delivered to those who purchased a copy at the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention on May 10 at Pleasant Hill (Western). Saturday after lunch was free time and the group gathered back at 8:15 and opened with singing. May Pittman gave a few more announcements and thanked everyone on staff and all who came. Linda Jackson of Shady Grove (Cape Fear District) gave a plea for funds to support the building of the church in Bulgaria. Teresa Ball is selling Auxiliary emblem pins for \$20 each with profits going to the efforts. The Sunday School lesson, led by Ann Copeland, was shared from Revelation 4:1–11 reminding us that God is on His throne and that He is worthy of our praise and honor.

The offering collected on Sunday morning for Cragmont was reported to be \$2,386. The reverend Jeff Daughtry, pastor of Mays Chapel-eastern District, and Director of Planned Giving at MOC, brought the worship message on Sunday morning. His reference, taken from Proverbs 31:10–31, said that one of the most important jobs of women is raising Godly children. He pointed out that life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful and that we need to look for God in all things—nature, the face of a child, etc. he listed several Bible women who were not perfect but who stepped up when God needed them and were used for His purpose. We need to look for God all around us and be willing let God use as He chooses.

Morning Star 2007 ended after breakfast on Sunday as everyone headed home. The retreat always begins the Friday after Easter so make plans now to come and be a part of the blessing on March 28–30, 2008.

The Bible Speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. From God's perspective we live in one of two ways: wisely and unwisely. Those of us who learn to walk wisely—in the power of God's truth—have blessing and hope for the future. We need to know how to make wise choices. David learned to do this by placing his trust in God. In Psalm 19:7, David wrote "the law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." This tells us that the word of God will help us in making wise



decisions. The word of God is perfect and it will refresh and encourage us if we read it. Have you ever thought: What is God up to in my life? What is His purpose for the things that He allows to come into our lives? Why so many heartaches and troubles? Sometimes these things happen to us to draw us to God and seek His wisdom. God loves us. We are special to Him. Psalm 119:11 says "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Do not let the stresses of the day steal our psalm.

SHADY GROVE CHURCH HISTORY

(The information in this column came from page 5 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, September 20, 1950, Vol. 65–No. 37, and page 6 of the edition for Wednesday, September 28, 1960, Vol. 75–No. 38. The original articles were entitled Shady Grove Celebrates First Centennial and Shady Grove Church Reports Progress.)

Shady Grove Church has had an interesting history. The exact date that it was founded is not known, but 1850 has been set as the date of its organization. During the first years, the membership was made up of Free Will Baptists and Christ's Disciples. The believers in these two faiths met and worshiped together in a small log building across the road from the site of the present building. In 1857, a dispute arose between the members of these two doctrines and a separation became necessary.

In 1858, a group of loyal believers in the Free Will Baptist doctrines met and organized again. There were 24 charter members in this new organization, and they chose the following officers: deacon, Wiley West; clerk, William A. Jackson; elders, John A. Butler and John Raynor; and treasurer, Robert Dawson.

When the officers were ordained, the church called Elder William Byrd, who served three years, as its first pastor. Since then the church has had 29 other pastors. Thirteen of these served one year only. Elder Lundy Lee served the church for ten years on six separate calls. Elder R. A. Johnson, nine years on two calls, and Elder W. R. Coats, eight years on one call.

The church grew and put forth sprouts. Lee's Chapel, Robert's Grove, Oak Grove, and St. Paul grew

out of Shady Grove membership. In spite of heavy losses to these churches, the membership had reached 357 by 1900, and 434 by 1925. (It's present membership is about 313).

As the membership grew, it was necessary to replace the small log structure with a frame building on the same site as that of the present building. This was done in 1865. In 1894, the main body of the present building was erected. Sunday School rooms were added in 1925 and again in 1949.

In November of 1959, just two months after the Rev. C. F. Bowen became pastor, the church was partially burned. By January, plans were about completed for an extensive remodeling program, and by the second month of the year, actual work had begun.

Included in the remodeling program were new pews, new furniture for the pulpit, a baptistry with a professional artist's conception of a Jordan River scene, beautiful wall-to-wall carpet for the sanctuary, tiled floored in all rooms and church vestibule, new restrooms, indirect lighting for the sanctuary, an electric organ, year-round air-conditioning, a new choir loft, redecorated classrooms, expanded and better equipped nurseries, and walks for the outside. The total cost of the remodeling program came to about \$35,000.00.



Churches & Ministry Positions Available

SAINT'S DELIGHT CHURCH, Ormondsville, NC is looking for a pianist. Inquiries can be made by contacting James Owens (252) 524-5919 or Nicole Speight (252) 746-6684.

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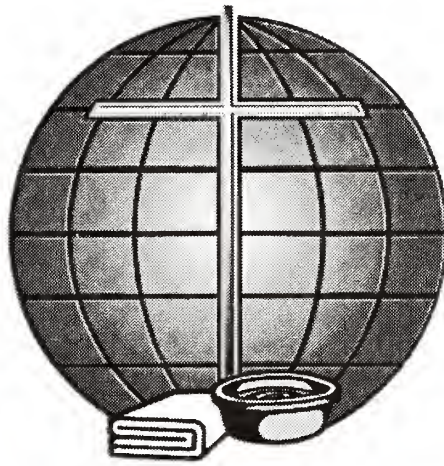
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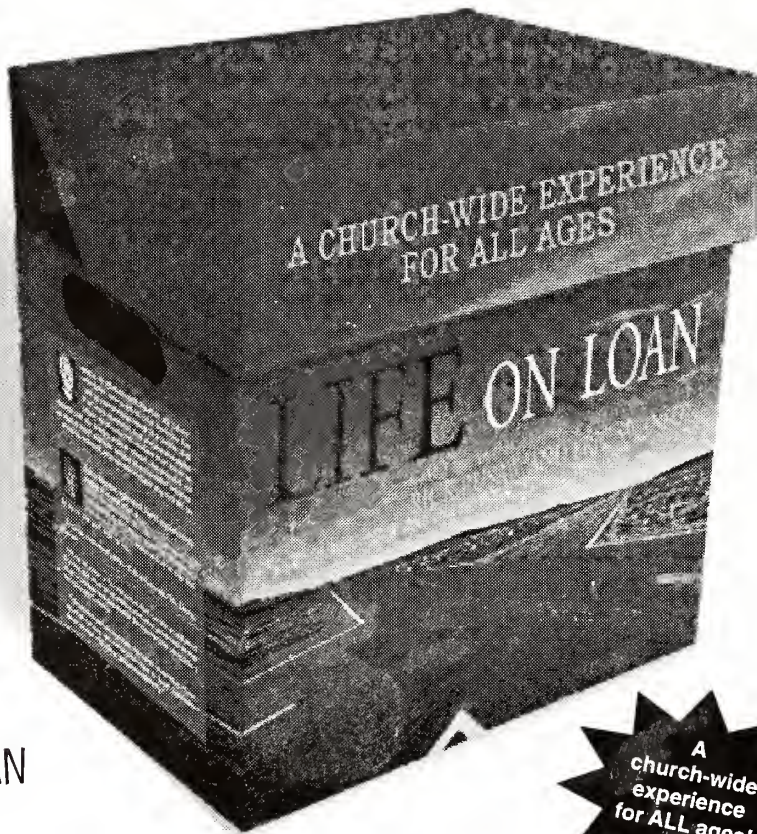
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Main Thought: We need to be prepared to love one another so that God is glorified.

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Main Thought: We need to go to people and tell them God's story.

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Main Thought: Everyone has been gifted by God to serve others so that we grow in maturity and unity.

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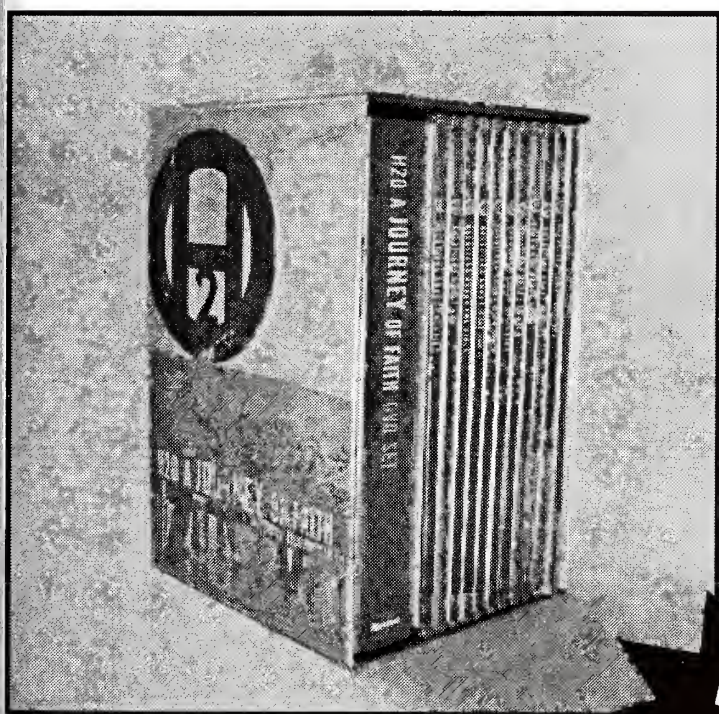
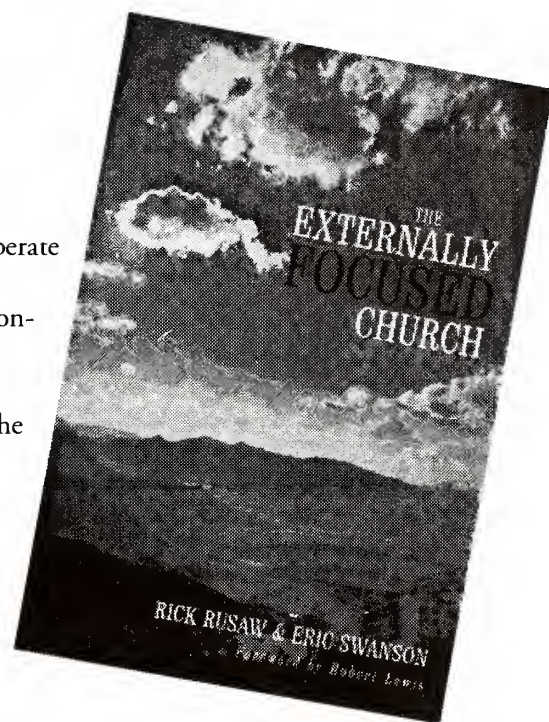
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15	16 Cragmont's General Youth 1 Conference (16-21)	17 Central Conference Board of Ordination, First Church, Greenville, 10 A.M.	18	19	20	21
22	23 Cragmont's Young People's Bible Conference (23-28)	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Cragmont's August Woman's Aux. Conference (30-Aug. 4)	31	COMING SOON: August 4-12: Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip (Camp Morelos) August 6-9: Cragmont's Pee Dee Youth Conference			

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CONTENTS

July 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 7

FEATURES

- 5 Original Free Will Baptists in Search of Identity
8 How Well Do You Know Your Church Family?

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Monthly Planner
21 Camp Vandemere
23 Youth Convention
24 People & Events

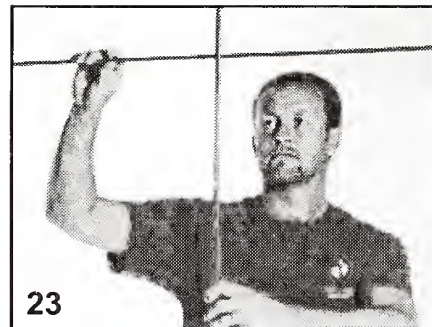


COLUMNS

- 4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer
27 Psalms for the Soul
by Linda Herring, Guest Writer
27 Golden Oldies

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 9 Mount Olive College
15 OFWB International
17 Children's Home
20 Retirement Homes Ministry



POWER VERSE

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the LORD pondereth the hearts
(Proverbs 21:2).

SIRENS ON THE FOUR LANE

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

A four-lane, busy highway passes not too far from our house. The only thing separating us is a middle school. The traffic noise is not bothersome. It's the sirens that often wail that sometimes arouse us from our sleep, or disturb us from our thoughts.

The sirens represent several possibilities, or questions, when we hear them. Sometimes it's a rescue unit on its way to Pitt Memorial Hospital, usually transporting a person in the throes of a serious condition. It could be a patrolman chasing a speeder, or some other lawbreaker. Occasionally, we hear several sirens, heading to a particular location—at a crossroads, or along a main stretch where an accident has occurred, sometimes resulting in death. This has happened several times since the four lane was built, and we knew some of them personally. After such tragedies, the highway is soon cleared. The rescue units, the fire trucks, and the law enforcement officials move on to other places. But the healing of broken bodies or the sorrow of losing a loved one is only beginning. Family members are notified and rush to the emergency room to await word on the injured loved

one, and in some cases the loss of life. A pastor is informed and immediately rushes to offer comfort and consolation, especially in the case of death, offering prayers for the family and prayers for the survival of those injured. In the days that follow, loved ones and friends gather around. Funeral services are arranged. Those who survive an accident receive cards and visits while they recover.

Each tragedy is a story within itself. Lives are changed. In a sense, the story never ends, but life moves on. Healing

takes place with the passing of time, just as He promised: "...he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted..." (Isaiah 61:1).

Although sirens may represent tragedy, they also mean that someone is responding to a call for help, someone

who is trained and qualified to assist. In each process of recovery, there are those who offer aid and support.

With each siren's wailing, I wonder and pray that all will be well. At the same time, I offer thanks for those who rush to the scene, and especially for God's promise to bless and be with His own.



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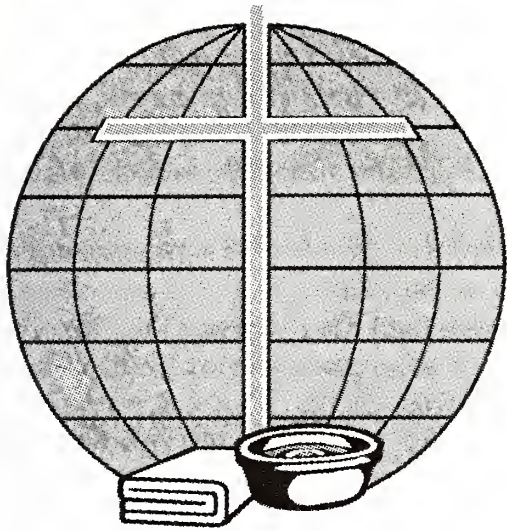
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Original Free Will Baptists IN SEARCH OF IDENTITY

(Ephesians 4:1–15)

Presentation by W. Burkette Raper to the Ministerial Association
of Original Free Will Baptists, Cragmont Assembly, June 6, 2007

Assignment—Purpose

Motion at the 2006 session of the Ministerial Association by the Reverend Frank R. Harrison that Dr. W. Burkette Raper prepare and present at the 2007 session a program:

- “Identifying those qualities and characteristics that distinguish Original Free Will Baptists from all other Baptist groups:
- “What are our distinctive benchmarks as Original Free Will Baptists of the English General Baptists heritage?
- “What gives us our distinctive identity as Original Free Will Baptists?”

INTRODUCTION

In addressing the assignment given me, I have chosen the title: *ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN SEARCH OF IDENTITY*.

I realize that Original Free Will Baptists are a diverse group and that all of us—and especially ministers—reserve the right to our own opinions. This right is one of the virtues of our church. At the same time, as Christians, we are members of the body of Christ, and hence, our diversity should be transcended by our love one for another. In the words of Buddy Sasser, director of services for our Convention, I hope this presentation can help us find “unity in diversity.”

In this context, let me share with you a concept that someone shared with me early in my ministry—a concept that I have tried to make a guiding principle in my life:

*“In essentials, unity;
In non-essentials, liberty;
In all things, Charity.”*

I ask for your prayers that I may speak the truth in love, and that together we may edify the body of Christ, in whose name we are gathered.

In this presentation, I have organized our search into three parts:

Part I—An Essential Framework For Understanding Who Original Free Will Baptists Are

Part II—A Knowledge of “Other Baptists”

Part III—An Identification of What Distinguishes Original Free Will Baptists

Part I: An Essential Framework For Understanding Who Original Free Will Baptists Are

Who are Original Free Will Baptists? What has made us the people we are? How did we get to where we are? A search for the answer to these questions will carry us to the heart and foundation of our church. For a meaningful answer, this search will require:

1. *A diligent and open study of the Holy Scriptures*

We must let the Bible speak to us as God inspired it, and its message must not be tarnished by our preconceived notions. Nor can we rightly divide the word of truth by selecting bits and pieces of the Bible, which taken out of context, speak to our ideology. Second Timothy 3:16 says that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (emphasis added). It is the totality of the Scriptures, woven into a mosaic, that communicates the message of God. Ponder, for example, the meaning of John 1:16-17: "And of his [Jesus] fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

2. *An informed and comprehensive knowledge of Church history.*

The origin of Original Free Will Baptists as an organized body of believers dates back approximately four hundred years to the English General Baptists in the early 17th century. Without an understanding of the Protestant Reformation on the Continent of Europe in the 16th century and the Separatist movement in England a century later, there can be no clear understanding of why and how the Original Free Will Baptist Church came into being. I believe that the most relevant and best authenticated account of the birth and subsequent development of our church is *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, written by Dr. Michael R. Pelt and published in 1996. This book is an invaluable—and I think even essential—resource for an informed understanding of who Original Free Will Baptists are today.

3. *A knowledge and clear understanding of The Articles of Faith And Principles of Church Government For Original Free Will Baptists (Of the English General Baptist Heritage), which was published in 1981.*

As all persons acquainted with the history of

Free Will Baptists in America are aware, there were two distinct and separate religious movements in the 18th century under the name of Free Will Baptists.

First, there was the southern movement under the leadership of Paul Palmer and his associates, who in 1727 organized the first Free Will Baptist Church in America, located in Chowan Precinct, North Carolina. This church did not survive, but a second church, organized in 1729 and known as Shiloh, is still in existence. At that time, these churches would have been known as General Baptists of the Arminian faith, as opposed to the Calvinism of the Particular Baptists. Original Free Will Baptists trace our church lineage directly to the work of Palmer and his associates.

The second historical movement came a half-century later under the leadership of Benjamin Randall, who established a church of the Arminian faith in 1780 in New Durham, New Hampshire. The Palmer and Randall movements were separate and independent of each other, but they shared a common theology of "free will, free grace, and free salvation."

Regional difference, however, precluded a close relationship between the two groups. The Randall movement was strongly opposed to slavery, whereas the Palmer churches identified with the South. Following the Civil War, the Freewill (note the spelling) Baptist churches which grew out of the Randall movement merged with the Northern Baptists in 1910 to form the American Baptist Convention. A minority of the Randall churches, however, did not join the merger and in 1916 organized the Cooperative General Association, which in 1935 merged with the churches which descended from the Palmer movement to form the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Unfortunately, this union proved to be an unhappy marriage, and after a series of major conflicts, the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in 1962 withdrew from the National Association.

The impasse between the two groups was not so much theological as it was *mentality and ecclesiastical*. When the National Association was formed in 1935, it adopted the "Treatise" of the

Randall Freewill Baptists; North Carolina, however, continued to operate under its own principles of church government which had been in use for more than a century. Under the "Provision and Claim" section of the National Treatise, several other states also continued to operate under their own historic forms of church government.

This dual arrangement—one statement of faith but with each state having the option of establishing its own form of church government—created no problem until the late 1950s and early 1960s. It was during this period that the National Association interfered in the action of the Western Conference of North Carolina in disciplining a pastor and seeking to rectify a problem he had created in the church of which he was pastor.

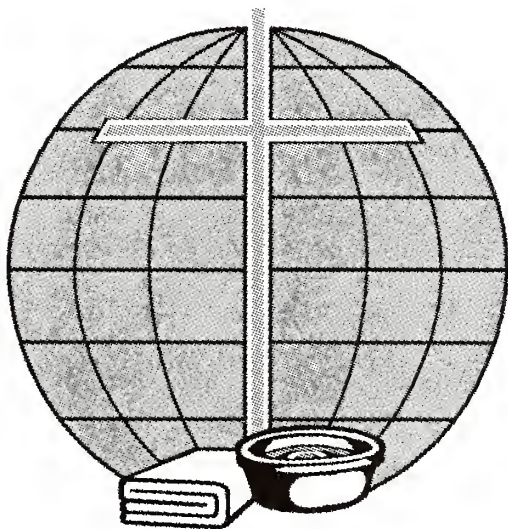
During the early history of Mount Olive College, I organized and taught a course on "The History, Faith, and Polity of Original Free Will Baptists." In my subsequent research relative to this course, I became aware that although the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina were no longer a part of the National Association, we were still operating under the articles of faith derived from the Randall group rather than the historic articles derived from the General Baptist Confession of Faith presented to King Charles II of England in 1660. The oldest known edition of articles of faith in the distinctive name of Original

Free Will Baptists was in 1812.

At the 64th annual session of the North Carolina State Convention in September 1976, I was honored to preach the "introductory sermon," and I made note that the following year—1977—would mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the first Free Will Baptist Church in America. I also submitted a resolution for a study commission, composed of representatives from each conference to examine the then current "Statement of Faith and Discipline" in the light of the historic Confession of Faith of 1660, along with the statement of 1810, and to make recommendations regarding any appropriate revisions.

The end result of this study was a return to our original articles of faith with the adoption of *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government For Original Free Will Baptists (Of The English General Baptist Heritage)* under which we now operate. This statement of faith and church government was duly approved by each conference and the Convention and has been in effect since 1981. (For reference, see *Yearbook For Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, 1977*, page 161; and *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government For Original Free Will Baptists (Of The English General Baptist Heritage)*, pages 28–30.

Story to be continued in the next issue of The Free Will Baptist.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY?

by Kevin Hinton

Submitted by Charles L. Renfrow

(reprinted with permission from J.B.A. Messenger, January 2007 edition)

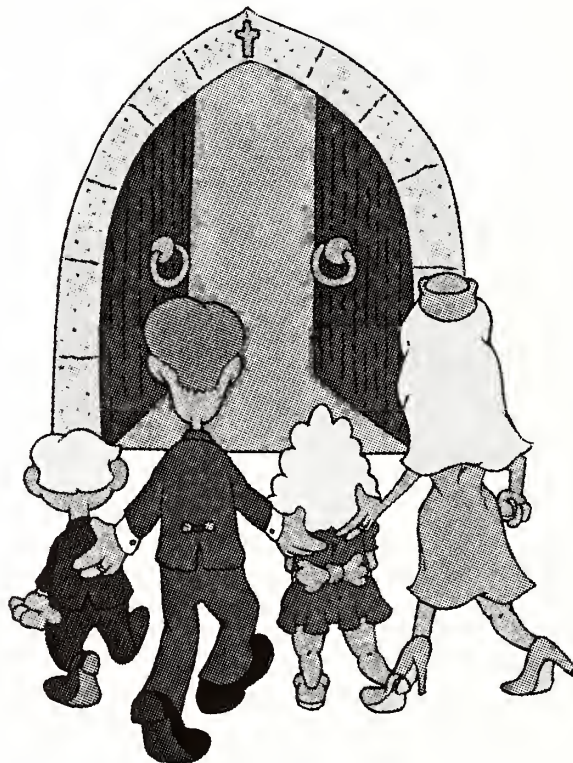
Many of us assume that we “know” our church family very well. After all, we have grown up in similar homes, in similar schools, and in similar surroundings. We often assume that everyone else is like us. Well, they aren't. People come in all shapes and sizes and from many backgrounds. In fact, there is more diversity in our area now than at any other time in our history!

There are differences between the generations—the Builders, the Boomers, and the Millennials. There are differences between the “been here's” (i.e. life-long Johnston County residents) and the “come here's” (those who have joined us from other parts of the country). There are differences between traditionalists and innovators. There are differences between worship and music styles. (Some like traditional hymns, others like Southern Gospel; still others prefer Praise and Worship songs or Contemporary.) There are differences between those with an “agricultural,” a “modern,” and a “post modern” mindset.

So how in the world do we all hang together? Is it any wonder that attendance and membership declines have set in for many of our churches? How are you at your church accommodating the varieties of folks in your pews? Are you even discussing issues of change and adaptation to your changing environment? If you are not, then I dare say you are in for a rude awakening one day when you look around see no one under 40 in your congregation.

Americans today are used to having choices. They go to buffets to eat where they can choose exactly what they want. Is your church offering only one course or do you offer a variety of options to choose from? Early or late worship, contemporary and traditional styles, Sunday School and small groups, local missions as well as international missions opportunities.

As the new year begins, start a conversation in your church about how you are going to your changing environment.





ADMISSIONS NEWS FROM MOC

Fall 07

Students interested in attending College this fall are encouraged to contact MOC Admissions at <admissions@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854. Openings are available for new freshmen and new college transfer students.

Campus Tours

Campus tours are available for recent high school graduates who will be starting college in the Fall of 2007. High school juniors and sophomores are encouraged to contact the Office of Admissions at <admissions@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854 to arrange a tour and information session with Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions <twoodard@moc.edu>.

Programs for Working Adults

MOC offers convenient programs for working adults at six locations: Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, Research Triangle Park, Washington, and Wilmington.

Programs for Working Adults

- Eight-week programs, which include two class meetings per week, are offered at MOC at Goldsboro in limited majors. Contact Dr. Opey Jeanes for more information at <ojeanes@moc.edu> or by calling (919) 734-8585.
- One-night-a-week-programs, which include classes that meet from 6–10 P.M., on a Saturday or online, are offered at locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Research Triangle Park, Washington, and Wilmington.
- Programs include Religion (at Mount Olive and New Bern), Management and Organizational Development, Healthcare Management, Criminal Justice and Criminology, Management of Information Systems (at Mount Olive), Early Childhood, and Heritage Plus. For Summer and Fall 07 schedules, application, and program information, contact the location nearest you by calling 1-800-NEW GOAL.

MOC PARTNERS WITH NCSU TO OFFER AGRISCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Starting this fall, Mount Olive College students will have the opportunity to enroll in an agriscience education program developed in cooperation with North Carolina State University. The partnership between MOC and NCSU was developed to help meet the growing need for agriculture education teachers in the state.

Through the partnership, a student can graduate from MOC with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriscience education.

Students will complete the majority of their courses at Mount Olive College, including general education, natural sciences, and the agricultural core of agribusiness management, with the curriculum being similar to the agricultural business management concentration in agricultural education at NCSU. They will then complete the professional education core at NCSU and do their student teaching under NCSU supervision. For more information, contact Tim Woodard at <twoodard@moc.edu>.

A WALK DOWN MOC LANE

An institution where much is expected, and even more is returned, to those who are willing to work hard to achieve their goals, Mount Olive College is for people who seek a life-changing experience in an academic environment that is far from ordinary. Through the years, Mount Olive College has transformed itself in many ways—by expanding programs with innovative pedagogy styles, launching partnerships and raising academic standards. One thing that has never changed, and according to the College's President Dr. J. William Byrd, "Never will," is the College's commitment to helping students transform themselves and achieve goals that might have seemed unreachable.

"We provide students a foundation for learning and for living," Dr. Byrd says.

One family in particular has experienced the benefits of Mount Olive College's flexible programming and convenient geographically distributed locations. Brad, Gary, and Greg Evans have all attended Mount Olive College, but each member of the Evans family took a different route to earn their degrees from the institution.

Brad Evans enrolled as a traditional student in 2002. Born in Grifton and now residing in Mount Olive, he is the son of Tony and Pam Evans. He received his bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure studies with a concentration in exercise science in 2006. Brad is now employed at the College as an Admissions Representative.

"When choosing a college, I was looking for something that was close to home, and that had an environment that best fit my personality," Evans stated. Once on campus, he soon got involved with the Recreation Majors Club, Student Athletic Training, and also the MOC Ambassadors program.

A longtime member of Elm Grove Church of Ayden, NC, it was important for Brad to attend a college affiliated with his church. "I wanted somewhere that I would have the opportunity to grow as a person both mentally and spiritually," he said.

According to Brad, the staff and faculty at MOC are what make the institution unique. "I enjoyed all of my professors because they made me feel

like they really cared about me doing well and succeeding. I could not have asked for a better experience."

In addition to Brad, both of his dad's brothers attended MOC. Gary Evans of Ayden graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mount Olive College in 1998 with a Bachelor's Degree in management and organizational development. He attended classes at the College's locations in New Bern and at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Prior to MOC, Gary attended and graduated from Pitt Community College, earning two associate degrees in agriculture. He currently serves as the finance chairman and secretary on the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees. Gary and his wife, Wendy, have two children, Joshua and Jennifer. He is currently employed as the vice president of Green Market Operations for Alliance One International, where he is responsible for making arrangements for the purchase, shipment, and payment of all green tobacco purchased by the company in the United States. Gary also serves as chairman of the Tobacco Association of United States Accounting and Procedures Committee.

During the College's 2006 Alumni Weekend festivities, Gary was presented with the Nontraditional Alumni Hall of Fame Award. The award was presented by Dr. David Hines, chairman of the Department of Religion and longtime friend of Evans.

"Gary demonstrates through his life and work the values of commitment, industry, hard work, and integrity, values that I hope that this College will continue to foster in our ministry of Christian higher education," stated Dr. Hines.

According to Hines, Gary Evans has never been afraid of hard work, including pursuing a college degree while helping raise a family and working full time. "It didn't matter that his plate was already full," Hines stated. "He found a way to get the job done."

Greg Evans, Gary's twin brother, also graduated from MOC in 1999. (Gary and Greg are identical twins, so if you see them in person, you will need to ask them who is who.) Residing in Smithfield with his wife, Lori, and children, Brittany and Caroline, Greg is a Senior Technology Software

The Evans Brothers at a Glance



Brad Evans—MOC graduate 2006



Gary Evans—MOC graduate 1998



Greg Evans—MOC graduate 1999

Delivery Program Manager for Nortel Networks. Greg is responsible for the delivery of the global software research and development products for the Carrier Voice Over IP market.

A 1982 graduate of Ayden-Grifton High School, and Pitt Community College in 1984 with an AAS in Electronic Engineering Technology, Greg entered Mount Olive College in 1998, when he enrolled at the College's Research Triangle Park location. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in business administration while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

"I have known about MOC ever since being a child at Elm Grove Church in Ayden," Greg stated.

Now a member of the First Baptist Church of Smithfield, which he has attended for fifteen years, Greg Evans is a Sunday School teacher, youth group mentor, and a former Bible Buddies and Bible drill instructor.

A hard worker who sets very high standards for himself, Greg also supports local education as a board director on the Johnston County Education Foundation of North Carolina. He loves to spend time with his family and his goal is to, "keep balance in life between God, family, and work," he expressed.

"I am very proud to have had the opportunity to attend MOC," enthused Greg, "the experience and education obtained was first rate! I will never forget the fellowship with the staff and students. I will also never forget the importance of why this College is founded under its Christian beliefs for the true development of mankind. Thanks MOC!"

For three members of the Evans family, they have felt the transforming power of a college that is aimed at student success in so many ways. Greg Evans concluded by saying, "Small classes, great instructors, and a college that has a history of higher standards—Mount Olive College really is for the students!"

THE LEWIS H. AND ETHEL WINDLEY SULLIVAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Lewis H. and Ethel Windley Sullivan Endowed Scholarship Fund was established on May 6, 2007 by The First Original Free Will Baptist Church in Plymouth, NC.

The purpose of this Mount Olive College endowed fund is to encourage and assist Original Free Will Baptist ministers and students who are called to the Christian ministry to equip themselves for effective service; to provide enriched and expanded learning experiences for ministers; and to relate these experiences to citizenship development, career preparation, and services to the College, the church, and humanity.

This endowed fund will provide scholarships for qualified recipients, who must be recommended by the church in which they hold membership. In addition, recipients must demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment to the Christian ministry, and to attaining an education. They must also be hard-working, self-reliant, self-motivated, and diligent, having academic promise.

Recipients must also enter into a written agreement to participate in both prescribed academic studies and in a defined extra-curricula program, including internships and service projects as may be determined by the College. This Lewis H. and Ethel Windley Sullivan Endowed Scholarship is renewable on a semester basis contingent upon the MOC student maintaining



(L-R) Dianne Riley, MOC Director of Alumni Relations; Thelma Sullivan Lilley, daughter; Lewis H. Sullivan (endowment named for him and his wife Ethel); Phyllis Sullivan Cahoon, daughter; Paul Grubbs, pastor, Plymouth OFWB Church; and Shirleyan Phelps, clerk, Plymouth OFWB Church.

satisfactory academic progress, good citizenship, and fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

Dianne Riley recently made a presentation to Mr. Sullivan in a special service at Plymouth Church. This fund was established in order to promote Christian higher education through the work of Mount Olive College, and most importantly, for the congregation of the First Original Free Will Baptist Church to convey to Brother Lewis and his family their love and respect for him while honoring the memory of his wife Ethel; and expressing appreciation for fifty (50) years of faithful service to their church.

"It was a joy to share with the entire church family during this special time of recognition," stated Dianne Riley, director of

alumni relations at MOC. "The Sullivans have been workers in this church for more than 50 years. I have known them for over 40 of those years, having met their daughter Phyllis in the fall of 1966 when she enrolled as a freshman at Mount Olive College. They have continued their involvement with Mount Olive College through their faithful stewardship each year and encouraged their grandson, Buddy Jones, to attend during the 90s; they are all fine people." She continued by saying, "The Plymouth Church is to be commended for their unselfish way of honoring one of their own in a way that will help others. That is just who they are; a caring group of people. It has been an honor to be involved with all these wonderful people."

SONYA MCCOY O'BRIEN ELECTED TO NATIONAL BOARD



Sonya McCoy O'Brien has recently been elected to the National Board of Directors for FBLA-PBL (Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda).

She is a member of Hugo Church in Lenoir County and works at Mount Olive College in the Tillman School of Business.

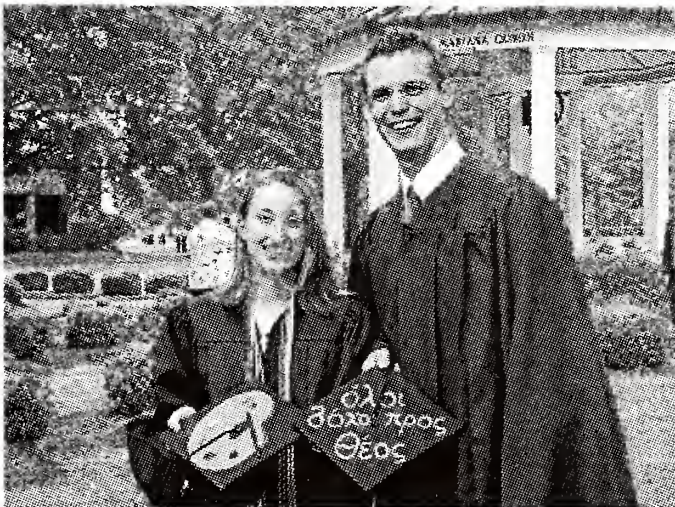
Currently an assistant professor in the management and human resources department, Sonya has been a part of the Mount Olive College PBL chapter for 23 years. She has also served on the State Awards Program Committee.

As the new Southern Region PBL local adviser, Sonya's three-year term will begin at the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference in Chicago this June. "Congratulations to Sonya; we appreciate her willingness to get involved at this level. This will certainly be a working position so we thank her for accepting the challenge," said Dan Hazlett, NC PBL State Adviser.

Phi Beta Lambda provides opportunities for students to enhance their self-confidence and leadership skills, sharpen public speaking skills, build friendships, apply money management techniques, network with business leaders, and acquire job readiness skills. The Phi Beta Lambda national organization is operated in cooperation with the United States Office of Education, the American Vocational Association, and the National Business Education Association.

SUNRISERS VISIT MOC

The Sunrisers, a senior citizens group from Rose Hill near Winterville, visited the College recently. The Reverend C. H. Overman, Associate Pastor for Senior Ministry, arranged the visit with Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support at the College. The Sunrisers toured the three new buildings recently constructed and enjoyed lunch in the dining hall. Groups interested in touring the campus can contact Jean F. Ackiss at (919) 658-7744 or <jfackiss@moc.edu>.



FWB GRADUATES

Amy Daughtry, degree in art; and Matthew Grubbs, degree in religion; pose after graduation ceremonies on the Mount Olive College campus. Amy is a member of Westside Church, Lenoir County, and Matthew is a member of First Church, Plymouth and serves as Youth Minister at May's Chapel Church, Wayne County. They are engaged to be married this summer, and they have displayed their fun-loving personalities by decorating their caps. Amy's portrays her interest in art and Matt's says "All Glory to God" in Greek.

CRYSTAL GUY IS SHINING AT MOC



A native to North Carolina, Crystal Guy graduated from Clayton High School in 2005 and entered Mount Olive College that fall. The daughter of Mark and Jackie Guy, Crystal is currently a rising junior, psychology major with a double minor in religion and biology.

"In order to fit in all my classes, I will probably graduate in May 2010," Crystal stated, "After that, I plan to attend graduate school

and possibly open my own practice one day."

Crystal made her college choice based on faith. "I just felt that if I came to MOC it would help me intellectually as well as spiritually. I am thankful that I listened to the Lord and made the right decision to enroll at MOC."

A member of Powhatan Church, Johnston County, and a regular attendee of the OFWB

Youth Conventions and State Bible Bowls held at Mount Olive College each year, Crystal felt comfortable with the campus. "I knew a lot of the staff and some of the incoming students through the Youth Convention and the sponsored Mission Trips," she explained.

Once enrolled at MOC, Crystal jumped right in with both feet, taking part in many clubs and organizations. She is the executive cabinet secretary for the Student Government Association (SGA), secretary of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), a cheerleader, a student assistant, and an employee of the campus bookstore. She is also a member of the Undergraduate Alumni Association (UAA), Henderson Science Club, Big Coffee, Omega Upsilon, and Free Will Baptist Fellowship. Next year, she will be inducted as the president of Phi Beta Lambda and as the executive council vice president of SGA.

Already with a full plate both academically and socially, Crystal has taken on the challenge of helping to start up a new program on campus called, Campus Crusade for Christ. "This is a first for the College, and I will be one of the leaders as it unfolds in the fall," she enthused. "I am so excited for what this will add to our campus ministry."

For Crystal, keeping focused is easy. "My favorite Bible verse, that I tell myself over and over again, is Philippians 4:13—'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'."



SIR HAROLD AND MA'AM SANDRA VISIT GAWID

by Rev. Bern Borja

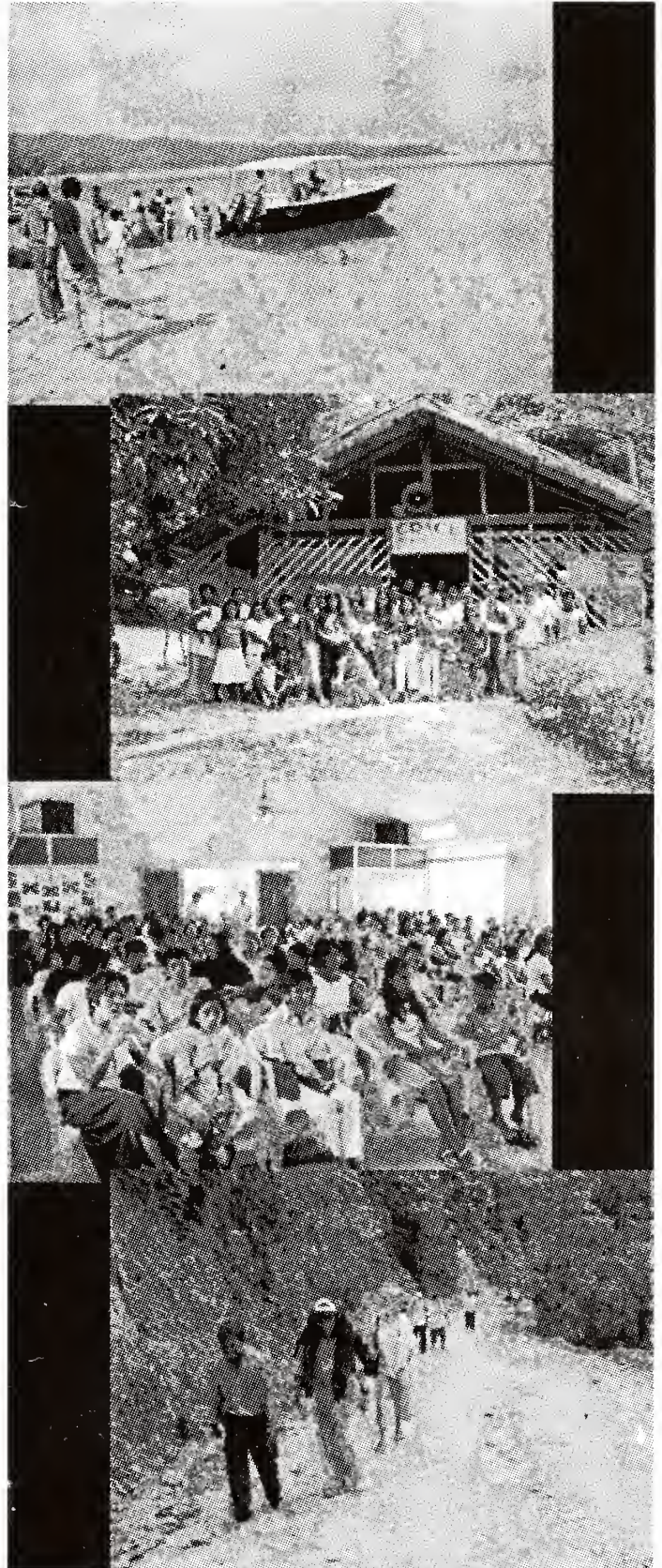
About 6 A.M. Monday, April 16, 2007, our beloved missionaries, Sir Harold and Ma'am Sandra Jones arrived in Caruray. They rode in a van together with the members of the Board of Trustees of the First Free Will Baptist Church Philippines.

They passed through the peak way of "Ay Diyos Ko!" (which means "Oh, My God!") This peak is a zigzag road. Most passengers who ride on land transportation see the deep shoulder of the road down about 500 meters deep.

After a half hour, we proceeded to the seashore to look a boat to ride on. We waited about thirty minutes, because the boat coming from Gawid was delayed. God is good all the time! We had the opportunity to ride in 300HP engine speed boat of a millionaire, a brother of the congressman in our district, FREE. It is the time of campaigning for the upcoming election, May 14. So instead of thirty minutes travel, we took only five minutes to reach Gawid.

When we arrived, we took breakfast, and then we proceeded to the church for a worship service. Rev. Harold Jones was the speaker. He delivered the message concerning the vast importance of godly wisdom. His comments were based on the two women who came to King Solomon in 1 Kings chapter 3. The church members enjoyed the visit of our missionaries. This was the first time for Ma'am Sandra to come to Gawid First Free Will Baptist Church.

After worship we had a short fellowship and some picture taking. On our return trip to Caruray we rode an ordinary pump boat. The van was waiting for us to take us back to Puerto Princesa. On our way back through the zigzag road the van was not able to go up to the top of the mountain so all the passengers got out and walked. The group was so tired, but we enjoyed being part of God's great plan.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

by Pastor Dario S. Basingil

Last April 15, 2007 after worship service we had a short program for the 45th Wedding Anniversary of our beloved Executive Director of Foreign Missions, the Rev. Harold Jones and his wife, Ma'am Sandra Jones. This program headed by the Board of Trustees President/Chief Executive Officer, the Rev. Andrino R. Segay. It is the first time they celebrated their wedding anniversary here in the Philippines, particularly in Puerto Princess City, Palawan.

Palawan Island was their first pioneering work in 1972 and now, at present, Palawan Philippines is under their supervision.



The Rev. Harold Jones speaking at the joint worship service at the Main Church FFWB PPC, Palawan



The Rev. Harold Jones and Ma'am Sandra Jones slicing the wedding cake

WITH RENEWED STRENGTH BETHEL FWB MISSION—Ramos, Arizpe, Mexico

by Rev. Antonio Escobar



The work here at Bethel Mission has been arduous and difficult for me and my wife. The Lord, however, has helped us to rescue these children and young people who appear in these photos. They belong to families with great problems, and a religion of idolatry. It was not easy to reach them, and it was not easy to convert them. It was a difficult task. The Lord touched their hearts and they are different today. They love the Lord. Their parents have started coming to the Temple. Their lives too have been changed, and so there is peace and joy in their homes; something they never had before. We are very happy for them. Our strength has been renewed as we continue preaching the Word of our Lord Jesus. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to save souls for His Kingdom. We are thankful to be a part of what God is doing in this place.



AWARDS BANQUET

On June 6, 2007, the residents and staff loaded the vans for our annual end of school/awards banquet dinner. The destination was CiCi's Pizza in Knightdale, NC.

This year, in addition to our high school graduate, we have four who are leaving junior high and will be starting high school in the fall. There were six who participated in extra-curricular activities, and one young lady who maintained an A average for the entire school year. Other awards that were presented were: best grades for language arts, math, social studies, science, highest grade point average, most studious, and most improved.

We are proud of all of the young men and women at the Children's Home, and it's always a pleasure and privilege to present awards to the children in care who have put forth their best effort during the school year.



61st Alumni Homecoming

- Sunday, July 8, 2007
- Speaker: Nancy Smith Lane, Alumna (1949-1960)
- Lunch will be served at 12:30 in Whitley Center





JULY 20, 2007

Don't forget, later this month, the Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church Layman's League is hosting the fourth annual Paper Products/Cleaning Supply drive for the Children's Home.

Call now to reserve your seats. Bring your supply donations and come out and enjoy a great evening of baseball, fireworks, and socializing.

MudCats Stadium, Zebulon, NC
(252) 235-CATS
for ticket information

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

The donations for our Change for Children Campaign are coming in. We want to express our sincere thanks to everyone who put forth an effort to make this campaign successful. The totals will be posted in the August issue.



Needs List

- Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Supplies, Dish Detergent, Paper products
- Personal Hygiene Items—Antiperspirant (boys and girls) Body lotions, Shampoo & Conditioner
- Twin Size Comforters
- 64 Stackable chairs (approximate cost \$2000)
- Computer supplies for cottage computers (photo paper, print cartridges) Call for details
- Filing Cabinets (4-drawer, fire proof)
- Large artificial Green Plants (ferns) for church
- (3) Basketball goals (fiberglass with rim) Call for details
- Summer trip Sponsor (\$2500)
- Cage Ball 72"—for recreation—(Can be seen online at Amazon.com under sports & outdoor equipment).
- Digital Camera

OUR FRIENDS OF CHILDREN PROGRAM

Some time ago, our Friends of Children program was started. Membership in this program is achieved with a monthly gift of \$20 or more to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. This program is still being implemented today. The program provides an easy way for church groups and individuals to give to the work of the Home. There are three levels of monthly giving recognized within the membership of the Friends of Children program. You may choose the category that matches your resources. Cornerstone \$100 plus, Foundation Members \$40-\$49, Friends \$20-\$39. These funds help with all aspects of providing for the children we have in care, some of which are: spiritual guidance, recreational activities, love and acceptance, preparation for successful independent adult living, education, extracurricular activities, as well as food and clothing.

When you become a member, you will receive an attractive Friends of Children Certificate, monthly Newsnotes to keep you up on current activities at the home, personal campus tours, annual reports of your giving, and most of all, personal satisfaction in knowing you are reaching out beyond yourself and sharing your resources, giving hope and a future to a child.

If you are not currently a member of our Friends of Children program, please consider becoming one today. Where else can you spend \$.66 per day and accomplish as much as you do when you become a Friend?

FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTRY TO CHILDREN "FRIENDS OF CHILDREN"

Statement of Faith

Because of my/our concern, commitment, and support to children, and the Child Care Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists,

I/we will become Friends of Children at the following level:

Cornerstone Member Foundation Member Friends

Name (Person/s or Group)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Church: _____

Enclosed you will find my first gift of \$ _____ I plan to begin

Please print your name as you wish it to appear on the award certificate. Normally, you will receive your award by mail within 30 days.

HOME SEEKS COA RE-ACCREDITATION



It's time once again to renew our re-accreditation. Our staff has begun to finalize our accreditation materials, including the complete self-study of our ministry.

The accreditation ensures that Free Will Baptist Children's Home meets "best practice" standards in all aspects of our ministry. Our self-study materials must be presented to the council by July 9, 2007. The Council will send a team of reviewers to our campus in September 16-19, and in January 2008, we should receive notice of our re-accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Service for Families and Children, New York.

Gary Lee, vice-president, is responsible for seeing us through the accreditation process. We have been working on the self-study for nearly a year. If you happen to stop by the home in the next couple of weeks, and you notice all of the doors throughout the office are closed, don't worry, we haven't abandoned ship; we're all just doing our part as a collective effort to complete the self-study.



PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963

Retirement Homes Ministry

RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

The Board of Directors and staff of your Retirement Homes Ministry want to thank everyone who visited our display at the annual convention. It was great to meet and talk with many of our wonderful people.

We were thrilled to learn that the Youth Convention had chosen Retirement Homes as their youth project for 2008. The project that has been selected is to do some maintenance work and some porch construction on our duplex located in Ayden. This work is very important to keep our duplex looking good and in a safe condition.

When your youth groups begin their fundraising for this project I hope you will give them your support financially and prayerfully.

Our youth have done some marvelous work in past years and I know it will continue.

We still have a wheel chair lift available that would mount on a full size van. If you know of someone who needs this equipment, please get in touch with me. It needs to be moved from where it is now because that space is needed by the church.

Again I say thank you to all the individuals and churches who continue to support this wonderful ministry. Without your continued support we could not minister to our clients and that would be a real shame.

*Ronnie Taylor,
Executive Director*

Camp Vandemere

CAMP VANDEMERE JULY 2007



The month of June has blessed Camp Vandemere with four weeks of youth and adults coming together to worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. Starting out our summer camping season during the first week of June was the Eastern District Woman's Week, guided by Mrs. Audrey "Stumpy" Quinn and Mrs. Judy Kennedy. Three weeks of youth camp followed with many areas of worship being enjoyed by all through interactive lessons and song, crafts and games, and one-on-one fellowship among counselors and campers. We have five remaining weeks of camp this year. Thanks go out to all the directors for their love and service for the ones they minister to during the summer months of camping.

Camp	Date	Contact Information
Spring Hope Church	July 8-13	Eva Mae Clark (252) 637-5346 Debbie Warren (252) 637-4560
New Bethlehem Church	July 15-20	Sandy Williams (252) 745-9840
General Youth Camp #2	July 22-27	The Reverend Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171
First Church of Wilson	July 29-August 3	Doug Radford (252) 230-9742
Branch's Chapel Church	August 5-10	The Reverend Terry Dennis (919) 284-6144

If you would like more information on the remaining weeks of camp being offered this year, please contact one of the directors above or the camp manager. The fee for a full week of camp this year is \$90 per camper. Each director, depending upon the level of activities for each camp week, will set the activity fee. For your information, addresses follow for the manager and treasurer.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor
Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 camp office
(252) 514-3222 cell

Damon Kennedy
Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 home
(910) 296-7100 cell



CAMP VANDEMERE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Second Annual Camp Vandemere Golf Tournament was held on Friday, June 1 beginning at 1 P.M. This year saw seven teams playing in this annual event with a lot of fellowship and fun had by all. Thanks goes out to the Events/Publicity Committee, chaired by the Reverend Ashley Summerlin and our camp manager, the Reverend Wesley Taylor, for all the work they put into making the golf tournament a success for the camp. More details and information will be available in the next issue of *The Free Will Baptist*.

STATE LAYMAN'S LEAGUE SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

The State Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat was held on Friday, June 1 and continued on Saturday, June 2. Approximately 48 laymen and spouses came together for a delicious seafood meal prepared by the camp's food service staff, then continued the evening with the business meeting and worship through Scripture and singing by the Good Old Boys. After the evening services, men gathered together to share in experiences and fellowship before turning in for the night. Saturday morning began with a beautiful sunrise over the Bay River and breakfast, then back for the first of two morning worship services. The first speaker, Mr. Michael Griffin from Harrell's Chapel Church near Snow Hill, brought

the Word through his message entitled, "The Resurrection of Life." The Reverend Mike Scott from Juniper Chapel Church near Vanceboro delivered his message entitled, "The Resurrection of Damnation." Both gentlemen brought to the group's attention the importance of spreading the message to all people and to make sure we address every opportunity that comes our way to help others in coming to a personal relationship with our Lord. Thanks go out to the Executive Board of the State Layman's League organization for bringing this annual event to Camp Vandemere for renewal of the layman's responsibility at all levels of ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP VANDEMERE

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| September 7-9 | Christian Emblem Weekend sponsored by the State Layman's League
This will be a weekend for boys' and girls' groups to learn more about Spiritual emblems used in our daily walk with Christ. |
| October 19-20 | Singin' By The River |
| November 2-3 | Annual Fishing Tournament |

Mark your calendars for these events. More information will be given in future issues of *The Free Will Baptist*.

Youth Convention

DEAL OR NO DEAL OFWB YOUTH CONVENTION, MAY 18–20, 2007

by Mary W. Allen

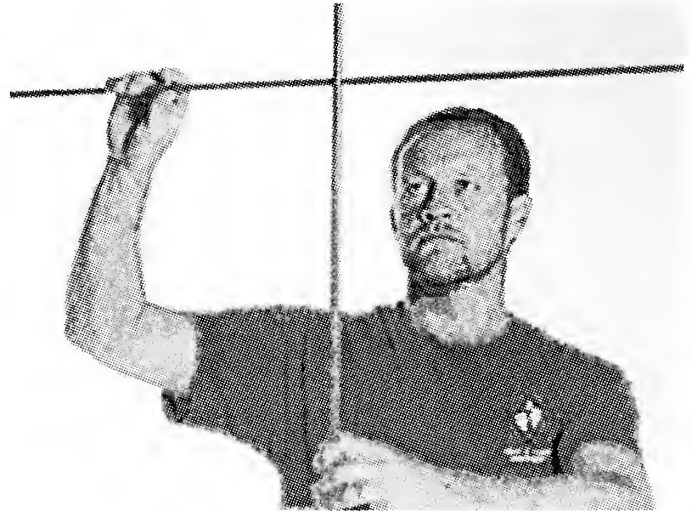
Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

This year's youth convention may have been one of the least attended in recent years, but for most, it was one of the best to attend. When the first general session began on Friday night, we knew we were in for an impressive weekend. While the Reverends Bryant Hines and Buddy Sasser tried their best to give away \$50 during the Deal or No Deal Challenge, the youthful contestants were not very lucky, but kept coming back for more. As a very young but amazingly talented group of cousins from Georgia led the audience in the theme song, "You Are Holy," heads began turning to question one another. "Are you hearing what I'm hearing?" The SonShines may range in age from 13–16 years, but a tremendously mature and genuine joy of serving the Lord through music overflowed from them each time they sang. During each praise and worship session, appreciation of their awesome voices grew. Everyone seemed to rush to be in place and not miss out on the amazing sound and heartfelt message these young people desired to express each time they took the stage.

Following The SonShines during each general session was another incredible talent. On Friday night, as Jeff Smith of Salt and Light Ministries began to share "The Cereal Song" more heads were turning to question, "Is he for real?" What began as a trip to the Piggly Wiggly for breakfast food quickly became the first of many side-splitting laughs to come for the weekend. Although Jeff Smith's background as a dramatist was evident in his presentations, his phenomenal storytelling abilities made biblical characters spring off the stage into hearts young and old. Mr. Smith's efforts to equip teens and children to share the Gospel story through creative music and ministries endeared him to the entire audience.

In addition to the wonderful general sessions, a wide array of Briefcase Workshops was offered Friday night and Saturday with something for everyone. Whether you wanted to learn something about martial arts, drama, music, painting, or duct taping crafts, opportunities were readily available.

For this writer, it was a youth convention unlike any other. I thoroughly enjoyed having the majority of activities in Raper Hall on the campus of Mount Olive College. From the wonderful auditorium to the spacious classrooms, we were welcomed and made to feel at home by Mount Olive staff. As the Sunday morning service ended with small



Jeff Smith of Salt and Light Ministries

groups of young people and adults fervently praying to God in thanksgiving, in repentance, and for direction, hearts were filled to capacity with the Good News of Jesus Christ. My only regret for the weekend was that more young people were not given the opportunity to be a part of something so extraordinary. If your youth missed this year's convention, please consider joining us the third weekend in May 2008, and reap the rewards for years to come.



The YFAs are working with duct tape to create wallets and purses.

TELLING THE STORY IN CLAYTON—POWHATAN OFWB CHURCH

Greetings from Powhatan and Happy Fourth of July!

Friday, May 4, was the date of the spring BBQ chicken plate fundraiser for Powhatan Church in Clayton. Over 750 plates were sold with profits of over \$2700 for the general fund.

Four from Powhatan's Woman's Auxiliary attended the Cape Fear Study Course by Jean Ackiss on the *Manual of Methods* at Oak Grove on Saturday, May 5. There were 64 in attendance with representatives from 12 district churches. Thank you to the women from Oak Grove Church for hosting and supplying the delicious breakfast.

Julie Capps and Rita Jones attended the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention at Pleasant Grove Church in Pikeville on Thursday, May 10, accepting Powhatan Auxiliary's A-1 award. There were 179 present with President Joan Little of the Central District (King's Crossroads Church) receiving the Life Membership Award.

The annual Mother-Daughter Banquet was held on Saturday evening, May 12. Sherry Cole Pourron, daughter of deacon and trustee Bunk Cole, presented the evening's devotion and wor-

ship in song. Her mother, Alice, was in the hospital but improving and wanted her to come and speak as planned even though she was not able to attend. The theme was Hawaiian and there was some special entertainment that President Ann Narron surprised the group with.

Over 20 from Powhatan attended the Youth Convention May 18-20 and were blessed by the speaker Jeff Smith of Salt & Light Ministries and praise and worship band—Son Shine. Our own Kim Canady was installed as the new Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary.

Pastor Jim Bogle and deacons Mark Guy and Dan Harden represented Powhatan at the State Convention held May 22-24. Rita Jones attended as a delegate for the Cape Fear Union and helped at the Youth Convention display for part of the event. Many churches that had not been able to attend the Youth Convention the previous weekend stopped at the display and picked up program books to take back to their churches.

Powhatan continues to try to spread God's Word and honor the theme of, "Go...tell the story."



Some of the Powhatan group at the Youth Convention at MOC.



The Layman's League at Rose of Sharon FWB Church in Bear Grass honored their graduates on Friday, May 11. All enjoyed a delicious meal, singing, and Scripture. Congratulations and best wishes for a bright future!

Pictured from left to right: front row: Daniel Cratt, Lauren Cowin, Ashley Peele. Back row: Jason Cowin, Taylor Manning. Photo was taken with Pastor Bryant Hines and his wife Karen Hines.

NEWS FROM YELVERTON GROVE

submitted by Carolyn Stallings

The Yelverton Grove Youth Fellowship has been busy, busy, busy this spring. The hard working leaders of the Youth Fellowship are Vivian Stephenson and Janice Ward.

First of all, the YFA hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on a cool, overcast Saturday. We had a large group of kids and parents to attend. Although it was a little chilly, they didn't seem to mind the weather and had a good time enjoying the hunt, crafts, food, and candy.

Then on March 24, the YFA held a spaghetti supper with the help of church members. Over 160 tickets were sold to the church and surrounding community. Not bad for a first try. It has been several years since this type of fundraiser has been tried by the YFA. The money raised will go toward sending several of our young people to Cragmont this year.

The leaders, their husbands, the youth, and a lot of the women and men of the church worked weeks before holding a huge yard sale/bake sale on May 26. In fact, they had so many items left-over from the first one that they decided to have another the next weekend. The proceeds from these sales will go to the campers.

For Mother's Day, the YFA leaders and several of the members/adults made really nice flowers out of polymer clay for the ladies of the church. They were tedious to make and were very much appreciated. There were lots of "oohs" and "ahhs" that day.

So as you can see, the leaders and youth have been really been active this spring and we're sure that the campers being sponsored to go to Cragmont will have a great uplifting time of fellowship and learning.

Mrs. Verna Hines McLawhorn, a former editorial assistant at the The Free Will Baptist Press, died on Sunday, May 27, 2007. She was born on November 21, 1921 to Edward and Minnie Noble Hines. She was married to Charlie E. McLawhorn for 36 years until his death.

She was a faithful member of Winterville Original Free Will Baptist Church for more than 70 years. During her years there, she was active in teaching the Junior Boys Sunday School class, sang in the adult choir and the Ladies Trio, and served on the Benevolence committee. She was civic minded, having served on the Ayden Planning Board for several terms. She was also a member of the Degree of Pocahontas.

CAPE FEAR WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

submitted by Carolyn Jernigan

On April 7, 2007, at Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn, NC, the Cape Fear Women Auxiliary Convention was held. The theme for this year was The Mustard Seed of Faith from Matthew 13:31-32. Mrs. Angela Warren led the opening hymn "At Calvary." Mrs. Jane Parker, Cape Fear President, welcomed delegates, ministers, and visitors. Ms. Wanda Johnson led in prayer and Mrs. Teresa Eason gave the devotion on "Faith." Mrs. Estaline Tart, shared announcements for those attending.

During the Business Session, Mrs. Betty Strickland read the minutes of last meeting and executive meeting. Mrs. Strickland received the Dola Dudley Award presented to her by Ms. Wanda Johnson. Her family members present were two daughters, Teresa Lane and Myra Peedin; son, Mr. Robbin Strickland; a sister, Mrs. Hilda Starling and a brother, the Rev. Charles Lynn Renfrow, President of NC State Convention. She was excited and thrilled to see her family present for this presentation. Teresa Lane sang, "I call Him Lord" and

Myra Peedin sang, "My God will make a way."

Everyone enjoyed the talents of this family. Mr. Renfrow gave the denominational ministries' report assisted by those who were present. Offering was taken and divided among our ministries. A Study Course on the *Manual of Methods* will be on May 5, 2007 at Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, NC at 9 A.M. Mrs. Jean Ackiss will conduct this for the Cape Fear Auxiliaries.

After a short break, the hymn "At the Cross" was sung. The committees gave their reports and the business session closed. Amy Jackson, a music teacher in the Clinton, NC school system, rendered a trumpet solo. "Sweet Hour of Prayer" was sung before Mr. Renfrow delivered the morning message. The new officers were installed. Mrs. May Pittman of Greenville, NC. President Parker then had our Memorial Service for those who had died since last year. The benediction and meal blessing was delivered by the Rev. Ricky Warren, pastor of Lee's Chapel Church.

The Cape Fear Fall Convention will be at Palmer Memorial OFWB Church on October 6, 2007. All auxiliaries are urged to send in a nominee for the Dola Dudley and Life Membership awards to Mrs. Jane Parker.

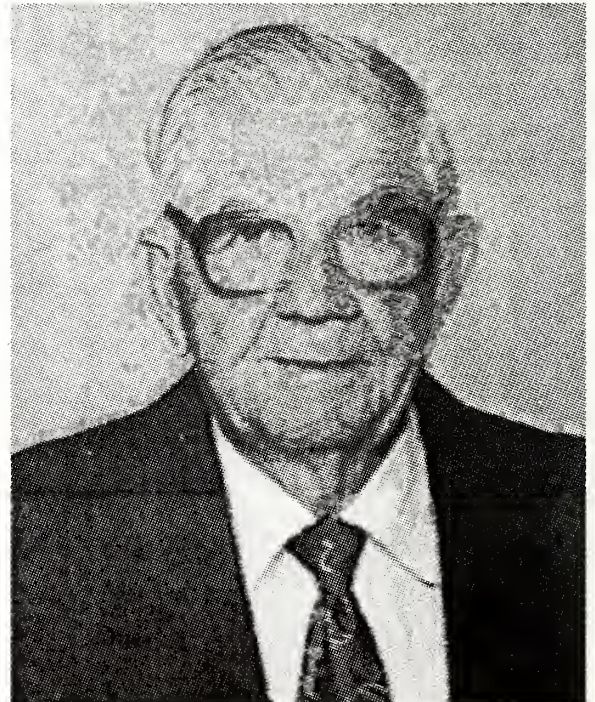
MR. GEORGE THOMAS TOTSO, JR. RECEIVES 50 YEAR PIN

During Sunday School services on June 3, 2007, Mr. George Thomas "Tom" Totso, Jr. was awarded his 50 Year Pin. Mr. Tom is the first member of Edwards Chapel Free Will Baptist Church to have accumulated so many years of perfect attendance. When asked how he was able to attain so many years without missing a Sunday, he said he was blessed with good health. But we know that it has been more than good health because in 2002, he had open heart surgery on Tuesday and attended Sunday School and morning worship services the following Sunday. This tells us that devotion, dedication, and love for God's work played a major role.

Mr. Tom has other Sunday School accomplishments where longevity for him is the norm. He has been teacher of the Adult Class for 47 plus years. He has also served as Sunday School Superintendent, and Alternate Superintendent.

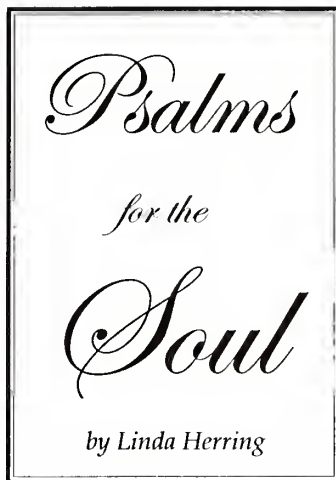
He holds many church assignments in addition to his Sunday School functions. Mr. Tom has been a deacon since 1948 and senior deacon since 1982. He is a member of the board of trustees, serving since 1996.

A covered dish lunch was held in Mr. Tom's honor following the morning services.



The Bible Speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. God will give us much more than we ask. Abraham asked God that Ishmael might live before him. He thought that surely he was the promised heir. Abraham could not expect Sarah to have a child in her old age. God had promised him an heir. It must be Ishmael. God granted his request but He still gave him Isaac and all the blessings of the covenant.

Psalm 21:4 says that David asked life from God, and He gave it to him,



“...length of days forever and ever.” Yes, God not only gave David a long life, but also the throne for his sons forever. God is sufficient for all our needs. He has blessed us with so many good things. God has given us love, joy, peace. God saved us by sending His Son, Jesus, to die in our place. God gives more than what we could ever think to ask. Let’s keep asking, keep seeking, and keep serving. We are too blessed to be stressed. Do not let the stresses of the day steal our psalm.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT OF SPRING BRANCH CHURCH

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 7 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, June 24, 1953, Vol. 68–No. 25. The article was entitled Spring Branch to Observe Fiftieth Anniversary.)

At its quarterly conference on the fourth of July, 1953, Spring Branch Church of the Walstonburg community in Greene County, will have completed the fiftieth year of service to its people. It was organized under the leadership of Elder J. T. Bundy in July of 1903, he being the first pastor and filling that place for seven years. Succeeding him the following ministers have served in that capacity and are listed in the order of their service:

The Revs. F. McLawhorn, C. J. Harris, R. E. Edmundson, D. W. Alexander, J. K. Ruffin, W. M. Howell, E. B. Joyner, J. C. Moye, A. L. Davidson, M. A. Woodard, R. N. Hinnant, J. A. Evans, W. L. Moretz, M. L. Johnston, J. R. Forrest, J. E. Wooten, J. Albert Harris, S. A. Smith, and A. B. Bryan, who is the present pastor.

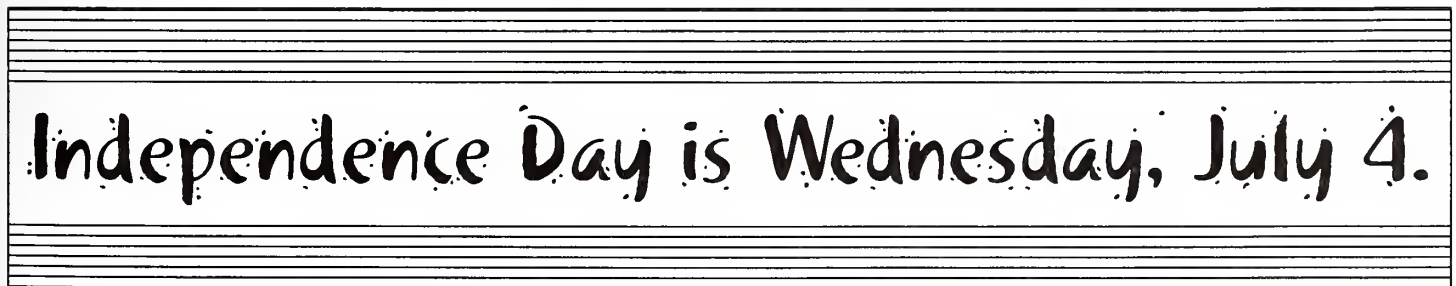


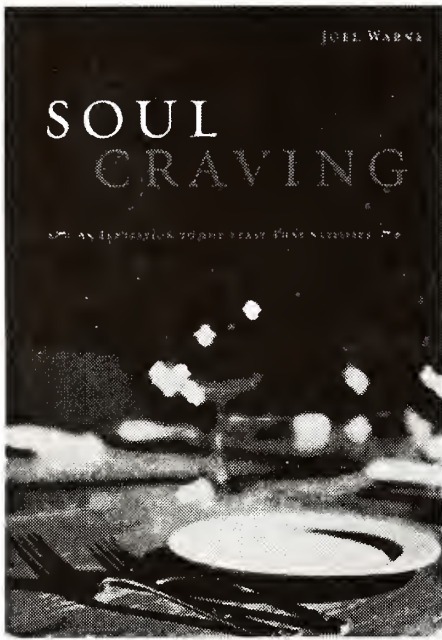
In April of 1937 while the Rev. James A. Evans was pastor a Sunday School was begun which is now in its seventeenth year of continuous service. During his pastorate more space was added to the building.

In 1949, while the Rev. J. Albert Harris was pastor, a Young People’s League was organized and since that time has rendered splendid service as a young people’s group.

During the pastorate of the Rev. S. A. Smith, further improvements were made on the building and the grounds. The influence of the church has gone steadily forward to the present time.

The church is now on half-time service; the regular appointments being on first and third Sundays of each month.





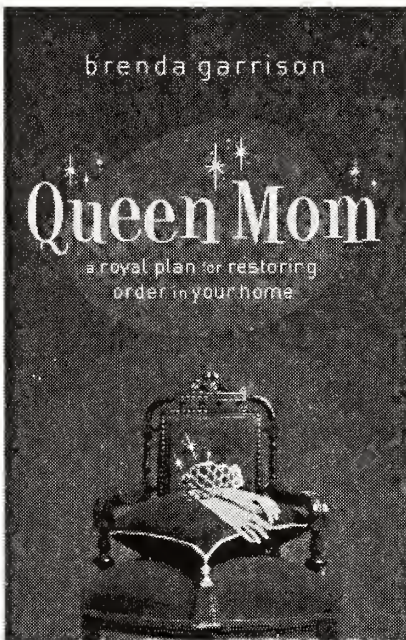
SOUL CRAVING

An Invitation to the Feast That Satisfies

by Joel Warne

Softcover, 280 pages, Standard Publishing
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This succinct spiritual formation guide invites ordinary people in the pew to satisfy their soul craving for God by feasting on true spiritual food—the essential practices and postures of the heart that result in loving intimacy with Him.



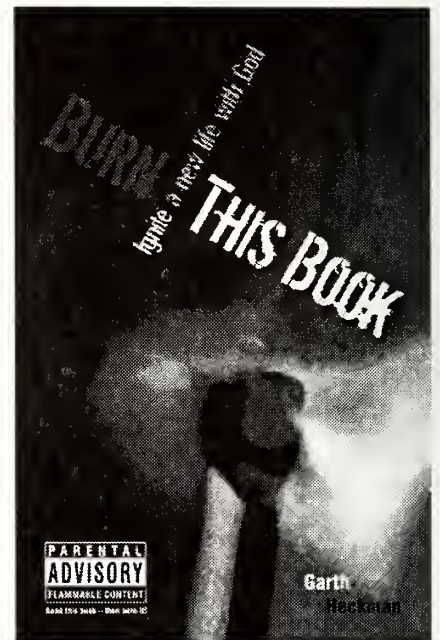
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by Brenda Garrison

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Inside *Queen Mom*, Brenda explains how you relinquished control of your throne, why you need to develop God's vision for your kingdom, and how to restore peace and order in your castle. You'll also learn why you need to show your kids the world does not revolve around them, how to help them handle their emotions, and how to prepare and release your kids into the real world.



BURN THIS BOOK

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by Garth Heckman

Softcover, 156 pages, Standard Publishing
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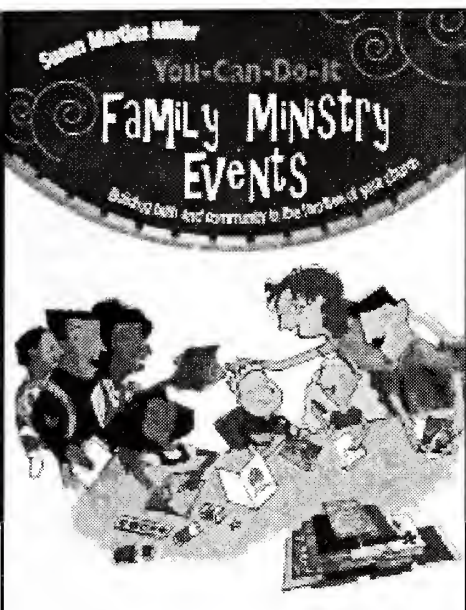
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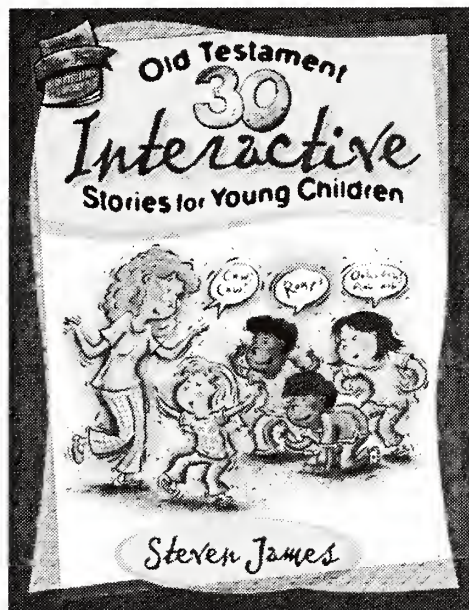


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by Susan Martins Miller

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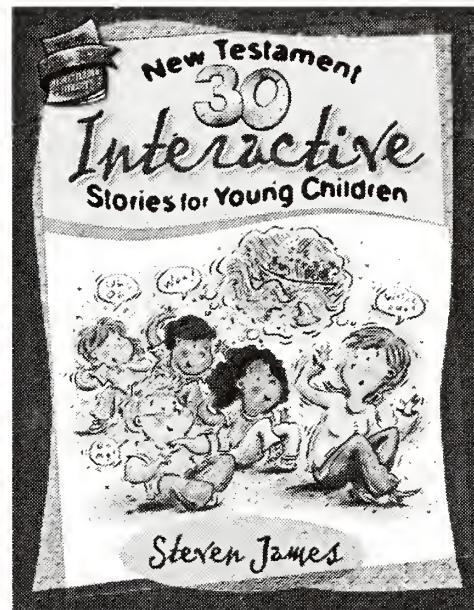
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THE REVEREND TIM LAWRENCE is available for pastoral, supply, interim and evangelistic work. He may be reached by phone at (252) 504-2775 or (252) 732-5832 or by mail at 165 Arrington Road, Beaufort, NC 28516.

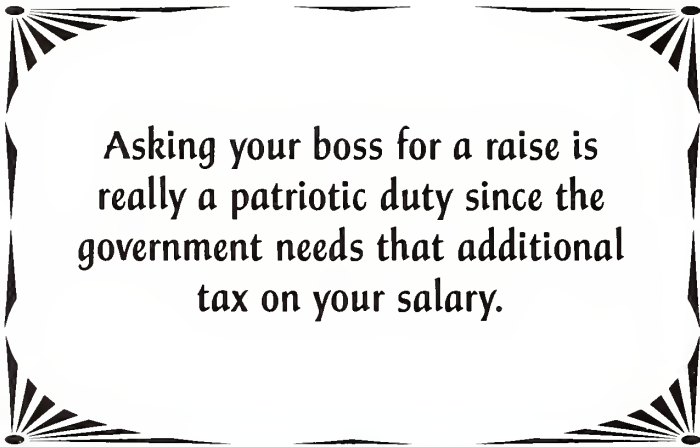
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- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
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Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you had to use the same water, when you could find it, to bathe, cook food, drink, etc.? Well there are circumstances in the lives of many people for which this is the case. Many countries in the world have very little, if any, clean water to drink. When disaster strikes here and in other countries, water seems to be the first commodity that is polluted. Just what can we do about that? The Sunday School Ministry would like to suggest a possible way that we can help ease the burden. If your church is using the Standard Publishing Company's VBS program this year entitled, **Take the Plunge: Make a Splash for Jesus**, you might consider taking an offering during the week and using one or both of the following projects to help ease the burden of having clean water to drink.

† Foreign Missions Well Drilling Projects
(Cost between \$250 and \$500 per well)

† Home Missions and Evangelism: Harvest Connection Disaster Relief
(Purchase bottled water to have on hand in case of disasters)

This suggestion is in response to many who have asked about the use of their VBS offerings this summer. The program from Standard Publishing Company emphasizes 'servanthood' during the week and stresses how Jesus used water in His ministry. Sometimes we take our lives for granted and think nothing about going to the tap and getting fresh water. Let's join together in the name of the Lord and help provide clean water to those who are in need!

From Matthew 10:42, we find these words of our Lord:

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, He shall in no wise lose his reward."



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			1	2	3	4 Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip (Camp Morelos) (4-12)
5	6 Cragmont's Pee Dee Youth Conference (6-9)	7	8	9	10 Coastal MACEA (10-11)	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOTES:

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September 10—OFWB Convention Open Golf Fellowship
 November 17—Friends of Children Day

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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Russell Corbitt, Western

The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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2 years (24 issues) \$27.00
4 years (48 issues) \$53.00.

Bundle Plan (\$8.50 each): Lots of 12 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these.

Every-Family Plan (\$11.75 each): The church provides us the names and addresses of every member and we send them to each home. Churches are billed quarterly.

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CONTENTS

August 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 8

FEATURES

5 Easy Yoke Unrecognized



DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Monthly Planner
- 20 Woman's Auxiliary
- 22 People & Events

COLUMNS

- 4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer
- 26 Financial Planning:
A Biblical Perspective
by Don Fader, Guest Writer
- 27 Psalms for the Soul
by Linda Herring, Guest Writer
- 27 Golden Oldies

ET CETERA

- 24 In Plea to God: A Sonnet
by Celia Hales

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 6 Convention News
- 10 OFWB International
- 13 Sunday School Ministry
- 14 Children's Home
- 15 Mount Olive College



POWER VERSE

A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord:
but a man of wicked devices will he condemn
(Proverbs 12:2).

OUR OLDEST MINISTRY

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

My direct association with the Free Will Baptist Press began in 1958 when I was asked by the editor, the Reverend J. O. Fort, if I would write the lessons for *The Bible Student* quarterly (now known as the *Young Adult Bible Student*). Under his instructions I gave it a try, and a few months later was offered the position of assistant editor and later the editorship. I was serving in this capacity during the turbulent days in connection with the Sunday School Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Shortly after, in 1962, I left the Press to accept the pastorate of the First OFWB Church in Goldsboro. I returned to the Press as editor in 1963, remaining until December of 1969. Twenty-eight years later, I returned once again as editor, serving until August of 2002. From time to time, during those in-between years, I wrote several quarters of Sunday School lessons.

My association with this ministry has covered more than a third of my fifty-five years in the ministry, but it did not end in 2002. For almost a year I have served on the board of directors of the Press, filling the unexpired term of Mrs. Nina Grace Register. I now find myself writing some of the

same thoughts I have shared many times over the years—my love and deep concern for the oldest of our ministries, dating back to 1885. So, please excuse me if I touch on a matter I have written about many times—support for this worthy ministry—as well as support for all our ministries.

Anyone who knows the history of the Free Will Baptist Press, realizes it has been a mainstay for our denomination from its very beginning. The pages of *The Free Will Baptist* have served the denomination well, and continues to do so. It has had its ups and downs, and there was a time when literature sales exceeded today's. With the withdrawal of our Convention from the National Association in 1962, Sunday School literature declined, but the Press continued to do quite well.

Through the years, and especially during recent years, the publishing and sale of Sunday School literature, job printing, and Bible and book sales have become more and more competitive, placing more challenges before our own ministry, one of them being the slackness and waning of denominational loyalty.

—To be continued

Reflections

Clip and mail with contribution to:

Free Will Baptist Press • ATTN: Editor • 3928 Lee Street • Ayden, NC 28513

The Press to \$125,000! Capital Campaign

Church Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Name _____ Phone (include area code) _____

Our Support Level Is:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> \$100-249 Publisher's Club | <input type="radio"/> \$1,000-2,499 Editor's League |
| <input type="radio"/> \$250-499 Proofreader's Club | <input type="radio"/> \$2,500-4,999 Writer's Guild |
| <input type="radio"/> \$500-999 Designer's Club | <input type="radio"/> \$5,000+ Foundation Builder |

Our Total Gift of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Our Total Gift of \$ _____ will be made over a 2 year period.

Payments of \$ _____ will be made: Monthly Quarterly Semiannually Annually

Please Note: Churches may give freely. However, for itemized tax deduction purposes, individuals should give through their church. In order to do this, a church must set up a fund for the Free Will Baptist Press and give through that fund. Individuals who take the standard tax deduction, may give up to the amount designated by law.

EASY YOKE UNRECOGNIZED

by Celia Hales

My great-grandmother, Celia Hart Garris, in life a member of the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church, lived to the age of 96. I was 30 years old when she died, painlessly, of a massive stroke in 1977. Those 30 years were blessed ones for me, for I count as one of my greatest bounties on this Earth the opportunity to be close to “Granny,” as her grandchildren and their offspring called her. I hope that now, in Heaven (for surely she is there), she knows Jesus meant rest for the weary and the burdened in spirit.

My musings harken back to an afternoon at least ten years before her death, when she was in the good physical health that sustained her well. I went in to awaken her from her afternoon nap, and she rose to put on the sturdy heels that she wore all her adult life. “Why does the Lord leave me here?” she asked plaintively. And she went on, “I can’t work anymore.” I cuddled her immediately in my arms, for she was a petite lady, and I hugged her close. I told her passionately in what I think must have been truly inspired words, “So we can love you, Granny,” I cried, “That’s why you’re still here.”

I’ve thought of that exchange often over the years since. My great-grandmother had a mild but chronic fatigue all her adult years. She tended the sick in her extended family, but would come home so emotionally exhausted that she had to go to bed herself. This work, though, is what she

thought she was born for; it is clear to me after my college years that the Protestant work ethic died hard in her.

I do not believe that Granny recognized the blessing she gave her family as she aged. Nieces, nephews, cousins, her own offspring and their families—all came to visit “Granny,” or “Aunt Celie” or “Miss Celie” as some called her. (Rarely was she called “Mrs. Garris.”) She was the most saintly individual I have ever known, and as a role model I’ve never found another more challenging. At her funeral, the minister said, “If Miss Celie couldn’t say something good about somebody, she didn’t say anything at all.” Dr. W. Burkette Raper (the minister) indicated to me, later on, that it was not intentional that he looked at me when he said those words. But the words are, by now, etched in my heart as a goal to be sought but still not yet reached.

Yes, my great-grandmother knew too much of the work that was once Christian duty, as she believed. Perhaps the work was indeed God’s will for her. But I hope that now she realizes that the easy yoke of sitting in her chair in the family room, and being graceful and loving, were gifts beyond measure to the many who sought her out in her later years.

Celia Hales is a former religion librarian who lives with her husband in Oxford, Mississippi. Her heritage is Original Free Will Baptist.





UNITY + DIVERSITY = STRENGTH

Observations from the Office of Convention Services

Since 2005 we have had the privilege of traveling across our denomination to share the message of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and its ministries. In establishing a solid public relations program, we have tried to promote unity and honor the diversity that exists among us while maintaining the biblical correctness of our doctrine as found in the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*, hereafter referred to as the *Articles of Faith*.

There are two dynamic factors that bring **strength** to our denomination. The first factor is a sense of **unity** that comes from an understanding of and adherence to biblical doctrine as found in the *Articles of Faith*. Each of our eight conferences (can you name them?) have adopted the *Articles of Faith* as their doctrinal foundation and governmental structure. Every church should have received the Holy Bible and a copy of the *Articles of Faith* and the Church Covenant upon their admission into its respective conference. Every church member should receive a copy of the *Articles of Faith* and is required to hear, understand, and agree to the Church Covenant prior to becoming a member of any OFWB congregation. We are all Christians because of our faith in Christ Jesus as Savior. We are Original (of our own) Free Will Baptists because of our acceptance of the *Articles of Faith*.

The second factor that brings **strength** to our denomination is the **diversity** that exists among us. As I write this article from my home, I can name at least ten different OFWB Churches, from two different conferences, within a 10 mile radius. Each church differs in many ways:

1. Structurally, they are all different in appearance, material, capacity, and floor-plan.
2. Their worship services range from structured formality to freedom of expression.
3. Their music varies from traditional to contemporary to praise and worship.
4. Demographics include farmers, teachers, migrant workers, doctors, lawyers, accountants, young, old, in-between, black, white, and Hispanic.
5. The pastors are all middle-aged or older, and each one is unique in style, mannerisms, dress, and sermon delivery. Several of these churches are multi-staffed and the minister's education level varies from high school diplomas to secondary degrees.
6. Attendance ranges from less than 50 to several hundred.

Each of these congregations is free to worship, conduct business, and extend ministry to their community in a manner that is best suited for them. And the community population has a vari-

ety of worship service options, music preferences, preaching styles, and membership personalities from which to choose.

The **unity** of our denomination does not come from everyone agreeing on all issues. That will never happen on this earth. Even so, disagreements on issues involving church government, procedures, policies, and even interpretations of these issues can easily be resolved if the differing parties, in Christian love and respect, will simply acknowledge their differences, respect one another's beliefs, and "agree to disagree." The unity of our denomination comes from our willingness to listen to the opinions and feelings of others while being committed to our *Articles of Faith* as we understand them.

The strength of our denomination finds its roots in human diversity. While the message of the Gospel does not change, those who hear it do. Family, friends, class-mates, co-workers, and acquaintances all have their part in influencing our lives.

The heart cries out, "I am not like everyone else and they are not like me. My needs and wants are uniquely different." Our search for God is influenced by our search for self. The **diversity** of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination provides a congregation close by that is equipped with exactly what it takes to assist you in that search.

UNITY—(Understanding who we are as Original Free Will Baptists while being committed to the Word of God and dedicated to the *Articles of Faith*)

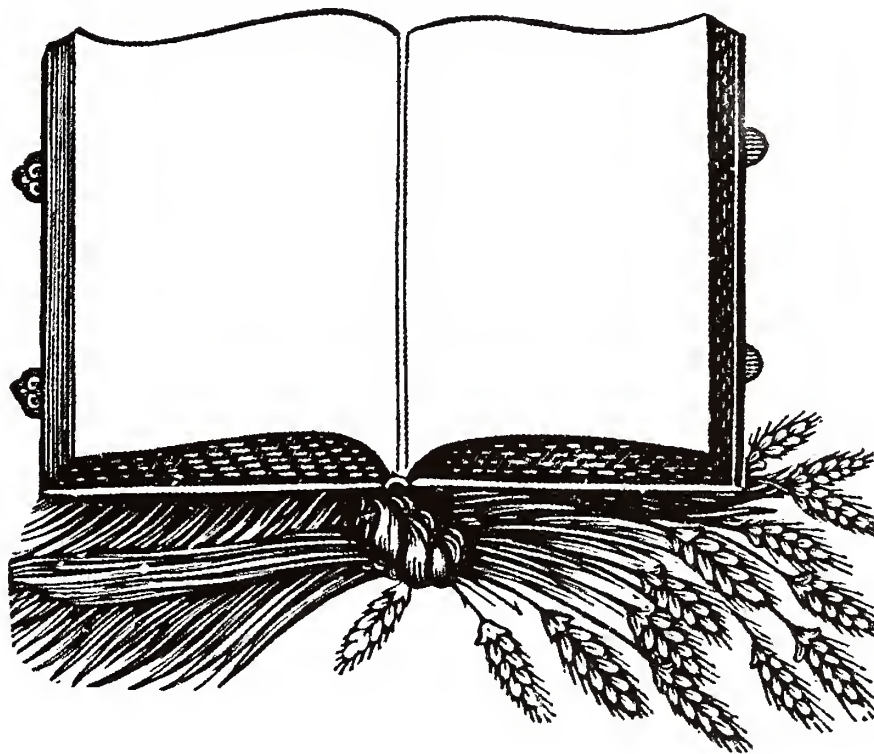
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DIVERSITY—(Accepting others for who they are and the churches that fit their needs)

=

STRENGTH—(Dedication, Commitment, Endurance)

Next Month: Show and Tell; Improving the Focus of Your Congregation



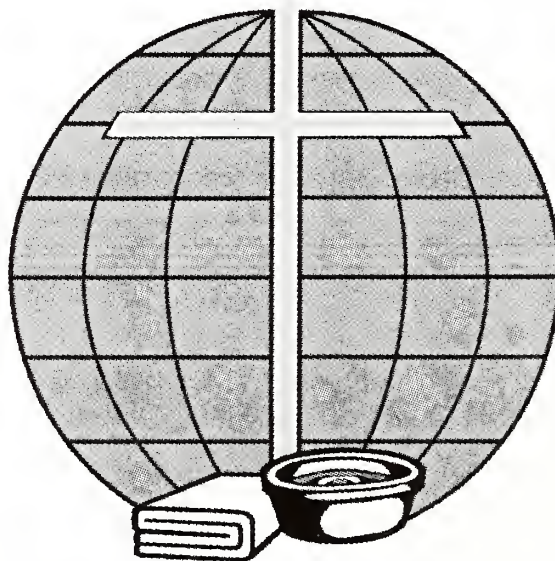
AUGUST is ...

HERITAGE MONTH

Have you ever researched your family tree? If so, then you know something about your family heritage. Original Free Will Baptists can be very proud of our roots. Why not visit the Historical Room at Mount Olive College during the month of August to learn more about your Christian family's beginnings. You will be inspired by the vision and courage of our founding fathers.

All of the ministries of our denomination are able to carry on the work assigned to them because of the faithful support of friends and family like you. The Convention is where all of these ministries were born. We, too, depend upon your generosity to fulfill the mission given to us. Your special offering this month will help us continue that work. Thank you.

Celebrating Two Hundred Eighty Years of Christian Witness



The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
1727-2007



The 11th Annual Original Free Will Baptist Convention Open Golf Fellowship

Monday, September 10, 2007
Happy Valley Country Club
Wilson, NC

FORMAT

4-Man Superball—9 A.M. Shotgun Start

TEES

Junior—Under 50—Back Tee
Senior—50 to 59—Middle Tee
Super Senior—60+—Front Tee

TWO PLAYING DIVISIONS

Open Play—Through Age 59
Super Senior—At least three players 60+

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR

Closest to the Pin
Straightest Drive

WIN A FREE VACATION!

Enter the Sand Trap Challenge and Win \$500

WIN A NEW CAR!

This Tournament is limited to the first 25 teams with paid entry fees.

** No team is guaranteed a spot until all team members have paid. **

DISCLAIMER: This tournament is sponsored by the Convention Free Will Baptists. By your signature below, your team agrees to the following: 1) NO alcoholic beverages will be allowed. Violation will result in immediate dismissal from this tournament, with forfeiture of all fees paid. 2) Members of your team will not hold the Convention, its Executive and Tournament Committee, the Tournament Director, or Happy Valley Country Club, its members or staff liable for loss due to personal injury, weather, theft, or the conduct of other players. 3) The decisions of the Tournament Committee in all matters will be final.

Signed: _____ Team Captain

TEAM MEMBERS

CAPTAIN:

CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS:

CAPTAIN'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PLAYER 2

PLAYER 3

PLAYER 4

Team Division
(check one)

Open
(Through age 59)

Super Senior
(At least 3 team
members must
be 60 years old)

Entry Fee:

\$55 per player—\$220 per team

No Mulligans or Red Bombs will be sold.

Please pay in full, in advance
to assure team's spot.

Make checks payable to:
OFWB Convention

MAIL ENTIRE FORM TO:

Buddy Sasser
P. O. Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513

Call (252) 746-4963 for more information

NOTE: The \$5 Sand Trap Skills Challenge fee
may be paid at the Tournament



A BUILDING MADE BY HANDS AND A HOME IN HEAVEN

by Harold Jones

The first Short-Term Team to Mexico this summer constructed a house in Acuña for Eva, Geraldo, and family. This family of six slept in one room with a leaky roof made of canvas and black plastic. They had attached a small room on the side made of scrap material where they cooked. The restroom was an outhouse with a water seal (a toilet that has to be flushed with a bucket) that was used by several different families. The team, including our Mexican brothers, began work on Monday morning, June 18, and worked long hours each day, except for Wednesday when we were forced to stop because of rain. The Lord, however, blessed our work and we were able to cover half the roof with tin by Thursday afternoon and complete the task on Friday morning. We did not completely finish the house, but the family moved in on Friday afternoon following our departure. They will continue to work on the house until it is complete.

The house is made of cement block, with steel doors and windows and a tin roof. It has one open room that serves a kitchen, dining room, and liv-

ing room, two bedrooms, and a bath. We held a brief dedication on Friday afternoon. Tears of joy were shed by the family and several of the members of the team. It is a wonderful blessing to be able to give a dear family a decent place to live. We praise the Lord, because He is the Giver of all good things. This was truly an extreme makeover, but a practical one. The house has no frills, but any of us could live in this house and be comfortable and greatly blessed.

The women on our team ministered to many children and adults through Vacation Bible School and Women's Bible Studies. Seeds of the Gospel were planted in the children's hearts that we pray will produce fruit in years to come. Thursday, during the Women's Bible Study, Juanita trusted Christ as her Savior. Now she has a wonderful home in Heaven. To give a physical house is a wonderful thing, but to give the Gospel that brings a soul to the Lord is far better.

Our theme verse was Ephesians 4:28, ... *Let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*



Juanita

A BUILDING MADE BY HANDS AND A HOME IN HEAVEN



Women's Bible study



Vacation Bible School



The Geraldo house prior to construction



The family of six living in the home



The crew that worked on the family's home



The family's new home

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL SONGS OLD BUNCAG FFWBC, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Pastor Arnel F. Cuba

Every one of us has a gift or talent, which God has given and entrusted to each individual. God expects us to give this talent back to Him for the glory of His name. These are children from First Free Will Baptist Church, Old Buncag. They are joyful and excited to render special songs every Sunday for the Lord. Not only the children, even the adults also. They believe that through this they praise and glorify God and are a part of God's ministry.

Please continue to pray for us that God's Word may grow in their hearts and their actions will radiate His love and joy.



A NOTE OF THANKSGIVING

by Bro. Freddie J. Flores

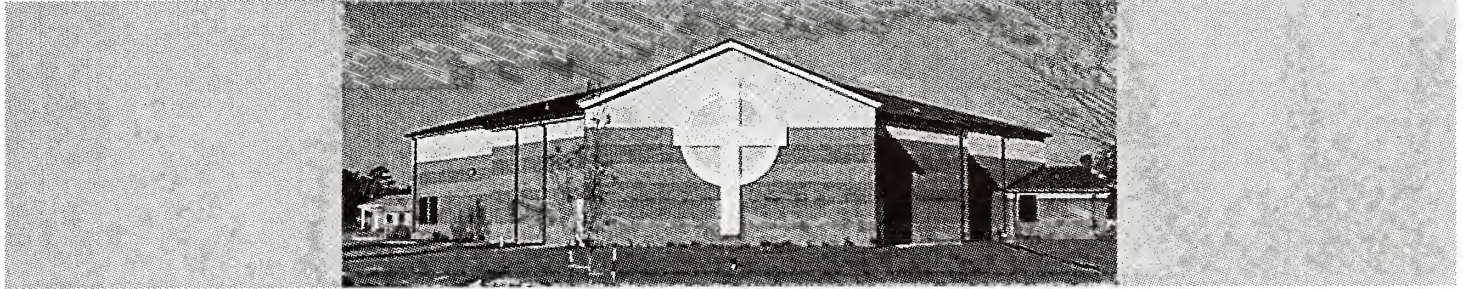
I am so thankful for the financial assistance that was provided by our brethren in the U. S. Because of this, my illness was cured. I was confined in the hospital last March 13, 3007 for the surgical operation. In March, at exactly 2 P.M., the operation was performed, and by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ through prayers the said operation was successfully done. I was in the hospital four days. I took a rest for almost a month and had weekly check-ups to secure that everything was healing properly. I believe and trust God and claim that I am already well.

Once again, thank you very, very much. I believe and pray that God will continue to bless you for your kindness and goodness, especially to the needy. You are always included in our prayer. Thank you and God bless you all!





COASTAL MACEA ANNOUNCES A NEW LOCATION



The Coastal Satellite of the Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association (COASTAL MACEA) is changing its location this year from the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern to the **New Bern Church of God** at 1230 Colony Drive in New Bern, NC. Their web address is <www.newbernchurchofgod.com>.

Directions to the church are as follows:

Traveling East on Highway 70:

Take the Glenbourne exit, turn left and follow this street until you get to Neuse Blvd.

Turn left and immediately turn left on Colony Drive and you will see the church on the left.

Traveling South on Highway 17:

Turn right on Highway 43 and right on Neuse Blvd, then left on Colony Drive.

Traveling North on Highway 17:

Turn left on Glenbourne, before you get to Twin Rivers Mall and follow the directions above.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Church _____

Church Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Registration Fees: \$25—Friday, August 10, 2007
\$25—Saturday, August 11, 2007
\$45—Both days

*** IMPORTANT ***

Make checks payable to Coastal MACEA

**70 Workshops, Exhibits,
Good Food,
Great Fellowship,
and Much Learning!**

For further information, complete the form and return to:

Mrs. Mary Dudley
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963
director@ofwbsundayschool.org

Mrs. Angel Lorton
105 Ann Court
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 637-7967
aandj@suddenlink.net

Please mail registration by August 7, 2007. Walk-ins are more than welcome. Meals are included in the registration fee. However, if you are not pre-registered by Tuesday, August 7, 2007, you will be responsible for your own meals.

*If your church brings 5 people, the 6th one will be free.
If 10 people are brought, the 11th and 12th ones are free.*

Exhibits will be open: Friday: 12:30 P.M.—9:10 P.M.
Saturday: 7:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

- If you wish to record any of the sessions, please feel free to bring your own tape recorder.
- For your comfort, you might want to bring a jacket or sweater.



Coastal Satellite of the Mid-Atlantic
Christian Education Association

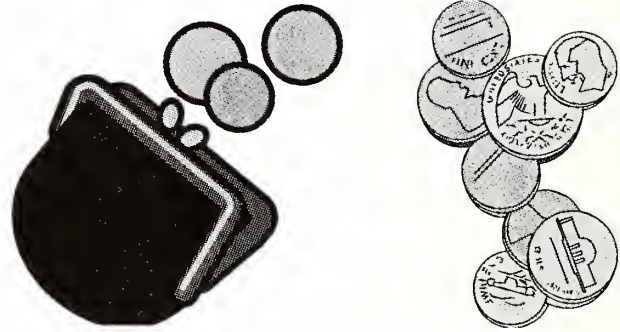
"People of the Way"



CHANGE FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

The funds for our Change For Children Campaign are still coming in. So far, we have received monies from more than 94 of our sister churches for this campaign. If your church hasn't sent in their collection yet, it's not too late.

Thanks to all who have contributed to our 2007 Change For Children campaign.



Summer recreation is in full swing. So far, the children at the home learned to make healthy snacks, worked on crafts, including stained glass, paper maché, and woodworking. Also, each child is making a personal scrapbook to capture memories.

In addition to these planned activities through the 4-H Summer Recreation program, the campus pool has also been a highlight of the summer.

Some of the children are working part-time jobs through WIA (Workforce Investment Act); others are working on campus, assisting our Director of Physical Affairs.

These summer activities help teach responsibility, as well as provide fun and entertainment during the summer vacation.



Mark your calendar now to attend:

Friends of Children Day

When: November 17, 2007

Where: Whitley Center

Time: 12:00 (noon)

Speaker: Dr. Bobby Taylor

Please join us for lunch and the afternoon service, our way of saying thanks.

Needs List

Personal Hygiene Items

- Antiperspirant for Boys and Girls
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body Lotions
- Bath Powder
- Photo Paper

***Summer Trip Sponsor (\$2500)



2007 PLANNING SESSIONS FOR MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE DINNERS

A schedule of the Planning Sessions to coordinate the annual dinners for the College is listed below. The pastor, local chairperson, and other interested persons are encouraged to attend. The date for the dinner will be confirmed, literature about the College will be distributed, and a brief update on the College's growth and vision will be presented. As a ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination, it is vital that the relationship between the denomination and the College be nurtured and continued. The Planning Sessions and the annual dinners give opportunity for interaction between the denomination and the College.

WAYNE COUNTY—Thursday, August 9, 7:30 P.M., First Church of Goldsboro.

BEAUFORT COUNTY—Friday, August 10, 7:30 P.M., Memorial Church near Chocowinity.

NASH COUNTY—Sunday, August 12, 3 P.M., Free Union Church near Spring Hope.

LENOIR COUNTY—Monday, August 13, 7:30 P.M., First Church of Kinston (651 Sussex Street).

EDGECOMBE COUNTY—Tuesday, August 14, 7 P.M., Edgewood Church near Macclesfield.

GREENE COUNTY—Thursday, August 16, 7:30 P.M., Hull Road Church near Snow Hill.

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION—Friday, August 17, 7:30 P.M., Beaverdam Church near Chadbourn.

PAMLICO COUNTY—Sunday, August 19, 3 P.M., Rock of Zion Church, Grantsboro.

PITT COUNTY—Monday, August 20, 7:30 P.M., Reedy Branch Church near Winterville.

DUPLIN COUNTY—Tuesday, August 21, 7:30 P.M., Cabin Church near Beulaville.

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES—Thursday, August 23, 7:30 P.M., Mount Tabor Church near Creswell.

ONslow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES—Friday, August 24, 7 P.M., Folkstone Church, Folkstone.

JONES COUNTY—Sunday, August 26, 3 P.M., Pilgrim Home Church near Dover.

WILSON COUNTY—Monday, August 27, 7:30 P.M., Daniels Chapel Church near Wilson.

CRAVEN COUNTY—Thursday, August 30, 7:30 P.M., Saint Mary's Church, New Bern.

CARTERET COUNTY—Friday, August 31, 7:30 P.M., Crab Point Church, Morehead City.

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES—Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 P.M., First Church of Smithfield.

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES—Thursday, September 6, 7:30 P.M., Oak Grove Church near Newton Grove.

ADMISSIONS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Space available for Fall 07

Space is available for new and continuing students at Mount Olive College. Recent high school graduates and college transfers interested in attending the daytime semester starting in August 2007 should contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions, at (800) 653-0854 or at <twoodard@moc.edu>.

A new program in forensics is now available, and the College has added music and agri-science education to its list of teacher education programs. New buildings, a vigorous campus activity board, a new Student Success Center and 16 NCAA II athletic programs provide the full transformational college experience at MOC! Apply online at <www.moc.edu> to get your admissions file started today.

New Freshman Orientation begins Sunday, August 19.

New Freshmen will be arriving to begin college orientation on Sunday, August 19. Residents will be moving into their rooms and the faculty and staff will have a number of activities planned for the 'new student seminars.' Contact Jamie Massengill, Assistant Director of Admissions, for enrollment details at <jmassengill@moc.edu>. Contact Dr. Karen Bass, VP for Student Development, for information about residence life at <kbass@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854.

New Transfer Student Orientation begins Monday, August 20

New Transfer students attending the Mount Olive location for daytime classes will have orientation on Monday, August 20. For more information, contact Tim Woodard, director of Admissions, at <twoodard@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Working Adults

With convenient locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, Research Triangle Park, and Washington, NC, Mount Olive College offers the one-night-a-week programs in management and organizational development, health care management, early childhood, criminal justice and criminology, religion, and management of information systems for students who transfer in at least 55 semester hours of college work. Adults who have little or no college experience can enroll in the Heritage Plus program to earn their associate degrees.

Programs start at variable times throughout the year, with early August starts at most locations. Dial 1-800-NEW GOAL to find the location nearest you. Apply online at <www.moc.edu>.

Returning Students arrive on campus Tuesday, August 21

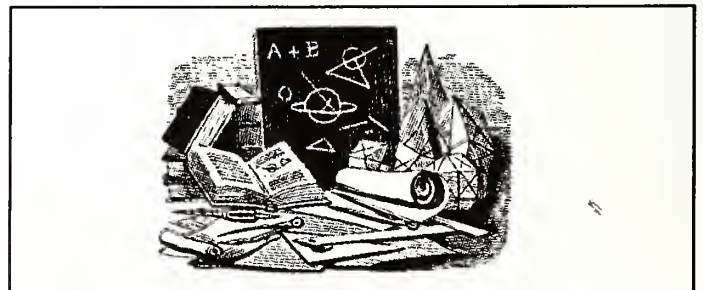
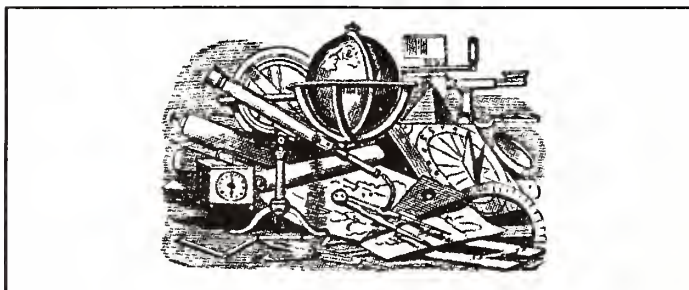
Continuing students return to campus for registration verification on August 21. For details, contact David Bourgeois, Registrar at <dbourgeois@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854.

Fall 07 Classes Begin Wednesday, August 22

Classes will begin on Wednesday, August 22, at 8 A.M. For information about class schedules and other academic details, contact David Bourgeois, Registrar, at <dbourgeois@moc.edu> or (800) 563-0854.

Fall 07 Convocation, Tuesday, August 28

This special event is the formal kick off for the Fall traditional semester at the Mount Olive location. All new freshmen will be in attendance as part of the freshman seminar activities.



YAWN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED



The Reverend Braxton and LaVern Yawn Carter recently established The Dr. Billy R. and Virginia B. Yawn Endowed Scholarship Fund for Ministerial Students at Mount Olive College. Given in honor of the Yawn's dedication and love of the College, proceeds from this fund will go to qualified recipients who demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment to attaining an education, and who have academic promise.

The purpose in establishing this Endowed Scholarship was to encourage and assist Original Free Will Baptist ministerial students, including students majoring in a music ministry, who are seeking to equip themselves for effective service. This opportunity will provide enriched and expanded learning experiences for ministers, where they can then relate these experiences to citizenship development, career preparation, and services to the College, the Church, and humanity.

LaVern Yawn Carter, daughter of Dr. Billy R. and Virginia B. Yawn, wanted to tangibly express how meaningful Mount Olive College was to her parents, and so she initiated a gift that will perpetuate their name through the work of Mount Olive College and at the same time promote Christian higher education for the present and future generations.

Dr. and Mrs. Yawn and their two children moved to Mount Olive in the spring of 1957. With thirty-five cents in his pocket, Dr. Yawn enrolled at Mount Olive College and began a lifelong journey in learning. After attending Mount Olive College, Dr. Yawn enrolled in Atlantic Christian College where he completed his bachelor's degree. He earned his master's degree from East Carolina University; an honorary doctorate from Victory Bible College in Lewiston, Ohio; and his doctor of religious education from International Seminary in Plymouth, Florida.

An ordained Free Will Baptist minister for 42 years, he pastored at Everett Chapel Church, Clayton, for 28 years and at Union Grove Church near Fremont for 14 years. Under his pastoral leadership and influence more than 25 people entered the Christian ministry and several of them are currently serving as leaders in the Free Will Baptist Church. He also taught in the Johnston County school system for 31 years.

"This couple actually had nothing when they came to MOC," said Jean Ackiss, director of church support at MOC. "He was a student and she worked in the dining hall to help support him. All these years he was so grateful for what the College did for him and he supported us well. Each church he pastored, without exception, increased their giving when he went there. I know of no ministerial student who has attended MOC who was more grateful and expressed his gratitude any more than Billy Yawn did."

Mrs. Yawn was integral in her support of her husband's ministry. She helped support the family while her husband was in school by working in the College cafeteria. She often told that for their dinners many times the family had leftovers from the cafeteria. She also spent many hours helping Dr. Yawn with research for term papers and sermons.

He credits his success to three things: "becoming a born-again Christian, marrying Virginia Biddix Yawn, and enrolling in Mount Olive College." He often said that Mount Olive College was a starting point for what would turn out to be a long educational journey for a poor boy from Louisiana and a mill worker from Gastonia. They both showed their love for God's work by being faithful in their service to the Free Will Baptist denomination.

For more information about endowments, or to make a contribution, contact Jeff Daughtry, director of planned giving at (919) 658-2502.

MOC PARTNERS WITH NCCU FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at Mount Olive College is ranked as the College's second most popular program, having graduated 142 students in the past four years. Graduates of the program are working in 31 North Carolina counties in a variety of early childhood settings and are thus making a positive impact on the lives of numerous children from infancy through kindergarten.

When asked what has made the program such a hit, Dr. Angeline Woodson, lead professor of Early Childhood Education at the Mount Olive location, stated, "Our program is a gateway for many students to reach their educational and career goals. Because of the one-night-a-week format and our six convenient locations, the program is accessible to individuals who might otherwise not have the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree." She pointed out that several ECE graduates are continuing their education by pursuing masters and doctorate degrees in early childhood education.

Now, thanks to a partnership with North Carolina Central University (NCCU), the program is expected to grow even more. According to Dorothy Whitley, dean of the School of Professional Studies at Mount Olive College, "The MOC-NCCU affiliation agreement offers graduates of the Mount Olive College Early Childhood Education program an opportunity to seek B-K licensure through NCCU by taking two NCCU courses



Tina Croom, a professional development coordinator with Smart Start of Pender County, recently graduated from the Early Childhood Education program through Mount Olive College.

plus the internship semester supervised by NCCU in an approved setting." Whitley emphasized that students must have graduated from the MOC ECE program with at least a 2.5 GPA to be eligible for the NCCU licensure opportunity.

To enter the ECE program at Mount Olive College, students must have completed at least 55 credit hours, of which 15 credits must be in general education courses including two composition courses. The next cohort start date at the Mount Olive location is scheduled for September 4, 2007. For more information about the program, contact the Mount Olive College Admissions Office at (800) 653-0854.

Coming Events

MICHAEL MARTIN GOLF TOURNAMENT • AUGUST 23

Tee off in the annual golf tournament held in memory of Michael Martin, a NC Highway Patrolman and MOC alumnus who was killed in the line of duty. Proceeds from the tournament are placed in an endowment fund that supports two scholarships at Mount Olive College. For more information, contact Neil Price at (919) 658-2851.

ALUMNI WEEKEND • NOVEMBER 16-18 • MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Join fellow alumni and MOC faculty, staff, and students for a weekend full of fellowship and friendship. Highlights include the alumni golf tournament, 42nd Annual Pickle Classic, and class reunions. Attend seminars on worship, criminal justice, education, and more! Something very special is being planned for the Christian choral group New Creations; please contact Dianne Riley ASAP. Check out the web for more information on Alumni Weekend or contact Dianne Riley at (919) 658-2502 ext. 1230 or <driley@moc.edu>.

EXPRESSIONS IN COLOR—AMY DAUGHTRY

At five foot three and a half inches tall, Amy Daughtry works in the shadows of towering canvases. Her jeans, covered in paint, are the artistic fallout from her creative work. A recent graduate of the art program at Mount Olive College, Daughtry has completed a series of paintings that she began over five months ago as part of her senior Honors project. The vivid works of art, in hues of yellow, purple, orange, and green, capture the true essence of youth and nature.

After more than 280 hours spent on the project, Daughtry presented it to Chestnut Ridge Camp and Retreat Center. The Center, located just west of Chapel Hill, will display the works as a mural on the grounds of the 362 acre campus founded by the North Carolina United Methodist Conference.

Although painted in nine separate works of art to depict different aspects of Chestnut Ridge, they all work together as one, each bringing a unique aspect to the mural as a whole. Installed, the mural measures 8 by 20 feet.

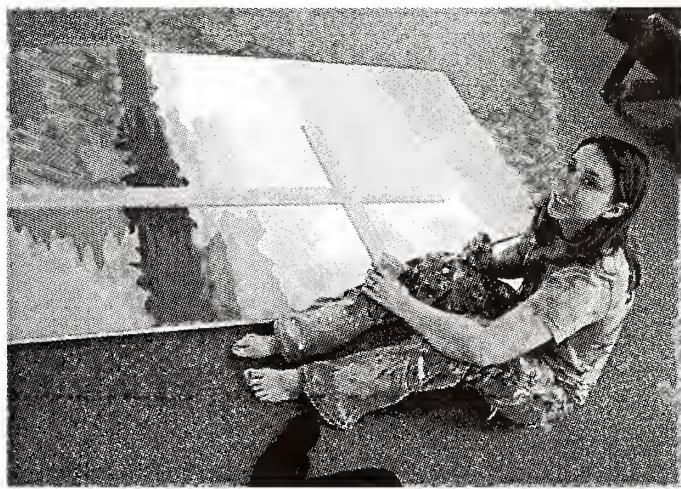
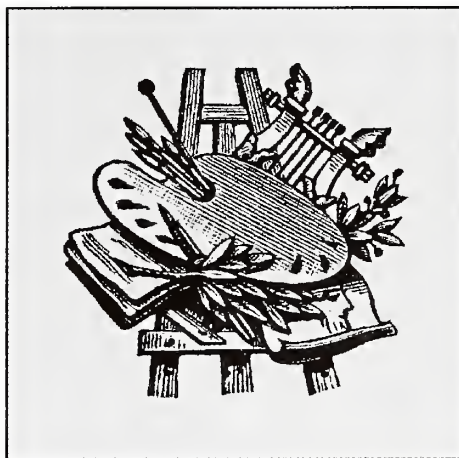
Inspiration for the pieces came from Daughtry's own experiences as a counselor at the camp during the past two summers.

"Chestnut Ridge is very special to me. It is not only a place where I have made lots of memories, but also a place where I have grown spiritually. As a counselor, I poured myself whole-heartedly into the children during their stay at camp, and in turn God has blessed me with many other opportunities. Painting a mural for the camp has been one of these opportunities," she stated.

A fine arts major and psychology minor, Daughtry transferred to Mount Olive College in the fall of 2004, fulfilling a tradition for the Daughtry family. Both of Daughtry's parents, Jeff and Wanda Daughtry, are alumni of the College, as are her brother, Daniel, and sister, Joy D. Hill. And, MOC is where Amy Daughtry fell in love with her future husband Matthew Grubbs. The couple plan to marry in July and move to Ken-

tucky, where Daughtry hopes to pursue her passion for art and working with special needs youth.

As she begins this next stage of her life, Daughtry said simply, but elegantly, "My goal is to always be in the will of God! Where that will take me ... only God knows."



Amy Daughtry paints her mural, before it is set up at Chestnut Ridge Camp and Retreat Center.



The finished mural at Chestnut Ridge Camp and Retreat Center.

Woman's Auxiliary

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION BLESSINGS

by Teresa Grubbs

"Blessings" was the word for the day at the Eightieth Annual Session of The North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists on May 10, 2007 at Pleasant Hill Church at Pikeville, North Carolina. Though some of the 179 registered attendees traveled through fog, they were blessed with safety in travel.

Women from the different districts blended their voices throughout the convention to form a choir. Led by Lynn Prescott with Gail Heath at the piano, we were blessed with beautiful and meaningful songs.

The convention theme, "Life Can Be Better," with the verse from Matthew 6:33, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*, were echoed throughout the convention by those speaking. As God blessed each one who spoke, we were in turn blessed and encouraged. Lottie Caroon and Happy Taylor gave inspiring Scripture lessons. As part of her response to the welcomes given by Joyce Edmundson and Paula Owens, Faye Bryant shared an inspiring story. President Joan Little encouraged us to embrace happy thoughts for the convention in her opening remarks. Pam Braxton directed the Memorial Service, sharing a poem by Lee Hunt entitled "Ben Adam" as our thoughts turned to those who had been faithful in the Auxiliary work and had passed on in the past year.

Blessings continued to flow with Scripture readings, responsive reading, congregational singing, special songs, and solos during the worship service. We were especially blessed by a DVD recording of Willem van der Plas as he spoke of being a missionary and offered a prayer for the convention. Kathy Hayes brought the morning message, "God's Truths: Satan's Lies." She told us that God is not the only one who tells us our lives can be better. Satan tells us that life can be better if we believe his lies.



DAYSPRING CONFERENCE

JUNE 6–8, 2007

by Lorraine Garner



The Dayspring Conference of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention met at Cragmont on June 6–8, 2007. The week was shared with the Minister's Conference and opened on Wednesday night with the program presented by the Rev. Harold Jones, Director of OFWB International. His presentation was in the form of slides, showing the different mission points, and some of the churches we have in six different countries. It was both challenging and informative.

The theme for the conference was *Connecting With God's Love*. Joan Little, President of the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention, was the speaker and she challenged us to connect with God's love by connecting with our family, our church, and our community. Her focus was living and sharing our connection with God with all that we come in contact with our daily lives.

Mrs. Nettie Woodall brought the devotions each morning before breakfast and her themes were on love and happiness in God. She inspired us all and gave us treats to emphasize her message.

After lunch each day, we were free to go shopping, read, take a nap, or fellowship with one another. At night, we gathered back into the chapel

for a time of singing, which included some solos, and others who made up an impromptu group. It was a fun time, remembering the old songs and those members of our denomination who have gone on to their rewards.

On Thursday night, John Williams, manager of Cragmont, gave us information on the status of Cragmont, including an update on the New Heights project. We are thankful for the new lodge building and the new gym which is ready for youth camps this summer. On Friday night, Becky Jo Sumner brought us a Bible study on Naomi of the Old Testament and how we can compare our lives today to her.

Saturday morning was the time for good-byes, with May Pittman, Director of the Conference, thanking each one who took part including Jackie Flowers, music director, and JoAnn Parish, pianist, for their good work and dedication.

There were 35 in attendance at this conference, which included several husbands of the ladies. We were glad to welcome them into our midst, as they are invited to be with us at the Dayspring Conference each year.

People & Events

POWHATAN NEWS

Powhatan celebrated the baptism of Melissa Johnson on May 27 and Jaron Benson on July 1. Melissa is already taking an interest in working with the youth, and Jaron has joined the Navy. Please pray for them in their Christian walk.

The Johnston County Relay for Life was held on June 1-2 at Johnston Community College and county-wide raised over \$520,000 for the American Cancer Society. Powhatan's final total according to captains Nikki Jones and Kim Reeves was a bit over \$3,150.

The descendents of Julian and Gertrude Jones held their annual reunion dinner on June 3. Inez Jones West celebrated turning 91 the day before on June 2. She and sisters Ann Markham and Penny Barbour are the remaining of the children (grandchildren of Matthew and Ella Jones who gave the land for the church). Having gone on to glory are sisters Mattie Jones, Thelma Adams, Mavis Otto, Virginia Atwood, and brothers Marvin D. and John Harris Jones. A love offering was collected and a donation given to the church in memory of the Jones' ancestors.

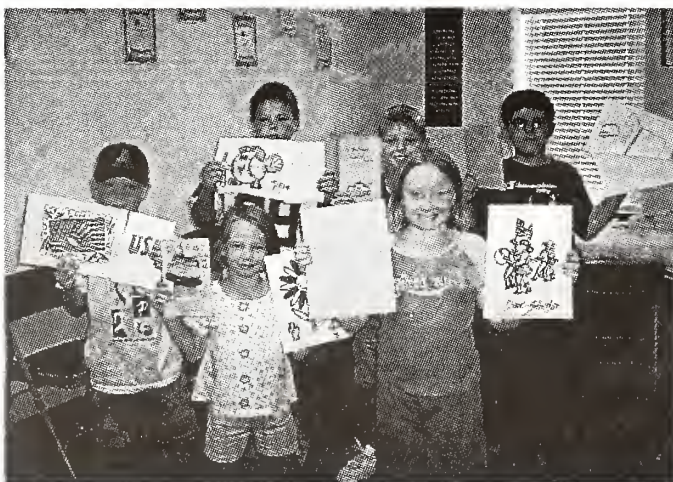
Graduation Sunday was also held on June 3. Five high school seniors, one NASCAR Technical

Institute graduate, and two receiving college degrees were present to be honored. High school senior members were presented with a Bible from the church. Some of their plans include going into the Navy from R.O.T.C. (Jaron Benson), attending Appalachian State (Kim Canady) to pursue teaching, and continuing at Johnston Community College (Nicole Lee).

On Saturday morning, June 9, several members gathered to go out into the neighborhoods in the community to share tracts and invite people to come and visit at Powhatan. On June 13, the youth made cards to be sent to our troops.

On Father's Day, June 17, the Layman's League presented a card and gift certificate to the youngest father present (Johnathon Cummings) and the oldest father present (Kenneth Cook).

Longtime deacon, "Bunk" Cole and his wife Alice, along with long time choir director Barbara Barbour and her husband J.E. were honored with a covered dish luncheon on July 1. A framed certificate was presented to each for their years of dedicated service along with the thanks from the church fellowship.



Some of the cards made by the youth to send to our troops overseas.



The Relay for Life camp site for Powhatan by the lake at Johnston Community College. A colorful afghan was made and donated by member Martha Jones in memory of her late husband, Danny Jones.

WILLIAMSTON NEWS

Members of Williamston First Church travelled to Waveland, Mississippi on a summer mission trip. They left June 16 and returned on June 23. There was plenty of work to be done by everyone who went on the trip. The men and some of the women worked on two locations rebuilding homes. The other women helped clean up and organize Camp Salvage, the volunteer center where the group stayed during the week. The teenage girls worked as counselors at Camp Karing, a camp for the children at Waveland.

While the trip required a lot of work, there was time for enjoyment and fellowship. Working provided an opportunity to get to know the people of Waveland and understand their struggle to rebuild. Mealtime allowed the group members to enjoy a good meal and to share how the day went. Trips to the beach gave the group an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Gulf Coast.

The trip provided an opportunity to better understand the damages done to the area by hurricane Katrina. Each day, the group got to see lots that were littered and overgrown with weeds, houses and buildings that were leveled, and businesses that were run out of business. Being able to talk with the victims gave us an opportunity to better understand how the damages affect everyday life.

The most important aspect of the trip was the spiritual impact on the individual members. Each day during breakfast, individual members of the group read Scripture to motivate everyone for the coming day. At night other members would lead devotion. This gave the group the opportunity to reflect on the previous day and to have fellowship together. Following the trip was a special church service for the members of the group. Each member had the opportunity to reflect and share the impact of the trip had on their lives. The trip proved to be a good way to put things in perspective and to prove no matter who you are—young, older, man, woman, rich, or poor—God has a way of using anyone who is willing to follow Him.

SMYRNA NEWS

Graduation Sunday at Smyrna Church in the Meadow community was held on Sunday, June 10, recognizing students graduating from day care through college.

Those graduating from college included Savak Allen, April Bain, and sisters Courtney and Amanda Barefoot. The high school graduate was Robert Lee. Graduating from the eighth grade to high school were Brooke Barefoot and Brittney Watson. Those graduating from kindergarten to first grade were Breanna Allen, Chassidy Barefoot, Dylan Hickok, Rebecca Moore, and Zackary Norris. The two graduating from day care to kindergarten were Colby Jackson and Brooke Parker, who are pictured (below) receiving Bible storybooks.



The Rev. Richard Whitman, pastor, presented college and high school graduates reference bibles and those entering high school students Bibles. He presented the other students a special Bible storybook each.



PLEASANT GROVE NEWS

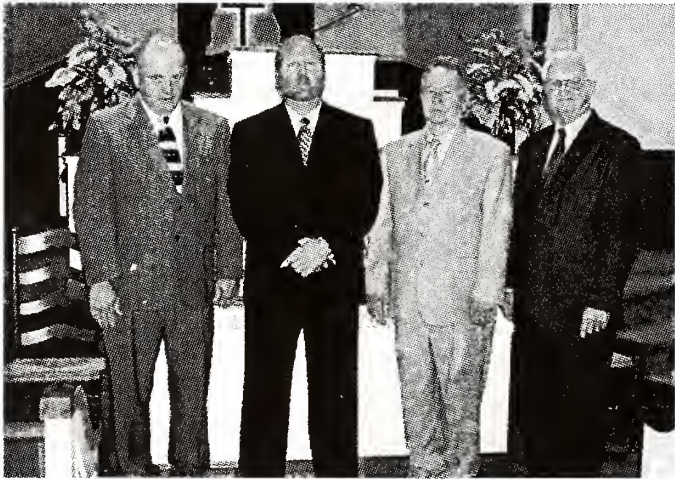
Pleasant Grove Church held a Graduation and Academic Recognition on Sunday, June 10, during the morning worship service. Jeffrey Lewis Lucas graduated from NC State University May 12, 2007 with a BS in Natural Resources, Soil, and Wetlands. Scott and Jenny Lucas are Jeff's parents. He is the grandson of Mary Parrish and the late Mrs. Lucille Lucas.

Ashley LeAnne Nelson was not present but was recognized upon her graduation from Triton High School. Ashley plans to attend ECU at Greenville, NC in the Fall. Arnold and Becky Nelson are Ashley's parents. Her grandmother is Ruby Brown.

Lindsey Godwin, Christina Elmore, Matthew Strickland, C.J. Sloan, Taylon Keeler, Chris (C.J.) Keeler, and Alyssa Keeler were recognized for completing their grade and accomplishments for the academic year.



Jeffrey Lewis Lucas and the Rev. Ronnie Hayes



Pleasant Grove OFWB Church recently elected three new deacons for the church. The new Deacons ordination was held Sunday night, June 10, 2007 during the evening service. Mr Dennis Satterfield, Mr. Charles Strickland, and Mr. Billy Howell were ordained as deacons by Pleasant Grove. The pastor, The Reverend Ronnie Hayes presided over the ordination service. Mr. Satterfield and his wife Deborah live in Erwin, NC. Mr. Charles Strickland, his wife Tina and daughters Heather and Danielle live in Erwin, NC. Mr. Billy Howell and his wife Evelyn live in Dunn, NC.

— IN PLEA TO GOD —

A Sonnet

by Celia Hales

*May, Lord, I not succumb to doubts and fears
But find You always in my need. If trial
Bring dashed hope with months of pain, if tears
Unbidden flow, with force make, Lord, as mild
My cross as You will choose, with knowledge that
You only have. I ask not softness, Lord,
For such would weaken gifts You gave which at
Your feet someday I shall return. That cord
Which binds our hearts as one is written in
The promise of Your Son. Recall He said,
"The Kingdom is within." Unless I wring
You out my heart by deeds ungodly led,
Stay by me, Lord, possess my all, enthrall
My ev'ry wish. Then can I feel You call.*

*(Revised 2007; reprinted from the April 4, 1973 edition
of The Free Will Baptist.)*

SMITH'S NEW HOME NEWS

by Ann Ruth Parish

Sunday, July 8, 2007, was a special day for Smith's New Home Church. Their eldest member, Mrs. Verdie Howard Hill, was honored by her children, grandchildren, and great grand-children by their attendance and their tributes. Her granddaughter, Paula, spoke for the family sharing many experiences and expressions of love. Her grandson-in-law, Brad, played the guitar and sang two of Verdie's favorite hymns. Her sons, Keith and Craig, honored her with a monetary gift to the church.

Verdie was born February 12, 1918, the third of twelve children to Amos and Bertie Whaley Howard. In 1935, she graduated from P. D. High School in Pink Hill, North Carolina and later from The Beauty School in Norfolk, Virginia. In 1938, she married Edward Hill and to their union were born two sons, Keith and Craig. Early in their marriage, Edward and Verdie lived and worked on a farm. Later, Edward went into public work and Verdie again became a beautician, owning and operating her own shop in Pink Hill. Their sons graduated from Pink Hill High School and from East Carolina University.

Verdie has five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Five of Verdie's siblings are still living and enjoying the special Howard relation-

ship that is well known. Many of these family members attended the service on Sunday sharing her memoirs.

Verdie accepted Christ as her personal Savior at the age of 12, united with our church, and has served Him faithfully in many areas of our church and denomination. Her everyday optimism and love for Christ draws people into her circle. During her years of public service, she touched many lives for Christ.

Her husband, Edward, died in 1990 and since then she has lived alone. In her own words she states: "I feel truly blessed to have a loving family and will forever feel indebted to them for the happiness they have brought into my life. They and my church family keep me company either by visits or phone. I thank the Lord daily for His mercy and His many blessings. I spend a lot of time in my rocking chair reading God's Word and claiming His promises. What a wonderful and merciful God we serve!"

Verdie, we are thankful you have been one of us for so many years. Your example of love, loyalty, and devotion has been a blessing.

When the trumpet sounds for you, may you hear the Lord resound, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." God Bless.



Mr. Sutton receiving gift in honor of Verdie from her sons Keith and Craig.

*Pictured from left to right:
Keith, Craig, Verdie, and Mr. Sutton, Pastor*

FINANCIAL PLANNING: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

by Don Fader

The topic of money seems to be on the minds of most people today. There are television networks whose sole content is dedicated to the subject. Newspapers have regular columns that address the different aspects of finances, and almost any time of the day or night you are sure to be able to pick up a radio show where the topic of discussion is, you guessed it, money.

With all this attention being given to the subject of money by society, what does the modern church have to say? For the most part the church is remarkably silent. With the exception of the occasional sermon on stewardship and tithing the church has abdicated its leadership role on this subject to the gurus of Wall Street and the financial pundits of CNBC. The reasons behind the church's failure to play a lead role in this issue are many—too many to list here. But a few of the reasons are, money is worldly and the church prefers to rise above discussions relating to money. The church lacks the ability to instruct its members on what can be a complicated and confusing subject. And there are some who feel that the church is in the business of saving souls, and all of its resources should be dedicated in this area, to the exclusion of everything else.

Make no mistake, as Christians our chief business is to make Christ known but we also have an obligation to contribute to the growth and development of the whole person. In the mission statement of The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program it states: *To help the minister and the local church plan together a program of compensation and benefits designed to meet the minister's present and future financial needs.* However, it is not only the

minister who needs to plan; each of us should have a plan to get our financial house in order so that these concerns do not hinder our ability to make Christ known.

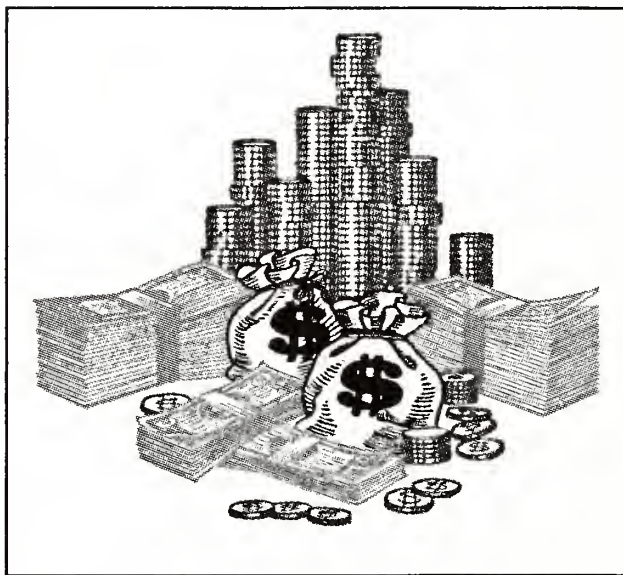
In my work with ministers I have witnessed some unhealthy attitudes about money in some of our churches and ministers. Many of our church families are in financial crisis and the leading cause of divorce is monetary problems within the marriage. The church ignores sound financial teaching at its own peril. When the Bible references money over 2,000 times and Jesus refers to money matters second only to the subject of love, the time for the church's silence is long past.

The Minister's Program believes that the more our churches and ministers understand the concept of financial literacy the stronger our witness will be within the local community. There is a difference between the Christian's attitude toward money and the world's attitude and over the next few months this column will examine the subject of Christian financial planning and will provide real world ad-

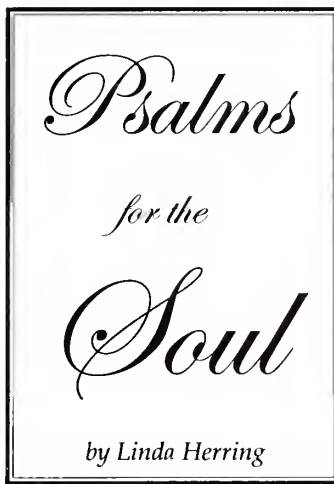
vice with a biblical perspective.

We invite your questions and we will answer every one, either through the column or with a direct response. During the past 30 years I have worked in insurance, banking, and mortgage lending but I do not hold myself out as a financial expert. However, through the years I have established contacts with experts in various fields who can answer questions in a wide array of subjects that affect your life every day.

If you have a question or suggestion please write or e-mail: <editor@fwbpress.com>.



The Bible Speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Do we ever feel as though we need a therapist? If so, then Psalm 37 is for us. Take a few minutes to read Psalm 37:3-9. David writes as a counselor, providing us with wise steps to take as we face challenges, crises, and decisions. When God does not answer quickly, we get frustrated. The Holy Spirit can help us to be patient and wait on the Lord. Trust that God is in control and has our best interest on His heart. We need



to put God first and His principles and He will reward and satisfy us in the end. Let's commit to Him all our plans and rest the results in His hand. Psalm 37 says to us not to fret or complain and to refuse to get angry. These will never bring the results we want in our lives. Let's put our hope in the Lord and He will guide and show us His will for our lives. Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT OF SAINT'S DELIGHT CHURCH

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 7 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, July 30, 1947, Vol. 62-No. 28 and p. 5 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, October 8, 1947, Vol. 62-No. 38.)

Our church was dedicated on the third Sunday in August, 1891, by Elder Wilson Lupton and assisted by Elder Robert F. Stilley, and son, Levi Stilley. The first pastor was Elder Wilson Lupton. Other pastors have been (in this order): Elders E. A. Rouse, Henry Cunningham, R. F. Stilley, M. C. Prescott, L. C. Garner, Duffy Toler, Gilbert Cox, J. W. Sewell, W. C. Edwards, D. B. Gower, W. W. Lewis, R. F. Daugherty, J. P. Woodard, C. L. Bennett, R. C. Kennedy, C. H. Matthews, Robert Tripp, R. H. Mason, J. A. Harris, Clinton Lupton, F. R. Williams, and the present pastor [1947], the Rev. Kenneth Gaskill.



We are happy to state that Saint's Delight Church in Craven County has now gone on half-time services in each month. The preaching services are on the first and third Sundays, and the Reverend K. W. Gaskill is our pastor. He is doing a splendid work in this church. The church is full at each service, and we have around 80 to 100 in the Sunday School. Brother Whitford Gaskins is our superintendent of the Sunday School. At our prayer meeting we have from 100 to 150 percent. We are trying to enlarge our church for more room for the Sunday School. We want to build Sunday School rooms.

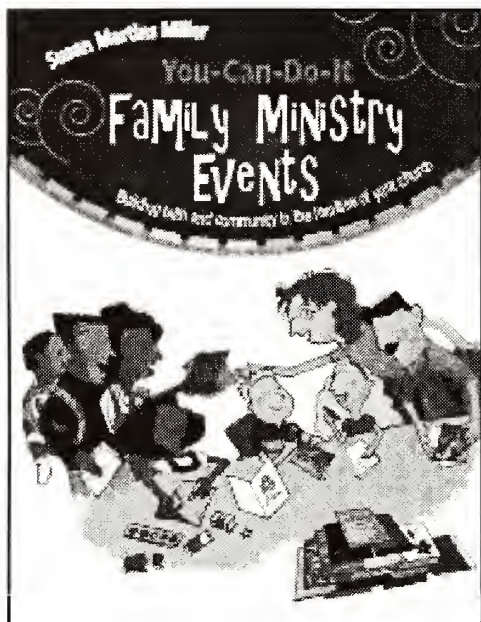
RESOLUTIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2007 SESSION OF THE WESTERN CONFERENCE

The Resolutions Committee of the Western Conference is accepting resolutions to be considered for presentation to the 2007 session of the conference.

To be considered, the resolution must be submitted to the chairman of the resolutions committee (Dr. De Eakes), no later than Friday, September 14. The resolution must be signed, and must include accurate contact information for the person submitting the resolution.

The Resolutions Committee reserves the right to reject resolutions which do not meet the requirements stated above, as well as resolutions which, in the opinion of the committee, are not in line with the constitution and by laws of the conference, as well as *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

Resolutions may be submitted to: Dr. De Eakes, PO Box 298, Lucama, NC 27851.



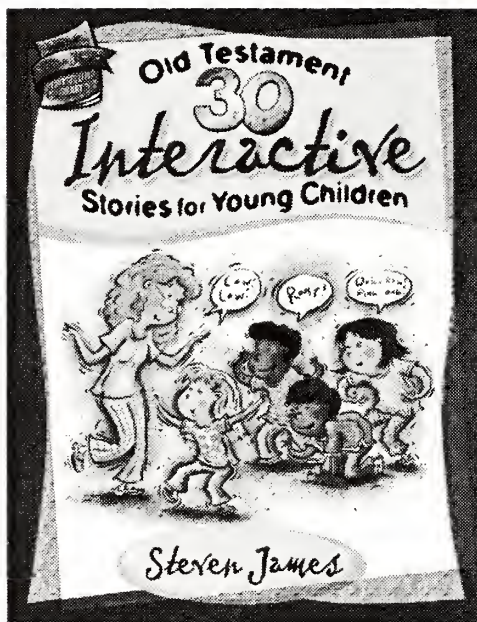
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by Susan Martins Miller

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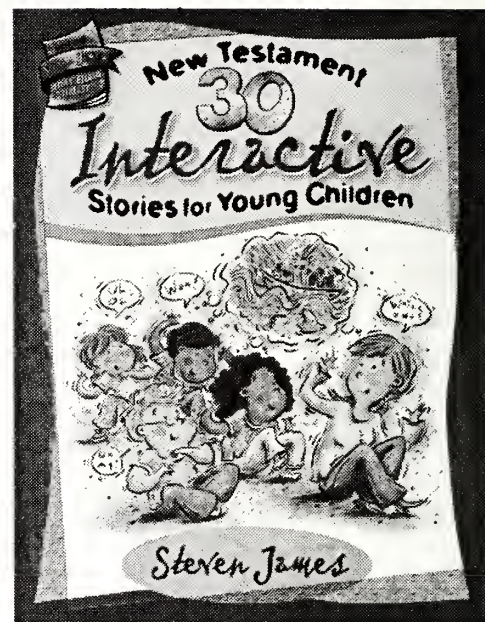
A how-to book for children and family ministry leaders who want to do more to help families grow in community. Provides a clear, concise foundation for family ministry and a wealth of practical ideas for church events that will knit the faith community together and surround families with the love of God.



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September 2007



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 LABOR DAY	4	5	6	7 Christian Emblem Weekend, Camp Vandemere (7-9)	8
9 GRANDPARENTS DAY	10 OFWB Convention Open Golf Fellowship Central Conf. Layman's League, First Church, Greenville, 6:30 P.M.—Meal 7:00 P.M.—Business	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<p>NOTES:</p> <p>COMING SOON: November 17—Friends of Children Day</p>					

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FEATURES

5 *My Dad's Good Advice*

6 *Following Surgery: A Personal Word of Thanksgiving*

DEPARTMENTS

2 Monthly Planner

19 Woman's Auxiliary

22 Camp Vandemere

24 People & Events

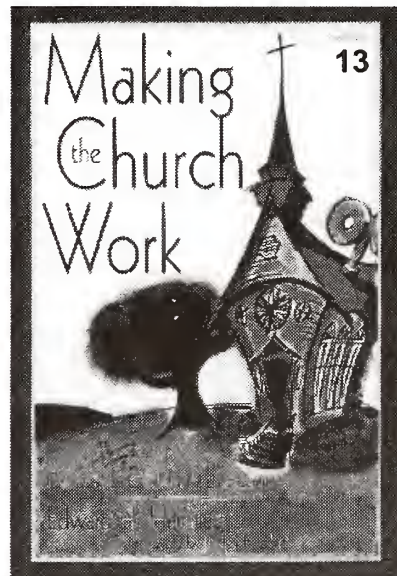


COLUMNS

4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

26 Psalms for the Soul
by Linda Herring, Guest Writer

26 Golden Oldies



DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

7 Home Missions & Evangelism

8 OFWB International

10 Sunday School Ministry

11 Mount Olive College

17 Children's Home

POWER VERSE

Verily, verily, I say unto you,
He that believeth on me hath everlasting life
(John 6:47).

"ALL" DOES MEAN "ALL"

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Last month's Reflection, as we have written about many times in the past, was related to our oldest ministry, The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, and the important role it has played in the history of our denomination. In connection with its place, there are other ministries that come under what we often refer to as "our outreach ministries." I, along with others from time to time, have urged all our churches to support all our ministries, and to do so on a fair and equitable basis. There is nothing new about this principle. Ministers pledge to do so in the signing of the *Ministerial Code of Ethics*. Our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government...* states, "The ordained minister must cooperate and promote the work of the denomination at all times..." (page 91, under Section 2: "The Ministry").

Congregations, likewise, are obligated to support the work of the denomination, as stated under the heading, "Objects and Duties of the Local Congregation:" "It is the duty of each congregation to pay into its treasury sufficient funds to support local church programs and the entire denominational program," and "...each congregation shall make financial contributions to the denominational ministries, institutions, and benevolent work" (74-75). Our Church Covenant (next to the last paragraph) states: "...we agree to co-operate in the

promotion of denominational ministries..." (see 30). No one can justifiably argue against what we as a denomination have so firmly committed ourselves unto. Yet, in contradiction to our pledge of commitment as churches and ministers, denominational support, especially in some areas, often falls short as support goes to others.

This brings us back to the ministry of the "Press," as we often call it. Its main support has never come from donations, but from the sale of its products (literature, bookstore sales, and job printing). Other ministries have their own methods of gaining support, and all ministry directors and their ministries, are under obligation (we call it denominational loyalty) to promote and support

all other ministries. There is nothing written about ministries supporting ministries because it is intertwined in our total structure; therefore, if competitiveness exists, or should ever exist, we would be in violation of our pledge of loyalty. All does mean all. Churches, ministers, conferences, and ministries have an obligation to each other. Therefore, there is no place for competition. We must support each other. The ministry of our "Press" is an important part of our denominational program. It is worthy of your support and that means "all" of us. If our support goes to others, we are not building up our own work.



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MY DAD'S GOOD ADVICE

Celia Hales

My dad, Ed Hales, always began each blessing over a family meal with the words, "Dear God, thank you for this day." These words are intertwined with "Fear not," as I recall an anxiety-ridden trip to Raleigh, North Carolina, with my father driving. The year was 1966. I was to have my first serious job interview with the head of the North Carolina Retirement System for a summer job while I was a junior in college. I fretted a great deal aloud to my dad; I don't actually recall this, but I remember what I was like. I had a fair amount of poise, and so I concealed my agitation during the interview, and by its conclusion the administrator had really talked himself into hiring me.

On the way back to my hometown, I was thrilled, but still quite excitable and keyed up. My dad, still driving, listened to my monologue, and then said simply, "Most things work out well."

My dad's words are reminiscent to me of the Bible verse that says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Shortly before that memorable trip to Raleigh for my first summer job, our minister preached a sermon on this passage. It was a godsend to me; I listened very, very carefully to that sermon, and I took it to heart. My anxious moments in high school, when I heard the sermon, were centered around getting grades that were good enough to merit admis-

sion to a university that my dad especially wanted for me. In time, I made it into that university, and then the minister's words took on ever-greater meaning. High school was nothing compared to the number of volumes of literature I was expected to read and master as an English major. As difficult as my college years were, I never considered transferring to an easier school, and I certainly never contemplating just dropping out. Instead, I recalled that Bible verse, and quietly I would settle down for study in my dormitory, propped up on my twin bed, or perhaps saunter off to the "tombs" of the library, the basement level where many women, like me, spent hours toiling away at big tables and in silence.

Do I believe that all things work together for good now? Indeed I do, though my life has had its rough patches. One need only contemplate the "what-if's" of an alternative fate to realize that even the dark clouds have a crescent of sun showing through. This keeps me an optimist, grounded in my faith in the Bible.

"Most things work out well." That was one of those gems from my dad that I have remembered all these years. Now I am drawing a pension from the same retirement system which I worked that summer. My long road of the last 40 years has had its fretful moments, but with God's grace I now know, with my dad, that "most things turn out well."

FOLLOWING SURGERY: A PERSONAL WORD OF THANKSGIVING

by W. Burkette Raper
Mount Olive, North Carolina

What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? (Psalm 116:12).

The question of the psalmist—What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?—is rooted in the awareness that God is the source of life and all the blessings that sustain and enrich life. It is a meaningful question for anyone to ask at anytime, but it is especially appropriate when we know that we have experienced an extraordinary benefit of God's grace. We understand the Scriptures best when we view them as God's personal message to us, and it is with this perspective that I write these words.

In mid-June while having my routine annual physical, my family physician recommended that I see a specialist for a colonoscopy. During this examination, two weeks later, the doctor discovered a polyp which he thought should be removed surgically. Following professional consultation, he scheduled an appointment for me with an experienced and highly recognized surgeon, who confirmed the recommendation of my doctor. The surgery was performed the following week, and after a nine-day stay in the hospital, I returned home on July 19. My follow-up visit with the surgeon ten days later confirmed his diagnosis at the time of surgery—the polyp was self-contained and non-invasive.

A potentially life-threatening situation had been addressed in its earliest stage and no further treatment was necessary. Since no state of health, however, can be guaranteed to be permanent, the surgeon naturally recommended that I maintain contact with my primary physicians for annual or periodic evaluation. He also advised that I take an extended period for recuperation, with a gradual phase-in of my daily walking and other normal activities.

Blessings of Recuperation

First, recuperation provides time to be grateful:

- grateful to God for his healing graces;
- grateful to friends for their prayers and support, including every card, letter, phone call, gift of flowers and other expressions of care which bring a tender message of the meaning of Christian friendship;

- grateful for people in medical science who have attained the education which enables them to be partners with God in the ministry of healing; and

- grateful to family members who deny themselves of comfort and sleep to help bring health and healing to someone they love.

Indeed, we are blessed by all those who do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Second, recuperation provides time for us to rest, to think, and to reflect upon what is truly important. Life is such a precious gift that we dare not squander by wasting it upon what is cheap, shallow, and transit. The late Dr. Paul Tournier, an internationally known Christian physician, expressed this truth in unmistakable terms when he wrote:

Life is not a harmless diversion or a chance adventure; it is the crucial game which we play only once. The game must of necessity end in victory or defeat. (The Seasons of Life, John Knox Press, 1961).

Recuperation is not only a time to regain our physical health and strength; it is even more a time to experience peace through commitment to God's purpose for our life.

A third blessing of recuperation is an opportunity to focus upon the stewardship of life: What do we want to do with the remaining time and blessings which God may entrust to us? As I ponder the question—*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?*—I think of the offertory that I heard so often as a student in the Duke University Chapel while the morning offering was being brought to the altar and placed next to the cross:

*We give Thee but thine own,
Whatever the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

Our life is indeed a trust from God, and its ultimate measure will be our faithfulness to that trust.



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BEVERLY

by Harold Jones

We sometimes think that life is difficult, but when we compare our circumstances to that of others we see that we have absolutely nothing to complain about.

On our trip to the Philippines in April of this year, Sandra and I made a visit to the Aribungos Free Will Baptist Church on Palawan. We had a delightful time with the members who came on this weekday to greet us. After a time of fellowship, Pastor June introduced us to a couple and their three children. They are from the Palawano tribe that lives in the southern part of Palawan. Pastor June was particularly interested in telling us about Beverly, the two-year-old daughter of this young couple.

She is a small, lovely little girl. She, however, was born without the necessary outlet to pass solid waste. Her mother has kept this child alive for two years on liquids. They are so poor that they could not provide the necessary operation to correct this problem. They have sought help from politicians and others, but no one would help.

This sent a deep pain through our hearts. I immediately said, "We will help," and we have. The Board of Foreign Missions, through our medical fund, has provided funds for Beverly and her mother to travel to Puerto Princesa for the opinion of a specialist who comes from Manila once a month. He said, "An operation of this kind will have to be performed in Manila." She was taken to Manila for an examination in May. Surgery, however, will not be performed until October. Can you imagine your child living like this for the first two years of their life? These two years have been years of great discomfort for Beverly, but hopefully after October the next two and beyond will be full of good things that a child should experience.

Your gifts have made this possible. Please remember Beverly in your prayers.



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CHRISTINA IVANOVA—BULGARIA

by Willem Van der Plas

During the last three months we intensified our prayers in faith, hope, and fear, because all of us knew that Christine was very sick (caused by a severe kidney failure which began 14 years ago). She and her husband, Kosta, opened their home for Bible Study Programs in 1992. Later they went to Brno in Czechia where both studied religion in 1996. Kosta became our pastor in Varna in 1997. Christina helped Kosta with the church administration, was leading children and youth which she brought from the streets of the city into a garage, and she accompanied Kosta to the Home-Bible-Study-Groups and all kinds of meetings dealing with church work. Christine has been a member of the Spiritual council of our Church and she performed most of her tasks until she was put on dialysis three times a week since September last year. Her condition weakened gradually. In April of 2007, she received a donor kidney abroad, which worked the day after surgery, kindling a new hope of life for her future.

However, she got breathing problems shortly after she was taken into the hospital in Sofia. Her doctors reported a bacterial pneumonia which is difficult to treat. From Sofia she was taken to the hospital in Varna, because she missed seeing her children. Her breathing became more difficult and the pain increased.

On Saturday, July 21, the Lord took her into His glory at the age of 44. The interment took place on Monday, July 23. It is common in East Europe, especially in Bulgaria, that people are buried on the day of their death or immediately the day after they pass away. In a very short period of time, the family and friends have to be informed and invited for the interment, the local authorities have to be informed, a graveside has to be bought, the grave has to be dug by friends and family members, and meals have to be prepared and served. In Bulgaria, people cannot buy a grave as long as a person is alive.

Tezdjan went to Varna to support Kosta and his family. Victoria, Christine's 18 year old daughter, told Tezdjan that her mother was still in the hospital and he talked with her to encourage her to dress her mother for the funeral. We Western people may consider this a cruel responsibility to place on such a young person. However, Victoria is now thankful that she could do this to her mother as an act of respect and love. Our Western ways are totally different and

we are, most of the time, experiencing death at a distance. She was able to answer the questions of Viky and to comfort her in her grief. Tezdjan could share with her that her mother had a special wish for life, which was to see each of her daughters married to good husbands.

We will always remember Christine as a very special woman and a faithful believer. She was an excellent pastor's wife who showed love to the people which she met either at home or in the church. Her hospitality is well-known and many

hungry people shared a meal at her table. She accompanied Kosta to the "Home-Prayer-Groups" and meetings making notes for him and she advised him when problems in the work were raised.

Her faith and hope were on the Lord. She wished long enough to see her children to be married, but did not fear death. Her last 4 weeks have been marked by living with heavy pain and awful breathing difficulties caused by the pneumonia.

We praise the Lord for her service in Varna. We ask that you sincerely pray for Kosta and his children; his son Anthony (22) and daughters Victoria (18) and Elisabeth (15). They will miss her most of all. May the loving kindness of the Lord surround them with His comfort and strength.

Please don't forget them and pray for the Ivanov family.

Pictured above are Christine and her husband Kosta.





Short-Term Mission Trip “Nurturing the Next Generation”

Vacation Bible School
Lao Evangelical Church,
Merced, California

Sponsored by:

the OFWB Sunday School Ministry
and Home Missions and Evangelism



These 25 volunteers mentored the Lao Evangelical Church, Merced, California as we conducted Vacation Bible School in the month of July. God richly blessed during the events of the week. There were 7 first time decisions and many rededications at the end of the week. We taught, ate, and worshiped together in two languages. The event was filled with the Holy Spirit. Traveling and working together were 25 volunteers representing 13 churches, 2 denominational ministries, and 5 conferences. The volunteers included: Mrs. Mary Dudley, The Reverend David Charles Hansley, Ms. Sylvia Hansley, Miss Cynthia Hansley, The Reverend Tim Heath, Ms. Gail Heath, Miss Megan Heath, The Reverend Dean Cartrette, Mr. Stearle Pittman, Ms. May Pittman, The Reverend Timmy Webber, Ms. Linda Webber, Mr. Damon Kennedy, Miss Jessi Kennedy, Ms. Nancy Cale, Ms. Lori Poplin, Ms. Leah Trogdon, Ms. Christel Perry, Miss Amber Paul, Miss Brittany Powell, Miss Stacy Sutton, Mr. Jason Mitchell, Ms. Kitty Barnes, Ms. Tracy Mayo, and Mr. Steve Mayo.

We would like to come and share our experiences with you either in a small group or the entire church. If you are interested, contact Mrs. Mary Dudley at the Sunday School office: (252) 746-4963 or email at director@ofwbsundayschool.org. The theme for the Convention this year is “Go...Tell the Story” and this team of witnesses shared the story of Jesus Christ across this country, whether in the air or on the ground. Let us also share the blessing we received by having the Sunrise Landing Mobile Church to assist us in transforming Peterson Elementary School into a worship center for a week. **God is still on the throne!**





BRIDGE BUILDERS APPRECIATION DINNER

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College
Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 6 P.M.



The annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner is provided by the College to express gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their support at the annual dinners. To help Free Will Baptists understand the ministry of the College and the educational service it provides for its students, the Concert Choir and Free Spirit, a vocal ensemble, will provide a program of sacred selections. Under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, Chairman of the Music Department, the Concert Choir and Free Spirit minister to churches in the region as part of their music ministry.

This event honors the Bridge Builders from the 2006 dinners; however, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders are those who made unrestricted gifts of \$100 or more at their county dinners. They have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College. If you wish to attend this event, please fill out the reply form below and return it to the address below by September 18, 2007.

___ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner,
Saturday, September 22, 2007. There will be ___ in my party attending.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Church: _____

Please mail to:

Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-7744 or
(800) 653-0854
jfactiss@moc.edu

All friends of Mount Olive College are invited.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE IS TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH A UNIQUE APPROACH

At Mount Olive College you can have it all. Flexible, innovative learning approaches, video conferencing, online courses, and one-night-a-week programs allow more students access to a quality college degree. Mount Olive College, a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values, is pioneering a groundbreaking model that eliminates unnecessary obstacles—location and scheduling—that so often sidetrack academic careers.

"Building programming around the students' lives is a novel concept that we believe will transform higher education. Technology can deliver challenging curriculum anywhere or anytime. Bold, creative thinking and a willingness to look beyond the way things have always been done allows us to offer almost unlimited scheduling options for students to enter and continue their path toward a degree," explains Mount Olive College President Dr. J. William Byrd. "The student-centered programming model will transform education."

Transforming lives is a mission of Mount Olive College. "A degree from Mount Olive College takes students from where they are to what they want to be, and very often beyond their expectations," says Tim Woodard, director of traditional admissions.

It may be a once painfully shy teenager finding his place and his voice by taking an active role in student government. It might be a mother who longed to earn her college degree to better her family's life. It may be a religion major minister-



ing to a non-English speaking child during a spring break mission trip. Mount Olive College makes it possible for recent high school graduates, college transfers, and working adults to earn bachelor's and associate's degrees in three different schools: the Tillman School of Business, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Professional Studies.

These challenging educational experiences are accessible in a variety of modes and times to accommodate the needs of a diverse student population. Working adult students can access college courses at any of six different locations chosen for their proximity to where people live and work, including Goldsboro, New Bern, Mount Olive, Research Triangle Park, Washington, and Wilmington. The Mount Olive location also offers over 40 majors and 15 NCAA Division II athletic teams in daytime format for recent high school graduates and college transfers.

Few colleges in the nation offer as many choices for scheduling. Rather than just two semesters and a summer session, Mount Olive College has as many as 80 opportunities for students to begin their studies.

"Our programs are built around our students' needs," says Dr. Evan Duff, director of Mount Olive College-Washington and an alumnus of MOC. "We deliver quality programming that doesn't force students to choose between education and other responsibilities."



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE SOCIETY GALA

Transforming Education ~ Transforming Lives

The Mount Olive College Society is composed of individuals and organizations who believe in the mission of Mount Olive College and pledge to become partners with the College in transforming education and transforming lives. Society members are committed to advancing Mount Olive College through individual actions and financial support of \$1,000 or more during the College's July to June fiscal year.

Recognition of Mount Olive College Society members will take place in the fall at an annual gala designed as a wonderful evening of fine dining, entertainment, and celebration of the dedication of Society members. Formal invitations will be mailed, but remember to save the date. September 14, 2007 on the MOC campus, will be the first Society Gala with keynote speaker, Jeanne Robertson.

The Mount Olive College Society is composed of alumni, parents, Free Will Baptists, businesses, foundations, and friends from across the years and across many miles. Proudly, Society members are taking the lead in providing the needed resources for future generations. However, the donor's greatest gift is the success of MOC students whose lives are transformed through their experiences at Mount Olive College.

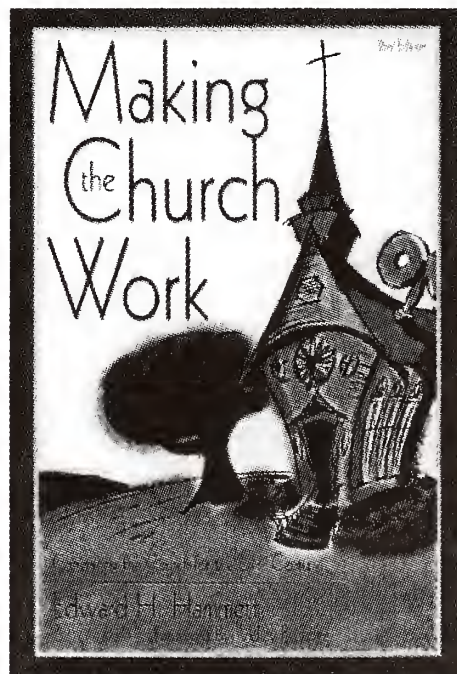


MAKING THE CHURCH WORK IN THE 21ST CENTURY

"Making the Church Work in the 21st Century" is a special program to be presented by the Rev. Edward H. Hammett, April 26, 2008 from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at the First Free Will Baptist Church, 604 E. Ash Street, Goldsboro, NC. The program, designed especially for lay persons as well as ministers, will examine the impact of the rapidly changing culture on the church, examine practical ways of reaching people under 40 while keeping people over 60, how to introduce and navigate the waters of change and transition in the church, and tips on reaching unchurched people in the 21st century world.

The registration fee will be \$10 per person and each person will receive a copy of Mr. Hammett's book *Making the Church Work*. Mark the date on your calendar and make plans now to bring your church van with your church leaders. This is a valuable program that will help your local church discover ways of following the teaching of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go, ye therefore, and teach all nations... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ...".

This program is being sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, the North Carolina Original Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association, the Sunday School Ministry, and the Barrow Endowed Fund at Mount Olive College.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE: The Inspiring Story of Howard F. Scott, MOC Trustee



Howard Franklin Scott is in his 30th year as a member of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. His energetic influence has been felt by many in the College community, and he has made a positive mark in both the professional and academic arenas.

The son of Hubert and Mozelle Scott, Howard was born and raised in Wilson County and entered college in 1972. "When I attended MOC it was a two-year junior college with just under 300 students," Scott recalled.

Scott graduated from MOC in 1974 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in agriculture education and a master's in adult education with a minor in sociology from NC State University. In 1978, he became the first alumni to serve on Mount Olive College's Board of Trustees.

Passionate about his role on the Board, Scott explains, "I believe in

Mount Olive College. It provided me the opportunity to grow and opened doors for me. Mount Olive College can make a difference in the lives of others, and I like being a part of that."

As a Board member, Scott has the opportunity to influence future development of the College as he leads the Student Development Committee and serves on the Executive Committee.

"Serving on the Board keeps me involved in the community and the FWB Denomination and has given me experiences and insight to various areas of education, economic development, and student development," he said.

Described as a doer and as someone who cares for others, Scott believes it was his father who first taught him the importance of giving back to the community and the value of hard work. Along with his sisters Judy Pate and Rachel

Crawford, Scott is committed to keeping up a family history with MOC.

"I had a nephew, Michel Scott that graduated from MOC in 1998," Scott remembered. "And I have a niece, Rebecca Crawford that will be a junior at the College next year." Also Scott's older brother, the late Dr. Don Scott served as director of the Agribusiness Center at MOC until his death in July last year.

Professionally, Scott serves as a director with the Wayne County Extension Service, and is famous for his creative sayings and tag-lines, called "Howardologies." Some of them include: "When all else fails, get to work." Which means you can talk about an issue as much as you want, but at some point you have to take action. Another famous phrase, "When it is fourth down and ten yards to go, you punt." Meaning that when you try something and it isn't working, then you change direction.

Scott is also known for his unique pastime, something he calls "recreational bush hogging," a hobby that allows him time to think and reflect. A strong spiritual person, Howard actively participates in various committees and teaches Sunday school at Kenly Free Will Baptist Church. "I pray for guidance every day that I will be of service to others in my work, my church, and at Mount Olive College," concluded Howard Scott.

Mount Olive College is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The College, sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, has locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, Goldsboro, Research Triangle Park, and Washington.

LOIS G. BRITT AGRIBUSINESS CENTER GETS NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM— HAMILTON AND MADDOX JOIN MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Dr. Phillip "Phil" Hamilton and Dr. Sandra Jane Maddox have joined Mount Olive College as part of the new Leadership Team in the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center. Hamilton is serving as the director of the Agribusiness Center and Maddox holds the position of associate director.

As the new director, Hamilton states, "I have academic, development, outreach, and international experience that I hope will add to excellent programs already here at Mount Olive College." "I also have 25 years experience in agribusiness, which should aid my being able to direct the Agribusiness Center and working with area agricultural producers."

Hamilton has previously worked at Sam Houston State University, TX; California State University; Louisiana Tech University; and with Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service as an area farm management specialist. He currently serves as an advisor for the Student Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association and assists with the Academic Quiz Bowl for undergraduate students. Hamilton has also served as a member of the National FFA Ag Sales Committee.

Hamilton received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Oklahoma State University and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University. He has made several presentations and been published in various agricultural, agribusiness, and educational journals.

As director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College, Hamilton's responsibilities will include directing academic, outreach, and

development activities for undergraduates and agribusinesses, including production agriculture in Eastern North Carolina.

As the new associate director of the Agribusiness Center and assistant professor of agribusiness, Dr. Sandra Maddox will provide leadership to the outreach effort of the Agribusiness Center in an effort to develop a presence for the Center in Eastern NC. Additionally, she will assist the Agribusiness Center team in student development, teaching, and agribusiness development.

Maddox stated, "The Agribusiness Center demonstrates the commitment that Mount Olive College has to agriculture and it is inspiring to be involved in this effort having been involved in agriculture all of my life." She went on to explain, "Don Scott laid the foundation for a strong program that is only in its infancy and to participate in the Center's growth under the leadership of Dr. Hamilton and as a team member with Don Thompson is very exciting. This, along with the College's vision and commitment to continued growth, is very challenging."

Dr. Kenneth Stokes, dean of the Tillman School of Business at Mount Olive College says, "Dr Hamilton and Dr. Maddox bring to MOC and the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center a breadth of disciplinary knowledge and a welcome global perspective that is consistent with the College's strategic interest, but also usefully aligned with the strategic initiatives currently underway in the Tillman School of Business."

Coming Events

JACQUES HNIZDOVSKY ART EXHIBITION • SEPTEMBER 24 TERESA PELT GRUBBS ART GALLERY

Mount Olive College recently received 26 Jacques Hnizdovsky prints from the personal collection of Melvin Reuber, M.D., and along with MOC's existing Hnizdovsky pieces, the College is now one of the largest holders of the artist's works in the world. In recognition of this most recent gift, Mount Olive College is planning a major exhibition for this fall. An opening reception is scheduled for Monday, September 24, at 7 P.M. in the Teresa Pelt Grubbs Art Gallery located on the MOC campus in Laughinghouse Hall. The exhibition will run until October 26. For more information, contact Cheryl Hooks, chairwoman of the Art Department, at <chooks@moc.edu> or (919) 658-2502.

ALUMNI WEEKEND NOVEMBER 16-18 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Join fellow alumni and MOC faculty, staff, and students for a weekend full of fellowship and friendship. Highlights include the alumni golf tournament, 42nd Annual Pickle Classic, and class reunions. Attend seminars on worship, criminal justice, education, and more! Something very special is being planned for the Christian choral group New Creations; please contact Dianne Riley ASAP. Check out the web for more information on Alumni Weekend or contact Dianne Riley at (919) 658-2502 ext. 1230 or <driley@moc.edu>.

FOUNDERS DAY • NOVEMBER 20

Mount Olive College will celebrate its annual Founders Day on Tuesday, November 22. During the annual Founders Day ceremony, employees are recognized for their years of service. The Founders Leadership Award, the highest honor given to a student, will also be presented. For more information, contact Kathy Gardner at (919) 658-2502 ext. 1451.

The Eastern District Youth Convention/Rally will be held Saturday, September 8, 6:30 P.M. at Jackson Heights OFWB Church, 285 Camellia St, Kinston. "Gone Fishing," a contemporary Christian band based out of Durham, NC will be our main feature.

Gone Fishing is comprised of four men who have come together with very different musical influences such as rock, blues, country, folk, and contemporary Christian music. Their bond is love for Jesus Christ and the desire to spread the Good News through a musical ministry. Gone Fishing cranks out many original songs, but still includes many contemporary favorites that many of all ages have grown to love. The band's target audience is the family. We live in a day when family members are separated for various reasons. Gone Fishing invites you to come as a family to worship our Lord with high energy Christian music.

Although this is the Eastern District Youth Convention, youth of all ages from everywhere are invited and welcome to come!

Gracie Jones, Cynthia Summerlin, Angie Toler
Eastern District Youth Co-Directors

Homecoming

Saints Delight *Original Free Will Baptist Church*

Ormondsville Road, Ayden, NC (off Hwy 903)

Sunday, September 23, 2007

Service will begin at 10:45 A.M.

The Reverend James R. Owens, pastor

Come and join us for great fellowship, special singing, and lots of food following the service!

**For information or directions
contact Trish at (252) 341-0706.**

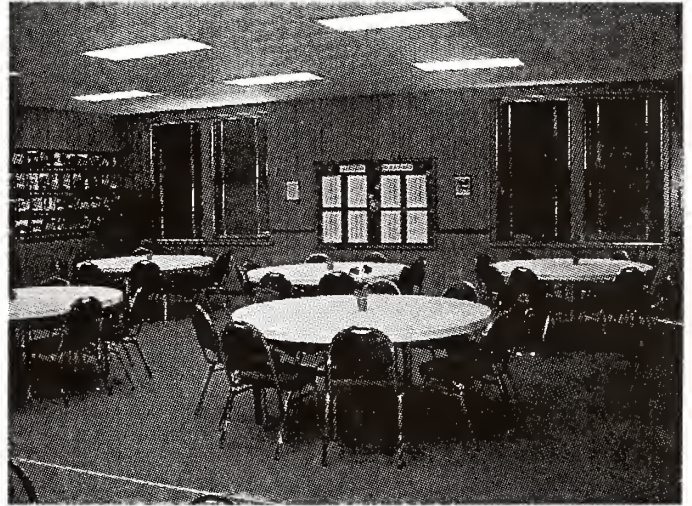


MEETING NEEDS

The Children's Home had expressed a need for new tables and chairs for Heritage Hall. Earlier this year, Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church Woman's Auxiliary rallied toward this need and purchased folding banquet tables for the home.

- In March, Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church Woman's Auxiliary, Sims, made a generous contribution toward the cost of new chairs.
- On July 28, Jackson Heights Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston came for a visit. The treasurer presented a check to the home to cover the balance of the cost of the new chairs needed.
- On Wednesday, August 1, the chairs were purchased. Residents from Central Cottage were eager to help unload the chairs and place them in Heritage Hall.

A special thanks goes to these churches for supplying this need for the Children's Home.



Needs List

- Twin Sheet Sets and Comforters
- Campus Snack Machine
- Photo Paper
- Bathroom Rugs
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Filing Cabinets (4-drawer, fire proof)

2007 Change For Children Update



As of August 6, the amount collected for Change For Children is \$48,836.96.

CAMPUS VISITS

On July 28, the Children's Home was treated to a day of fun and a meal, hosted by Jackson Heights Free Will Baptist Church. Around 10:30 A.M. vehicles came rolling onto campus laden with happy, sharing individuals. The pastor, Rev. Ashley Summerlin was among the first to arrive. However, his wife Cynthia didn't arrive with him because she had caught a ride on one of the 25-30 motorcycles on the way.

There were more than 75 visitors on campus, from Jackson Heights and Seven Springs Free Will Baptist Churches. A home cooked meal was served in Heritage Hall, we had a time of sharing through testimony, and then an afternoon of games, motorcycle rides, and four-wheeler rides was underway. As the day came to a close, a blanket was laid on the ground and covered with new backpack/book sacks for each of the children at the home.

Oh, and by the way, if you happen to see any of the members from these churches, ask them how it is possible to go ice fishing in July. We sure did that day!

Thank you for a great day!



4TH ANNUAL PAPER PRODUCTS/CLEANING SUPPLY DRIVE—SUCCESS

How do you spell success? Well, during the month of July success was spelled like this:

FREE WILL BAPTISTS UNITED FOR A CAUSE!

Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, Layman's League sponsored the 4th Annual Paper Products/Cleaning Supply Drive for the Children's Home. The event was held at the Carolina MudCats Ball Stadium in Zebulon, North Carolina. More than 30 Free Will Baptist Churches purchased in excess of 840 tickets to the baseball game, and brought supplies. Staff and children of the home were treated to an evening of baseball and a spectacular fireworks display.

Earlier in July, a collection drive was held at WalMart in Wilson. Muddy the MudCat, the mascot for the Carolina MudCats team, visited the collection site to help with the drive.

The new pastor at Spring Branch, the Rev. Doug Skinner came on board just in time to get in on the collection and delivery of the supplies.

The supplies of paper towels, tissue, and laundry detergent will meet our needs for many months to come. In addition to the paper products and laundry detergent, were washcloths and towels, dish detergent, cleaning supplies, bedding supplies, personal hygiene items, and a few back to school items.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the churches and individuals who participated. There is a lot of "behind the scenes" work that goes into putting together an event like this. Special thanks goes to Bill Doane, Spring Branch Layman's League president who worked so hard to organize the event and solicit support for it, and the Spring Branch Layman's League members who helped collect and deliver the items to the home. All of these donations of time and supplies are truly a blessing to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The success of this event is just another testimony of faith and determination exhibited by fellow Christians.



Woman's Auxiliary

NINA GRACE REGISTER HONORED

By Teresa Grubbs

On Saturday, June 2, 2007, the Executive Committee for the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists met in Ayden at the Press. Our usual venue is Mount Olive College, but on this day we had some very special business to take care of.

Last year, a letter went out asking any auxiliary group or individual wanting to help honor Nina Grace Register for her many years of service to the Woman's Auxiliary as editor of *Devotion* to send their gifts to our treasurer, Nadine Crocker. It had been suggested that a room at the Press be renovated in her honor, since Mrs. Register had also served on the Press board. The gifts began to add up and the work started on a room used as a break room.

After taking care of necessary business, we prepared to have a dedication service. We anxiously awaited the arrival of Mrs. Register, who was accompanied by her son, Jimmy, and his wife, Nila. Upon their arrival, they were escorted to the *Devotion* Conference Room in honor of Nina Grace Register. The Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee dedicated the room with Scripture reading, prayer, singing, and words of appreciation to the surprise of Mrs. Register.

Thanks go out to those who helped to make all of



Nina Grace Register seated in one of the new conference chairs.

this possible. The renovations included window treatments, new flooring, a conference table, chairs, and painting. Thanks to those who gave of their time. Thanks to those who donated materials. If you get the opportunity to visit the Press, make an effort to see the Nina Grace Register *Devotion* room. We think you will be pleased.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Church in Wilson, NC was honored to have Amanda Huerta as their guest speaker at the July meeting. Amanda is the granddaughter of the late Rev. Joe Ingram and Peggy Ingram. Amanda also blessed us with singing "America the Beautiful" and was accompanied on the piano by her mother, Becky Estep.

Thank you Amanda for blessing us with your many talents.



*Pictured from left to right:
Peggy Ingram, Amanda Huerta, and Becky Estep*

AUGUST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT CRAGMONT

by Brenda Batts, Daniels Chapel Church



All the smiling faces in the photo represent some of the greatest women of God you could ever want to fellowship with at camp. The August 2007 Cragmont Woman's Conference was a great success because God poured out his anointing and blessings upon every participant and every event.

There were 67 women, as well as four children under age 15 and two men, present for the Conference (including 14 first-timers) who ranged in ages from 7 to 95. We also had a sister who said she had not missed a conference since its inception in the 1950s.

We were blessed to see the love flow between moms and daughters, many sisters attended together, and groups from various churches, denominations, and states. Alabama was not too far for one daughter to make sure her mom attended this year.

Mary Pittman did a great job of coordinating our programs and activities throughout the week. Hats off to May (Director), Joan Little (Registrar),

and Sandy Thick (Co-registrar/Co-director) for allowing God to use their talents and abilities to make our week go smoothly.

The beauty and serenity of Cragmont was enhanced as we began each day with devotions before breakfast. With gentle encouragement, Phyllis Langley shared from her heart and God's Word.

The sweet sounds of harmony filled the air as we were led in praise and worship with melodies new and old. It was a joy to lift our hearts in songs to God, led by Kristie Bailey. Her countenance radiated God's love as we welcomed His presence. Our singing was complimented by the musically gifted and talented Jo Ann Parrish. She shared a beautiful song she wrote which blessed our hearts.

After a great breakfast each day, we returned to the Chapel well fed, but still hungry for spiritual food which God abundantly supplied.

Our speaker for the morning sessions was Kathy Hayes. Her goal was to refresh our memories of

God's Word and encourage us to draw closer to Him by exercising our faith, enhancing our prayer life by understanding how we should pray, and striving to live in unity, especially in the body of Christ. We were all blessed by Kathy's joyful and thorough presentation of God's message.

Evening sessions of Bible study were a continuation of great fellowship, worship in song, and teaching of God's Word led by Becky Jo Sumner. We went through selected Scriptures of the book of Ruth to gain a greater knowledge of Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law. Becky Jo presented each of us with a study guide to help research and be familiar with the questions she would pose for discussion. I'm sure there were times in Becky Jo's exuberance in sharing of the book of Ruth that many of us found ourselves at the very place in time of Ruth and Naomi; experiencing their loss, their devotion to one another, and their victory as Naomi became a direct ancestor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We could not fail to see God's hand leading our speakers, and our amazement as each theme unfolded, one into another in continuous flow. How awesome our God is!!!

The Rev. John Williams, Cragmont Camp Director, gave us great insight on camp expenditures and the need for monetary resources, not only to maintain their flow, but to increase as improvements are addressed and completed. We are ap-

preciative of the vision long ago for Cragmont, and the doors are being continually open for a great place for campers of all ages. We are grateful for generous donation of \$2,050 received at our Conference.

The Rev. Harold Jones spoke to us on Friday afternoon. He gave us a wonderful slide presentation of the mission field and many areas of ministry. We were all very appreciative and gave liberally to help meet the need. Our offering to missions was \$1,145.

Various other events included bus trips to local Asheville malls, and the most spectacular trip to Pigeon Forge to shop, eat a marvelous supper, and see a great production of the life of Christ called "The Miracle." This is a recommendation for anyone who visits the area.

Friday afternoon we gathered in the Chapel for the annual "Fun Time." Myra Webster exceeded the event as many talents were shared in songs, readings, pantomimes, and skits. Laughter was abundant for 1 1/2 hours as we again fellowshiped in the various talents of the people represented.

I hope all present for this Conference and many others will be able to attend next year, as well Morning Star, Day Spring, and hopefully, an added program schedule for next September. It was such a wonderful experience to fellowship with women of God in the mountains of North Carolina, to come home refreshed and excited about serving our Great God!!

Blessings to all!

Western District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Wednesday, October 3, 2007
New Sandy Hill OFWB Church
Bailey, NC

Registration: 9 A.M. — Starts: 9:30 A.M.

Theme: "Go...Tell the Story!"

Guest Speaker: The Reverend Harold Jones,
Director of Foreign Missions

Directions to church:

2 1/2 miles south of Bailey on NC 581 at intersection
of NC 581 and New Sandy Hill Church Road

Eastern District Fall Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Saturday, September 15, 2007
Deep Run OFWB Church
Deep Run, NC

Registration: 9:30 A.M. — Starts: 9:50 A.M.

Theme: "The Abiding Presence of Christ"

Kitty Barnes, Worship Speaker

Camp Vandemere

CAMP VANDEMERE NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

Another season of camping has drawn to a close. God has been good during this summer with many young people accepting the Lord and numerous rededications being made. Please continue to look in *The Free Will Baptist* each month for articles written by camp directors and others sharing their 2007 camping experiences. Look for a summary of the camp weeks in a future issue, also. Many thanks go out to the directors and counselors for making this season a huge success for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Also, thanks go out to the Camp Manager, Food Service and Maintenance Staff for the great job that has been done to make the facilities welcoming for each group that has attended camp this year.

“SINGIN’ BY THE RIVER” AT CAMP VANDEMERE: OCTOBER 19–20

It is time for the 11th annual “Singin’ by the River” at Camp Vandemere! We are excited about this year’s event which will include plenty of good food, fellowship, fun, and some of the best Gospel music around!

This two-day event begins on Friday at 5 P.M. with hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, and beverages available for purchase through 9:00 P.M. The singing will begin at 7:00 P.M. featuring: “The Juniper Five” from Juniper Chapel Church in Vanceboro and “The Wehry Family” from Kentucky.

Saturday activities will begin with an ALL DAY YARD SALE at 9:30 A.M. The singing will begin at 10 A.M. featuring: “A Peculiar People” from Jackson Heights Church in Kinston, “Second Edition” from New Bern, “Four in Christ” from New Bern, and “Willing Heart” from Wilmington. We will take a break at 12 noon for a lunch offering fish and all the trimmings (\$6 per plate). Hamburgers, hot dogs, and other items will be available all during the day. The singing will resume at 1 P.M. and continue until 3 P.M.

Again this year, you will be able to rent a 10 feet by 10 feet area to set up a booth for Yard Sale and Craft Items at a cost of \$25. Booth area for any OFWB ministry will be available at no charge. If interested, please contact the Rev. Ashley Summerlin at (252) 560-8995 or e-mail at <cks0151@hotmail.com>.



CONTACT INFORMATION

For information concerning Camp Vandemere in regard to camping, weekend retreats, meetings, and services, contact our camp manager, the Rev. Wesley Taylor, P. O. Box 188, Vandemere, NC 28587. The camp office number is (252) 745-3171 and Wesley’s cell number is (252) 514-3222.

If you would like to contribute to the ministry of Camp Vandemere, contact our camp treasurer, Mr. Damon Kennedy, 1571 Red Hill Road, Mount Olive, NC 28365. His home number is (919) 658-3253 and cell number is (910) 296-7100.

A CAMPER'S MEMORY OF CAMP VANDEMERE

Mosquitoes, Jellyfish, and Mud Floors—Are We Having Fun Yet?

by Nancy Hardy Baber

I recently had the privilege of serving as a counselor at Camp Vandemere under the direction of Curtis and Cristy Ramsey during Lighthouse Keeper's week of camp. My daughters, Kristen (14) and Laura (11), along with her friend Alex, attended as well, for the first time. While we all had a ball, the experience was even more special for me, as I was flooded with memories of my own days camping here, back in the 70s ("back in the day" as my girls like to say). During our week at camp, I was sharing some of these memories one evening with the Rev. Owen and Mrs. Pat Arthur, after a wonderful supper of barbequed pork chops prepared by the camp manager, the Rev. Wesley Taylor, and the camp's food service staff. Mr. Owen was the preacher at White Hill Church in Aurora where I grew up, and he and his wife directed camp the years I attended. They are also the parents of Cristy. As we were comparing the ways Camp Vandemere has changed in 30 years, he asked if I would share my memories with you.

My first year (I think I was about 12 years old) we had huge tents and cots. Due to a rainy spell, we also had mud for floors. It doesn't sound glamorous by any means, but my friends and I thought it was cool. The next year, they had built dorms that still stand today.

Swim time was one of my favorites. I remember walking forever out into the river trying to get at least waist deep, but the water would only come a little past my knees. We still had loads of fun, competing to see who could float the longest, hold their breath the longest, Marco Polo...

Even the jellyfish didn't sway our enthusiasm. We would just reach down and apply mud wherever we were stung and keep on going. Today, campers do not have to contend with jellyfish with the camp having a swimming pool. The river is now used for paddle boats, canoes, fishing, and crabbing.

Other memories include wonderful food (still true today!), strategically timing showers in order to get hot water, the smell of "Off" (I think the mosquitoes liked it too!), singing, skit nights, ping pong, shaving cream pranks, being threatened with potato peeling duty, making new friends, and chapel time. Our chapel time was held in the dining hall; they have since added a chapel. And it was here that I have, by far, my best memory. I couldn't tell you what the message was that night; I just remember a persistent urging in my heart to go forward. It was here that I accepted Jesus as my Savior. While a lot of the details are sketchy, I will never forget the feeling of contentment and peace that came over me that night. And even though I strayed some later in life, as unfortunately many of us do, I never found peace and happiness anywhere else. And I never forgot that indescribable feeling of peace the night I was saved. God used that to bring me back into His fold. So, while many of the memories have faded (am I getting old?), the one thing that will never fade is the love of Christ that I discovered at Camp Vandemere. And I will always be grateful to Mr. Owen and Mrs. Pat for having the patience and perseverance to put up with all of us; it must have taken a lot of prayer!

Upcoming Events at Camp Vandemere

- **September 7-9** Christian Emblem Weekend sponsored by the State Layman's League. This will be a weekend for boy's and girl's groups to learn more about Spiritual emblems used in our daily walk with Christ.
- **October 19-20** Singin' By The River
- **November 2-3** Annual Fishing Tournament

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

submitted by Debbie and Katie Brown

It seems the older we get, the more we don't like to see things change. It is fun to remember sitting around the old country store and listening to people talk about the way things used to be. Watching the old regulars playing checkers on their homemade checker board with bottle tops for pieces.

Everyone that stops by talks about how much our crops need rain or how hot it has been. Our parents and grandparents talk about how hard the times used to be, but they all say, "That was the good old days."

Everyone worked hard all week and their families looked forward to going to the old country church, down the road, known as St. Delight Original Free Will Baptist, on Ormondsville Road. A time of good preaching, music, and fellowship with family, friends, and neighbors will be enjoyed by all who attends.

Our church family decided to honor our ancestors by having an "Old Fashioned Day," which included a lunch of wood cooked barbeque, collard greens, and other fresh garden vegetables and home baked bread with many delicious deserts, served under big oak trees. It was truly a mouth watering event.

Church members and guest were clothed in long skirts, aprons, and bonnets for the ladies, and bib overalls, straw hats, and suspenders for the men. We played horseshoes, hopscotch, tire races, jump rope, and marbles. Church members brought old farm memorabilia that prompted a lot of interest.

The Lord blessed us with a beautiful spring day and a good time was shared by all. Hopefully, we can make "Old Fashioned Day," an annual event.

St. Delight Original Free Will Baptist Church was founded in 1870 and has been serving the Lord for the past 137 years. Could you imagine the stories that could be told if only this old country church could talk?



TO: ALL MINISTERS AND LAYMEN OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some of you may remember me, many will not. More than thirty years ago, I gave up my credentials as a Free Will Baptist minister and walked away from the pulpit. In December 2001, I knelt before God and ask Him to forgive me and to restore the peace and joy I had lived so long without. In His wonderful grace, He heard and answered my prayer.

Since then, I have spent many hours in prayer seeking God's direction for my life never dreaming that He would ever allow me to preach again. Several months ago I met with the Ordaining Council of the Cape Fear Conference and requested that my credentials be reinstated and after several meetings, they agreed to do so. I thank God for these men and their willingness to listen to my request and to work with me to return to what God called me to do. Of course there are conditions and I expected nothing less.

I am writing this letter to ask that you, laymen and ministers, lift me up in your prayers as I seek God's direction for my life. I don't know what He has for me to do but I am willing to go wherever He leads. My wife and I are making arrangements to move back to Johnston County. In the last few months, I have been given several opportunities to preach and have participated in two revivals. In October, I will bring the homecoming message at Stevens Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. I am asking all Free Will Baptist pastors to prayerfully consider giving me an opportunity to preach or just to give my testimony as a prodigal son who has returned to the Father's house. I believe there are many people who need to hear my story of redemption and to know that there is forgiveness available to them just as it was for me.

Above all, please pray that God will find a place of service for me. I want nothing more than to tell people of God's love and mercy. The Rev. Frank Harrison from the Ordaining Council has given his permission for anyone with questions to call him at (919) 658-9363. You may also call my pastor, the Rev. Jim Bogle at Powhatan Church. I can be reached at my home, (336) 643-5467 or on my cell phone, (336) 215-7235. My mailing address is 7294 Lee's Ridge Road, Oak Ridge, NC 27310.

Thank you for your prayers.

Because He Lives,
Larry Coats

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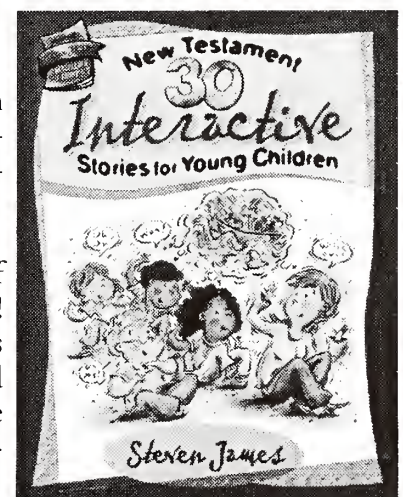
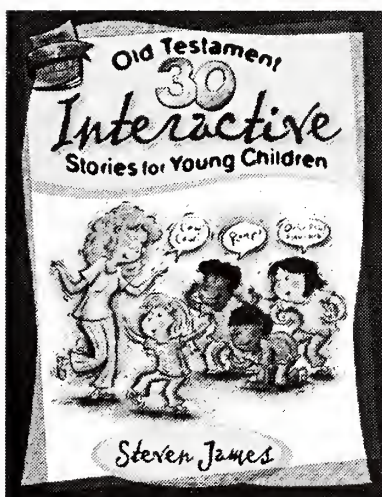
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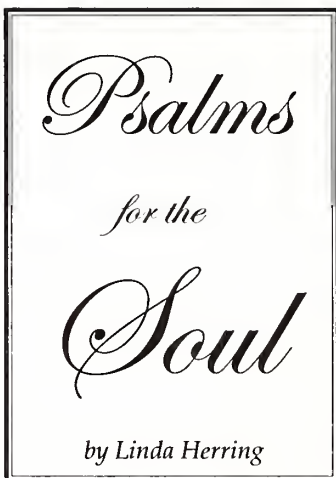


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The Bible Speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Are we obsessed by something? We will probably say "no," by nothing. If we are honest with ourselves, I believe we just might be. It could be food. Do we live to eat or do we eat to live? It could be money. Do we want more and more thinking it will make us happy? It could be pleasure. Can we hardly wait for the weekend so we can get away to have fun? Open up the Bible and read Psalm 25:12-15.



The Psalmist says that we are supposed to be obsessed by God. The total being of our life inside and out is to live in the awareness of God's presence in our lives. We are to live and move and have our being in God. God will keep us even in the midst of tribulation, misunderstanding, and slander, if our life is hidden with Christ in God. Who is the man or woman that fears the Lord? Do not let the stresses of the day steal your psalm.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT OF BEAVERDAM CHURCH

(This article is a partial re-print from pages 7 and 13 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, February 17, 1965, Vol. 80-No. 7. The original article was entitled Progress Made at Beaverdam Church.)

The Beaver Dam Church was organized in the year of 1887; however, the earliest record of the church is recorded in the minutes of the Pee Dee Association which met for its fifty-second annual session of the association with Mt. Calvary FWB Church in October of 1921. At that time, the church had a membership of 203. In these minutes it stated that the past records of the association had been lost while in the hands of one of the association's deceased ministers.

In the fall of 1949, the old original church building was moved from its site and the construction of the present building began. At this time the church membership was 361. In 1950, with the motto, "Pay as We Go," the building was completed sufficient to hold six Sunday school classes at an estimated cost of \$40,000. At that time there was an average Sunday school attendance of 378.



In 1956, four more classrooms were added to the church, rest rooms were built, and a new water system installed, bringing the estimated value of the church property to \$58,000.

Then in 1962, the old heating system and attic fans were discarded and a new heating system and air-conditioning system was installed. In 1964, a new roof was put on the church and a new ceiling of Celotex was installed. The church then had a seating capacity of 766. The property was valued at \$67,000.

The Rev. J. A. Hucks first served the church as pastor in 1941, serving for five years. In 1947 he returned to the church and served as pastor for seven years. He returned again in 1956 and was serving in 1965, making a total of twenty-one years of service rendered to the church.

RESOLUTIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2007 SESSION OF THE WESTERN CONFERENCE

The Resolutions Committee of the Western Conference is accepting resolutions to be considered for presentation to the 2007 session of the conference.

To be considered, the resolution must be submitted to the chairman of the resolutions committee (Dr. De Eakes), no later than Friday, September 14. The resolution must be signed, and must include accurate contact information for the person submitting the resolution.

The Resolutions Committee reserves the right to reject resolutions which do not meet the requirements stated above, as well as resolutions which, in the opinion of the committee, are not in line with the constitution and by laws of the conference, as well as *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

Resolutions may be submitted to: Dr. De Eakes, PO Box 298, Lucama, NC 27851.

An Evening With Michael Combs

with special guests

The Wilmington Celebration Choir



Time: 7 P.M.

Date: Saturday, October 27, 2007

Place: Grainger-Hill Performing Arts Center, Kinston, NC

Tickets: \$12.50 in Advance / \$15 at the Door

Advance Tickets are available through October 26th at:

Kinston Bible Bookstore

Ayden Bible Bookstore

New Bern Bible Bookstore

The Rock, Winterville

The Christian Soldier, Goldsboro

Tickets will be \$15 at the door. For more information, call (252) 939-4726.

sponsored by the Eastern District Layman's League of Original Free Will Baptists

Fall Festival Shopping Spree

Saturday, October 13, 2007

At

Gum Swamp OFWB Church

2072 Gum Swamp Ch. Rd.

Belvoir, NC

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM



This Event will Include:

Home cooked Cakes, Pies, & other baked items, Cook-
books, candles and Canned
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Kay, Tupperware, Avon,
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Tastefully Simple. Crafts by-
Brenda Carraway & Sue
Snyder



Breakfast & Sandwich items will be sold.

The Ladies Aux will get a percentage of everything sold. Proceeds go to support projects around the Church and to Missions.

Admission is Free.

BBQ Plates will be Sold by the Gum Swamp Youth Group,
BBQ Pork, Red Potatoes, Slaw, Rolls,
\$6.00 per plate

Sold by tickets so please see a member of the Youth Group.
Proceeds to go to the Gum Swamp Youth Ministries.

*Sponsored by the Gum Swamp Ladies Aux.
Any Questions please call (252) 758-4356*

These churches keep up to date with the latest—through group subscriptions to

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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Antioch Church, Pikeville, NC
Barnes Hill Church, Nashville, NC
Beaverdam Church, Clarendon, NC
Bethany Church, Wadesboro, NC
Bethany Layman's League, Winterville, NC
Bethel Church, Four Oaks, NC
Beulaville Church, Beulaville, NC
Black Jack Church, Greenville, NC
Black Jack Grove Church, Goldsboro, NC
Cabin Church, Beulaville, NC
Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, NC
Christian Chapel Church, Pink Hill, NC
Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC
Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC
Crab Point Church, Morehead City, NC
Croatan Church, New Bern, NC
Daly's Chapel Church, Seven Springs, NC
Daniel's Chapel Woman's Aux., Wilson, NC
Davis Church, Davis, NC
Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Dilda's Grove Church, Fountain, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC
Everett Chapel Church, Clayton, NC
First Church, Durham, NC
First Church, Goldsboro, NC
First Church, Greenville, NC
First Church, High Point, NC
First Church, Kinston, NC
First Church, Plymouth, NC
First Church, Rocky Mount, NC
First Church, Smithfield, NC
First Church, Tarboro, NC
First Church, Warsaw, NC
First Church, Williamston, NC
First Church, Wilson, NC
Folkstone Church, Holly Ridge, NC
Free Union Church, Spring Hope, NC
Free Union Church, Walstonburg, NC
Fremont Church, Fremont, NC
Friendly Chapel Church, Greensboro, NC
Friendship Church, Farmville, NC
Greater Bethlehem Church, Starke, FL
Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, NC
Gum Swamp Church, Greenville, NC
Harmony Church, Wilson, NC

Harrell's Chapel Church, Snow Hill, NC
Haymount Church, Fayetteville, NC
Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC
Hickory Grove Church, Robersonville, NC
High Point Church, Trinity, NC
Hillsberry Church, Clinton, NC
Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC
Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
House of Prayer Church, Kernersville, NC
Howell Swamp Church, Walstonburg, NC
Hugo Church, Grifton, NC
Indian Springs Church, La Grange, NC
Jakim Church, Jakim, GA
Johnston Union Church, Smithfield, NC
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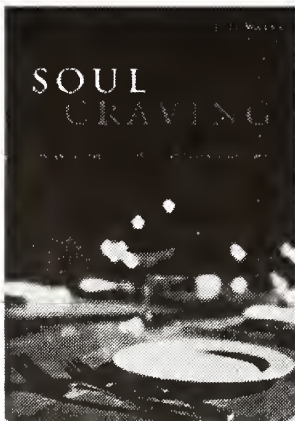
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WINTERVILLE CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking an Associate Pastor (emphasis on youth). Interested candidates must be a licensed or ordained OFWB minister. Please send resumés with a cover letter to: Joe Pickett, 3643 N. Main St., Farmville, NC 27828.

LEE'S CHAPEL CHURCH, Sampson County (near Dunn), is conducting a search for a Director of Youth Ministries. The part-time paid position will consist of providing the leadership and ministry support needed to conduct an outstanding ministry program among teenagers. Those interested should send a resumé to: Lee's Chapel, 4948 Plain View Hwy., Dunn, NC 28334. Ordination is not a requirement for this position but the candidate should exhibit an outstanding Christian character and have a sense of calling to work with teens in a church environment.

THE REVEREND WADE N. DAUGTRY has received ordination credentials from the Cape Fear Conference (October 23, 2006) and is available for interim, pastoral, revivals, and evangelistic work. He may be reached by phone at (919) 934-2515 or by mail at 133 Trent Ln., Four Oaks, NC 27524.

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: supply, revivals, interim pastor, or fill-in. He may be reached by phone at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.



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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

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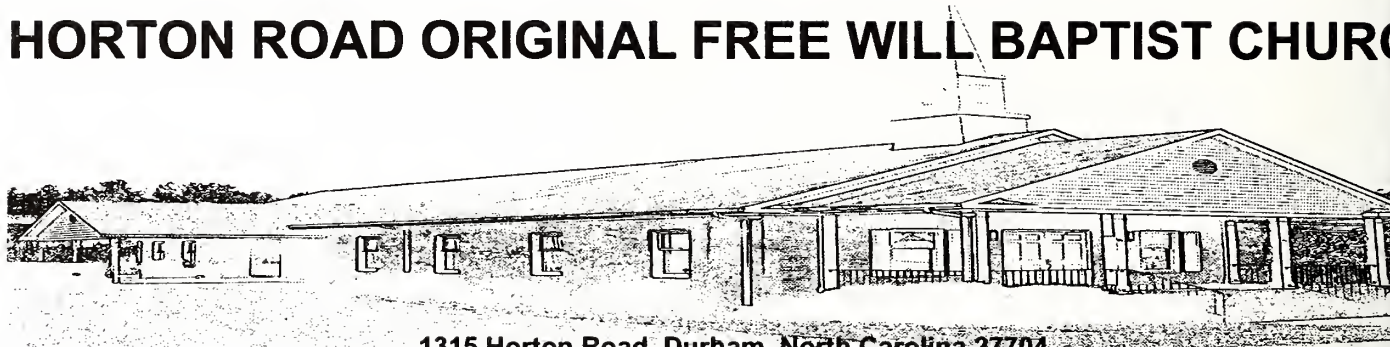
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Pastor: The Rev. Harry G. Brown (919) 479-5060

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OCTOBER 5-7, 2007

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SCHEDULE

Friday: 7 P.M.

1st speaker: Dr. Jerry Johnson (Patrick, SC)
2nd speaker: The Rev. Guy Owens (Wendell, NC)

Saturday: 9 A.M.

1st speaker: The Rev. Dale Burden (Virginia Beach, VA)
2nd speaker: The Rev. Karl Sexton (Virginia Beach, VA)
3rd speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli (Nashville, TN)
(Lunch prepared by Ole NC Bar-B-Q)
4th speaker: The Rev. A. B. Brown (Crews, VA)
5th speaker: The Rev. Jimi Marcum (Hookerton, NC)

Sunday: 9 A.M.

1st speaker: The Rev. Virgel Nolen (Durham, NC)
2nd speaker: The Rev. David Lee (Rockingham, NC)
3rd speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli (Nashville, TN)
(Lunch prepared by the ladies/men of the church)

Special Music by Horton Road OFWB Church Choir and *Southland Harmony*

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MONTHLY PLANNER
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MINISTER'S PROGRAM MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY (OFWB)	15	16 NATIONAL BOSS' DAY	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOTES:

COMING SOON:

November 17—Friends of Children Day

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FEATURES

5 *Original Free Will Baptists In Search of Identity: Part 2*

8 *Acceptance*

DEPARTMENTS

2 Monthly Planner

29 Woman's Auxiliary

30 Camp Vandemere

33 NC Foundation for
Christian Ministries

34 People & Events



17



33

COLUMNS

4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

18 Financial Planning:
A Biblical Perspective
by Don Fader, Guest Writer

38 Psalms for the Soul
by Linda Herring, Guest Writer

38 Golden Oldies

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

9 Minister's Program

12 OFWB International

15 Children's Home

17 Sunday School Ministry

19 Mount Olive College



13

POWER VERSE

My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing
unto thee; and my soul,
which thou hast redeemed
(Psalm 71:23).

WHEN EVIL REJOICES

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

It's becoming common place and the news media pounces on it—a well-known personality or very influential leader stumbles and falls, caught up in some form of crime or act of immorality. First comes the denial, and then (most of the time), the acknowledgement. Meanwhile, his or her opponents have a field day, especially in the realm of politics. If it happens to be some religious figure, such as a minister, the Devil and his forces surely find great delight to know that another professing Christian has stumbled, having to a great measure rejected the moral principles of the Christian faith as laid down in the Word.

Often we hear the remark, "Well, we're all human. We all make mistakes," in an effort to excuse the wrong, or at least soften its impact. Indeed, we are all human. We do make mistakes. The only way the Christian can succeed and continually persevere is by faith in His Lord, Jesus Christ. We do not become righteous by our own works, but through the One who lived a sinless life, who gave Himself "a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). It is His righteousness that is imputed to those who believe. Indeed, apart from Him, we have no true rightousness. We are made complete through Him.

All Christians are tempted, and often temptations come at the weakest moments and they may continue repeatedly until, through weakness of the flesh, some form of evil makes its inroad in our heart and lives. It usually begins with something that seems insignificant, or that's what Satan tells us. "It will not matter if you do this," he says. The barriers gradually come down until it becomes rather easy to submit.

We become conditioned to certain changes in our values and moral conviction as they become more prevalent in our society.

We can be sure that the so-called gay rights movement is finding great delight when leaders succumb to temptation.

It's like saying, "We are gradually winning." The same can be said of political opponents who delight in the immorality and corruption of an opposing party member.

We know that God is in the forgiving business. He "is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9 NKJV). We also believe He is the Victor. Through Him, our victory is assured. The evil forces will not win. The Lord's army is many and they are waging a spiritual battle that is assured.



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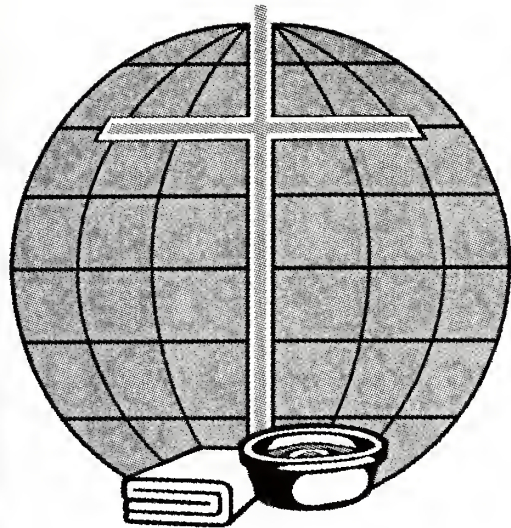
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Original Free Will Baptists IN SEARCH OF IDENTITY

(Ephesians 4:1–15)

*Presentation by W. Burkette Raper to the Ministerial Association
of Original Free Will Baptists Cragmont Assembly June 6, 2007*

Assignment—Purpose

Motion at the 2006 session of the Ministerial Association by the Reverend Frank R. Harrison that Dr. W. Burkette Raper prepare and present at the 2007 session a program:

- Identifying those qualities and characteristics that distinguish Original Free Will Baptists from all other Baptists groups:
- What are our distinctive benchmarks as Original Free Will Baptists of the English General Baptists heritage?
- What gives us our distinctive identity as Original Free Will Baptists?

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN SEARCH OF IDENTITY

The following is the continuation of a presentation by Dr. W. Burkette Raper to the Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists at Cragmont Assembly on June 6, 2007. Part I, "An Essential Framework For Understanding Who Original Free Will Baptists Are," was published in the July 2007 issue of The Free Will Baptist.

Part II: A Knowledge of "Other Baptists"

The assignment for this presentation calls for an identification of "those qualities and characteristics that distinguish Original Free Will Baptists from all other Baptist groups." To make this distinction, we must know who the "Other Baptist groups" are: what they believe and how they govern themselves. To do justice to this study would be equivalent to a Ph.D. thesis!

Because of the limitations of my time—to say nothing of yours!—I turned to a concise body of information: *Handbook of Denominations in the United States* (12th Edition, 2005) by Frank S. Mead, Samuel S. Hill, and Craig D. Atwood. This

work was first published in 1951 and has since been periodically updated eleven times. It is a book worthy of the library of every church and pastor. It lists some 221 denominations related to the Christian faith, and of this number 37 have "Baptists" in their name; and of these 37 Baptist denominations, four have "Free Will Baptist" in their name:

- Original Free Will Baptist Convention,
- National Association of Free Will Baptists,
- United American Free Will Baptists, and
- Pentecostal Free Will Baptists.

In addition to the above groups, there are innumerable independent Baptist churches and unaffiliated Free Will Baptist churches.

Within the wide-range of denominations and churches—from ultra-fundamentalist to liberal,

and with only informal guidelines for church government to clearly defined principles—it would be hoped that every Christian could find a church home where they would feel comfortable.

Part III: An Identification of What Distinguishes Original Free Will Baptists

The wide spectrum of beliefs and practices in church polity among Baptists is reflected in the multiplicity of Baptist denominations—more than any other grouping of Christians in the United States. Trying to list all the shades of interpretation of Scripture and practices held by various Baptist bodies is beyond the scope of this presentation. Instead, I will endeavor to identify the major beliefs and practices held in common by most Baptists, regardless of denomination.

1) The Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the ground for both faith and practice in the life of Christians and in the work of the Church.

2) The priesthood of believers: “The fundamental principle of the Baptists is the competency of the individual with God, without sacrament, priest or other mediation than Jesus Christ,” (*History of North Carolina Baptists*, Volume I, page 7, by George W. Paschal, 1930).

3) Belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ as the Son of God for the forgiveness of sin and the gift of Eternal Life.

4) Believers’ baptism—the baptism only of those who make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Baptists do not practice the baptism of infants.

5) Complete separation of Church and State.

6) Democracy in church government where each member has an equal voice.

7) Membership in the local church is only for baptized believers and by vote of the membership.

8) Pastors are chosen and retained by the membership of the local church and not by a denominational officer or ecclesiastical body.

9) Most Baptist churches observe two ordinances (not sacraments): baptism by immersion and the Lord’s Supper. Several Baptist groups also practice “Washing the Saints’ Feet.”

10) In matters of faith, each believer has freedom, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret the Scriptures for himself or herself.

Although the above beliefs and practices might be stated in different words, I believe all of them are consistent with *The Articles of Faith And Principles of Church Government For Original Free Will Baptists*. What, then, distinguishes Original Free Will Baptists from other Baptist groups, or even from other Free Will Baptists?

Externally, it is difficult to make the distinction. Shortly after his coming to work at Mount Olive College, an administrator from out-of-state asked me: “How do I identify those churches which belong to the Convention which sponsor the College?” My first answer was, “The only way to know is to know.” He look puzzled, so I added, “Ask Mrs. Jean Ackiss. She has been here forty years, and she knows our churches better than anyone else.”

I feel for the public. Signs in church yards and up and down the highway are not always helpful to those who do not know our churches. Although the National Free Will Baptist churches do not use the word “Original,” many of our Original churches have signs and make newspaper announcements that simply read “Free Will Baptist.” And then, there are many Black Churches who share our faith and have large signs which read: “Original Free Will Baptist.” Which leads me to ask, why don’t we search out those churches and invite them into an affinity relationship with our Convention and its ministries? After all, the Civil War ended more than 140 years ago!

Internally, it is easier to identify our distinctness.

1) Original Free Will Baptists are Arminian rather than Calvinistic, which means that we believe the death of Christ provides atonement for all who believe in Him and not just for the “elect,” as taught by John Calvin. Belief in the freedom of the human will to accept or reject God's saving grace was considered heresy in the early years of our Church.

Traditionally, Baptists were strongly Calvinistic, and it was the rejection of this doctrine that gave birth to the General Baptists from whom Original Free Will Baptists trace our lineage. During the last half of the 20th Century, however, many Southern Baptists began to lessen their emphasis upon Calvinism, but since the take over of the Southern Baptist Convention by the fundamentalists during the 1970s and 1980s there is a growing push, especially by the seminaries, for a return to Calvinism.

2) The Calvinistic doctrine of salvation is that the atonement of Christ was only for the "elect"—those predestined to be saved. Out of this belief comes the doctrine of "eternal security." Original Free Will Baptists, on the other hand, believe that just as the will of man is free to accept God's saving grace, it is also free to reject it and be "lost."

3) Because of their strong emphasis upon "regeneration" as the pathway to a right relationship with God and belief in the Holy Scriptures as the living Word of God, Original Free Will Baptists have placed a premium upon the spiritual life. Notwithstanding the importance of public worship, private prayer and reading of the Scriptures are considered the primary source of strength for the Christian life.

4) It is in the doctrine of the Church that Original Free Will Baptists have their major distinction among other Baptists. Perhaps the clearest way to identify the distinctiveness of Original Free Will Baptists is by friendly contrast with Southern Baptists. (Let us beware, however, that any *general* statement about Southern Baptists is always questionable!)

a) Southern Baptists see the local church as absolutely independent of other churches. It is a misnomer to speak of the "Southern Baptist Church," because there is no corporate entity—there are only local churches in fellowship with each other. Southern Baptists have associations and conventions, but these have no authority over the local church. The ordination—and if necessary, the discipline—of ministers is under the direction of the church in which the minister holds membership.

For Original Free Will Baptists, the ordination of a minister is a function of the Board of Ordination of a conference. Furthermore, among Original Free Will Baptists a local church can terminate the services of a pastor against whom there are charges, but only the conference can revoke his ordination status.

b) Among other Baptists, Original Free Will Baptists have unique principles of church government: "Since neither the local church nor the annual conference exists as an Original Free Will Baptist entity apart from the other, the annual Conference, being the highest tribunal, shall have final disciplinary authority over the local church" (*The Articles of Faith And Principles of Church Government For Original Free Will Baptists (Of the English General Baptist Heritage*, page 84).

This long-standing policy of church government was recognized and upheld by the Superior Court judge in the most publicized case in the history of Original Free Will Baptists, which involved the jurisdiction of a conference in disciplining a minister and addressing a major conflict in a local church (see *A History of Original Free Will Baptists* by Michael R. Pelt, pages 316–317).

CONCLUSION

As lengthy as it is, this presentation is only an introduction to the distinctive faith and polity of Original Free Will Baptists. The more I study our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government*... the more appreciation I have for the biblical, theological, and ecclesiastical insights of those who founded and bequeathed to us a firm foundation upon which our church could be built.

A major task before us is to more clearly define the mission to which God has called our church, to refine a plan of work to fulfill our mission, to equip ourselves—both ministers and lay persons—for the work required, and to commit ourselves without reservation to God's purpose for us.

Amen.

ACCEPTANCE

by Celia Hales

I have a friend who is dying. I know by the time you read this feature, she will no longer be on this earth.

Her name is Daphne Bass*, and for many years she and I, along with many other close friends, worked together in the same library system. Daphne used to be afraid of death, and long before her illness—for years, actually—she discussed her fear of “mortality,” as she called it, with her friends and family. She even sought pastoral counseling, so great was her fear of an unknown future and of what might transpire after death. The counseling helped prepare her for a future that perhaps she had had premonitions about.

I never tried to proselytize her. I am like my grandmother, Anna Garris Hill of Ayden, who never believed in proselytizing. I did listen, and I recommended books that had helped me. Others helped as well—friends and family, along with her husband Gene. And somewhere along the way a miracle happened.

For several months now, Daphne has known that she is dying. Our phone conversations (for I now live in Mississippi) have varied in their solace to each of us. From my desire for God’s comfort to hers, the best words that came over the line, a few

weeks back, were from Daphne, saying, “I don’t want to die, but, if I do, it will be all right.”

I am reminded of a quotation from S. H. B. Masterman, who says, “God often comforts us, not by changing the circumstances of our lives, but by changing our attitude towards them.” Here is a strict reckoning of the peace that Daphne has found. And is not God somewhere in that comforting that she has as I write this feature in her final hours on earth?

Daphne once told me, “I didn’t choose not to believe.” I nodded my head vigorously, for I well knew that she was telling the truth. In my observation, Daphne has been asking and seeking for years, and, as the Bible promises, she has found. Toward the end, fear of death was totally absent from her conversations with friends and family. She expressed only the desire not to have pain. That prayer has been granted her, because her illness, a cancerous tumor of the brain, does not bring pain, there being no pain receptors in the brain.

I will miss Daphne. Many very loyal friends and family, and especially her husband, will feel this same loss, some more poignantly than others.

I believe that God takes care of His own, and Daphne was His own.

**not her real name*





OCTOBER IS MINISTER'S PROGRAM MONTH

The Convention of Free Will Baptists has designated October as Minister's Program Month during the 2007 session. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the ministers and the local churches over the past year. It is our hope that you will remember this program in your prayers and that you will also be generous in your giving to support the work that we do on behalf of all the ministers in the Convention.

Gifts received during Minister's Program Month are critical to the overall success of this program. If your church has met its challenge this year, we say thank you! If you are receiving a special offering for the Minister's Program this month, we encourage you. If your church does not support the work of the Minister's Program, we ask why?

Mission Statement

It is the purpose of The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program to serve the churches and ministers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. It is our assertion that the minister can best meet the spiritual requirements of a congregation if he is unencumbered by the burden of financial insecurity. To this end we provide administrative services, information resources, and educational opportunities. These are designed to help the minister and the local church plan together a program of compensation and benefits designed to meet the minister's present and future financial needs.

What does the Minister's Program do? This program was brought into existence to help prepare the minister for the financial eventualities of life. To do this, we try to help educate the church and the minister about the unique needs of the pastorate. Our goal is not to provide for the minister, that is the church's responsibility, but to help the church and the minister plan together so that at all stages of life the minister can serve without the burden of financial concerns holding him back.

The Minister's Program is an extension of the local church administering programs that the

church could not provide on their own. We stand ready to work with the minister and the church to help them accomplish the goal of working together in a lifetime of financial planning. Ministers step out in faith to answer God's call. That faith is based on the belief that God will prepare them, provide for them, and lead the church to properly support them.

We believe that God channels His provisions through the church and it is required of them to be good stewards as it relates to their care of the pastor. This does not apply exclusively to matters of compensation, but also to support, appreciation, and willingness on the part of the church to be lead. Please consider areas that the Minister's Program can work with you to help build a strong working relationship with your pastor.

Work continues on *A Guide for Pastor / Church Relations* which we anticipate to be completed within the next few months culminating with a booklet that addresses the issues that confront the pew and the pulpit.

Most of you are aware that the Minister's Program sponsors a retirement program for our ministers. The current plan is valued regularly by AON Corporation, an international company providing retirement plan services. Those ministers receiving benefits under the plan can be assured that the Minister's Program will continue to provide the oversight and management necessary to make sure that their retirement benefits continue to be paid as agreed. Ministers that are currently preparing and planning for retirement have the satisfaction of knowing that their plan is among the most advanced plan available for ministers and enjoy tax benefits that make it unmatched in the private sector. The Program continues to provide retirement benefits to ministers who have outlived their benefits. This is only possible through your faithful giving to the program.

Does your minister have a plan for retirement? Churches should help their pastor prepare for the

future by funding his retirement plan today. Contact the Minister's Program for any help you may need as you assist your pastor so that he can retire with the dignity and security that his calling deserves.

Every Christmas the Minister's Program sends a gift of \$150 to all ministers age 65 and older. Remember, this is a gift from the churches of the Convention to men who have literally given their lives to the gospel ministry and this program is a way of saying we remember you, and we are grateful for what you have done. We encourage our churches to support this program and the response has been excellent. However we still have churches that do not give at all to this program and we would like to invite them to make 2007 the year they say "thank you."

Another program we offer to our ministers and their wives is the Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Minister's Fund. This past year several thousand dollars was paid out in the form of benefits in these two programs. For those who participate, this program provides a meaningful gift from fellow ministers during a time of loss. Every married minister is encouraged to participate in this program whereby they contribute ten dollars to a fund and when a participating minister dies the proceeds of that fund are given to his widow.

What are we asking you to do? Please pray for our work and after you have prayed consider a gift that will allow us to continue the work that we do. You may not know this but over 30% of our churches do not support the Minister's Program. Does your Church support the Minister's Program? If you answered "I don't know" to this question there is a good chance that your church provided no financial support to the Minister's Program last year. Why?

Perhaps one reason is that some ministers are hesitant to discuss the Minister's Program in the local church is because they may be perceived as being self-serving. I had a treasurer tell me one time that they did not support the Minister's Program because they felt they paid their minister enough and did not see the need to help the Program. The Minister's Program is for all the ministers who are presently serving and for those who have served so well.

If your church supports the program, please accept our thanks on behalf of our ministers. If your church does not support the program, please reconsider. Please tell us what we need to do to earn the trust and confidence necessary to receive your support. The only operating income we receive depends on the generosity of God's people, you.

Where does the money go?

- Each year ministers 65 and over receive a gift in the amount of \$150 during Operation Christmas Cheer. Once again, it is your support that makes this possible. Many of these men are your former pastors and friends who because of advancing age are no longer able to attend the Conferences and Conventions but are truly touched by a gift from the churches of this Convention.
- All administrative cost incurred in the management of the retirement program are paid by the Program and are not charged to the individual ministers as is the case in commercial retirement programs. This cost runs in the thousands of dollars each year but is paid completely by your gifts.
- The cost of Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Ministers Fund are paid by the Program so that all of the enrollment fees goes to the survivor and not one dime is used to pay costs.
- The Board works very hard to control the expenses of the Program and this year only 15 cents of every dollar received from all sources was spent in administration.
- We sponsor seminars which are subsidized so that the minister only pays a fraction of the cost to attend.
- Hardship Grants are available up to \$1,000 for ministers in extreme need.

The only limit to the scope of this program is the level of support we receive from you, the local church. Your gift to us is a sacred trust and we make every effort to provide the greatest benefit to our ministers with a minimum outlay for administrative costs.

While our financial report shows over one million dollars on deposit, these funds are divided into individual retirement accounts for ministers and reserve funds. This money belongs to the men who are preparing for their retirement and cannot be used for any other purpose.

We hope that you appreciate this fact and that you will continue to support this program with your prayers and gifts. Will you be a part of this ministry? The challenges we present to the church have not increased in eleven years. We ask that you consider the following challenge:

For additional information or questions, please write or call:

Donald Fader
Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 523-5800

For churches with:

Less than 100 members	\$150.00
100-149 members	\$300.00
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The Reverend Phillip Boykin, Chairman
The Reverend Sherman Dilley, Vice Chairman
The Reverend Stanley Buck
The Reverend Randall Smith
The Reverend Richard Glosson

CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY

Sunday, October 14, 2007

The Minister's Program would like to remind all churches that October 14, 2007 has been designated by the Convention as Clergy Appreciation Day. While each of us appreciates our pastor, this day gives you an excuse to do something special for him. He stands with you in times of sorrow and tragedy as well as those moments of joy that all families experience. Sometimes we forget to say thank you for all he does, but the Bible reminds us in Galatians 6:10:

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

We encourage each church member to do something on this day to show that you care. Here are some ideas:

- A financial gift.
- A surprise vacation.
- Gift certificates to a store or restaurants.
- A note of appreciation.
- Decorate your church in honor of your pastor.
- Have each Sunday School class do something special.
- Have a testimony time in your service.

The gift doesn't have to be extravagant. Anything from the heart will mean a lot.

Brought to you by the Minister's Program



BE MY WITNESSES

The information of this article I received out of a letter that was sent to me and written in Izmir (Smyrna).

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5 ESV).

In a publication on the website I recently read that more than 700,000 Christians around the world face the actual danger to be kidnapped, imprisoned, fired from their jobs, and being killed, because they confess their faith in Jesus Christ and follow Him as their Lord. God’s people are prepared to obey, despite of suffering. In the book of Ecclesiastes we read: “Nothing is new under the sun!” Christians have often been brutally attacked, with and without reason. Missionaries have always been on the front-lines and are still exposed for such evil actions.

The German missionary Tilman Heske was one of the missionaries whose heart went out to the souls of the millions of Moslems in Turkey. He was married, had three children and was working in a Christian publishing house in Malatia, 450 km. from Antioch (Turkey), the city mentioned in the book of Acts. Together with the 35-year-old Turkish pastor Necati Aidun, who was also married with two children, and Necati Uksel, he was used to having daily Bible readings and prayers. Everyone who showed interest has been welcome to attend their devotional meetings; they were open to everyone who was interested in the Word.

On April 18, none of these three Christians could imagine that they would face their last test of faith on that day which ended with their martyrdom. They are the first martyrs of the Christian church in Turkey of the 21st Century.

Ten young men from another part of the city, driven by hatred to the Christians decided to participate in the prayer meeting, which started at 10:00. The Turkish pastor read a chapter from the Bible and immediately after the reading the tormentors approached the three men, tied their hands and feet to the chairs, and made pictures with their cell-phones. The execution of our three

brothers Heske, Aidun, and Uskel lasted about three hours. All of them were stabbed many times: the German missionary 156 times, the Turkish pastor 99 times, and the stabs of the third brother could not be counted. After this they were sadistically slaughtered.

This cruel event shook the minds of many in the Turkish society. The people were shocked by that evil, demonic act, which could have been common during the Middle Ages. Turkish secular organizations protested against the inhumane violence in defense of Freedom of Confession.

The wife of the German missionary Tilman Heske said at the funeral of her husband: “Forgive them Lord, for they don’t know what they do!” In a country where blood revenge is as common as breathing, these words of Suzan Tilman have changed the lives of many people.

They have kindled the interest in the Bible of young people, which they want to read. In one sentence she said something that had an impact that 1,000 missionaries could not cause during 1,000 years.

What is going to happen with this church in Malatia? The members are scared to meet openly; probably they will worship together secretly as the early Christians did. The genuine church of Christ will always face trials, opposition, resistance, and even persecution. Temptations, trials, and tests prove that we are worthy to suffer for the glory of God. If we overcome them we will receive the crown of life. Shall we then pray for the persecution to stop? No! We pray for our brothers and sisters in the Moslem countries that they will persist and follow their Lord as he chooses them to follow him. May they receive comfort and strength to withstand all evil, and remain confirmed in Christ, under such heavy attacks as these.

RENDEZVOUS IN USKUDAR

Two years ago we were led to a church at Uskudar in Istanbul, which is one of the largest metropolitan areas in Turkey. The people we met were very hospitable and friendly to us. During the Sunday service we shared the Lord's Supper, commemorating His sacrificial death for our sins.

One of the women is named Elena; she is married to Niko and both are Romanians. She is a hard working person for the Kingdom of God, conducting regular Bible lesson courses. We exchanged addresses and are keeping contact since we met. This spring, after the cruel events which took place in Malatia, she wrote me a letter to intensify our prayers for the Church in Turkey.

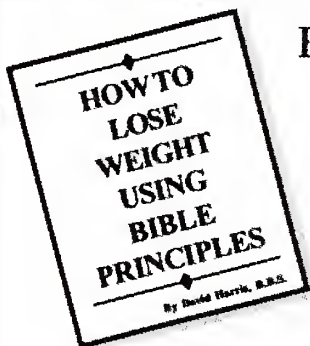
Medji and I went to Turkey to visit our brothers and sisters of the Church in Uskudar on August 3. All of us were intensely happy to meet again. Elena took us to her home after the church worship service. We talked about many important issues, prayed for God's blessings over our thoughts and that His Holy Spirit might guide us in the future. Elena shared with us that the situation of the Turkish churches is difficult: "They are neither allowed, nor forbidden!" That sounds familiar to us! Our church in Bulgaria was in the same situation for more than 10 years. She informed us that the people are afraid of coming together during church meetings, because of the cruel murders in Malatia. The attendance has dropped drasti-



cally. They no longer can pay the rent of the hall that they are using, which is \$1,000 per month. (The hall is about 100 m²). We promised to each other that we will lift up each other before God's mercy and that we will help to carry each other's burdens in prayer.

May God's mercy be upon all of us and His Holy Spirit renew in us every day! So that we may bring forward fruit, worthy for His Name. Amen

Tessie



Ever wonder how the ancient Hebrews stayed so fit and trim? Medical Science has collectively concluded that foods consumed by the ancient Israelites are indeed healthy, nutritious, and delicious. Here's proven results from on high that really work.

Author, David Harris, reveals word for word using scriptures how to lay aside every "weight" which has so easily beset so many. **ONLY \$3.00**

Name: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

email: _____

Make \$3.00 check or money order payable to: Harris Enterprises, P.O. Box 1243 Grifton, NC 28530. For bulk orders, email to harrisenterprises@kjvmail.com

CAMP MORELOS—A JOYFUL RETURN

by Harold Jones

Camp trip in Morelos is always full of excitement. You hear the Mexican people speak of Morelos with joy in their hearts. They travel there in vans, trucks, cars, and buses. This year there were two-hundred campers, ranging in age from infants to senior citizens. The Mexican people are very family-oriented and so whole families attend camp together. Camp Morelos lacks grand facilities. Everyone has to take their own bedding, towels, etc. Food is provided from a kitchen attached to the back of the church building. This year two different churches were assigned each day to cook and wash the dishes. This arrangement worked well and we had a wide variety of food. Water was plentiful, since there had been much rain this summer.

Each day was filled with Bible studies, crafts, games, and praise and worship. On Thursday, twenty-seven campers went mountain climbing.

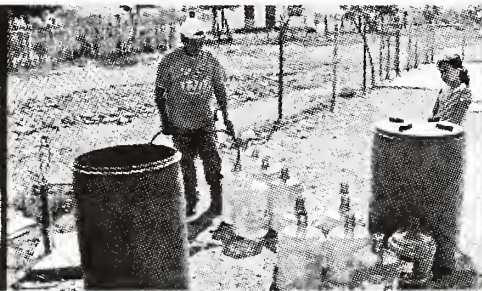
Dr. David Moretz, a dentist from Beulaville, and his

dentist assistant, Susan Brown, provided a free dental clinic for the campers and local ranchers. They saw seventy people during the week. They did extractions, fillings, and cleaning. It was a great blessing to the Mexican brothers and sisters, many who could not afford to go to a dentist. Sandra served as receptionist and instrument cleaner. She booked all the appointments and washed the instruments after each patient. She said it was one of the most fulfilling camps she had ever attended. Edmundo Gonzalez, served as interpreter. He had a first-hand course in dentistry. He watched Dr. Moretz's and Susan's every move. Chris Singleton and I gave moral support and kept the generator going.

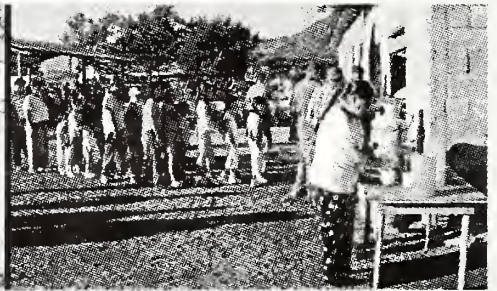
This was a delightful and fulfilling week. On Saturday morning, August 11, we departed from Morelos with our hearts full of the joy of the Lord and a prayer on our lips, "Lord, please let us return next year."



Campers arriving by bus



Plenty of water



Lining up for breakfast



Mountain climb



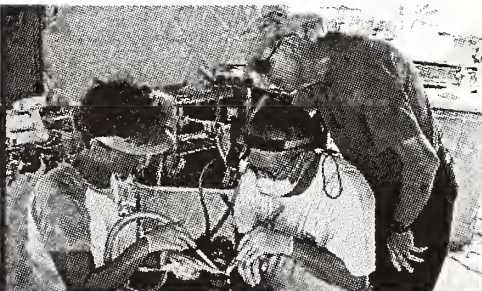
Vacation Bible School



Dr. Montez, Susan, and Edmundo Gonzalez with patient



Sandra cleaning instruments



Extra assistance provided by Harold



Evening worship service



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN APPRECIATION DAY

In February 1985, 22 years ago, the Friends of Children program began. Individuals, couples, families, businesses, youth groups, auxiliaries, layman's leagues, and Sunday School classes have become special friends. Friends who reach out beyond themselves and share their resources with girls and boys. Friends who are ensuring the future of children we serve and giving them a chance to succeed in their endeavors.

The Friends of Children program is still an active part of the Children's Home Ministry today. The funds generated by the program last year were more than \$25,000. If you are interested in becoming a member of this program, please contact the Development Office.

Every year, we take the opportunity to share with all of our friends at a special celebration. Our

Friends of Children Appreciation day will be held on November 17, 2007, with lunch at 12 NOON in Whitley Center. This year, the Board of Directors will take the opportunity to recognize Dr. Bobby Taylor, President/CEO, who is retiring from the Children's Home on December 31, 2007. We invite you to attend this memorable, historic event, as we celebrate with our special friends, and join together to show our support and appreciation for Dr. Taylor on his many accomplishments during his 25 years of dedicated service to the Children's Home.

Another way to show your support for Dr. Taylor is by contributing to the Bobby Ray Taylor Endowment, which was established by the Board in his honor in May of 2005. The current balance is this fund is \$21,775.

INVITATION

The Board of Directors invite you and your guests to our annual luncheon for Friends of Children Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 17, 2007, 12 noon, in Whitley Center on campus. The speaker will be Dr. Bobby Taylor, President/CEO, who will be retiring in December 2007. Dr. Taylor will be delivering his farewell address and the Board of Directors will take this opportunity to honor him for his many years of dedicated service to the Home and the success the home has experienced over the years. We encourage you to come and be a part of this special occasion.

Please RSVP by November 2, 2007

Number in Party _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return above form to:

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.
P.O. Box 249
Middlesex, NC 27557
Telephone: (252) 235-2161 or Fax: (252) 235-2625
Email: cbatten@fwbchildrenshome.org

BACK TO SCHOOL

On August 27, it was back to school for the residents of the Children's Home. The last few weeks of summer break were filled with field trips and back to school shopping. They wanted just the right outfit for the first day of school. The children are adjusting to their school schedule, and are already busy using the school supplies that were donated to the home.

Thanks to all for helping provide the children at the home with school supplies. Please keep our children in your prayers as they strive to learn during this school year.

From time to time we have a resident who likes to express their feelings through poetry. Whenever possible, we like to share them with our friends.

Lost in the Mist

by T. Harris, resident of Central Cottage

*Lost in the mist.
Nowhere to be found, or no way to be heard.
Lost in the mist.
Our minds crowded, thoughts rushing like traffic.
Speak your mind or be lost in the mist.
My heart is worried.
Without family and friends, my surroundings are lost.
Lost in the mist, that is.
Our minds corrupted in the mist of sins
Where Satan lies down to watch.
Be lost in the mist Satan.
You are here to steal, kill, and destroy,
Be lost in the mist of hell.
Lost in the mist.
I have nowhere to go, no place to turn.
I am lost in the mist without my parents by my side,
nor my brothers and sister to adore.
Without God's help at the door, my life is lost in the mist.
God's light is my guidance through life.
Lost in the mist.
Fighting between life or death
We choose our own destination.
Find your place in life.
Ask God for His help when it is needed.
Don't hesitate to call on God's name.
God's word is the truth of light.
Don't get lost in the mist of it all.
Pray to the Lord with your heart and soul.*



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CELEBRATING A DEDICATED LIFE

Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church • Deep Run, N.C.



On March 25, 2007, the Deep Run OFWB Church congregation celebrated the 90th birthday of a wonderful Christian lady who dedicated her life to the Lord, whether in the secular arena or the Christian. The morning worship service was dedicated to her life and work. Afterward a 'huge' meal was served for all who could attend which included a great many of her family and friends. She is a well-respected member of the community. A brief resumé of her life will be documented later in the article.

Miss Mildred Blizzard has seen many changes in her 90 years, but one element that has not changed during that time is Miss Mildred herself. She remains a kind, considerate, genteel, devoted lady, and a model of service.

Miss Mildred always knew she wanted to be a teacher. Her aunts, Irma and Reba, were teachers as was her grandmother, so she had role models for her career. Miss Mildred graduated in the first class to go through the entire senior year at Deep Run High School and then she went on to Atlantic Christian College, graduating in 1940. Her first teaching position was at Calypso in Duplin County. Her father would drive her to Deep Run to catch a bus to Warsaw; from Warsaw she would take the train to Calypso; and then she would walk the two blocks to the teacherage (a residence provided for teachers by the school). Needless to say, she did not come home often. She taught at Calypso for three years and then moved to New Hope School in Wayne County for about three years. At that time she and several friends decided they wanted to teach in a place where there was more to do, so they applied for teaching positions in Snow Hill (!!) which had a restaurant and a theater then. Miss Mildred was hired. In Snow Hill, she bought her first car. Some years later when

her parents became ill, Miss Mildred came back home to take care of them and began teaching at Pink Hill, where she remained until her retirement.

Her teaching career spanned 42 years. At various times she taught 4th–7th grades and she taught all subject areas. Early in her career, there was a lot of parental interaction with teachers, she says, especially in the small schools at Calypso and New Hope. Parents would have the teachers in their homes for dinner and take them to church. Miss Mildred says cars changed all that. When people became more mobile, the school was no longer the center of their community and social life.

When asked what she liked best about teaching, Miss Mildred said, "I really liked the feeling that I touched lives and helped them in some way." One way of touching lives was her practice of having a daily devotional in her classroom. Further, each week she put a Bible verse on the board. The students copied the verse and read it every day of that week until they could recite it. She said, "I tried to pick a verse they could understand and that would be good for them." When laws prohibited the devotionals and Bible verses, Miss Mildred says, "I kept on. I used 'quo-

tations' that *sometimes* were Bible verses." She obviously succeeded in touching lives. Many years after retiring, a young man came up to her in a restaurant and told her that he wanted to confess that he once lied to her about having chewing gum in class. He knew that she was aware of his lie and he had not wanted her to continue to be disappointed in him. Another former student spoke to her years later to tell her how much the verses on the board had meant to him later in life. When asked if she had any favorite memories of teaching, she said, "It was all pretty much good." She says she never paddled, but "I tried to use other ways to correct."

In retirement, Miss Mildred did some nursing home volunteer work, but her main focus has been her family. As the oldest, she has taken a

great interest in researching and preserving the family heritage and history. Part of that interest comes from living in "the home place," where she says she can "still feel Mama and Papa here." However, to the rest of her family, *she* has become the matriarch of the clan. In fact, some of her brothers have told her that they feel as if they had two mothers. In keeping with that sentiment, there are few Sunday afternoons when at least some of her siblings do not come by to visit—but not to eat, she is quick to add, because, "I'm not much of a cook."

If Miss Mildred doesn't cook, it is no matter. She has done so many things well in her 90 years, including serving her Master through touching the many lives He has entrusted to her—the lives of her students, her family, and her church family.

Thank you, Miss Mildred, and Happy Birthday!

FINANCIAL PLANNING: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

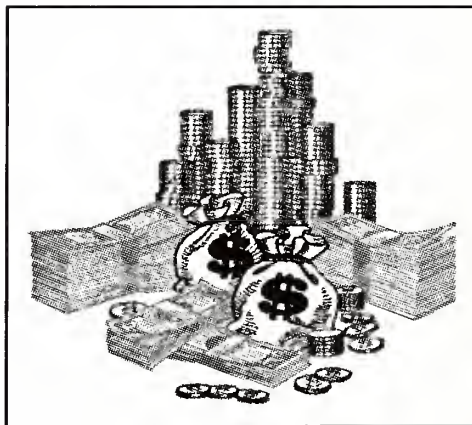
by Don Fader

I was asked one time if I could explain the difference between financial planning and Christian financial planning? At first blush it would seem that most Christians work in similar jobs to non-Christians and each month the mailman delivers basically the same type of bills to each household so what is the difference? The main difference is that the world looks at the finance part of financial planning and the Christian looks at the planning part.

The world views money as a way of keeping score and getting ahead. It becomes a benchmark in the sense that they use it to measure themselves against one another. If they have more money and things than their friends, neighbors or co-workers then in their minds they are of greater value as the world judges value. Ask young people what they want to do when they get out of school and often their reply is "I want to make a lot of money!" They dedicate their life

to making money instead of making a difference.

The Christians view of money is reflected in the attitude that money is a tool given to us by God to help accomplish His will in our life. This is



where the planning comes in. While it is important to live within our means and be good stewards, the Christian's plan should be to make a difference in their church, workplace, and community. How are we planning to make that difference? The world is full of people who want more and more so they can pursue their own selfish aims and ambitions. What the world needs

are people with a plan, a plan that can change the lives of the people they come into contact with. This is God's plan for us and money is one of the tools we can use to build His Kingdom. Arthur Ashe, the first black Wimbledon champion said this: "From what we get we can make a living, what we give, however, makes a life."



FWB STUDENTS ARE BACK TO SCHOOL

With the chapel bells ringing their welcome and the professors taking roll, Mount Olive College classes have now officially begun. Rooms of eager students can be found all over campus as the excitement of making and seeing friends and starting a new year settles into the neighborhood.

The Free Will Baptist students gathered for an introductory scholarship meeting and happily posed for pictures with their peers. All the way from the seasoned seniors to the fashionable freshman, each class was represented. The following names make up the list of FWB students in attendance, but it doesn't include the scholarship recipients not pictured.



Freshman Class



Sophomore Class



Junior Class



Senior Class

Michael Wheeler
 Crystal Guy
 Tabatha Kennedy
 Elizabeth Bennett
 Dale Price
 Adam Newsome
 Kelly Minshew
 Sarah Cottle
 Samuel Kornegay
 David Whitfield
 Travis Caviness
 Jennifer Lanier
 Kristen Knowles
 Ashley Hill
 Montel Jones
 Kari Ham
 Whitney Quinn
 Christina Britt
 Ashton Venters
 Kenneth Lee
 Chris Stroud
 Brian Parnell
 Riley Boyette
 Scott Woodard
 Christina Brock
 Cassie Naksuksri
 Eric Williams
 Nicole Watson
 Louis Paul

Heather McPherson
 Hope McPherson
 Elizabeth Waters
 Ashley Edwards
 Brittany Smith
 Mary Hare
 Amy Burkett
 Joshua Brown
 Nick Lewis
 Christie Hamby
 Daniel Vester
 Keith Woodard
 George Mitchell
 Josh Vesper
 John Newcomb
 Jeremy Peacock
 Jenna Gudac
 Trent Lassiter
 Ashley Futrell
 Alyssa Cummings
 Sara Strickland
 Matthew McLamb
 Sterling Blackman
 Ashley Walston
 Jessi Kennedy
 Megan Sanderson
 Debra Jones
 Kat Cahoon

2007 FALL DINNER SCHEDULE

Since 1963, for 56 years, through the annual dinner program the Original Free Will Baptist denomination has consistently provided generous support for Mount Olive College. This year's dinner schedule is listed below. All Free Will Baptists are encouraged to attend the dinner in their area and see firsthand some of the students in which they are investing. For information about the dinners, please contact Jean F. Ackiss at <jfackiss@moc.edu> or (919) 658-7744 or (800) 653-0854.

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Saturday, September 29, 6:30 P.M., Southside High School, Chocowinity, Billy Gurkin, Chairman. Goal: \$12,450

JONES COUNTY

Monday, October 1, 7 P.M., Whaley's Chapel FWB Church near Richlands, Gene Burkett, Chairman. Goal: \$8,550

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

Thursday, October 4, 7 P.M., First FWB Church, Tarboro, Ray Williamson, Chairman. Goal: \$12,225

LENOIR COUNTY

Saturday, October 6, 6:30 P.M., Westside FWB Church, Kinston, Cleo S. Hinson, Chairwoman. Goal: \$28,900

GREENE COUNTY

Monday, October 8, 7 P.M., Hull Road FWB Church near Snow Hill, Genevieve M. Taylor and Randy Beaman, Co-Chairpersons. Goal: \$52,925

ONslow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES

Tuesday, October 9, 7 P.M., Folkstone FWB Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chairman. Goal: \$4,100

NASH COUNTY

Tuesday, October 16, 7 P.M., Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chairman. Goal: \$9,075

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES

Thursday, October 18, 7 P.M., Rose of Sharon FWB Church, Bear Grass, Lloyd W. Jones, Jr., Chairman. Goal: \$21,300

PAMLICO COUNTY

Saturday, October 20, 6 P.M., Mount Zion FWB Church, Vandemere, Joy Caroon and Michael Bryan, Co-chairpersons. Goal: \$8,225

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, October 23, 7 P.M., Beaverdam FWB Church near Chadbourn, Danny McPherson, Chairman. (Gave \$9,400 at 2006 dinner)

WAYNE COUNTY

Tuesday, October 30, 7 P.M., Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Barbara Lancaster, Chairwoman. Goal: \$84,275

CRAVEN COUNTY

Thursday, November 1, 7 P.M., Juniper Chapel FWB Church near Vanceboro, Julie W. Cox, Chairwoman. Goal: \$22,550

DUPLIN COUNTY

Saturday, November 3, 6 P.M., Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chairman. Goal: \$21,050

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES

Monday, November 5, 7 P.M., Everett Chapel FWB Church, Spiritual Life Building, Clayton. Keenan Hinnant and Dee Farmer, Co-chairpersons. Goal: \$58,800

CARTERET COUNTY

Saturday, November 10, 6 P.M., West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Mr. Ricky Benson and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chairmen. Goal: \$12,850

PITT COUNTY

Monday, November 12, 7 P.M., Elm Grove FWB Church near Ayden, William Moore, Chairman. Goal: \$48,075

WILSON COUNTY

Tuesday, November 13, 7 P.M., Daniels Chapel FWB Church near Wilson, Johnny Sullivan, Chairman. Goal: \$50,800

SAMPSON-HARNETT-CUMBERLAND COUNTIES

Thursday, November 15, 7 P.M., Robert's Grove FWB Church near Dunn, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chairman. Goal: \$50,725

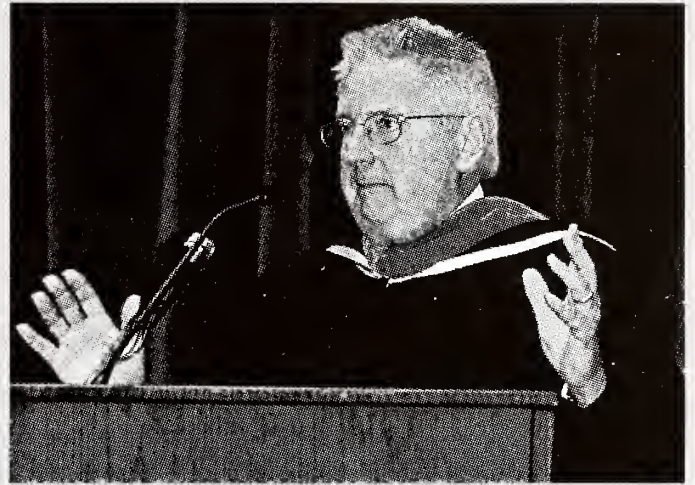
2007 TOTAL DINNER GOAL: \$516,275

FIRST SUMMER GRADUATION AT MOC

On August 28, 102 candidates for graduation gathered inside the George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena for the first-ever summer graduation at Mount Olive College.

In the words of Dr. J. William Byrd, president of MOC, "This expanded opportunity that we are offering to our students is a direct consequence of the robust growth that the College has enjoyed and is made possible by those of you who stand for graduation. This is a time to recognize achievement by honoring these candidates for degree."

Vaughn Purnell, director of MOC at New Bern delivered the keynote address. His message, which left a reflective, humorous, and inspiring mark on attendees, is reprinted below.



MOC SUMMER GRADUATION

by Vaughn Purnell

"Forty-two years ago, when I sat where you soon-to-be-graduates sit, I promised myself that if ever I was invited to speak at a college graduation I would not start off with, 'Forty-Two years ago when I sat where you are sitting...'

Given my undergraduate record, I was pretty sure I would never be put to the test. But some of us just take a little longer to wise up. No group should appreciate that more than a Mount Olive College graduating class heavy with non-traditional students.

I broke my promise. Like so many other commencement speakers, I just couldn't help myself. Why this irresistible temptation to hark back to the dark ages "when I was graduating?" Why this compulsion to relive that moment? Why do I carry in my wallet 15 year old snapshots of my sons on their graduation day? Why did Dr. Jordan's kids cart her graduation pictures off to college with them? Why did newly minted Dr. Duff buy vanity license plates for his car? Why has Dr. Hood been grinning ear to ear the past two weeks? Why are your friends and relatives going to stick today's snapshots on their refrigerator? I'll tell you why. Because graduation is a big deal. It's a big deal life event.

It's right up there with Wedding Day and birth of a child day. When you go to a wedding, don't you recall your wedding day—or days? When you see a newborn, don't you think about that day your child was born? It's a big deal. And grads—henceforth, every graduation you attend you will remember today.

Some graduates, especially those like me, who go right from high school into college, may not fully appreciate how big a deal graduating from college really is—in some cases until years later. I think I am safe in saying that the typical MOC, non-traditional, adult learner knows very well what a big deal it is. No other college is more respectful and in awe of the adult learner than is Mount Olive College. Graduation is a public recognition and celebration of personal enlightenment and individual accomplishment, done with some fair measure of sacrifice and struggle.

Earning a degree is a big deal in other ways, too. For example, in about an hour, your earning power over the remainder of your career will get a healthy lift. College graduates make more money. They are offered more interesting, challenging jobs.

College graduates are better at figuring things out. College graduates are healthier and have increased life span. They are reported to be happier and have increased self-confidence and higher self-esteem. Graduates are thinner and better looking. Well, statistically, they are thinner but I made up the part about better looking.

Life will no longer be quite the same. You will no longer be quite the same. You have been given access to a brighter future and better odds of success and better skills to define that success.

Enjoy this day. Revel in it. Roll in it like a colt in clover. Enjoy the attention and the ceremonial ritual. Wring out every last drop of congratulation from faculty, friends, and family. All this commotion is for you.

But that, my friends, is just one side of the coin. Here's the other side.

(continued)

Following a thorny little parable on responsible stewardship, Luke quotes Jesus as saying in Luke 12:48b. "From everyone to whom much has been given much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (NSRV).

If you are in this room today, with adequate food, clothing, and shelter, in the global scheme of things, you are one to whom much has been given. You have been given clean drinking water, universal education, health care, freedom of speech, and a quality of life that a third of the world can only imagine. Sadly and somewhat embarrassingly, included in that third are some of our own citizens and more than a few of those citizens live within the footprint of Mount Olive College.

We are those servants to whom much has been given. You freshmen [have been] given an opportunity to go to college and how much more you new graduates being given today, the culmination of that opportunity—the priceless gift of a college degree. To you much has been given. To you even more has been entrusted. A priceless gift indeed!

I know what some of you are thinking. You are thinking, "Hold on there Purnell, nobody gave me anything. I earned every one of those grades, and I paid tuition and I've got the student loans to prove it." Fair enough. You stepped onto a sturdy ladder, climbed well up into the tree of knowledge, and picked a juicy degree for yourself. But you didn't build that ladder and you certainly did not plant the tree.

And neither did our faculty and administration. That tree of knowledge has been here since Adam and Eve. I see Eve, in a strange way, as the first college graduate. She was the first to see that the tree of knowledge is a delight to the eyes and food for the mind. The first one to abandon blissful innocence in the pursuit of wisdom. The first to accept the challenge of love and labor. The first to accept the responsibility that if you want to know some of what God knows about right and wrong and something of what God knows about how the world works, that if you want a piece of the creative action, that if you want to be given much, expect that much will be required of you.

So a bejillion students later, through the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, the Arabs and Mayans, the Chinese and the Europeans and Americans, one generation giving access to the next, one civilization giving wisdom to the next, down to the scholars at Mount Olive College, at the very end of this chain of Adams and Eves to whom much has been given, come you

graduates today to get yours. Today much is being given to you and much is required. Much is being entrusted to you and even more will be demanded.

That very same enlightenment which has made us human has also made us liable:

- Liable for the condition of creation;
- Liable for the condition of our sisters and brothers; and
- Liable for ensuring that the next generation has access to an ever-bourgeoning tree of knowledge.

From this day forth, as you make decisions and set examples at home in front of your family, at work in sight of your colleagues, what you do and say and how you do and say it will be held to a higher standard. From now on, you can no longer plead ignorance. You may no longer claim incompetence. You may no longer take refuge in indifference.

I challenge you that from this day forward you may no longer change the channel from a news story on Darfur to a fluff report on Brittany Spears. You may no longer in good conscience click off the presidential debates, or the news on sub-prime loan foreclosures, or the debate on immigration. It is your business. Global warming and Michael Vick's bad behavior are not of equal import. At least they should not be in the eyes of a college grad—or even for a college freshman for that matter.

You grads are about to be joined to a huge cohort of past and present scholars who accept that much has been given, much is required. You are receiving a degree. You are bearing the name of Mount Olive College. You are being entrusted with much; even more will be demanded.

Remember when I said there are two sides to this graduation coin. Well obviously that was the serious side and I want to flip the coin back to the celebration side.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations for a job well done. The demands and requirements I spoke of will not come due for at least a day or two. By then you'll be ready. Be confident. Be brave. The good news is—and I have this on the highest authority—nothing will be required of you of which you have not been given an abundant supply and nothing will be demanded of you that you are not equipped to produce.

Do Mount Olive College proud. Act like a college graduate. Think like a college graduate. Live like a college graduate. And God will bless you every one."

UAA RECEPTION



Many of the freshman students visited the Undergraduate Alumni Association table for refreshments during registration and move-in day at Mount Olive College. (L-R) Diana Paul (mother) and Liza Paul (sister) stand with Louis Paul III, a new student here on campus. Louis is a part of the MOC Honors Program and runs with the Cross Country team. The Pauls are members of Free Union FWB Church in Beaufort County.

Next to them are Eric and Lynn Williams of Soundside FWB Church in Tyrell County. This son and mother team is joined by Heather McPherson on the right, a senior education major and past president of the UAA.

Parents, siblings, and new students of all kinds were present for the big campus welcome as freshman signed into their classes and dorms. Over the years, the UAA reception table has seen quite a number of moving and funny situations take place at this event, but this was a fresh idea! One young and very relieved brother, showed up in a homemade shirt that expressed his true feelings in a simple but humorous way: "She's Finally Leaving—Thank you Mt. Olive."



MOC Alumni Blog

MOC Alumni—Want to keep in touch with former classmates and friends? Check out the beginnings of your brand new BLOG found at www.mocalumni.org/home. You can read and write comments to postings, as well as view pictures in the photo gallery. "I hope you enjoy this new communication tool," stated Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations at MOC. "Griff Griffin '04 of MO Cohort 20, an alumni board member, will be our monitor for our new 'on line community,'" Riley said. She went on to explain, "This MOC Alumni Blog should be completely ready by the end of the year and we hope to have more information for you during Alumni Weekend, so stay turned!"

TED FILLHART CONCERT • OCTOBER 2 SOUTHERN BANK AUDITORIUM

Ted Fillhart, a contemporary Christian artist, will be performing on Tuesday, October 2, in the Southern Bank Auditorium at Mount Olive College. Fillhart is a singer/songwriter and keyboard player who lives in Clayton, North Carolina. He plays several styles of music and he always brings many musical influences to his concerts that demonstrate an unusual, most enjoyable versatility. This free concert will start at 7:30 P.M. and the public is invited to attend.

WHY FLY SOLO WHEN YOU CAN SOAR AS A TEAM!

by Sarah Finch



It's a rush of excitement, a feeling of elation, and in between the moments of nervousness there is an overwhelming sense of accomplishment! But this is not the military air show, or even your economy flying experience—this is 'Soaring with Mount Olive College'! And as with many other things in life, having a friend along can truly make a difference; especially when choosing to go back to college. The journey to earning a degree is challenging, but it certainly helps to have a partner along for the ride. There's no time for butterflies in your stomach once you both hop on board, because here in friendly Mount Olive, the College has indeed risen to the occasion and ensured that your ride to success is both tailored and affordable.

For two couples in Eastern North Carolina, this was the best decision they could have made for their careers. Mike and Cheryl Pry from Florida, and Jake and April Rouse from Kinston and Raleigh respectively, recently received their degrees from Mount Olive College and they can't stop talking about the transforming experience. "It has been unbelievable!" the Rouses exclaimed. "I have met so many wonderful people and have had the opportunity to learn from some excellent instructors," said April Rouse. On the other hand, Mike Pry praised its convenience, saying, "MOC just fit! It had a really flexible schedule and offered a large variety of courses throughout the day."

Although the evening classes for working adults and state-of-the-art programs impressed them, there was another thread of commonality between all of their stories—Teamwork! Aspiring and dedicated down to the last drop, these busy families gave their attention and encouragement to each other as they studied, attended classes, wrote papers, submitted assignments, and took tests in conjunction with MOC. "We each knew what the other was going through,"

April Rouse stated. "We loved the benefits of having a 'study buddy' the night before the tests and we would also have friendly competitions to see who would make the higher grade," she laughed.

For the Rouses, this degree meant a lot to their careers. "It will give us the ability and confidence to advance in our jobs," explained April, a stay at home mother during her time in school, but who is now seeking employment. The Team Leader at MasterBrand Cabinets, Jake realized that after seven years of employment he would soon be at a glass ceiling unless he went back to school to further his education. And that's where it started. With the encouragement and recommendation from their family, the Rouses began taking classes at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base location in 2005. Jake and April also opened up their hearts and their home when they gained custody of their nieces, Brianna (7), and Haley (2). Having children in the mix kept things lively and the Rouses recalled how wild it got at times, "There were some semesters that we would have class the same night and have to figure out how Brianna would get to her dance class, who would take the girls out to get candy on Halloween, and which one of us would have to miss class to attend parent/ teacher meetings or school functions."

When asked how they managed to juggle work, family responsibilities, and homework, April grinned, "My husband and I would talk more on the cell phone in one day than face to face. We had to have a schedule to keep up with everything." But despite the late nights and the minimum family time, Jake and April are both ecstatic about celebrating such a major milestone together. "This accomplishment means so much to our family and to us personally," said Jacob. "We are both extremely happy and we always knew it

would be worth it. As far as memorable days, receiving our degrees is definitely ranked pretty high in our lives!" "Because of this shared experience we have learned first-hand that anything you set your mind to is achievable," April concluded.

A similar experience took place in Mike and Cheryl's lives in the year 2000. A military family with three kids, the Pry's have been stationed in NC for the past eight years. Mike had successfully advanced up the professional ladder but was told that he needed a degree to continue. "For my military career, a degree will mean a lot to a future promotion board; it shows dedication and desire for development and enrichment," he explained. "I started taking courses at the Air Force Base, but with my military obligations it was a slow process. Although I had to 'nibble' at it for a while, I eventually began to crave knowledge," described Mike.

The MOC professors worked with Mike and Cheryl to ensure that their academic needs were met and Mike talks about how instrumental they were during times of sacrifice and stress. "We had an amazing support system," he exclaimed. "That support system included our children, wonderful friends, and a group of professors who understood the load that we were undertaking being students, workers, and parents all at the same time." In fact, Mr. Pry also mentioned that the entire History Department went above and beyond the call of duty to aid in any manner with schedule conflict due to military commitments. "The staff here at MOC does an incredible job of ensuring all student needs are addressed," repeated Mike.

His wife, Cheryl Pry, found herself facing a career decision just four years down the run-way, when told that as a public school assistant she must earn an associates degree. "That was just a starting point for my college," Cheryl stated. "I have always wanted to make a difference in a child's life and I knew I would need a degree to be able to really make my dreams come true." Enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program, she studied how to teach children with learning disabilities and Cheryl explains how this accomplishment is all worth it in the end. "Knowing that I was able to go to college, being a mother, and working full-time has given me more confidence in myself," she expressed. "To me, this degree shows that I have always had the ability to go for what I wanted. And I hope it shows my children to never give up on their dreams!"

Through the challenges of time management and unpredictable military orders, the Pry's arranged their

hectic schedule around certain evening courses and worked-in shorter vacations and holidays. "There were times where we had to take classes on the same night, where Cheryl would do the early class and I would attend the late class and we would wave to each other as we passed on the road," recalled Mike. For this pair, camaraderie truly came from understanding how important and how challenging classes could be sometimes. "We understood each other's frustration better, but the highlight for me was to share this journey together," Mike smiled. His wife Cheryl reiterated that thought, saying "Mike and I have always had so much in common. We are more than husband and wife; we are best friends and to be able to do this together means the world to me!"

"This is a major accomplishment for anyone, but for a couple to do it together is special," Mike said proudly. "We share our lives together, so it is only fitting to share an accomplishment of this magnitude together." The first person in his family to attend and graduate from college, Mike is thrilled with his high achievement. "My mother is very proud of me for my accomplishments," he shared. "I would have loved to have my father in the audience during graduation, but he was looking down on me; this is for him!"

Currently stationed in Lakenheath, England, Mike Pry was at first not able to come back for his commencement ceremony, but because of a group of excellent leaders, Mike was allowed to fly home for graduation. His spouse relates how she felt during this time. "I was ecstatic," Cheryl laughed. "This was something we were looking forward to since we figured out that we would be walking across the stage together. I also love the fact that I get to walk across and receive my diploma before him."

Such exemplary couples, these four returning students wholeheartedly advise going back to college, especially with a partner. "I think it is a great idea," stated Jake Rouse, "but be prepared—it will not be easy." "Work together, be there to listen to each other's problems, try to help as much as possible, and do not give up," said Cheryl Pry, "the bigger the sacrifice, the greater the reward!"

With the ever-increasing need for higher education, MOC has become quite a jet-setter after incorporating some of the most innovative programs designed specifically for working adults and parents. These are the exact same courses that these two couples took on the way to their diplomas! They thoroughly enjoyed their soaring experience here at Mount Olive College and you will too!



EVENING CLASSES OFFERED AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

- Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC)
- Management and Organizational Development (MOD)
- Modular Religion Major (MRM)
- Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Management of Information Systems (MIS)
- Health Care Management (HCM)
- Heritage Plus (HP)

One night a week program starting dates at Mount Olive locations:

Evening College at Mount Olive

Contact admissions at (800) NEW-GOAL

- CJC, Nov. 7, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- MRM, Mar 12, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- ECE, May 15, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- MIS, May 22, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- MOD, May 29, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- HCM, June 23, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

MOC New Bern

Contact admissions at New Bern (880) 868-8479

- MOD, Oct. 15, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- CJC, Oct. 16, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- HCM, Oct. 30, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- MOD, Jan. 15, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- HP, May 8, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- MOD, May 12, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- HCM, May 22, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- MRM, May 29, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- CJC, June 2, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- ECE, June 5, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

MOC RTP (Research Triangle Park)

Contact admissions at RTP (888) 258-5188

- ECE, Oct. 10, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- CJC, Oct. 18, 2007, 6–10 P.M.

MOC Wilmington

Contact admissions at Wilmington (910) 256-0255

- CJC, Oct. 17, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- MOD, Nov. 15, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- ECE, Jan. 31, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

MOC Washington

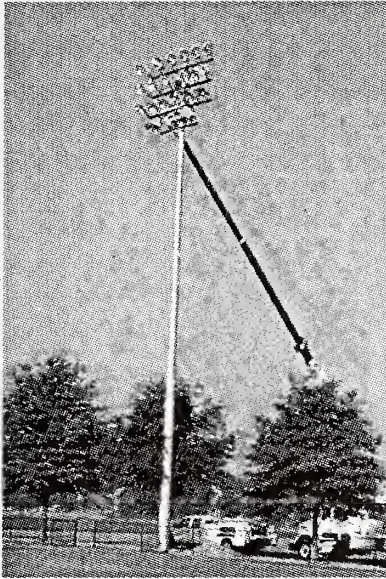
Contact admissions at Washington (252) 940-0146

- HCM, Oct. 15, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- CJC, Oct. 29, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- MRM, Nov. 6, 2007, 6–10 P.M.
- ECE, Jan. 8, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- HCM, April 17, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- MOD, April 22, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- HP, May 7, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
- CJC, May 22, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS WELCOME!!!

Fall Visitation for Fall 08 new freshmen at Mount Olive College is scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2007; registration begins at 9 A.M. Come visit Mount Olive College to interact with professors, students, and your admissions representative and tour our beautiful campus. This event will be held from 9 A.M.–1 P.M. Bring your completed application and we'll waive the \$20 application fee! To make your reservation, contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions, at <twoard@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

NEW LIGHTS ON THE RAY AND CHRIS AMON SOCCER FIELD



New lights



Chris and Ray Amon

Ray and Chris Amon have contributed \$100,000 to Mount Olive College to be used for improvements in the College's soccer program. Chief among those improvements is the addition of lights for the soccer field. In appreciation of the gift, MOC has honored the couple with naming rights to the field. A dedication ceremony took place on Friday, August 24, at the first home soccer game played under the new lights.

A born-again Christian and self-made businessman, Ray Amon felt God calling him to give back. "I believe in education and I believe in Mount Olive College," Amon stated. "I never went to College, because my family could not afford it. However, in today's times it is vitally important for young people to go to college if they want to get ahead in this world."

Over the years Ray Amon dabbled in real estate, the furniture industry, the automotive business, service stations, and even grocery stores. "I was never scared to try something new," he remarked. And, no matter what the enterprise was, this versatile entrepreneur always came out on top. But, he doesn't take credit for his success. "I give all the credit to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Amon went on to state that Dr. Raper was a frequent visitor at his many enterprises over the years, sharing information about the College's growth and mission. Because of that, and his family's earlier association with Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church (Duplin County), Amon has always felt a connection to MOC.

"Over the years I have come not only to know Ray as a friend, but to have a deep respect for him," stated Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus of Mount Olive College. "He is the kind of person who has a keen insight to what is important, whether in business, his church, his family or his own life. He is a forthright and honest person who is loyal to what he believes. He is not afraid to make his own decisions because his values are rooted in his faith. Both Ray and his good wife, Chris, are public-spirited persons who help make our community a better place in which to live and work. Their unanimous gift is a tribute to the kind of persons they are."

JENNINGS JOINS MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Sherry Jennings of Clinton, CT, has joined Mount Olive College as event services coordinator.

Jennings received her bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Southern Connecticut State University. After nine years in the commercial property management field, Sherry began an eight year relationship with Yale University, successfully managing event services in eleven high profile campus facilities.

"I am excited to have Sherry as part of the Institutional Advancement team," stated Rhonda Jessup, director of Public Affairs. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our campus in the area of events services."

Jessup went on to note that Mount Olive College books approximately 700 events per year in-

cluding such events as weddings, reunions, conferences, summer camps, recitals, concerts, etc. With the addition of the three new buildings on the MOC campus, Jessup anticipates even more events for the coming years.

"I'm looking forward to bringing to MOC the skills I have honed in my career," enthused Jennings. "My experience at Yale University and my passion for the challenges of bringing together all the different pieces will help me to coordinate and plan events that are a perfect fit and smoothly flowing. Coupled with the opportunity to work with a cross section of outstanding people in the college environment, I have many reasons to be excited about entering this department."

Sherry, husband, Scott, and their son, Steven, moved to Faison in 2006.

Mount Olive College offers a variety of facilities to meet the needs of any gathering from 5 to 1,800 people. Facilities available for your event needs include boardroom style conference rooms, state of the art video conferencing studios, a 450 seat media equipped auditorium, a beautiful chapel, a 400 seat dining hall, flexible arrangement meeting rooms, an 1,800 seat arena, and residence hall overnight accommodations for 300 people. Contact Sherry Jennings at <sjennings@moc.edu> or (919) 658-7491 for more information regarding MOC facilities, rental prices or to schedule your event.

Woman's Auxiliary

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION BLESSINGS

by Teresa Grubbs

"Blessings" was the word for the day at the Eightieth Annual session of The North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists on May 10, 2007 at Pleasant Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church at Pikeville, North Carolina. Though some of the 179 registered attendees traveled through fog, they were blessed with safety in travel.

Women from the different districts blended their voices throughout the convention to form a choir. Led by Lynn Prescott with Gail Heath at the piano, we were blessed with beautiful and meaningful songs.

The convention theme, "Life Can Be Better," with the verse from Matthew 6:33 "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,*" were echoed throughout the convention by those speaking. As God blessed each one who spoke, we were in turn blessed and encouraged. Lottie Caroon and Happy Taylor gave inspiring scripture lessons. As part of her response to the welcomes given by Joyce Edmundson and Paula Owens, Faye Bryant shared an inspiring story. President Joan Little encouraged us to embrace happy thoughts for the convention in her opening remarks. Pam Braxton directed the Memorial Service, sharing a poem by Lee Hunt entitled "Ben Adam" as our thoughts turned to those who had been faithful in the Auxiliary work and had passed on in the past year.

Blessings continued to flow with scripture readings,

responsive reading, congregational singing, special songs and solos during the Worship Service. We were especially blessed by a DVD recording of Willem van der Plas as he spoke of being a missionary and offered a prayer for the convention. Kathy Hayes brought the morning message, "God's Truths: Satan's Lies." She told us that God is not the only one who tells us our lives can be better. Satan tells us that life can be better if we believe his lies.

We were blessed to have most of the directors of the Free Will Baptist Denominational Ministries present to make short presentations about the ministries we support. They were available during and after the convention to answer questions and meet the attendees on a personal basis.

The recipient of the Life Membership Award was much surprised to have family members present to tell about her life and what she has meant to them. Our president, Joan Little, was this year's recipient and it was a blessing to hear how she has served her denomination, her church, and her family.

A special thanks goes to Dianne Riley, the Program Prayer chairwoman, for making the convention special. Thanks to each person who had even the smallest part in the program. Thanks to the Western district and the Pleasant Hill Church for their hospitality. Yes, it was a day full of blessings. Make a special effort to attend the convention in the future.



CAMP VANDEMERE WOMEN'S WEEK 2007

Triumph Over Adversity

Women's Week at Camp Vandemere started out Monday morning, June 4 with lots of hugs and laughs. We were so glad to see our old friends and also meet new ones. The Rev. Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager, was waiting for us as we started arriving about 9 A.M. Stumpy Quinn and all the Wintergreen Church gals arrived in style with their new church bus. After registration time, the camp staff had lunch prepared for us. Our week of fellowship was already off to a good start.

Judith Kennedy from Sandy Plain Church led us in our first Bible Study. Amy Scott from Juniper Chapel Church played the piano and we all enjoyed singing together. Mr. Taylor presented Monday night service. Several of our ladies had special singing ready for us and were accompanied by Pat Arthur on the piano. Breck Jarman from Cove City provided the group with special music as well.

Tuesday morning, Judy Thaanum from Mount Zion Church led the group in Bible study. Stumpy Quinn from Wintergreen Church conducted the night service.

Wednesday morning we were blessed to have Mrs. Sondra Powell from Riverbend Baptist Church with us. Bobby Owens from Memorial Church brought a very inspiring message to us for the evening service. We were also blessed to have the Juniper Five singing group from Juniper

Chapel Church to bring a message through special music.

Thursday morning's Bible study was conducted by Marci Rollins-Smart from Mount Olive College. Our final speaker for the week was the Rev. Mike Scott from Juniper Chapel Church. All of our week's speakers did an outstanding job in bringing God's Word to our group and we appreciate them for taking time out to share the messages with us.

Everyone enjoyed wearing the small capes that were made to wear when we were styling our hair. Amy Scott had the beautiful necklaces that she makes out of church bulletins. Everyone was able to get a necklace in their favorite colors. Thursday afternoon Stumpy was our chauffeur and drove us to New Bern to enjoy the horse and buggy tour. What a great afternoon of fun, sun, and good times we had. Each year just seems to get better and better.

We were saddened that we had lost two very faithful ladies, Mrs. Josephine Ipock and Mrs. Dollie Loftin. Sometimes we are a little selfish because we love our friends so much and hate to lose them, but God loves them more. We know they are with God and never have to worry about being sick anymore.

What a great spirit-filled week we had and hope you will plan on joining us next year.

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

SNEADS FERRY CHURCH, Eastern Conference, is seeking a pastor. For more information, contact (910) 327-1364 or (910) 327-6271.

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: supply, revivals, interim pastor, or fill-in. He may be reached by phone at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.

Friendship OFWB Church of Middlesex, NC
will have their annual
HOMECOMING

October 28, 2007
Sunday School—9:45 A.M. • Worship—11 A.M.

There will be a picnic lunch in the church
fellowship hall immediately after the service.
The Reverend Jacky Raper will bring the morning message.
Everyone is invited!

CAMP VANDEMERE

SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT 2007

It is time, once again, to start making plans to participate in the Annual Speckled Trout Fishing Tournament at Camp Vandemere. This year's tournament will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007. The tournament will begin at 6 A.M. and will end at 2 P.M. with the weighing in of the day's catch. Lunch will be provided after the weigh-in.

Using Camp facilities Friday night

- Supper on Friday night, 11-02-07—\$7
 - Breakfast on Saturday morning, 11-03-07—\$5
 - Lodging in Dormitory \$12 per person
- Lodging in Family Lodge—please call manager for pricing
Drinks, snacks, and ice may be purchased from the camp.

Prices for Fishing Tournament

* Entry Fee per Person, \$35 (unlimited number of people per boat)
Includes lunch on Saturday, a Tournament certificate, and Prizes.

\$50 Package Special

Friday night Supper, Friday night Dorm lodging, and Saturday Breakfast

Awarding of Prizes

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place gift certificates for most weight caught per person
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place gift certificates for biggest fish caught

CAMP VANDEMERE SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and return by October 26, 2007 with the \$35 entry fee. In the event you are unable to participate, a \$10 administrative fee will be deducted from your prepaid entry fee and returned to you.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ City _____

Church _____ Number in party _____

Friday night supper—(Yes) _____ (No) _____

Saturday breakfast—(Yes) _____ (No) _____

Overnight lodging—(Yes) _____ (No) _____ More info: call (252) 745-3171

All proceeds will go toward the general operating fund at the camp. Please mail this form to: Camp Vandemere Treasurer, 1571 Red Hill Road, Mt. Olive, NC 28365. Please make checks payable to: Camp Vandemere, Inc.

“SINGIN’ BY THE RIVER” AT CAMP VANDEMERE: OCTOBER 19–20

We are very excited about this upcoming event at Camp Vandemere.
Below is information on the schedule of events and other things to enjoy:

Master of Ceremonies—The Reverend Ashley Summerlin

Friday Evening

5:00 P.M. until	Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, and Beverages will be on sale
7:00 P.M.	The Juniper Five
7:30 P.M.	The Wehry Family
8:00 P.M.	The Juniper Five
8:30 P.M.	The Wehry Five

(An offering will be taken during this time)

Saturday

9:30 A.M. until	Yard Sale and Booths with Craft and other—Browse and purchase
10:00 A.M.	Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Beverages will be on sale
10:00 A.M.	Second Edition
10:30 A.M.	Four In Christ
11:00 A.M.	A Peculiar People
11:30 A.M.	Willing Heart

(An offering will be taken during this time)

12:00 NOON	Lunch for purchase—Fish plates with all the trimmings
1:00 P.M.	Willing Heart
1:30 P.M.	A Peculiar People
2:00 P.M.	Four In Christ
2:30 P.M.	Second Edition

(An offering will be taken during this time)

If anyone needs lodging during this time, please contact our
Camp Manager, The Reverend Wesley Taylor at (252) 745-3171 or (252) 514-3222.



"For even hereunto were you called: Because Christ also suffered for us, Leaving us an example, That we should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).

FOUNDATION BEGINS DISTRIBUTION TO BENEFICIARIES

Chartered in 2005, with the first endowments established in 2006, the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries has begun its first year of distribution to named beneficiaries. During the calendar year of 2006, ten endowments were established with the Foundation with total assets of approximately \$1,350,000.

Under the terms of its charter, "The Corporation is organized and will be opened exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code." The focus of the Foundation is fostering and promoting Christian stewardship and promoting and providing support to the ministries in North Carolina affiliated with or consistent with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

In addition to Mount Olive College, the Foundation will later make distributions to other ministries as provided in endowment agreements

with the various donors, which thus far include the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and Camp Vandemere. Endowments with the Foundation have also been established for local churches: Casey's Chapel, Goldsboro; Bethel, Pamlico County; Friendship and Ormondsville in Greene County.

The Foundation is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors, which in addition to Dr. Raper, president, includes: Vice President, Charles L. McLawhorn, Jr., attorney; Secretary-treasurer, the Reverend Donald Ribeiro, M.D.; the Reverend Ronnie V. Hobgood; Donnie E. Lassiter; Mrs. Judy Holton Thaanum; and the Reverend Walter Reynolds.

For more information on the Foundation, interested persons may contact: Dr. W. Burkette Raper, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 or E-mail <wrapper@moc.edu>.



Shown above is Mrs. Jean Ackiss, director of church support at Mount Olive College, accepting the first distribution to the College from the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries. Presenting a check in the amount of \$4,000 is Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of the Foundation. Representing one of the provisions of The Donnie E. and Linda Vann Lassiter Family Endowment, the above distribution is for scholarships to liberal arts students enrolled at Mount Olive College. Mr. and Mrs. Lassiter are active members of Selma Original Free Will Baptist Church.

POWHATAN NEWS

prayed for the successful week.

Powhatan Woman's Auxiliary officers Ann Narron and Julie Capps were part of the Youth Convention OFWB Mission to Denver in July. They reported that it was the most rewarding yet, with lots of work being accomplished for the agencies being helped.

The Rev. Jim Bogle attended the Cape Fear Union Meeting on July 28 at Pleasant Grove with delegates Chris Bagley (assistant Sunday School superintendent) and Rita Jones (clerk). The Rev. Al Warrick presented a wonderful program on leadership.

The Powhatan Woman's Auxiliary sponsored the annual visit to the Children's Home on Sun-

day, August 12, carrying a lunch of pizza, salad, and desserts. The bus loaded with over 20 people including deacons Billy Capps, Mark Guy, and Buck Canady—the bus driver. Senior citizens Ada Kittle, Shirley Hatcher, and Sarah Carroll were able to go and enjoyed spending some time with the young people.

A "Back to School Bash" was held on August 17. Around 20 youth came with about half that many adults. Prayers went up for a safe, rewarding school year.

Friday, October 5, is the date of our next BBQ chicken cookout. Come by for lunch or supper, eat-in or take out, and fellowship with us around a great meal!



Vacation Bible School was a big hit the week of July 22–27 with the theme "Water Works Park." Attendance ranged up to 101/night with a mix of youth and adults. Enough donations were collected during the week to send to Foreign Missions to bring a well to a third-world country! The girls won the race with the boys for the most contributions, but everyone was a winner because our goal was reached. Thank you to directors Jeanette Canady and Connie Barton for a job well done and to all who helped, attended, or



(above left) Ann Narron and Julie Capps at Pike's Peak during the Youth Convention Mission trip.
(bottom right) The Powhatan bus load that shared a pizza lunch with the Children's Home in August.

In Memoriam:

19 year-old member Shanna Faith Jones was killed in a one-car accident on Monday, August 13, on her way home from work. Please remember her family and friends during this tragedy.

REEDY BRANCH NEWS

In August, the Reedy Branch Woman's Auxiliary in Winterville, NC, had the pleasure of hearing Cyril Jacobs, a missionary from India. Cyril presented information about the Friendship Center India, in Bombay, India, where he works. The Friendship Center trains native missionaries and sends teams of missionaries into the slums of Bombay, India. There are about 5,000 different slums in Bombay. Over 30% of Bombay's population lives in these slums, and most are non-Christians. There are 10,000 street children and about 100,000 prostitutes in these slums. About 80% of the prostitutes are HIV infected.

Among other works, the missionaries share the love of Jesus and set up day care centers and skills training centers for people who live in the slums. Cyril noted that the predominant religion in In-

dia is Hinduism, and that the non-Christian community persecutes those who become converted to Christianity. They are often beaten and run out of their homes. When this happens, the Friendship Center helps them find a place to live. The Friendship Center also has a small children's home, which houses 46 girls and 18 boys. Cyril's purpose for being in the US was to try to raise money to build a larger facility so that they may accommodate more children, and to get sponsors for some of the children. He shared pictures of some of the children who need sponsors. Thirty dollars per month will cover their expenses. All of us were touched by the stories and by the dedication of the missionaries working in this setting. We pray that they will be able to meet their goal.

DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY DIRECTOR VISITS SMYRNA CHURCH

Pictured above is the Rev. David Charles Hansley, director of the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists during the July 29 Sunday morning worship service at Smyrna Church located in the Meadow community near Benson.

Pictured along with Mr. Hansley are church members Kim Parker (left) and daughter Erin (right) sharing a special connection with the program. Members reviewed materials on display and picked up "vial of life" bottles, which families were encouraged to place on their refrigerators with a copy of their medical information enclosed in case of an emergency.



ELGREE FAIRCLOTH CHOSEN WOMAN OF THE YEAR



The Ladies Auxiliary of Robert's Grove OFWB Church held its annual Ladies' Day on August 5 during the 11 A.M. worship service. Elgree Faircloth was chosen as Woman of the Year. She received a silver platter and was very much surprised. She has been secretary of Sunday School for 25 years and has had perfect attendance for 37 years. Mrs. Faircloth has attended Robert's Grove for close to 50 years.

In past years, she was leader of the A.F.C. and Y.F.A. Mrs. Faircloth has two sons, Gary Wayne Faircloth of Dunn and Larry Thomas Faircloth of Raleigh. She has five grandchildren, Will, Dawn, Anna, Justin, and Leah.

Mrs. Faircloth says she loves to cook for her family and loves her family very much. Part of her ministry is making goodies to take to shut-ins.



At the 2007 session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists meeting at Mount Olive College, the Rev. Fred Baker received the P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award in recognition of his effective ministry to Robert's Grove OFWB Church, Spivey's Corner.

Provided by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, the cash award recognizes a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community, and denomination. Dr. Morris established the award as a memorial to the late Elder P.T. Lucas, his great-grandfather. Elder Lucas, an early 20th Century Free Will Baptist minister, is remembered particularly for his pastoral services. The primary focus of the award is to recognize ministry to a congregation.

Mr. Baker has a distinguished record of service to Original Free Will Baptists. He and his wife, Linda, served as denominational missionaries in the Philippines from 1978 to 1991. He has served in several convention offices including terms as vice president and president. Mr. Baker has served at Robert's Grove since the fall of 1991. He is a graduate of Mount Olive College, Columbia International University (South Carolina) and is currently pursuing a master's degree under a joint program of Mount Olive College and the Divinity School at Campbell University.

AREA CHURCHES "TAKE THE PLUNGE" WITH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Hugo FWB Church decided to do something new this year for their annual Bible School. On June 23, 2007 Jean Harris and Carrie Ann Miller co-directed one of the best Bible Schools we have ever had—a one day Bible School.

It began promptly at 9 A.M. with music under the direction of Jordan Braswell. After singing and saying the pledges, the children went to their various

classes with teachers, Jason and Connie Miller, Sherry Craft, Debra Boyette, and April and Ivan Braswell. Next came play time followed by making crafts under the direction of Allison and Shawn Tilghman. After a very busy morning, the Food Committee, Mary Lou Johnson and Cassie Formy-Duval, served delicious pizza, which was enjoyed by everyone. Then back to classes for the afternoon. When the children learned their Bible Verse, they went to the "store" under the direction of Polly Eubanks and if said correctly they could go shopping for a prize. All seemed to have a very good time, including our new pastor, the Rev. Dr. Charles Russell and his wife, Mrs. Lorraine.

The next day we really "Took the Plunge" by having a pool party at the home of Charles and Mary Lou Johnson. After an afternoon of swimming and water games, we all enjoyed delicious hotdogs cooked by our own chef, Gary Kornegay. As previously mentioned, this one day Bible School planned correctly is the way to go.

"Take the Plunge—Make a Splash with Jesus" was the topic for Vacation Bible School held June 10–15 at Smyrna Church in the Meadow community.

Pictured are Shayne Denning, Lauren Creswell, and Destiny Sessoms, all members of the toddler class, making "music." These girls, along with the other students in the toddler class, made sure everyone made a "splash with Jesus" during the opening session each evening while singing the theme song.

Classes from the toddler through adults "plunged into worship" each evening in lessons dealing with obedience, worship, courage, faith, and service.

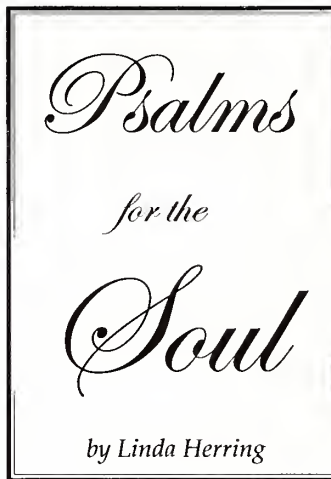
An average of 72 attendees shared the evening meal together, classroom lessons, and crafts with the junior class through the adult class folding 100 pocket flags to be given to soldiers who are being deployed in the war on terror and 150 cards and letters were prepared for soldiers from the 82nd Airborne stationed in Iraq.

Activities following the commencement on Friday evening included "water play" with everyone getting wet one way or another.

The church's C&H Puppets brought a message each evening. The skit being performed in the picture was entitled "Don't Rock the Raft" featuring George played by Nathan Raynor and Rafikki played by Josh Johnson.



The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Have we discovered the difference between problems and facts? Problems are things we can do something about; we can solve problems. Facts are things we can do nothing about; therefore, we do well not to worry about them. We need to apply our thoughts and energy only to those things we can change. We can have peace and live our lives with joy because we no longer beat our heads against an unbreakable wall. Psalm 23 reminds us of what God alone can control and what we can control. It shows us the dif-



ference between problems and facts. It defines God as our possession, our provision, our peace, our pardon, our partner, our preparation, and our paradise. Take a few minutes and get alone with God and read this Psalm out loud. Ask God to speak to you personally and to meet whatever your need may be. Pray this prayer: *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.* Please do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm. God Bless you all.

SOLDIER OF THE CROSS

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 7 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, May 6, 1953, Vol. 68—No. 18 and p. 3 of Wednesday, February 6, 1957, Vol. 72—No. 6. The first article was written in honor of Levi Hill's 85th birthday, which was May 16, 1953, and the second article announced his passing.)

It would be hard to find a man more completely devoted to his church than Brother Levi Hill of Hull Road FWB Church. Each Sunday morning he could be found teaching the Adult Bible Class, a position he held for approximately 60 years. At 11 A.M., he sang in the choir. At one time he served as organist of the church. On Wednesday nights he was a regular attendee at prayer meeting. The day he quietly passed away at his home near Snow Hill—January 13, 1957—he was sitting by his radio and was about to leave to go to league and evening church services.

During the week one was likely to find him counting money received in Sunday School and church for he was treasurer of both. Formerly he was the clerk of Hull Road.

In addition to his local church, Brother Hill was active in other phases of church work. He served on the Board of Trustees of the FWB Orphanage in Middlesex for 20 years, and he served on the Central Conference Mission Board and then the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden.

In civic affairs, Brother Hill was a loyal citizen. In 1923, he served in the House of Representatives of the N.C. State Legislature. As a farmer, he was active in the work of the

Farm Bureau since it was first organized. In the Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Association, he served on the State Executive Board and held the office of Secretary-Treasurer in Greene County for about 15 years. Many people of the Arba community remember Brother Hill as their school teacher.

In 1899, Brother Hill was married to Miss Edith Herring.

There is no doubt that the Arba community is today a better community because of the Christian influence of this home.

Brother Hill was often asked about his recipe for old age. He answered by saying: "I have always tried to obey the laws of the country and the laws of God as laid down by the Bible." Where could one find a better rule for life?

Funeral services were conducted at the Hull Road Church, January 15, 1957, at 3 P.M.,

with the pastor, the Rev. Michael Pelt, officiating. He was assisted by a former pastor, the Rev. Burkette Raper, and the superintendent of the Children's Home, the Rev. S. A. Smith. The body was laid to rest in the Hull Road Church Cemetery.

Mr. Hill was survived by two daughters, Carol Barrow and Milton Harris; two grandsons, Henry Milton Harrison and Boyd Barrow; and two great-grandsons, Rymil and David Harrison.



RESOLUTIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2007 SESSION OF THE WESTERN CONFERENCE

The Resolutions Committee of The Western Conference is accepting resolutions to be considered for presentation to the 2007 session of the conference. Members of the committee are: Dr. De Eakes (Chairman), Rev. Rudy Owens, and Rev. Wayne King. Resolutions must be signed, and must include accurate contact information for the person submitting the resolution.

Resolutions should be submitted to: Dr. De Eakes, PO Box 298, Lucama, NC 27851



Come Celebrate

Saturday, October 27, 2007

First Free Will Baptist Church

**2426 South Charles Boulevard
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- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 9:00 A.M. | Fall Festival Opens |
| 11:30 A.M.—1:00 P.M. | Soup and Sandwich Lunch
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| 4:30—5:30 P.M. | Hot Dog Supper (\$1) |
| 6:00 P.M. | Auction Sale |

Visit the Country Store featuring canned goods, pickles, baked goods, picture frames, knitted dish cloths, Rada cutlery, cookbooks, and a myriad of other homemade products.

Local Venders:

Avon Home Interior Candles

Memory Makers Scrapbooking

All proceeds used to support projects of the
Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church.

For information please contact the church:
(252) 756-6600 or email firstfwbchurch@embarqmail.com

The Crusaders for Christ Sunday School Class of
Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church,
invites you to the 2nd annual



Christmas at the Creek

November 10, 2007
9 A.M.—12 NOON

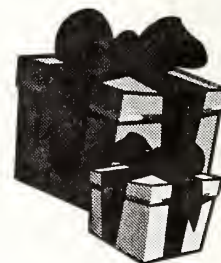
**Stoney Creek OFWB Church
Fellowship Hall
752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC**

This will be a unique shopping experience with many different vendors.
This is a great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping!

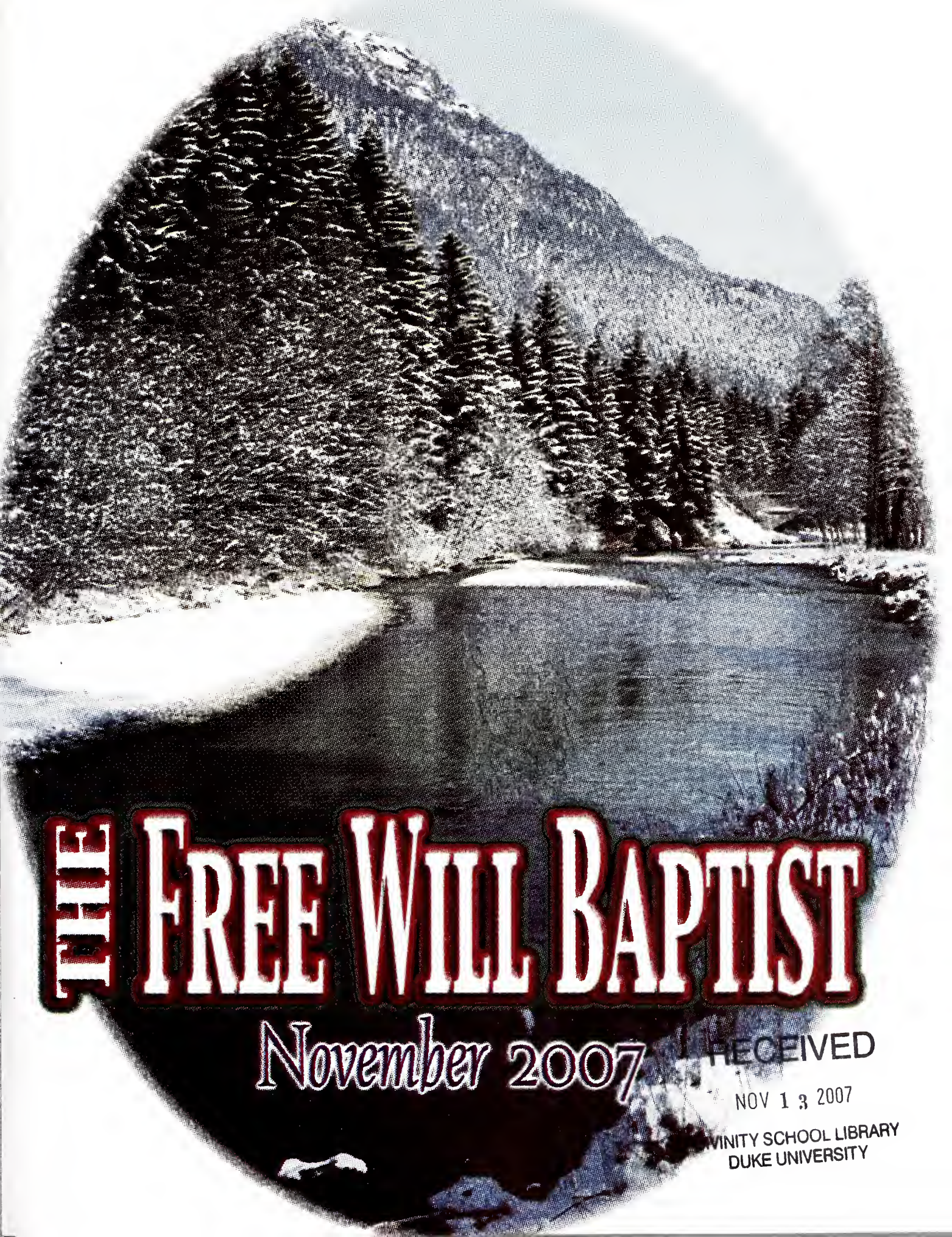
There will be breakfast items and baked goods available for sale.



For questions regarding this event, or directions to
our location, please call (919) 731-2247.



Proceeds from this event will go toward the various ministries of the class.



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

November 2007

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MONTHLY PLANNER

November 2007



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Friends of Children Day
VETERAN S DAY						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				THANKSGIVING DAY		
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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CONTENTS

November 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 11

FEATURES

6 *Caring for Aging Parents*

7 *In Memoriam: The Reverend Edward Willis Miles*

11 *The Cross*

11 *The Cragmont Challenge*

DEPARTMENTS

2 Monthly Planner

25 Woman's Auxiliary

27 People & Events

COLUMNS

4 Letter From the Editor
by Darren E. Davenport

5 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

28 Financial Planning:
A Biblical Perspective
by Don Fader, Guest Writer

30 Psalms for the Soul
by Linda Herring, Guest Writer

30 Golden Oldies

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

14 Children's Home

17 Sunday School Ministry

18 OFWB International

19 Mount Olive College

29 Home Missions & Evangelism

POWER VERSE

These things have I spoken unto you,
that my joy might remain in you,
and that your joy might be full
(John 15:11).



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Spreading the Word Through the Printed Page!

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Dear Subscriber,

Thank you so much for your gifts to our Capital Campaign, "The Press to \$125,000!" They have truly been a blessing to us. We cannot thank you enough. However, we continue to need your support.

Because the Press has traditionally operated on less than most secular printing companies, we have been asking for help from our people. This campaign was started a little more than a year ago and to date has raised \$32,741. Since the beginning of this campaign, our need has increased because of the rising costs of equipment and problems with our current equipment. So, in actuality, \$125,000 is no longer an adequate amount to enable us to "get where we need to be" in order to meet the needs of our churches and our fellow ministries. *Time is of the essence in order to make each dollar do all that it can.* Again, we need your help!

As you probably know, we print and distribute this monthly publication. However, most people do not realize that we publish this magazine at a *loss* of about \$50,000 annually. We absorb these costs so that we can provide this service to the people, churches, and ministries that make up our denomination at a very low, affordable subscription rate. This subscription rate does not even begin to cover the cost of postage, labor, and the printing supplies to produce our magazine; but, this publication is a vital, unifying tool—it chronicles the life and times of the people of faith called Original Free Will Baptists!

I am passionate about the work we do here and I believe strongly in the value and ministry of the Free Will Baptist Press. I believe in "The Press" and that we have tremendous untapped potential. I believe in our purpose of "spreading the Word" in every way possible—not just the printed page. I believe the importance of this ministry, its work, and its potential cannot be overstated!

Therefore, would you consider, **before year's end**, supporting us further, or for the first time, with your prayers and financial support? Your gifts will bring us closer to making our needs a reality. I truly believe God will bless your generosity as you partner with us in this ministry endeavor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our Campaign. Also, I would be glad to speak to your church, woman's auxiliary, or layman's league and have a "question-and-answer" session so you can better understand our position. I can be reached by phone at (800) 849-3927 or by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

Spreading the Word,

Darren E. Davenport,
Editor

P.S. Would you consider a gift of \$5000, \$3000, \$1000, or whatever amount you feel the Lord would have you provide? If you like, larger gifts can be spread over a two-year period. (A pledge form can be found on the next page.) What a remarkable way to build on the foundation of the Free Will Baptist Press and our mission of "spreading the Word through the printed page"—not only with *The Free Will Baptist* but with our biblically-based *Foundation Curriculum*, and the work we do for our churches and our community.

SIN AND KUDZU

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Kudzu is an invasive plant that is commonplace in southeastern United States. It is quite visible as we travel in most any rural area. It has been described as an unwanted plant in our backyard. A native of Japan, it was introduced in the U.S. for the purpose of reducing soil erosion. It is a climbing vine that grows out of control. It stifles and smothers other plants with a solid blanket of leaves. Growing at the rate of one foot per day, it can completely cover old abandoned houses and farm buildings. Where it is found, farmers face a constant struggle to keep it under control or to stifle its growth altogether.

I have often observed the growth of Kudzu and how it compares to sin. If not brought under control, Kudzu takes over. So does sin. Kudzu does not overcome large trees and other vegetation overnight. Its vines reach out gradually until it overcomes all obstacles in its path. Sin is invasive. It invades the human heart and society in general. It entered the heart of man in the Garden of Eden, disrupting a perfect relationship with God and life itself. Until then, all had been perfect. There was no toiling, no pain in childbirth, no conflict, no thorns to overcome and no wild beasts to fear.

We follow its invasive path as we read the Bible, a history of

man's struggles with sin and the unfolding plan of God to redeem him through His Son. It invaded the heart of Cain as he rose up against his brother, Abel, and killed him (see Genesis 4:8). Sin invaded the heart of King David in his lusting after Bathsheba, resulting in the sin of adultery and murder. There are many other examples of sin's invasive power found in the Word, and many day-by-day examples that we hear and read about. The newspapers and TV news broadcasts repeatedly

inform us of the reality and results of sin. The conflict between Cain and Abel arose because Abel presented to God an acceptable offering (the firstlings of his flock), but Cain's offering was not accepted (the fruit of the ground). "And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance

fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door..." (Genesis 4:6-7). Like the invasive plant growing in our backyard, Satan waits to overpower the believer. Gradually, if we allow, sin invades our thoughts, our desires, and then our decisions and actions.

Jesus admonished His sleeping disciples to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). These words we must heed today.

Reflections

Reflections

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CARING FOR AGING PARENTS

by the Reverend John Hill

Pastor, First Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC

As I learn to minister to those around me, I find no greater challenge than to hear the cries of help from an adult child caring for an aging parent. Health concerns, doctor visits, funerals of friends and relatives, increased medical prescriptions, changes in Medicare—all sources of great confusion, frustration and anxiety. It seems the longer I minister the more individuals converse with me about this challenge.

I began researching to find new ways for me to help these stressed and anxious children. In a time when resources are limited I have altered my findings to (hopefully) help anyone who is dealing with similar challenges. I must admit, I have witnessed the great toll of anxiety on adult children; I pray that my offerings will help.

Allow parents as much independence as possible. As they age, they feel more and more helpless to slow the increasing speed of their days. Each day they find themselves less able to do even the basic activities. With a daily experience of loss, there is no need for insistent and unnecessary loss to compound. Every activity that is taken away reduces freedom and self esteem.

Have regular dialogue about life changes. perhaps that conversation is daily or weekly. Nevertheless, the more regular the conversation the clearer both of you are on your goals and understandings. Communicate clearly, yet helpfully! Listen and seek to understand what your parent is saying to you. Listen for underlying emotions and don't assume they are incapable of thinking and understanding!

When appropriate and possible, offer options. Your loved one will appreciate options. When it is appropriate offer choices to help your loved one extend his or her independence and self-governance.

Remember, both of you are moving through a grief transition. As life is nearing its inevitable end, your loved one will begin to experience anticipatory grief. They will anticipate death and will begin becoming concerned with after-life issues and funeral arrangements. However, some may ex-

press great denial, hostility, bitterness, or despair. Watch for signs of emotional changes and consult your doctor and doctor and pastor when they occur. Regular transitions through denial, depression, bargaining, anger, and cooperation are normal stages to an eventual acceptance.

Study material on senility, Alzheimers, and other possible events in your family life. Seek to understand that it is not your father or mother talking when you are told off or verbally abused. Give space to your loved one and manage the living area to protect yourself, your loved one, and the facility itself.

Personal safety is a major concern. If cooking, driving, or living alone are unsafe, secure witnesses (pastor, police, doctor, or other authority) to assist in bringing proper changes. This will help defuse some anger from the loved one toward the child who took away their independence!

Exercise great patience and prudence. Care giving is costly to the adult child. Be prepared to listen longer to hear stories your parents want to have preserved. Be prepared to expect less as they gradually shut down their busy life and take more time for self and family. You may have to say goodbye to the loved one that you once knew who is now vastly different than before.

Find or start a support group. Churches, hospice, funeral homes, etc. all offer programs to assist adults with aging parents. Find one to be a part of and participate regularly. Learn to lean on trusted members of the church and develop a support system to help you through this time.

This list is intended to help adult children be aware of the struggles they face. There are plenty of opportunities for the church to help families of this type. Consider hosting a support group at your church to help these caregivers. An informal nature of the gathering and a good listening ear are all that is necessary to begin one of these helpful ministries.

*I welcome your comments! Contact me at:
<Bfirstfreewill@nc.rr.com>.*



In Memoriam

The Reverend Edward Willis Miles

(December 19, 1922–March 6, 2007)

by
W. Burkette Raper

March 8, 2007

Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Ed Miles—The Man

Our lives and our work are a product of who we are, and in this service I would like to share with you a profile of Ed Miles as I knew him. I first met Ed in 1955, when I went to his native state of South Carolina to attend an association of Free Will Baptist Churches in the interest of Mount Olive College. That was fifty-two years ago, and during these years I have known Ed as a student, a fellow minister, and a close friend. It has been a special relationship which I will always cherish.

One of my most intimate discussions with Ed was nine years ago when he asked to meet with me, his pastor, the Reverend Gary Bailey, and the Reverend Frank Harrison, a long-time friend, to plan the occasion which now brings us together. "I want it to be a time of rejoicing," Ed said. "I have lived a full life, and I want to die as I have lived. I want my life to be a road map under the leadership of the Holy Spirit." And then he quoted a poem he had seen years ago in Okefenokee Swamp, Waycross, Georgia. Above the poem was a placard with the sign of a skull and below were the words:

*"I once was alive like you are now,
But I complained and hollered anyhow.
So live each day, don't pass it by;
Sooner or later, you too will die."*

And then Ed added: "I have lived by this quote: "Live each day, don't pass it by."

As I prepared for this service, I thought of how deeply Ed's life was rooted in the Holy Scriptures and I placed before me two items: an open Bible and a picture of Ed in the prime of his life. In the first Psalm, I could see his profile:

¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

²But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

That's the man I knew Ed Miles to be: "Like a tree planted by the rivers of water."

His Calling And Preparation For The Ministry

When I first met Ed, he was a thirty-three year old man in search of God's purpose for his life. He was superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Turbeville, SC, and invited me to the campus. Having been reared in the North Carolina Free Will Baptist Orphanage, the visit was a meaningful experience—especially Ed's concept for the life of the children.

At that time, Ed was a Christian layman who was feeling the tug of God at the heartstrings of his life. Not long after this visit, Ed broke his neck during a swimming outing with the boys from the orphanage. Soon thereafter, he left the orphanage to re-enter the auto parts business, where he had worked for ten years prior to going to the orphanage. He soon learned, however, that the auto parts business was not God's road map for his life.

In a letter to me in January 1956, written on Newberry Auto Supply stationery, Ed described the struggle he was going through. Referring to my visit to the orphanage, he wrote:

"At that time I didn't feel that I had a definite call to the ministry. Now I am sure God has a work for me to do and is depending on me doing this work. I feel that a call to God's service is a call to prepare and I want to go to school. I don't have any money and will have to work my way and support a wife and three children at the same time but I am willing to scrub floors, clean yards, make general repairs or whatever I can so long as I can meet God's requirements."

In late spring, Ed resigned his position as manager of Newberry Auto Supply and accepted summer employment as a machinist with Saint Lawrence Seaway in New York, with plans to enroll in Mount Olive College in the fall. In the meanwhile, he stored his furniture in my home in Mount Olive. The job at Saint Lawrence was paying Ed the most money he had ever made, and

when he was required to work on Sundays, he would send the check to the College as a gift.

The money at Saint Lawrence was alluring to Ed, and on July 31 he wrote and asked my advice on whether he should remain there for a year in order to build up a cash reserve for support of his family and college expenses. I quote from that letter:

"My present plans are to leave here August 26 and arrive in Mount Olive on the 28th. As far as money goes, I will be able to finish paying for my car by the time I start to school. This will leave me clear of all debts, not having any money to start school on. Of course, if necessary, I will sell the car. This has worried me, but I am determined to go to school some way. I could work for another year and send you \$100 each month toward my schooling...Having confidence in you, I want your advice. Whatever you advise will be final with me." (*Note: Comparative to tuition cost at Mount Olive College, \$1,200 in 1956 would be equivalent to more than \$12,000 today.*)

Ed had handed me a heavy decision. From the experience of having been at that crossroads, I wrote him a two-sentence letter: "That which thou doest, do quickly. Ed, you have waited too long already."

In late August, the Miles family arrived in Mount Olive. It was to be a life-changing experience, not only for Ed but also for his wife, Bessie, and their three young children: Wendy, Gail, and Mitch. With only a vision and a commitment, Ed enrolled in college and found a job with a local auto parts company. As opportunities came, he began preaching in churches throughout eastern North Carolina, and the next year—1957—he returned to South Carolina, to his home church, Horse Branch near Turbeville, for ordination to the Christian ministry. Thus began forty years of an extraordinary ministry.

His Work

In 1962, Ed returned to Mount Olive College to become Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings, where he supervised the construction of the first buildings on what is now the campus of the College. In addition, in 1965, he and his daughter Wendy became the first parent and child to graduate together from the College.

His pastoral ministry, which began while he was still enrolled in college, included nine churches: Long Ridge and Northeast at Mount Olive; May's Chapel, Dudley; Casey's Chapel, Goldsboro; St. Paul, Newton Grove (twice); Spring Branch, Walstonburg; Friendship, Middlesex; Mount Tabor, Creswell; and Christian Chapel, Pink Hill. In his words, Ed "never served a church I did not like." He enjoyed the reputation of leaving every church better than he found it, and in my opinion was one of the most effective pastors Original Free Will Baptists had during the second half of the twentieth century.

In addition to being a beloved pastor, Ed was a great servant of the Church. On two occasions, he interrupted his pastoral work for special services.

During 1969–1971 he served as Superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Middlesex, NC. These years were during a time of racial turmoil which gave rise to bitter conflicts in our society, including churches. Among Free Will Baptists, the Supreme Court decisions requiring integration in public schools and colleges provoked a denominational crisis. The focal issue was the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and without compliance, the Children's Home was facing the potential loss of funds from both private and public sources—funds without which the Home would be unable to provide adequate care for the children. In addition, Social Service had become the primary agency for the placement of homeless children, and without compliance, there was the foreboding concern that the Home would lose its eligibility for placements.

It was a painful decision, but Ed did what he believed was in the best interest of the children and what was consistent with the Christian faith:

"This is a Christian principle and we cannot deny the Christian witness to any child that God has created and for whom Christ died." Upon his recommendation, the Board of Trustees of the Home voted to sign compliance with the Civil Rights Act.

The decision met with strong and even bitter opposition and was the subject of a major controversy at the 1970 session of the State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. In an atmosphere where emotion superseded calm thinking, the Convention set aside the recommendation of its nominating committee for the Office of President and by a narrow vote elected a minister who was nominated from the floor and who had been a leading spokesman in opposition to compliance. Also, the Convention voted to hold a special session to address the action taken by the Board of Trustees of the Home.

In the meanwhile, a number of churches voted to withhold support to the Home as long as it was under compliance. Following the action of the special session to request the Board of Trustees to withdraw from compliance, Ed felt it was in the best interest of the Home for him to resign. But history has shown that Ed was right. In subsequent years, when emotions had subsided and good judgment could prevail, the Trustees were able to bring the Home back under compliance, and did so without confrontation. Ed, although ahead of his time, had laid the foundation upon which the Home could build its future. In taking a stand for what he believed was right, Ed was like "a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season."

Although disappointed, Ed did not let the experience at the Children's Home make him bitter and vindictive. With the will of God as his road map, he remained ready to serve his church as needed. In the late 1970s, Ed and Bessie served as interim missionaries in the Philippines.

Another example of Ed as a man with a vision for the future was an incident at Mount Olive College, while he was Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings. In 1953 when the old grammar

school building in Mount Olive was purchased as a location for the College, there was a large "dinner" bell on the back campus. With women housed on the second floor, there were always some male students, housed off campus, who enjoyed coming after visiting hours to ring the bell. The college was located in a residential section of town and the neighbors complained about their sleep being disturbed.

In the interest of community relations, the College business manager asked Ed to take the bell down. Since the bell was mounted on metal posts about twelve feet off the ground, Ed consulted with a local metalworker, who quoted

him a price of \$25 for the job. The business manager advised Ed that the College did not have funds for this purpose, and asked Ed to take the bell down himself. Ed replied that it would be dangerous to undertake the job without proper equipment, whereupon he was told he could have the bell if he got it down. Ed personally paid the metalworker for the work and took the bell to his home. Some forty years later, when the Alumni Cross Walk was constructed on the new campus, Ed returned the bell as a gift to the College, and today it is an historic centerpiece of the Cross Walk.

His Legacy

Ed has left Original Free Will Baptists a legacy of what can be done with our lives when God is our road map. His message to every minister is that if you truly want an education, it is attainable. He believed that a call to the ministry is a call to prepare and his life tells us that a lack of preparation for an effective ministry is a choice and not a necessity. Ed was a man of many talents, but his passion was to be a good pastor.

When Ed and Bessie were married sixty-two years ago, their lives became one; and when Ed

was called to the ministry, Bessie shared his calling. Her Christian nurture of their children and her steadfast support of Ed was an anchor of love that gave him encouragement and strength. And together, their final gift to the church they loved is an endowed scholarship for those who share their vision for excellence in Christian ministry.

Like a tree planted by the rivers of water, Ed's leaf will not wither but will flourish in the garden of eternal life which God has prepared for those who love and serve Him.



The Cross

by Faye H. Carraway

What do you see when you look at the cross? Do you think how it was built or its color or how tall it is? What do you actually see when you cast your eyes upon the cross?

When I look upon the cross, I look with my heart and not just my eyes. I see with my heart a man hanging on it who loves me so much. He is in so much pain from the stakes that they have driven into His hands and feet. And how He was crucified and tortured and suffered. It makes my heart hurt just to think about all the pain He had. The "He" I am referring to is Jesus Christ. Not just an average man, but a man who loved everyone with His whole heart and soul. He was brought into this world by His father, who was hoping that He would perform the miracles of teaching the non-believers about His father and all that He could do for us if only we believed. The cross is a symbol for us to have close by.

There are so many crosses manufactured all over the world today to symbolize what Christ did for us all those many years ago. It does not give us magic to have one close by or to use it as a good luck charm. You can't rub it and all your wishes will come true. If I wear a cross around my neck or on my arm or just carry one in my pocket; it reminds me of my Savior who did the ultimate deed for me to die on "the cross" for my sins so

that I might be saved. In 1 Corinthians 1:18 we read, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I give thanks in my daily prayers for the peace of mind that someday I will see Him in Heaven. I am truly thankful for all the blessings that Jesus has given me.

Some have a cross, but just for show. I do have a cross, and it is mine to remind me of a day so long ago. I do not need to carry one to be a Christian. I do like to tell the world how much I love my Master. Philippians 1:18-19 says "What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" I carry the cross in my heart, where I know the price Jesus paid for me. My eyes shine when I look upon pictures of Jesus hanging on the cross. They shine with tears of joy that my God would send His Son to be my Savior. When I speak or write about Christ, then people will know the joy in my heart of being a Christian. If He does not consume my whole being then the words will never come from me about the love of my Jesus. Ephesians 6:24 says "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

THE CRAGMONT CHALLENGE

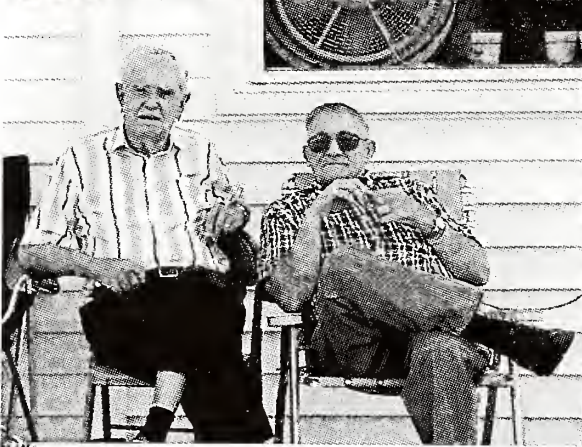
by Todd Sutton

W. Clement Stone made the following statement, "Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve." But who was to imagine that this event which began in the mind of one person was to become the achievement it ultimately became.

For the last two years Greene County OFWB churches have been in limbo as to where their allegiance should be placed. The Greene County churches have always been very supportive of the Relay for Life fundraiser as so many within the community have been affected by cancer. The date for the annual Greene County Relay for Life has conflicted with the annual date for the Cragmont Tractor Pull held in Four Oaks, NC.

Many of the youth from the community extending beyond the churches have been participating in the Relay for quite some time, yet Cragmont has had tremendous impacts upon so many of the Greene County children. Thus, an aspiration to contribute back to Cragmont began with the vision of one of Harrell's Chapel's members. With that being said, the event was an accumulation of the efforts of all of the churches within Greene County.

Contacts were made to all the churches via the clerk and pastor and the first meeting was held in July. From that moment on, the Cragmont Challenge had transitioned from a vision of what could be to a reality in the making. The phrase "FROM VIEW



TO VISION" which is the Cragmont New Heights slogan took on a very personal quality to the individuals who participated on the planning team. The various church chairpersons worked together to return to their churches and cast the vision of what the Challenge was to be about. The day was to be one of celebration.

Churches would be responsible for raising funds to be contributed using the methods of their choice through auctions, dinners, and so forth. One of the greatest things about this event was that there was no competition in regards to the money raised. It was the desire of the committee to include all the churches because it realized that some churches would probably be able to raise more than others. With that in mind, the church totals were never an issue, but the total raised by all the churches for the day was the focus. In addition, the funds from the various activities would also be included in the total.

Inflatables were rented for the kids to play in and included a moonwalk and an obstacle course. Softball games were also scheduled to be enjoyed by the players as well as the spectators. Furthermore, several took turns in the dunking booth wherein some of the pastors volunteered to take their plunge and allow people from their congregations the opportunity to "immerse" them in cold water. Jelly Bean and Danielle Blizzard volunteered their services bringing smiles to faces as they painted the faces of many children.

Refreshments consisting of hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ sandwiches, and sliced cakes were the menu for the day and much of it was consumed by the great crowd which had accumulated. A silent cake auction was also being held in the fellowship building during the other activities.

As the games came to an end, wonderful music began. All of the groups gave of their time for this event for which we are utmost grateful. The groups who participated include: Renewed Harts, Covenant, Living Water, and William Street Praise Band.

This day could not have been the obvious success it was without the participants that worked on the TEAM, bringing to mind the acronym, "Together Everyone Achieves More." This event raised over \$15,500 for Cragmont. The TEAM concept works! There may be other churches who feel they may be too small to make a difference, but so long as you begin with prayer, God can multiply your efforts. What began with a small goal actually exceeded our expectations and God truly surprised us as we followed our convictions. Maybe you have had a notion to do something in like manner. It begins with a statement such as, "We could..." and as God sees your efforts to be obedient to the dreams of promoting one of the aspects of ministry, God will bless your efforts. We experienced this in a mighty way because as we obeyed our convictions it brought us together as churches within a community to focus on one common goal...ministry. Thus, the community was brought together and we found that as we worked together, truly more was achieved. Though the Cragmont Challenge was the idea of the Greene County Churches, maybe the concept of the Challenge can spread to other communities and other counties.

Those churches participating in the Cragmont Challenge include Harrell's Chapel, Ormondsville, Saints Delight, Spring Branch, Grimsley, Free Union, Friendship, Howell Swamp, Hull Road, Little Creek, and Daly's Chapel (Seven Springs, NC).



DECEMBER IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

The month of December has been designated by the Convention as Foreign Missions Month. During this month, we encourage churches and individuals to remember this ministry in prayer and to emphasize missions during your Worship Services.

We also ask you to remember Foreign Missions with a special gift this month. These special gifts enable the Board to continue its ministry on behalf of all Free Will Baptist churches to take the Gospel Message to the ends of the earth.



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN INVITATION

It is not too late to send in your RSVP for our annual luncheon for
Friends of Children Appreciation Day.

INVITATION

The Board of Directors invites you and your guests to our annual luncheon for Friends of Children Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 17, 2007, 12 noon, at Whitley Center on campus. The speaker will be Dr. Bobby Taylor, President of the Home, who will be retiring in December 2007. Dr. Taylor will be delivering his farewell address, and the Board of Directors will take this opportunity to honor him for his many years of dedicated service to the Home and for the success the Home has experienced over the past 25 years. We encourage you to come and be part of this special occasion.

Please RSVP by November 2, 2007
Number in Party _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return the above form to:

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.

P.O. Box 249

Middlesex, NC 27557

Telephone: (252) 235-2161 • Fax: (252) 235-2625

E-mail: cbatten@fwbchildrenshome.org

CAMPUS VISITORS



The children at the Children's Home always enjoy participating in the activities provided when groups visit, but they were especially excited to have the opportunity to meet and fellowship with the Mount Olive College Men's Basketball team.

On October 3 we were treated to an afternoon of activities (including a little one-on-one basketball) with the Mount Olive College Men's Basketball team. Ball handling techniques were demonstrated, we had lay-up contests and even

saw a little "slam dunk" action. Each child was presented with a Mount Olive College tee shirt, which was definitely a highlight of the visit. After the games, we joined together in Heritage Hall to enjoy a meal together.

Special thanks goes to the Mount Olive Men's Basketball team, Head Coach Bill Clingan, the coaching staff, and Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, for a wonderfully memorable afternoon.



*And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
(Luke 2:7)*

Dear Friends:

The Christmas Season is approaching, and preparations have already begun to help ensure this will be a joyous time of remembrance for the children we serve.

Just as you enjoy celebrations and receiving gifts during this season, the children at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home do too. In some instances, our biggest challenge is convincing the children here they are loved, are special, and that people really do care. We share the gospel of Jesus Christ with our children, as well as the true meaning of Christmas. Your acts of sharing demonstrate love and unselfish giving, as well as enforce the Christian attributes we are attempting to instill in His children.

Again this holiday season, we invite you to be a part of our Christmas sponsorship program, and help us make this a special time of sharing for the children at the home. You can help do this by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the enclosed Sponsorship Reservation form and return it to us by December 1, 2004.

May your holidays have a warmer glow just by knowing you have helped us share the joy of this holy season with children in need. Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a Merry Christmas.

Yours, for His Children,
Bobby

*Bobby R. Taylor
President/CEO*





CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2008

The Sunday School Ministry awards Camp Scholarships each year to young people ages 9–18 who wish to go to summer camp but who need financial assistance. The scholarship value will cover the cost of the camp, with the possible exception of personal spending money. The application must be accompanied by a letter from the pastor or the church or the Sunday School superintendent substantiating the financial need. When the selection is made, the applicant will be notified and he/she must in turn inform the Sunday School Ministry Director of the Camp they wish to attend, either at Cragmont or Vandemere. The applicant or parent should complete the following information and mail the form with the appropriate letters to the Sunday School Ministry Director at P. O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

The application must be postmarked by December 31, 2007 in order to be considered. If further information is needed, do not hesitate to call the Sunday School office at (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>.



Complete the enclosed application and send it to the Sunday School Director at P. O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Use extra paper if it is needed. The **application must be postmarked by December 31, 2007** in order to be considered.

Be sure the application is accompanied by a letter from the pastor or the church or the Sunday School superintendent substantiating the financial need.

When the selection has been made by an anonymous committee, the applicant will be notified and will inform the Sunday School Director as to which camp he/she wishes to attend. The Director will then send the money to the appropriate camp, whether at Cragmont Assembly or Camp Vandemere. The applicant will need to provide his/her own spending money for the camp week.

The awards will be formally presented at the Annual Sunday School Institute at Mount Olive College.

Name: _____

Age: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____ (please check)

Name of Parents or Guardians:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Church: _____

Write a brief statement as to why you want to go to camp and why you need the financial assistance. (Use extra paper if needed.)



HOUSE CHURCH OPENED

by Pastor Orlando Garcia

In April 2007 a "House Church" was opened in Barangay Silang, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines. The house is owned by Brother Juanito De Jesus, one of the active church members. The house is made of light materials, built on stilts over the water of the bay. The first attendance was eight people. As of now, we have fourteen regular church members and five of them are candidates for baptism. Please pray for God's work in this area. Pray also for our members to stay active in God's service. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY.**

CANGIARAN CHURCH PARSONAGE

Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines

by Pastor Arman Manzano

In April of 1998, the pastors and workers of the Central District united their efforts and strength in building a small parsonage at the Canigaran Church. The house was made of light materials, coco lumber, and roofing made of coconut leaves. In fact, the Rev. Harold Jones contributed his labor by breaking the coral stones to level the said area. Praise God! We were able to finish it after a few months and lived there for about nine years. After that long period of living there, those materials became weak, rotten with termites, which caused us to be alarmed. It was in much need of renovation. But since the church had no funds to build a new parsonage, we prayed for God's provision. We called it the "B.I.G. Project" (Believe in God Project). Once again we say, "God is so great" because He opened the door of blessings through the Reverend Harold Jones and the FWB brethren to provide funds for a new parsonage.

The parsonage was constructed through the efforts of our brethren here in Canigaran and is now finished. It is made of half concrete and double walled with woven bamboo. It has three bedrooms, small living room, and an indoor comfort room with a water connection from the water district. We transferred to the new parsonage in June of this year. My family and I were so excited, happy, and thankful for this new parsonage. It is truly a blessing from God. The Lord is really GOOD to us in providing our essential and basic needs. This is a great privilege for us to say, "THANKS TO GOD AND TO ALL WHO GAVE TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE." For this cause, we want to extend our gratitude and millions of thanks to our beloved FWB brethren who have open hands to support Filipinos in the ministry in the Philippines and many other countries.





ALUMNI WEEKEND

Dear MOC Alumni,

Many alums have attended the last "10" alumni weekends; we have dedicated the Alumni Cross Walk, celebrated our 50th anniversary, won many pickle classics, dedicated new buildings, etc. Please continue the tradition and join us for the "Share the Success" weekend November 16–18.

Our alma mater has grown tremendously over the past ten years; we are the fastest growing private college in North Carolina. Our number of alumni has also grown. You will want to see what is happening here and we want to see you. We want to "share the success" all weekend long—from Friday through Sunday. Bragging will be allowed on both sides. Bring your family pictures.

Play golf, listen to alum speakers, root for the Trojans, attend a reunion, walk for CF, participate in the alumni board meeting, visit the bookstore, view an art exhibit, attend a seminar, retrieve helpful tips with estate planning, listen to musicians, share in the Agribusiness dedication, visit Australia, stroll the MO campus, watch with pride the dedication of the Science Instrument Room, tour new buildings, congratulate award winners, worship together, and the list goes on....

This is a time of reflection at a place that shaped our lives; consider a trip back and look forward to some good fellowship and friendship.

All for Mount Olive College,

Dianne

Dianne Brown Riley '67, Director
Alumni Relations

Mount Olive College Alumni Weekend Schedule of Events

Friday, November 16, 2007

- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast Briefing sponsored by the Robert L. Tillman School of Business
- 12:05 P.M. 11th Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament—Shotgun Start
E-mail <twoodard@moc.edu> or <driley@moc.edu> to register your team
- 1:00 P.M. 4th Annual Alumni Science Luncheon Hennessee Room
Speaker—Nathaniel Grubbs '05, Research Assistant NCSU
Topic: Embryonic Development: Insights from Insects
- 6:00 P.M. 42nd Annual Pickle Classic—King vs. West Virginia State
Athletics Recognitions—MOC Concert Choir—National Anthem (Alums Welcome)
- 8:00 P.M. Mount Olive College vs. Wingate—Class of 2007 Hosting Hospitality Room
Pickle Classic Court Presentation

Saturday, November 17, 2007

- 8:30 A.M. Cystic Fibrosis Walk with Recreation/Leisure Studies and Henderson Science Club
Contact Jill Mills <jmills@moc.edu>

FOUNDERS DAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT RODGERS CHAPEL

Mount Olive College will celebrate its annual Founders Day on Tuesday, November 22. During the annual Founders Day ceremony, employees are recognized for their years of service. The Founders Leadership Award, the highest honor given to a student, will also be presented. For more information, contact Kathy Gardner at (919) 658-2502 ext. 1451.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET, DECEMBER 6 AT LOIS K. MURPHY REGIONAL CENTER

The Mount Olive College Christmas Buffet is an annual event of music, great food, and fellowship. Join us for this festive occasion as we celebrate the Christmas season with music provided by the MOC music department. Dinner begins at 6 P.M. and music begins at 7 P.M. The cost for the show and meal is \$18 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. For more information, contact Anne Hamm at (919) 658-2502 ext. 1362 or <ahamm@moc.edu>.

A GALA EVENING

The first Society Gala at Mount Olive College will long be remembered as an elegant evening with fine dining, fabulous music, and side-splitting entertainment. The much anticipated event was attended by over 200 society members proudly wearing their MOC Society ties and pins. As guests entered the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, they hardly recognized the cafeteria, which had been transformed into an enchanting venue complete with green and gold linens, decorations, and candle-lit tables.



"You cannot find a more elegant evening than this anywhere in Wayne County," stated D. Frank Hinnant of Fremont.

Kenney Moore, owner of Andy's Cheesesteaks and Cheeseburgers and president of the MOC Society, served as the master of ceremonies.

Dinner music was provided by Enroute Jazz Band. "I absolutely loved the Jazz Band," stated John Sykes of Mount Olive. "You don't find that kind of music everywhere. It was just the right touch for the evening, which was the nicest party that I have ever been to at the College."

The music provided the perfect compliment to the meal, which was dubbed by many as, "The best meal I have ever eaten." Served by the impeccably dressed Mount Olive College baseball team, the meal consisted of fresh spinach salad, bacon wrapped filet mignon with a mushroom demi glaze, roasted rosemary potatoes, fresh asparagus with sauce, and to top it all off, New York cheesecake with fresh strawberries.

After dinner, Dr. J. William Byrd provided an update on the success of Mount Olive College and unveiled a framed parchment listing all the founding members of the MOC Society.

When the 6'2" former Miss North Carolina Jeanne Robertson took the stage, she provided a tall dose of humor that left guests laughing at and talking about her lively performance for days after the event.

"I'm glad she (Jeanne Robertson) stopped talking. If not, I would have died laughing," remarked L. Marvin Edwards of Wilson.

"I laughed so hard I cried," said Jean F. Ackiss of Goldsboro. "I can't remember when I have laughed so hard."



According to Chris Wood, vice president for Institutional Advancement, the first annual Mount Olive College Society Gala was an unqualified success. "Our intent was to thank our donors, provide an enjoyable evening of dining and entertainment, and strengthen the bonds of our significant contributors to the College," Wood stated. "Based on the feedback of those in attendance, I believe we accomplished our goal. Several Society members have said they have

heard such wonderful comments from the evening, they wish their schedules would have permitted them to attend. For those that missed out this year, and all Society members, the planning is already underway for next year's event, which should be even better."

Mount Olive College Society membership is available to all donors who contribute \$1000 or more annually or make an irrevocable planned gift to the College.

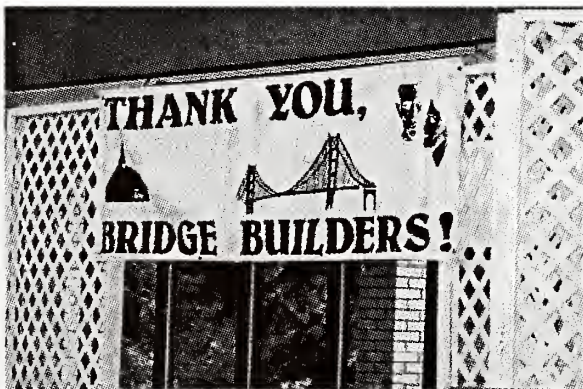


MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HONORS BRIDGE BUILDERS

More than 500 people attended the 2007 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner at Mount Olive College Saturday night. The dinner is the College's way of thanking contributors from Free Will Baptist churches throughout Eastern North Carolina. This year's event was held in honor of 2,081 individuals and church organizations that contributed \$100 or more during the 2006 church annual fund campaign. The church dinner support program totaled more than \$507,000 last year.

"Free Will Baptists are helping to make a difference in the lives of more than 5,000 students at Mount Olive College this year. Through the years, MOC has transformed itself in many ways, one thing that has never changed, and never will, is the College's commitment to helping students transform themselves, and achieve goals that might have seemed unreachable. Mount Olive College provides students a foundation for learning and for living," Dr. Byrd says.

Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support,



coordinated the dinner and served as mistress of ceremonies. "Through tonight's program, you have seen just a small part of how your gifts make a difference in the lives of the students we serve. By giving to Mount Olive College you are sharing in the life of each student."

The highlight of the Saturday's event was a presentation of Christian musical selections by the Mount Olive College Concert Choir and Free Spirit, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong. During the program Senior Sara Strickland gave an inspirational monologue of how her life has been transformed at Mount Olive College. Strickland is a member of Walnut Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Wayne County. She serves as the College's chief marshal and is the reigning

MOC Pickle Classic Queen. She is the daughter of Becky Strickland.

Prior to the program, inspirational music was provided by the Praise Band of the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church. All Bridge Builders will receive a copy of the book entitled *A Memoir of a Hurricane* written by Lorraine Garner. The books are being provided by the Mount Olive College Press.

Members of the Mount Olive College Trojan Baseball team helped serve the donors. Members of the staff and faculty served as table hosts and hostesses. Students who receive Free Will Baptist tuition grants also assisted with the event. The food was prepared and served by Pioneer College Caterers.



COMING EVENTS

FEASLEY RECITAL, NOVEMBER 6 at SOUTHERN BANK AUDITORIUM

The Mount Olive College Recital Series presents William Feasley, on Tuesday, November 6 at 7 P.M. in the Southern Bank Auditorium. Classical guitarist William Feasley, who tours internationally and has recorded several albums for the Sonora label, will be presenting a solo recital. For more information about this artist, visit <www.williamfeasley.com>. The event is \$5 and the public is invited to attend. For more event information, contact Brian Watson at (919) 658-2502.

D. J. COLES CONCERT, NOVEMBER 13 at SOUTHERN BANK AUDITORIUM

D.J. Coles, a contemporary Christian artist, will be performing on Tuesday, November 13, in the Southern Bank Auditorium at Mount Olive College. A local singer/songwriter, Coles is nationally renowned for his most recent CD "Your Grace." According to his website <www.djcoles.com>, "The passion and desire of DJ's heart is that his audience would not only experience a concert of inspirational music, but a life-changing experience with God as well." This free concert will start at 7:30 P.M. and the public is invited to attend.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS WALK/RUN, NOVEMBER 17 at KORNEGAY ARENA, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

A Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Great Strides 5K walk/run will take place November 17, during Alumni Weekend on the MOC campus. Planned and implemented by students in the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department, the Great Strides event is a fund raiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Event registration will be held at Kornegay Arena and starts at 8:30 A.M. For more information or to see how you can donate to the foundation, contact Dr. Jill Mills at (919) 658-7879.

LARRY LEAN'S ART EXHIBITION, NOVEMBER 17 at TERESA PELT GRUBBS ART GALLERY

Mr. Larry Lean, professor of art at Mount Olive College, recently returned from a semester long sabbatical. During his time off, Lean spent many hours working on various art projects which will be on show during Alumni Weekend at the College. The exhibition

of Lean's "new work" will have an opening reception on Saturday, November 17 from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. The event will take place in the Teresa Pelt Grubbs Art Gallery located on the MOC campus in Laughinghouse Hall. The exhibition will run from November 12 until December 15th and the Gallery is open 9-4 Monday-Friday. For more information, contact Cheryl Hooks, chair of the Art Department, at <chooks@moc.edu> or (919) 658-2502.

MOC ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY, NOVEMBER 17 at LOIS K. MURPHY REGIONAL CENTER

The Second Annual Mount Olive College Athletics Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony takes place November 17 at 3 P.M. in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Four new members will join last year's inaugural inductees as part of the Alumni Weekend and Pickle Classic festivities.

LOIS G. BRITT AGRIBUSINESS CENTER DEDICATION, NOVEMBER 17 at 11 A.M. W. BURKETTE AND ROSE M. RAPER HALL

Lois G. Britt had a strong place in her heart for Mount Olive College. She believed in what the institution stands for and the direction in which it is growing. She used her sphere of influence to leverage support for the College and always provided the College with thoughtful advice and counsel. She served the College in many ways including co-chairing the College's New Century Capital Campaign Steering Committee and serving on the MOC Foundation Board. To honor Britt's tremendous accomplishments in the field of agriculture and her tireless service to others, Mount Olive College will dedicate its agribusiness center in memory of Lois G. Britt on November 17.

MOC CONCERT CHOIR, NOVEMBER 30 at SOUTHERN BANK AUDITORIUM

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present its annual fall concert on November 30, at 8 P.M. in the Southern Bank Auditorium. They will be performing Handel's Messiah, along with an orchestra and featured soloists. The concert is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information or for those wishing to reserve group seats, contact Dr. Alan Armstrong at (919) 658-2502.

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY FALL CONVENTION

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Fall Convention was held at Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church on September 15, 2007. The theme for the convention was "The Abiding Presence of Christ" and the Scripture was from John 15:7.

Mary Dudley, Director of the Sunday School Ministry, provided special music by singing "He Touched Me" and "Gentle Shepherd".

Scripture from John 15:7 was read by Gail Heath. She checked her cell phone to be sure it was off then asked us how we were staying connected to Jesus? Today's wireless technology is ever changing. She asked if we were aware that Jesus created the first wireless connection... Are we staying charged? Are we connected to Jesus? We need to keep the line open and stay connected.

The Rev. Tim Heath offered a prayer for the convention.

Courtney Taylor reported on Camp Vandemere. Good things have been happening; such as, sod donated for the area around the tennis court, new lighthouse installed, a campfire area with stadium seating was used this summer, and a much needed warmer for the kitchen. They are still in need of 130 white chairs for the dining hall. Singin' by the River will be October 19 and 20.

Cragmont was represented by Bryant Hines who advised there were 1200 children on the mountain this summer with 60 accepting Jesus as their Savior. He highlighted parts of John's article in the newsletter to clarify some of the confusion about the cost of kids going to camp. He advised the Lassiter Family Center, which is an 11,200 sq. ft. multifunctional building was utilized during the summer camp. They are still in need of funds to equip this building.

Cynthia Batten brought greetings from the Children's Home and advised the blue bag contributions to date are \$50,548. She invited us to attend the annual Friends of the Children's Home Day on November 17. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bobby Taylor who is retiring December 1, 2007. They currently have 21 children. She

reminded us it would soon be time for the Christmas sponsorships.

The FWB Press was represented by Cliff Gray. The Press hosted the State Woman's Auxiliary's Executive Committee meeting in June where the Nina Grace Register room was dedicated. He said in addition to the furniture and window treatments, they were able to purchase a refrigerator for this room with the help of the Auxiliary. They currently have received about \$31,000 on their Press to \$125,000 fundraiser.

Laura Monroe represented Home Missions. They are currently serving several missions. They were able to help several local families; built handicap ramps, and with the help of the Retirement Ministry supplied beds for a Hispanic family. Due to the heavy rains in the Blakely, Georgia area they are looking for teams to go there in the near future.

Ronnie Taylor of the Retirement Ministry concurred with Laura that truly God does work in mysterious ways. He had beds stored he could not use because they were not hospital beds, but the Lord needed them for the Hispanic family. They just recently added 2 new clients to their list. We were given a brochure that had the list of clients along with their birthdays. He encouraged the auxiliaries to remember them with a card on their birthdays.

Mount Olive College is experiencing an increased enrollment per Happy Taylor. They are currently serving 5,000 students. The first summer graduation was held August 29, 2007 with 102 candidates. Associate and Bachelor degrees are available in 40 majors. The Fall College dinners will begin soon. The alumni weekend is November 16-18. Founder's Day will be November 20. Happy encouraged the auxiliaries to visit the college and tour the buildings to see what is available for our students.

The Sunday School Ministry led by Mary Dudley ventured out to the West Coast this summer to hold a phenomenal VBS in California for the H'mong churches. They started with 92

students and ended the week with 137. Their largest class was 39 teenagers. Forty-one Camp Scholarships were given this year to students between the ages of 9 and 18 who could not afford otherwise to attend either Camp Vandemere or Cragmont. The Sunday School Institute was held in August with 450 attendees. Upcoming events for 2008 are: January 30–February 3 Minister's Wife Retreat at Cragmont. The cost will be \$150. She encouraged churches to send their pastor's wife.

The Rev. Buddy Sasser reminded us there is a lot of good "stuff" going on in our denomination and churches. Many churches are missing out because they are focused on themselves rather than reaching out to others and the communities. To better prepare us for outreach there will be a training program entitled "Life on Loan" based on the book, *The Externally Focused Church* by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, held at Cragmont in November. This program will teach us how to partner with different agencies in our community to do service for God. External service in the community is shifting the focus from the inside to the outside of the church walls. Age is a big factor in our churches—we need to reach out before we die out! Our spring convention at MOC will be in the workshop style. The keynote speaker will be the author of the "Externally Focused Church".

Our guest speaker was Kitty Barnes who is a member of Little Rock FWB Church in Lucama and a Board Member of the Sunday School Ministry.

Kitty asked us to think about and picture who helped us to shape our walk to church? She said it takes many pearls to make a necklace and you can add-a-pearl until you get the entire string. Men or women can be pearls.

In Colossians 3:12–14 ...the people had become confused and caught up in the legalistic laws/rules. Paul tried to offer instructions. The first quality was compassion—Christ responded to others; you never need to apologize for having compassion.

The second quality is kindness. This is the attitude of wishing others well. Be kind for everyone you meet is fighting a harder fight.

Gentleness—remember the humility and gentleness of our Savior. Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you said" (Luke 1:38 NIV). Philippians 4:5: Let your gentleness be evident to all (NIV).

Forgiveness—to forgive is a choice. A real pearl can forgive and not keep score. It is a love offering poured out to our Lord.

Love—this is what holds our pearls together. They are added one at a time and bound together with love.

Pearls take on the soul of the person who wears them. Are you a real pearl or a cheap imitation? Is your strand strong and real? You can take your pearls, remembering each, and tell your own life's story.

The Treasurer's Report was given by the assistant, Lois Wetherington. Today's offering was \$214.76, registration was \$675, and the lunch offering was \$305.00 (one-half to MOC and one-half to the Children's Home).

Happy Taylor installed the new officers for 2008–2009 using Galatians 5:22–23 as her text. She compared each office to a fruit and virtue.

The Rev. Buddy Sasser dismissed the meeting with prayer and offered a blessing for our lunch.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Costner, President
Vickie Wade, Recording Secretary*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM POWHATAN!



As we gather together with family and friends over the upcoming holidays, may we share the sunshine of God's love wherever we go.

In a special service on Sunday, September 2, youth Kyle Benson and Mari and William Cox were baptized. All three are active in Powhatan's youth program and participate in district activities.

The Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a breakfast study course with Sandra Peedin leading devotion on Saturday, September 8. Everyone stayed following the breakfast to physically serve by cleaning up around the church to prepare for homecoming.

The Rev. Gary Watson joined us for our fall revival September 9-11 with the Rev. Lloyd Hargis coming for Wednesday and Thursday, September 12-13. Mr. Watson warned of the decline of the church as we allow worldly morals to creep in. He charged that we allow TV and video games to raise our children, and

then wonder why they fall deeply into sin. He told us to joyously be united against our common enemy, Satan, following God with other Christians on a common path. He thanked God for the many men and women who had come before him at Powhatan with strong faith that was put into action, and he challenged us to continue to carry on that tradition.

The Rev. Rayford Byrd brought our homecoming message on September 16 using the parable of the prodigal son. A memorial service honored members and family lost since last year's service: Betty Jean Ard, Buddy Barbour, Margaret Johnson, Irene Hogg, and Odell Carroll.

A youth lock-in was held on Friday evening, September 21. There were 27 youth in attendance and several adult chaperone leaders. The theme was friendship and several verses were read and discussed about the meaning of a friend.

Youth Sunday was held September 30 with young people taking over the services as leaders. Kim Canady was named the Youth Member of the Year for 2007 and her name was added to the plaque (with names since 1998). Chris Bagley brought the morning message from Isaiah 55.



2007 Youth Member of the Year Kim Canady accompanied by her brother A. J.

FINANCIAL PLANNING: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

by Don Fader

Is it Time for a Spending Plan? Last month we talked about Christian Financial Planning and how our emphasis should be more on the planning and less on the financial. So the question this month is how do you start planning? It is really very simple; you and your spouse must develop a giving, savings, and spending plan for your family.

Now you ask, are you talking about the "B" word as in budgeting? Well, yes I am. Unfortunately for most people a budget is a real turn off. Why? In a nutshell a budget requires discipline, responsibility and accountability and we want to be free to do with our money as we please. So let me ask you this, how is that working out for you right now? For most people the answer is, not too good. A budget puts you in charge and after all isn't that where you want to be?

Start by determining your fixed and variable expenses. Fixed expenses are set monthly obligations for things like rent or house payments, installment loans, food, childcare, and others. Variable expenses include insurance that comes due every three to six months, doctor visits, haircuts, clothing, eating out, recreation, and the like. You may need to track these expenses for two to three months to get a good idea of what these expenses are.

An important point here is that this plan has to be your plan. While you may need some help you will never buy into a plan that is set up by someone else. You and your spouse have to be in agreement (see Amos 3:3). Once you have a clear idea of your expenses you can start your plan.

Giving

Pay God first! You may be struggling to make ends meet and question whether you have the resources to give. But remember that all of your resources really belong to God and you have an obligation to give regularly and systematically to His work (see Proverbs 16:3). If you give to God first you will be amazed by the fact that the gift has no negative impact in your overall financial well being. In fact, you will begin to reap real benefits from a plan that includes faithful support of His work.

Saving

Pay yourself second! Most people wait to see what they have left before they consider putting money

into savings. Newsflash! There is never anything left. If your employer has a savings plan like a 401K you belong in it and if they offer to match your contribution it is a "no brainer". That's free money! Otherwise determine your goals and begin to contribute toward them. A new house, a college fund for your children or a trip to St. Somewhere. Start saving now.

Spending

Look at where your money is going now. Where can you save? Are you eating out too much or spending money foolishly? Money comes from two sources, you either earn it or you save it. That dollar in your pocket has no idea where it came from but you either worked for it or saved it by being a wise steward. A spending plan—all right a budget—can show you where you can cut corners and put more dollars into your pocket for the important things. But you have to make those decisions.

Conclusion

Most people think the reason for their financial problems is their income. Do you think if you made \$200,000 dollars a year you could manage your situation? Well, I have worked with individuals who made over \$300,000 dollars a year and they had credit card debt of over \$100,000 and no money in savings, none. It is the spending plan, or lack thereof, that makes the difference (see Luke 14:28-30). God wants you in charge of your financial situation so that you have a testimony that speaks to your wisdom and prudence. Are you going to manage your money or will it manage you? Which will it be?



GO TELL THE STORY

TO GO TELL THE STORY in the midst of growing spiritual darkness in our communities and throughout America, we Original Free Will Baptists will need to become involved in PRAYING for those around us, CARING for the hurting, and SHARING the Good News appropriately.

OUR ENDEAVOR is to continue TOUCHING LIVES FOR A LIFETIME through planting churches, assisting the declining churches, charting scout units, helping our churches reach its community through effective evangelism, building a Disaster Relief Ministry that follows the Master's Plan, and continue developing a Biker/Prison Ministry.

OUR ESSENTIAL GOALS: (by 2010)

- Plant 5 mission/churches
- Assist the declining churches through Harvest Covenant
- Charter 15 Boy Scout Units
- Develop an Advancement Team to assist in Scouting outreach
- Plant 5 Hispanic mission/churches
- Conduct 5 county wide Hispanic revivals
- Implement Out-reach/In-reach Evangelism Training
- Increase involvement in the Touching Lives Corps
- Develop 2 "Andrew's Place" (thrift store and/or soup kitchen)
- Develop a Bike/Prison Ministry
- Secure a facility to sufficiently serve our Disaster Relief Ministry
- 300 membership - Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry



HOME MISSIONS
& EVANGELISM
-----OF ORIGINAL-----
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Learn the unique way to reach your community and grow your church. The following effective workshops will give your church the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of evangelism.

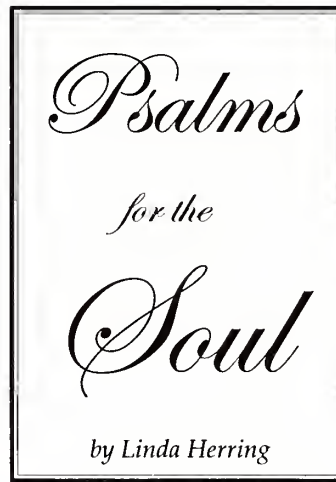
- * Lighthouse Ministry
- * Discipleship Training (AIM)
- * Praying-Caring-Sharing
- * Scouting Ministry
- * Growing In Christ
- * Invitational Visitation
- * Church Growth Ideas
- * Effective Ushers
- * Canning Hunger
- * Evangelism Today
- * Biker/Prison Ministry
- * The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief
- * Touching Lives Corps

HOME MISSIONS

To date we serve 20 Mission/Churches and 2 Youth Camps.

- ♦ CHARITY, Whiteville, North Carolina
- ♦ FAITH, Morehead City, North Carolina
- ♦ SUNRISE LANDING (Mobile Church)
- ♦ DALY'S CHAPEL, LaGrange, North Carolina
- ♦ FREE SPIRIT, Wilson, North Carolina
- ♦ ALPHA & OMEGA OFWB CHURCH (Hispanic), Ayden, North Carolina
- ♦ ETHNIC MISSIONS (H'MONGS)
 - 9 in California 2 in North Carolina
 - 1 in St. Paul, Minnesota
 - 1 in Las Vegas, Nevada
 - 1 in Salt Lake City, Utah
 - 1 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 - 2 Youth Camps: 1 in North Carolina at Cragmont
1 in California at Camp Twain Hart
- ♦ TENT MINISTRY

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Wanted: Christian men and women willing to answer the Lord's call to live godly lives in an unrighteous world. Psalm 1:1-3 gives the character of a godly person. We are not self-sufficient or too proud to ask for help. We seek biblical counsel regularly and live by God's principles. We are open to advice based on the truths of the Bible. We limit our closest and deepest friendships to fellow believers who are like-minded and to



those who love Jesus and desire to follow Him. Remember, our companions can influence us positively or negatively. The Lord expects us to be kind to all people but it is wise to watch our inner circle. We must take a stand concerning the things of the Lord and His church. The Bible says that in whatever we do, we will succeed. We will be fruitful and productive in our lives. The Lord calls us to godliness. Will we say yes? Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF KENLY FWB CHURCH

by Mrs. Eddie Flowers, H. G. Watson, and Mrs. H. G. Watson

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 3 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, March 9, 1949, Vol. 64-No. 10.)

In the year 1888-89, Kenly was a mission point of the Free Will Baptist Church and was served by Elders Daniel Davis, B. H. Boykin, J. R. Watson, and perhaps others.

In the year of 1890, these ministers with the help of several members of Holly Springs and other churches, perfected the organization of the Free Will Baptist Church in Kenly. W. T. Kirby, Oscar Edgerton, and Charlie Jones were elected deacons. J. V. Kirby was elected secretary-treasurer, Elder Daniel Davis of Pikeville, N.C., was called as the first pastor.

The following members of Holly Springs Church moved their memberships to Kenly to become charter members and to help in the organization: W. T. Kirby, Abslie Kirby, Pennie Jones, Pattie Ballance, Serena Balance, Cuzzie Alford, Barnie Watkins, Oscar Edgerton, Elizabeth Edgerton, Beadie Watkins, Vinsin Kirby, and Charles Jones of Union Grove Church in Wayne County also cast their lots with us.

At that time there was no church building in Kenly and the services were held in the Farmer's Alliance Hall which was located on a lot in front of the present church auditorium.

The members, under the leadership of their pastor, immediately began preparations and plans to erect a church building. Miss Lottie Watkins, a friend,

donated a lot on the southeastern edge of the town. Donations of lumber and other materials were immediately placed on the lot and a single story frame building was soon erected. Regular services were then held on the fourth Saturday and Sundays of each month.

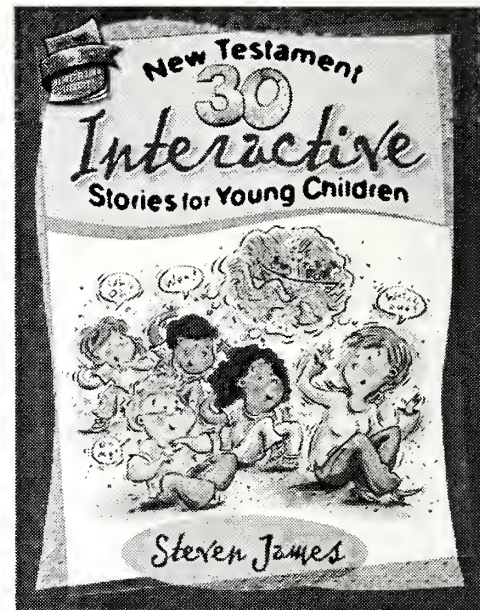
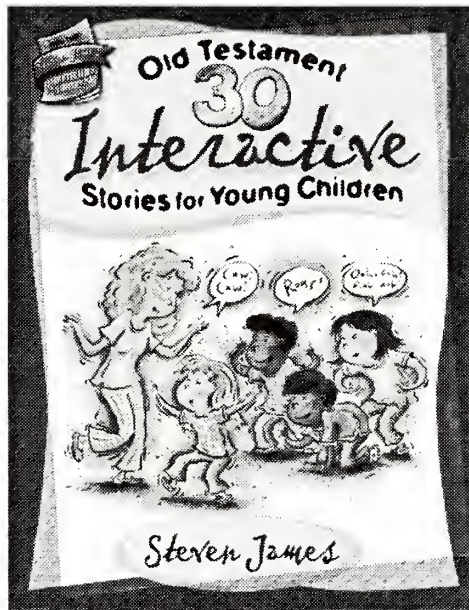
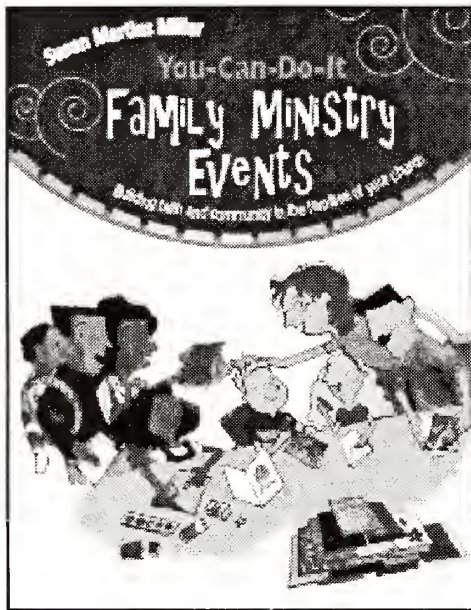
On October 16, 1891, the Kenly Church, with thirty-seven members was received into the Western Conference body of Churches on motion of Elder Daniel Davis at the fifth annual session which was held at Red Oak Grove, Wilson County.

About 1894, a wind storm blew the church building off the foundation and partly wrecked it. On arrangements made with the Masonic Lodge, the building was reconstructed with the addition of an upper story for the use of the Masons.

It was later found that the meeting of the church and the Masons conflicted and the church changed its regular worship days from the fourth to the third weekends of each month. This arrangement lasted until 1936, when the church repurchased all interest of the Masonic Order and moved the building to the present location and converted the second story to Sunday School rooms.

Plans and preparations for the erecting of a new church was considered as far back at 1934, under the leadership of the pastor, the Rev. James A. Evans.





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Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists

The Ministerial Association cordially invites all ministers and spouses to join us for our annual *Spiritual Life Banquet*. This year the goal for the Executive Committee is to host four Spiritual Life Events across our denomination. The goal is to hold four different types of worship and fellowship services in all areas of our denomination.

The first of these Spiritual Life Banquets will be held at Saturday, November 10, 2007 at the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Building in Kinston, NC. The cost of the event is \$10. The banquet will be provided by the Food Team of the Harvest Connection. The Reverend Tim Heath will be presiding.

The Tentative Schedule:

2:00–2:30	Fellowship and Registration
2:30–3:00	Special Music
3:00–4:30	Worship (Communion, Washing of the Saints Feet, and Prayer Service)
5:00	Banquet Meal

Special gifts will be provided to all who participate. The Executive Committee asks that attendees dress relaxed and appropriately casual. Other events, of differing natures, are being planned across our denomination. If you are NOT a member of the Association, we encourage you to register and join with the payment of \$35 dues. Please complete the registration below and mail to the address listed at the bottom. We look forward to seeing you in Kinston on Saturday, November 10, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.

The Ministerial Association is a Fellowship Ministry among Original Free Will Baptist ministers regardless of conference. This elective fellowship considers it a chief duty to promote fellowship and encouragement to all of our ministers. It is our mission to encourage each minister to become a more fully devoted follower of Christ. A portion of your registration fee provides scholarships to ministerial students and sponsors the Minister's Conference at Cragmont each year (June 2–4, 2008).

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Number Attending _____

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 per attendee made payable to the Ministerial Association of OFWB

I am not a member of the Ministerial Association and wish to join for the 2007–2008 year.
Enclosed is my check for \$35 dues made payable to the Ministerial Association of OFWB.

I wish to join and attend the banquet

I wish to join but I will be unable to attend the banquet

Ministerial Association
604 East Ash Street
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

BEULAVILLE CHURCH, Eastern Conference, is seeking a pastor to serve as spiritual leader and administrator of the church. Applicants need to be willing to visit the members, to be an example to others, and must be an ordained OFWB minister approved by the Eastern Conference. Our church has an active membership of about 75. The financial package is negotiable and a parsonage is available. If interested, please call (910) 298-3134 or respond to <gregjp@embarqmail.com>.

SNEADS FERRY CHURCH, Eastern Conference, is seeking a pastor. For more information, contact (910) 327-1364 or (910) 327-6271.

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: supply, revivals, interim pastor, or fill-in. He may be reached by phone at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.

WINTERVILLE CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking an Associate Pastor (emphasis on youth). Interested candidates must be a licensed or ordained OFWB minister. Please send resumés with a cover letter to: Joe Pickett, 3643 N. Main St., Farmville, NC 27828.

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at
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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
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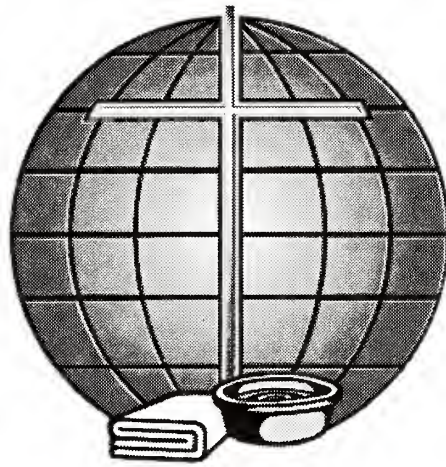


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Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC
Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC
Crab Point Church, Morehead City, NC
Croatan Church, New Bern, NC
Daly's Chapel Church, Seven Springs, NC
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Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC
Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
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Kings Cross Roads Church, Farmville, NC
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Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn, NC
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Mt. Zion Church, Nashville, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Bayboro, NC
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Pilgrim's Home Church, Kinston, NC
Pine Level Church, Pine Level, NC
Piney Grove Church, Greenville, NC
Piney Grove Church, Albertson, NC
Piney Grove Woman's Aux., Kenly, NC
Pleasant Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Grimesland, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC

Powhatan Church, Clayton, NC
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Main Thought: Everyone has been gifted by God to serve others so that we grow in maturity and unity.

Lesson 3: Minding the Intersections (1 Peter 4:7–11)

Main Thought: We need to be prepared to love one another so that God is glorified.

Lesson 4: Delivering the Goods (Matthew 28:18–20)

Main Thought: We need to go to people and tell them God's story.

Lesson 5: Learning to Leverage (Luke 10:25–37)

Main Thought: Everyone has been gifted by God to serve others so that we grow in maturity and unity.

Lesson 6: Looking From Eternity (2 Corinthians 4:16–18)

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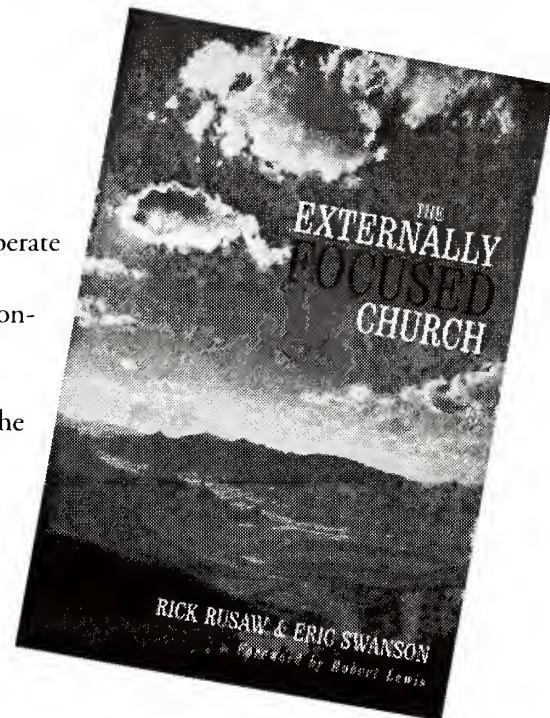
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December 2007



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December 2007

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
		CHRISTMAS DAY					
30	31	NOTES: _____					COMING SOON: _____

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CONTENTS

December 2007 • Volume 124 • Number 12

FEATURES

- 5 *Easy Way to Benefit the Kingdom*
6 *What Every Man/Woman Needs*
7 *Recalling the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church*

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Monthly Planner
24 NC Foundation for
Christian Ministries
26 Camp Vandemere
28 Woman's Auxiliary
29 People & Events



COLUMNS

- 4 Focus
by Darren E. Davenport
4 Reflections
by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer
34 Financial Planning:
A Biblical Perspective
by Don Fader, Guest Writer
35 Psalms for the Soul
by Linda Herring, Guest Writer
35 Golden Oldies



DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 8 OFWB International
13 Children's Home
16 Sunday School Ministry
18 Mount Olive College
21 Home Missions & Evangelism
22 Minister's Program



POWER VERSE

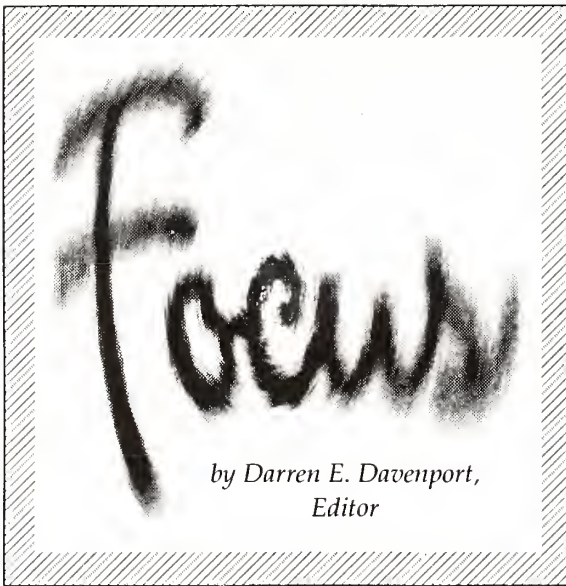
All the paths of the Lord are mercy
and truth unto such as keep his
covenant and his testimonies
(Psalm 25:10).

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

Wow! Another year has just about come and gone. Which way did it go? It must have slipped by when I wasn't looking! It seems that it has zoomed right by like a race car whizzing by you while you sit and watch. I, as I imagine most of us do, find myself reflecting on time past... What did I do with it? Did I make the most of it? Did I focus on the right things at the right times? Did I spend too much time worrying over things that should've been placed in God's hands all along? Is the Lord pleased, at least somewhat, with how I spent that precious time—of which I'll never see again?

But, while it is good to reflect, we must also keep things in perspective! Since we cannot go back and we cannot sit still—by process of elimination—we must go forward! Let's go forward with the resolve to use our time wisely—at home (with our families and our quiet time with God), at work (doing all we do with excellence "as unto the Lord"), at church (reaching out to the lost), and, yes, even in our leisure.

As we approach the reason for the season, I hope that we will place our focus on the one that "shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6b). Merry Christmas!



by Darren E. Davenport,
Editor

FROM THE MANGER TO THE CROSS

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Each holiday and celebration has its markings, symbols and things that give it significance. Halloween has become more prevalent each fall with its emphases on witches, goblins, jack-o-lanterns, etc. Thanksgiving is noted for its harvest symbols, reminding us of the blessings and goodness of God and allowing us a time of worship and thanksgiving and praise to Him. And then comes Christmas.

Christians realize the true significance of the Birth of Christ and the events that followed His Life and Death. There is no other story that can overshadow it. From the days of early childhood, we heard the story of His Birth—the journey to Bethlehem, the cattle stall, the manger, the shepherds, the angelic chorus, the wise men and their journey to see Jesus and present their gifts to the Christ Child.

As with any birth, the Birth of Jesus was only the beginning. The Bible tells the story from beginning to end. Nothing is left in uncertainty concerning His mission. He was born to die, "to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). He fully knew His mission, even as a young lad, He realized He "must be about my Father's business" (Luke 2:49). Years later during His earthly ministry, He often spoke to His disciples about His coming death, something they did not want

to hear and could not understand. In Luke 9:51 we read: "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem." He never wavered in his divine mission, in spite of His rejection by the people and the sufferings on the cross.

There are numerous Christian symbols, but the most significant is the cross. It is not the manger, or the star, or the gifts of the wise men. The cross reminds us of

the entire story of His Life and Death. It symbolizes all that He is and did. Whether shaped in wood, cheap metal, silver or gold, it means the same. Flip the pages of any hymnal and you find many hymns about the cross. It is visible in many places—

in architectural design (as the entrance to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, NC), in jewelry, etc. A short time before graduating from Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, NC, I decided to purchase my college ring. I wanted it to be different, so I decided to have a gold cross inlaid in the blue stone. Throughout the years I have had numerous occasions when someone would inquire about the cross, thus allowing me the opportunity to explain, and in many ways that cross has served as a witness in itself of God's eternal love as revealed in Christ.



EASY WAY TO BENEFIT THE KINGDOM

by Gail Leaphart

Throughout the Word of God the topic of money is talked about frequently. With so much attention given to money, Christians should be paying close attention to how their money is made, spent, utilized for the Kingdom and...against it!!! YES, you read that correctly. Your money could be working against the Kingdom.

One very simple way for Christians to ensure the survival of the church is through support of Christian-owned businesses. Each time a dollar is spent for a product or service at a Christian-owned business, a portion of the profit from that transaction should go back to the church through the owner's tithes and offerings. Christians who buy products and services only from secular businesses lose the satisfaction of knowing that a portion of the profit from their purchase goes back to the church. Depending on the size of the business, the profits either goes directly back to the secular business owner as a sole proprietor or small corporation, to multiple secular partners in a partnership or to the stockholders for a corporation.

It is our responsibility to find out the types of endeavors our purchases are supporting. As an example, many Christians are not aware of the fact that Ford Motor Company has used a substantial portion of their profits to support the gay and lesbian agenda. The American Family Association <www.AFA.net> has initiated a boycott of Ford due to this type of activity that directly contradicts God's Word. Christians should find out the types of organizations and programs that are supported by companies before they buy products and services from them since a portion of their purchase will be used to provide that support.

With many churches struggling financially to keep their doors open, it becomes increasingly important for Christians to bring their tithes and offerings to the church and to support every avenue possible for the funding of the Kingdom. With the increased availability of products from places like Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and the Internet, businesses like local Christian bookstores are finding it difficult to continue to operate. Christians must be more conscious of the overall effect of having that Christian bookstore in their community rather than focusing on saving a few cents on the cost of a book. This article is not an attempt to discourage you from shopping with large retailers or from buying over the Internet; it is simply a reminder that if a product or service can be obtained from a Christian brother or sister who will benefit and thereby help to fund the Kingdom, it is our responsibility to support them according to Galatians 6:10.

To help you better understand this concept; let's use

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club as an example. According to information on <www.walmartfacts.com>, in 2006, Wal-Mart Stores and Sam's Club gave \$6,920,515 in cash and in-kind donations to local causes and organizations in the communities they serve in the state of North Carolina. The question we need to ask ourselves is, "How many churches throughout North Carolina received any of that \$6,920,515?" The answer is NONE. Then ask, "How much of my money helped to fund the \$6,920,515 in donations that I had no say-so in? Were there times that I could have supported a Christian-owned business with my purchase to ensure that a portion of that money would benefit the church?" Remember this. That Christian bookstore or any other Christian business is there to serve the Body of Christ and to help fund, through their tithes, gifts, and offerings, the work of the Kingdom. God gave them the ability to do what they do to fulfill His purpose.

In Luke 19:11-27 (paraphrased) we are given the parable of the minas. Each of the ten servants are given one mina (equivalent to about four months wages for the average worker or about \$9,000 in today's money) and are told by their master, "Do business till I come" (NKJV). Our Master has also entrusted us with something very valuable that we are responsible for investing into the lives of others and multiplying "till He comes". Part of that investment is funding the church.

Upon the master's return these servants were called to him to report on how each one had invested the money. The first servant had multiplied his investment ten times (about \$90,000 in today's terms). The master replied to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Because you were faithful in a little, I will make you ruler over much." The second servant had multiplied his mina five times. Again, the master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Because you were faithful in a little, I will make you ruler over much." A third servant simply returned the original mina back to the master and he was called an evil servant. Because he was not faithful over one mina, it was taken away from him.

It is interesting to note as Jesus told this parable, the only time a servant was called good and faithful was when the servant had multiplied for the Kingdom. These servants did not multiply for themselves; it was not their mina. It was for their master. We will all be held accountable for multiplying for the Kingdom. We must use every available tool or resource to achieve that mission.

Make it your personal goal to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," from our Master, Jesus Christ.

WHAT EVERY MAN/WOMAN NEEDS

by The Reverend John Hill

Pastor, First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro

Jesus! Well, you're right. Maybe it should say The 2nd Thing Every Man/Woman Needs! Intimacy! By definition, intimacy is, but not limited to, sexual or physical activity. In my attempt to rescue the world from the world's corruption, intimacy is much more! Intimacy can be experienced between all sorts of people, married couples, and close friends. However, I must note that the second can lead to deep levels of a relationship. Be aware of the potential of perception, transference of emotions, and the development of love feelings.

Ministers, especially, must do well to be knowledgeable of the below exposition. Pastors are expected to be, to some degree or another, almost all of them. Therefore, emotions can be transferred, perceptions abound, and there develops a great risk that places the pastor and member in a compromising position. A-many-a-one has fallen to these pastors take warning.

However, to the rest, what does your husband or wife need in his or her marriage? What can be the key to improve marriages and relationship? What is the key to a successful and happy marriage? Intimacy! So how can we learn to be intimate with our spouse or friends? Perhaps the discussion below may shed some light on the subject. Remember, intimacy is, but not limited to, physical activity.

What Every Man/Woman Needs is attention!

What every person needs is T-I-M-E! The gift of physical presence is vital to any relationship. Long distance relationships struggle with this greatly. Though the other areas may be met...TIME is of the essence! However, it is not a physical *I'm here; now what do you want?* Attention means interest and inquiry! Eye contact, questions, and limited distractions are all marks of good quality attention.

What Every Man/Woman Needs is acceptance!

In a world where women are critiqued for their appearance and men for their performance, there needs to be some acceptance. Every relationship needs the ability to forgive and be forgiven. The willingness to overlook faults in order to accept someone, warts and all!

What Every Man/Woman Needs is appreciation!

We all need a pat on the back sometimes. It gives us value and in turn gives us purpose and initiative! This may come in a variety: a Post-it note on the bathroom mirror, a special meal to congratulate, a simple thank you for washing the dishes!

What Every Man/Woman Needs is encouragement!

After a hard day at work, no one needs a quality control specialist (*Apologies to any of the readers to whom it may apply*). What can I do to help you succeed? I know you feel bad about this, but I know you will make the right decision!

What Every Man/Woman Needs is support!

We all need a nurturing spirit to help us and walk with us when it is difficult. At times we can give attention and be a listening ear in order to provide such support! Though it is related to encouragement and appreciation, support can be different when it is a shoulder to cry on.

What Every Man/Woman Needs is affection!

Our relationships must be with other people; therefore, an appropriate touch, a hand on the shoulder, a hug, holding, gifts are expressions of physical and emotional closeness. Nonetheless, sex is certainly a part of this need as well.

What Every Man/Woman Needs is security!

I am safe and this place that I share with you is a safe place. This is not just intended to mean to be a void of harm, yet it can mean a safe place to share ideas, feelings, differences, disagreements, and secrets without fear of rejection, ridicule, or harm.

What Every Man/Woman Needs is respect!

When we show respect we are acknowledging that one is recognized as a human being, a child of God, and is validated as worthy and valuable.

What Every Man/Woman Needs is consistency!

Humans are creatures of habit. No matter who we are, or even our personality, we are all creatures of consistency. The more we change the more we stay the same. Though the content of our actions may be different, our process and emotions are the same. Therefore, we need predictability, reliability, and consistency.

What Every Man/Woman Needs is challenge!

At least, I hope this is all of us!?! Muscles grow when they are pushed and pulled and work against great resistance. Life becomes boring with too much consistency. Life becomes bland! Auto-pilot doesn't work with relationships!

What Every Man/Woman Needs is to create!

We need to be able to contribute to society (*Thus my willingness to write articles for this publication*). We must be given the time and resource to draw, shape, think,

feel, express, understand, say, write, vote, plant, paint, move, excel, fail—you get the picture!

When all of these needs are met, intimacy can take place within any relationship. You will note again that physical or sexual activity is only one of the above needs. You must also note that such physical attraction can come in many forms other than sexual. Therefore, I feel confident and with clear conscience that intimacy (non-sexual) can be held between two people of the same gender. As I type, I reminisce on the stories of David and Jonathan, Jesus and Peter, Paul and Timothy, Ruth and Naomi; what beautiful friendships!

How can we develop this Godly intimacy between persons?

- Spend appropriate quality time with those primary persons in your life. Remember, T-I-M-E is the first of these needs that must be met!
- Learn to listen caringly and attentively to what and

how thoughts and feelings are expressed.

- Share your thoughts, feelings, dreams, hopes, intentions within your relationships.
- Learn to laugh together and share a multiplicity of experiences with one another.
- Practice the gifts of affirmation, forgiveness, gratitude, and sacrifice.
- Grant freedom to your friend/spouse to think and express (Then use #4 and #5!).

What does every man/woman need in life? Jesus! What else? Intimacy! I welcome your comments and inquiries. Please feel free to contact me at <bfirstfreewillbaptist@nc.rr.com>.

Resources

The Pursuit of Intimacy (Ferguson & Thurman)

The Art of Intimacy (Thomas Patrick Malone)

Notes on Intimacy (Dr. Dan Bagby, BTSR)

RECALLING THE AYDEN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

by Celia Hales

In 1974–1975, I was enrolled at East Carolina University. My weekdays were spent on campus, but my weekends were spent with my grandparents, Ed and Anna Hill, and my great-grandmother, Celia Garris. They lived in Ayden and were members of the community that constituted the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church. Visiting my family was therapeutic after a week of lots of activity, but the best thing I remember well was worshiping at the Ayden Church.

Like most families, mine had a particular pew where we sat every Sunday morning. It was fairly near the front, but the reason for our choice was that the stained glass window just to the right had been dedicated to the memory of my great-grandfather Ed Garris, Ed was my great-grandmother's husband, whom she lost to a kidney ailment in 1918 when she was in her late thirties and he was about ten years her senior. They had just over 20 years together, 20 years marked by harmony, good will, and a genuine devotion to each other; in short, 20 years of love. Years later, Celia would recall to me something Ed said to her when he knew that he was dying. She said he pulled her up on his lap and said to her, You know, Celie, we never had what you would call a quarrel. My great-grandmother told me she often remembered those words. And I personally saw in this lovely admission a goal that I would seek to emulate in my own marriage.

I thought about the family stories as I listened to the organ. The stories prepared my soul and spirit for the singing of the sermon. My great-grandfather, Ed Garris, had been engaged to another young woman before he

met my great-grandmother, Celia. As luck (or fate) would have it, the engagement did not go well. They quarreled, and then ended the engagement. Somewhat on the rebound, Ed met Celia, 17-year old Celia, demure but with a flirtatious smile. The family story was that Ed never had eyes for anyone else after he found Celia. He personally furnished a house that he built in Littlefield, right down to the cooking spices, so that his new wife, Celia, would have all that was required by way of a house. It would be seven years before they would move to Ayden, to East Second Street, also to a house that Ed had built, made with the finest heart timber from his sawmill. Somehow it was enormously calming to remember these old stories, told at home by my great-grandmother, as I sat next to the window dedicated to her husband's memory.

Going repeatedly to church with my family was a healing of the too-busy week. Worship soothed my emotions and simultaneously made me feel loved by God. By the atmosphere in that church, I was led to a reverent feeling that had deep blessings for me.

Regularity in attending worship is its own reward. I would much the lesser without that year of sharing a time not only with God and my family, but also the community of Original Free Will Baptists. Years later and from a long way away in Mississippi, I return in memory with this writing and am warmed by the spirit of community that I knew in the Ayden church so many years ago.



DEEP WELL AND TANK PROJECT

Philippines

by Pastor Faith G. Perocillo

Water is LIFE! All the three "WATER LIFE PROJECTS" have now been accomplished. Three areas were lately given funds for the deep wells and water tank projects. The Free Will Baptist Children's Home Foundation, Inc., completed the project of putting up large water tanks for rainwater. The project helps cut off the monthly water bill that reaches to thousands of pesos. Thank you from all the kids and staff of Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Cebu, Philippines.

Water refreshes! Not only that we are provided water, we are enjoying FRESH WATER now! Instead of digging a well, which we cannot because the water here is salty, we connected to the local water source that is quite far. The cost is just like digging a well. Just last week, the installation was completed. Now the church enjoys the fellowship because of the availability of fresh water. And we thank you for making this possible for us! From all of us OFWBC of Ubay, Bohol, we say thank you.

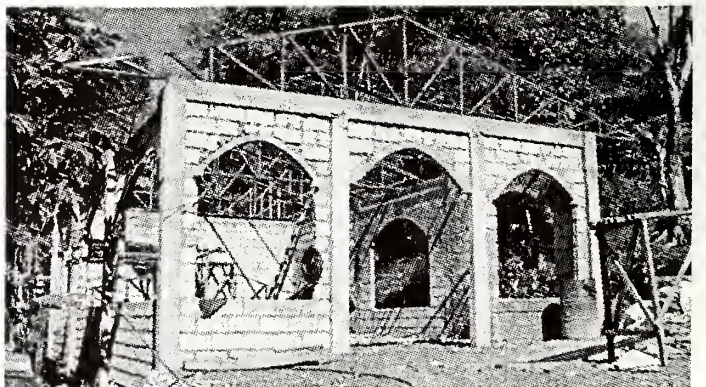
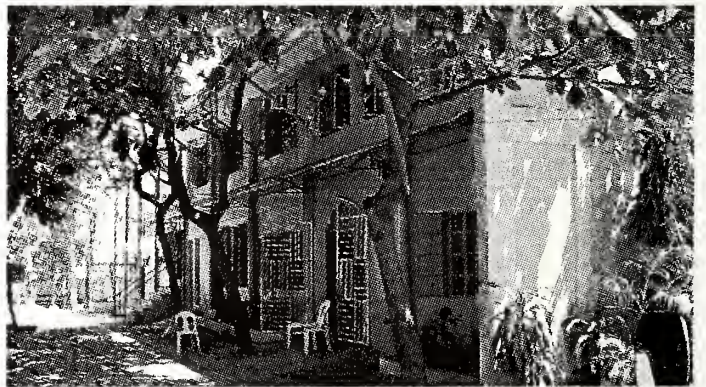
Water is priceless! We really cannot put a cost on water because we just tap to it. It is there, all provided by almighty God. Beginning with the church building construction here, we have been blessed with this priceless water. Instead of digging a well, we tapped into the local water supply. It is wiser to have done so because our area is very rocky. The housing area is also very congested and the minimal distance to dig a well is no longer advisable. The project is very timely for the construction. Thank you from all of us OFWBCII of Tagbilaran City.

Picture 1: Children at the FWB Children's Home in Cebu who are benefiting from this project.

Picture 2: Ubay FWB Church.

Picture 3: FWB Children's Home.

Picture 4: Tagbilaran FWB Church in Bohol Island, Phillipines.



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mangingisda, Palawan, Philippines

By Merly A. Toladro

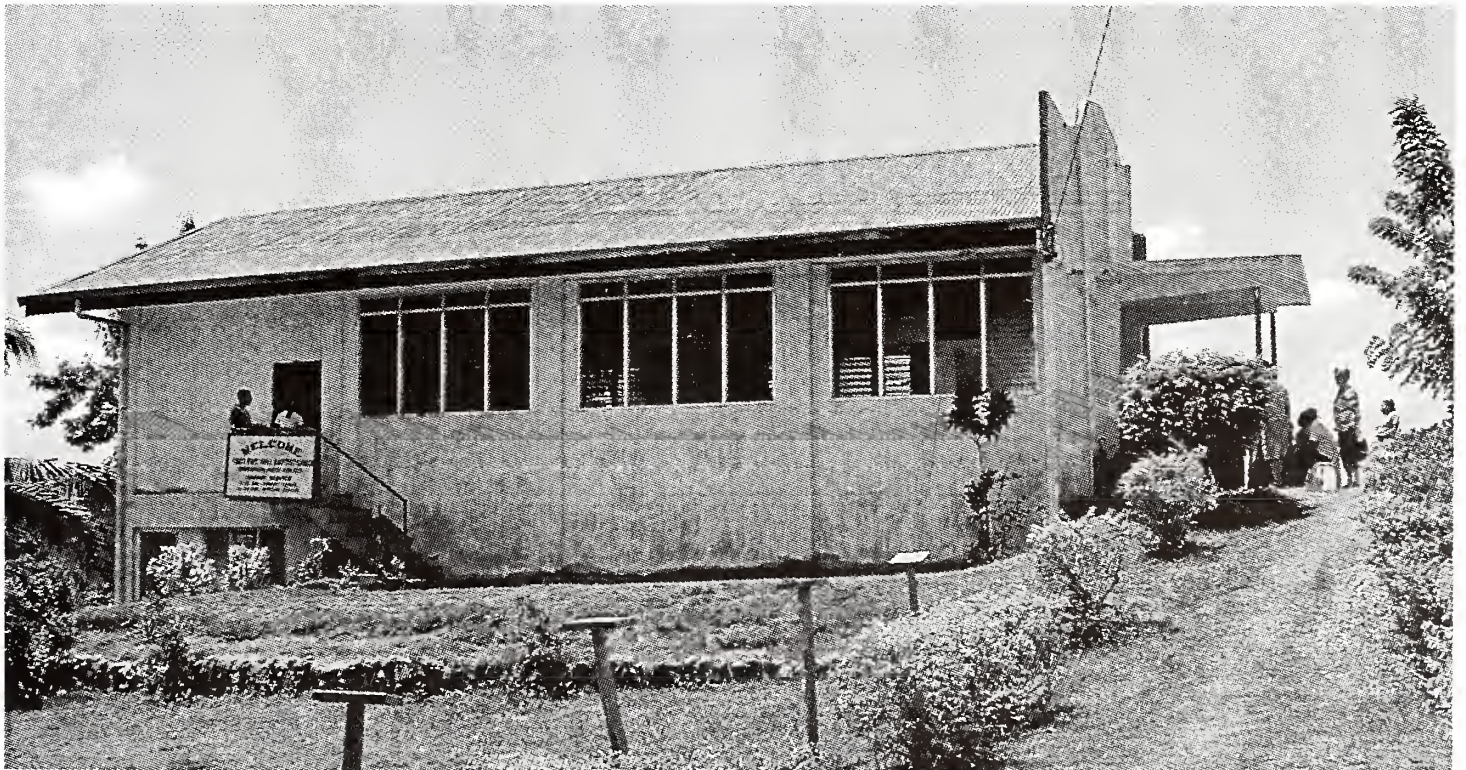
Because of God's blessings, the Mangingisda First Free Will Baptist Church held an Anniversary Celebration on May 3, 2007. About 120 people, including church members with children were in attendance. Pastor Mark Taladro delivered a message and history of the church. We praise and thank God for the blessings during the celebration. We also conducted parlor games, presentations from children, young people, and adults. Everyone participated in all activities. The women of the Church prepared a small amount of prizes for those members who participated in the games. Everyone enjoyed the First Church Anniversary Celebration. We are asking your prayers for our children, young people, and adults that they will stay committed to the work for the Lord.



The Rev. Mark Taladro delivering the message



Palawan Bible College students rendering special music



Mangingisda FFWB Church

PRAYER DAY—PALAWAN BIBLE COLLEGE

PHILIPPINES

by Rev. Dario S. Basingil

The Palawan Bible College held their Prayer Day on August 3, 2007. The Board of Trustees of the First Free Will Baptist Church Philippines have appointed me as the Officer In-Charge of the said institution. Our theme for the day was "Do You Believe in Prayer." This was based on Matthew 21:22, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." The Rev. Andrino R. Segay was the guest speaker. His topic was "How To Be More Effective in our Prayers." His text was taken from James 5:16a, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." He used the illustration of the "Five Finger Prayers," which

signifies what we are to pray for. By putting our palms together, we will notice what is first for us to pray for. (1) Thumb—it signifies those who are closest to us. This would be our loved ones (Philippians 1:3–5). (2) Index finger—this signifies those who teach the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:25). (3) Middle finger—it signifies those who are in the highest position of leadership (1 Timothy 2:1–2). (4) Ring finger—this signifies those who have problems and suffering (James 5:13–16). (5) Little finger—this signifies that even small needs can be met (Philippians 4:6, 9). In his conclusion, he stated that if we want to be effective in our praying, this is a good guide.



Congregation of Mangingisda attending celebration



The Rev. Andrino R. Segay delivering the message



Dear Friends,



December is Foreign Missions Month. During this month we encourage individuals and churches to remember this ministry through special prayer and gifts.

We especially need to hear from you this year. Our work has been greatly affected by the drop in the value of the US dollar around the world. Each time the dollar drops in value, it requires more dollars just to maintain the work at the present level. This leaves us no room for growth and expansion.

A strong response during December is vital for us to be able to continue supporting each of the six fields that we are presently supporting. Please pray and ask the Lord what He would have you give. Thank you for your response.

God bless you with a wonderful Christmas Celebration with family and friends.

With the joy of Christ,

*Harold Jones
Executive Director*



WHY PREPARE FOR WORSHIP?

by Tezdjan

Our God is worthy to be praised and worshiped by all means. Sociologists and even church leaders tell us that we are living in a post-Christian area. However, do we serve a post-existing Lord? The answer to this question is both to us and to the reader. It is true that we are challenged in worship and in service nowadays. Worship songs and worship music were strictly kept within the church walls for centuries. Our challenge may be to bring them outside the church walls again; for example into our homes and into the homes of the shut-ins.



Ferian taking her first piano lessons from her teacher, Danchi

In music and songs we have received powerful tools to reach people; they open hearts for the gentle touch of God's loving Spirit. What else do human beings need?



*Front: Tezdjan and Ferian.
Back: Goshe and Reihan*

During our Sunday devotionals we sing with a tape recorder. We enjoy singing. But a tape recorder is not the ultimate means we can praise God with. Therefore, we offer some of our youth to receive piano and guitar lessons. Last Saturday was our first encounter with the piano and the guitar!!! We travel to Dobrich one time per week. Three people learn to play piano (keyboard)—Ferian, Goshe, and Reihan. Two other persons learn playing the guitar—Londo and me, Tezdjan. We hope that we will be invited to play one day to the older people in the retirement homes, and to the children in the children homes. We pray that God gives us a pure heart that we truly can worship and praise Him in spirit and truth.

"For all the promises of God are YEA!"

(2 Corinthians 1:20)



FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME NAMES NEW PRESIDENT/CEO

James W. Cahoon, Chairman, Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, N.C., proudly announces Mr. Gary Lee as President/CEO, effective January 1, 2008. The announcement follows the planned retirement of Dr. Bobby R. Taylor current President/CEO, who has faithfully served the home for twenty-five years.

For the past ten years, Mr. Lee has served as Vice President of Operations. Mr. Lee has also served as Director of Church and Public Relations for periods totaling more than twelve years at the home. Mr. Lee has played a vital role during this time including the Home achieving national accreditation, and designing the first quality improvement plan.

Mr. Lee's educational background includes a bachelor's degree from Mount Olive College in Business Administration, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Campbell University.

In addition to being part of the Children's Home family, Mr. Lee shares his time working for children in other capacities. These include Peer Reviewer Volunteer for the Council On Accreditation, New York; Vice Chairman of the board for KIDS Integrated Data Systems; and a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer for Johnston County.

Mr. Lee is a member of Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church, Four Oaks, NC, in the Cape Fear Conference. He currently serves as a Sunday School teacher for youth. He is married to Janet Corbett Lee, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. James Corbett. They have two children, a son, Peyton, and a daughter, Reagan. His family resides in Four Oaks, North Carolina.

In addition to Mr. Lee's familiarity with the Home's operations and his direct involvement in these operations, he is familiar with the Free Will Baptist people, Children's support organizations, and is active in the professional organizations that



advocate for the high standards we seek for child care services at the Home. The Children's Home Board believes that the selection of Mr. Lee as the next CEO for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home will provide for a smooth transition and provide the continuity, consistency, and stability we have come to value in the Home's operations.

Please keep our Children's Home, children, staff, and Mr. Lee in your prayers as he steps up to provide the vision and leadership for the continued growth of our service programs offered to the children and families we are blessed to serve. Thank you for all that you do to make our Children's Home the best that it can be!



The Barnes brothers delivering lunch

SHARING WITH OUR STAFF

Just recently, the Children's Home staff were recipients of a barbecue chicken lunch, with all the trimmings. This has "almost" become a yearly tradition, and the Children's Home staff certainly enjoyed it. Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama, NC held their annual Barbecue Chicken fundraiser, and they shared with the Children's Home. Not only did they prepare our lunch, but they brought it to us! Who could ask for more?

Thank you for remembering our staff with this delicious meal!

On October 16, 2007, the Nash County Mount Olive College Dinner was held in Whitley Center on the Children's Home Campus. The event was coordinated by Jean Ackiss, and was well attended, with many of the Nash County churches being represented. A good meal was catered by Parker's Barbecue, but even better was the presentation by The Mount Olive College Singers. Dr. Byrd brought the message.

It is always a pleasure to work together with Mount Olive College, as well as our other Free Will Baptist ministries.

Needs List

- Twin size comforters, sheet sets, blankets
- Bedroom lamps
- Cleaning Supplies
- Kitchen towels and dish clothes
- Bath Towels & Bath Cloths
- Personal Hygiene items
- Cookware sets (heavy duty) 5 sets
- Photo Paper
- Craftsman Self-Propelled 6-horsepower push mower with bagger
- Replacement Air Conditioning for Recreation Center (\$3500)
- 33-Gallon trash receptacles



Merry Christmas

*From the Staff and children
of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home*

HOME HONORS DONALD RAY BATCHELOR FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Friends, family, and staff gathered at Heritage Hall on November 6, 2007, to honor Mr. Don Batchelor for 30 years of service. Mr. Batchelor began serving the Home as Director of Physical Affairs on November 6, 1977. He was no stranger to the home. He had previously served in other capacities including houseparent prior to this position. During the past 30 years he has spent time seeing that our campus was beautiful.

Following a traditional lunch of eastern BBQ and fried chicken everyone convened in front of Memorial Chapel for the formal dedication of the Don Batchelor Honorary Bench.

The Dedication Ceremony began with words of welcome by Gary Lee. Following these opening words Mr. Lee delivered remarks of remembrance of old times and progress the campus has made during Mr. Batchelor's tenure. The area in front of Memorial Chapel was landscaped and completed with a bench to honor Mr. Batchelor. The granite bench engraved "IN HONOR OF DON BATCHELOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE 11-06-07" was revealed.

Mr. Lee stated, "Residents, staff, and visitors will find a quiet place to relax and reflect. Just as Mr. Batchelor has loved and cared for our campus for 30 years we now can have a remembrance of his service that will be part of our campus that will last forever."

The ceremony concluded with a prayer of dedication by the Rev. Allen Stanley, pastor at Memorial Chapel, to officially open the garden area.



Don and Joyce with their family



Joyce and Don with campus pet "Brownie"



Vice President Gary Lee recalling memories



Don and Joyce, house parents in the cottage with their children and residents of the home



Gary Lee, Vice-President of operations, presenting the bench



TRINITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS CLYDE 'THE CLYDE' SINCLAIR OF THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Clayton, NC, October 31, 2007



This was no ordinary Wednesday evening worship service, as the 6' 4" Clyde "The Glide" Sinclair entered our fellowship hall. Carrying his famous Harlem Globetrotter basketball, dressed in his brilliant blue basketball warmup suit, his energy quickly spread to our eagerly waiting audience.

Trinity was blessed to have Sinclair visit our group and talk about his life journey with us. Having grown up in Clayton, Sinclair still has residence and roots with our community. His travels have taken this young man, born 1 of 10 children from his humble beginnings to over 84 countries around the world. He talked about how as a child he was taken to church and Sunday School and was taught basic morals and values that still guide his life today. He felt that his life had been blessed to be able to have such an exciting job, one that he truly loves, using his

basketball talents to bring a message of joy and hope to so many.

No evening would have been complete without Sinclair performing some of his basketball drills and tricks. As he rolled the ball around his hands, up his arms, and then have the ball come to a soft rest on the back of his neck quickly showed us his balance and talents for the game. His smile and relaxed personality quickly captivated our young people, and even us older kids.

Sinclair was very patient and eager to have his picture made with our kids, and signed many autographs before leaving us. His message was uplifting, focused on his appreciation for Christ's blessings on his life. Clayton is fortunate to have an ambassador of his caliber to represent our community and its values all around the world. Thank you Clyde (Donald) Sinclair for an evening not soon to be forgotten.



Fourth Annual Minister's Wives & Widows Retreat Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, North Carolina

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is again sponsoring the Fourth Annual Minister's Wives and Widows Retreat at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, North Carolina, beginning Thursday, January 31 and ending with Sunday worship on February 3, 2008. This year, we are planning a special weekend at the Cragmont spa." We will be focusing our attention on a book by Elizabeth George entitled, *A Woman's Walk with God: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*. When we are not involved in discussions concerning this book, there will be opportunities to 'visit the spa' for either one or all the amenities that will be provided by professionals in the area of "women's care." You can choose to have a hair style, manicure, pedicure, or a massage. You may just choose to relax. Each of you will receive a copy of Ms. George's book for your library as we study together. We feel that this is truly going to be an uplifting weekend for the minister's wife or widow.

Registration is simple. Complete the following information and mail it to Mary Dudley at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513. The information could also be e-mailed to <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>. The cost for the weekend is \$150 inclusive. The registration must postmarked by January 25, 2008. If you need it, transportation can be arranged for you. If you are not already a member, we invite you to come and become a member of the Cinderella Sisters Support Group.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Any special diet needs: _____

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:22-26).

JANUARY IS RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

by Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director

The Board of Directors and staff of the Retirement Homes Ministry would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a joyous and Spirit-filled Christmas Season. We would also like to thank our churches and individuals who support this ministry with prayers and also financially. January is set aside by the Convention as Retirement Homes' month and the third Sunday, January 20, 2008, is Retirement Homes' Sunday. We would like to encourage our churches to take up a special offering on that Sunday for our ministry to supplement the ongoing budgeted amounts already being given. We are requesting this extra offering because it has become necessary to do maintenance work on our storage building and we do not want these expenses to affect our clients in any way. We look forward to hearing from you and may God richly bless each and every one. A more detailed report will be in the January FWB so be on the look out for it.



Mount Olive College

634 Henderson Street • Mount Olive, NC 28365 • (919) 658-2502 • (800) 653-0854 • www.moc.edu

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Mount Olive College will graduate approximately 350 students at its 54th Spring Commencement on Saturday, December 15, 2007. Graduation exercises will be held in the George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena. The commencement speaker will be Jeff Minges, president of Minges Bottling Group (Pepsi Cola) of Ayden, NC. Preceding graduation, Mount Olive College will hold its traditional worship service in Rodgers Chapel.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET • DECEMBER 6 • LOIS K. MURPHY REGIONAL CENTER

The Mount Olive College Christmas Buffet is an annual event of music, great food, and fellowship. Join us for this festive occasion as we celebrate the Christmas season with music provided by the MOC music department. Dinner begins at 6 P.M. and music begins at 7 P.M. The cost for the show and meal is \$18 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. For more information, contact Anne Hamm at (919) 658-2502 ext. 1362 or ahamm@moc.edu.

LA GRANGE SENIOR CITIZENS VISIT MOC

A group of senior citizens from the La Grange FWB Church visited the College recently and enjoyed touring the three newest buildings on campus and having lunch in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, was their tour guide.



“ GROWING TO SERVE YOU ”

Lunch and Learn Series

Presented by the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service and
hosted by Mount Olive College Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center

*Presentations will take place in the Hennessee Room of
the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center from noon to 12:45 p.m.*

Ornamental Grasses for the Landscape

Thursday, October 18

Planting Spring Flowering Bulbs

Thursday, November 15

Winter Color in the Landscape

Thursday, December 13

Houseplant Care

Thursday, January 17

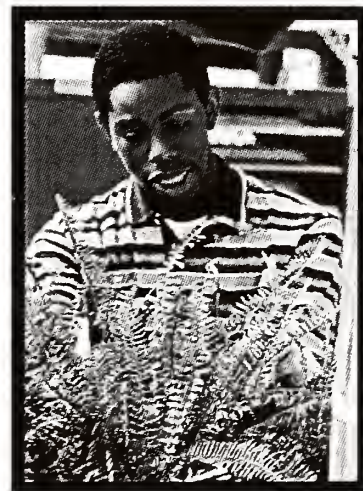
Growing Roses

Thursday, February 14

Container Gardening

Thursday, March 13

**FREE
ADMISSION!!!**



**Join us for
Lunch \$5 in
the Cafe!**

Jessica Hyatt from the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service will lead these informative seminars. Her responsibilities with the Extension Service include designing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs associated with consumer and commercial horticulture in Wayne County that include home and urban horticulture, the green industry, forestry, and crop horticulture.

For more information, please contact the
Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at 919.658.7510 or
the Wayne Co. Cooperative Extension Office at 919.731.1525

STUDENTS REPRESENT MOC IN INDIANAPOLIS

Seven Mount Olive College Collegiate FFA (CFFA) members traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana in October to attend the National FFA Convention. The Convention draws over 50,000 people to Indianapolis and provides a wonderful environment for learning and student interactions. The CFFA members attended the career expo and worked very hard throughout the 4-day convention to recruit students for Mount Olive College.

In addition to working and networking with other Collegiate FFA chapters around the country, three students were in attendance to receive the highly coveted Honorary American FFA Degree Award. The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest Honorary Degree, and it is presented by the National FFA Organization at the annual

National FFA Convention. The purpose of the degree program is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the agricultural education-FFA program. Individuals nominated must have provided exceptional service to agriculture and/or the agricultural education/FFA program. Individuals receiving this coveted award were D. J. Whitfield, sophomore; Candace Wilkins, sophomore; and former MOC student Samuel Kornegay.

CFFA Advisor, Dr. Sandy Maddox stated, "The American FFA Degree is a sign of great accomplishment among FFA members. Only a small percentage of FFA members ever earn the degree. This is a wonderful achievement for these students and for the College."

FWB STUDENTS SERVE AS MOC STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Congratulations to the five FWB students who have been elected to serve on the Student Government Association at Mount Olive College for the 2007–2008 academic year. These dedicated students took oaths pledging their loyalty to the student body of Mount Olive College as they were inducted into the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Cabinet as well as the Student Council.

- **Crystal Guy** of Clayton will serve as the executive cabinet vice president. She is a member of Powhatan OFWB Church, Johnston County.
- **Michael Wheeler** of Beulaville will serve as junior class vice president. He is a member of Sandy Plain FWB Church, Duplin County.
- **Brian Parnell** of Lucama will serve as freshman class president. He is a member of First FWB Church of Wilson, Wilson County.
- A new Residence Life Representative is **Ashley**



Edwards of Lucama. She is a member of Daniels Chapel FWB Church, Wilson County.

- **Ashley Walston** of Kenly will be a Campus Activity Board Representative. She is a member of Piney Grove FWB Church, Johnston County.

*Individuals receiving the Honorary FFA Degree award were:
D. J. Whitfield, Sophomore and member of Walnut Creek Church, Wayne County;
Candace Wilkins, Sophomore; former MOC student Samuel Kennedy*



Home Missions & Evangelism

PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963



The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism is providing an operational base for an Original Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief Ministry. Our Purpose is:



- A. To provide the skills of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, cleaning, repairs, and other skills for those who have experienced Disaster.
- B. To provide the opportunity for Original Free Will Baptists to be involved in an ongoing Compassion Ministry, sharing our Christian experiences.
- C. To provide the opportunity for our denomination to present THE CHURCH IN ACTION.
- D. At the same time we assist those who have experienced Disaster, we will endeavor to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way possible.



MEMBERS Persons who will dedicate their time to help in The Recovery. Contact our Headquarters Office at 252-746-4963 or email assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org to learn how you can become involved.



PROJECT KIDS KARE

As you prepare SHOE BOXES with school supplies, toys, and small gifts, you will be helping needy children who have been affected by a disaster. This is a year-round project, and NOW is an excellent time for your auxiliary or organization to schedule this special project.



TLC (Touching Lives Corps)

for persons or groups who desire to do evangelism endeavors for a weekend, a week, or more.



FAITH TRAINING CENTER



Another need of our constituency is adequate training facilities. Arrangements have been made with the Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church of Morehead City, North Carolina to establish the FAITH TRAINING CENTER. This gives the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism the opportunity to provide a place for training Director/Pastors and Coordinators of our mission/churches. It also sets the stage for training volunteer teams involved in our Disaster Relief Ministry. Other trainings are being developed that will enhance the overall work and ministry of our denomination.



BIKER/PRISON MINISTRY



The Reverend Dr. Timothy Webber, Coordinator

It is our endeavor to develop a Biker/Prison Ministry that has a strong out-reach emphasis. This ministry will take us into youth detention centers, prisons, and motorcycle events where the Good News can be offered.



COMMISSION ON SCOUTING



The future of America will be determined by the boys and youth of today.

Original Free Will Baptists are concerned that young people develop into moral and responsible citizens. We further believe that this objective can best be accomplished through the influence and teaching of the Christian faith.

Because of these convictions, Original Free Will Baptists have assumed the responsibility to endorse and support Scouting with a Christian emphasis in every Original Free Will Baptist Church.

The Scouting program shall include all the boys and youth of the community. We feel this is essential and expedient to the ongoing work of the Kingdom of God.



MOBILE MINISTRY



Our newest endeavor is our Mobile Ministry (Mobile Church). It was never the directive of Christ that His churches confine their activities inside a church house located at a certain street intersection. It was His plan that the churches go into the by-ways and hedges, and compel them to come in. The evangelism of the New Testament churches was: a roadside, wellside, seaside, bedside, tableside, outside-the-doors evangelism.

To learn more about the ministries of Home Missions and Evangelism and how you or your church can participate in reaching your community and America for Christ, please contact

Dr. David C. Hansley, Executive Director
at (252) 746-4963, by e-mail to
assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org, or write to
P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

SPREADING CHEER AT CHRISTMAS

THE CHRISTMAS STORM:

A Modern Parable by Paul Harvey

"This is about a modern man, one of us; he was not a scrooge, he was a kind, decent, mostly good man, generous to his family, upright in his dealings with others. But he did not believe in all that incarnation stuff that the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense to him and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just could not swallow the Jesus story about God coming to earth as man. I'm truly sorry to distress you, he told his wife, but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve. He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he would much rather stay home, but that he would wait up for them. He stayed, they went. Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier, then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another and another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. Well, when he went to the front door, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter they had tried to fly through his large landscape window. Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze. He remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter—if he could direct the birds to it. He quickly put on his coat and galoshes, trampled through the deepening snow to the barn, opened the door wide, and turned on a light. But the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in and he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow making a trail to the yellow lighted wide open

doorway of the stable, but to his dismay the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them, he tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms — instead they scattered in every direction except into the warm lighted barn. Then he realized they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature; if only I could think of some way to let them know they can trust me. That I'm not trying to hurt them, but to help them. How? Any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him. If only I could be a bird myself he thought. If only I could be a bird and mingle with them and speak their language, and tell them not to be afraid, and show them the way to the safe, warm barn. But I'd have to be one of them, so they could see and hear and understand.

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sound of the wind. He stood there listening to the bells. "Adeste Fideles." Listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

For years our ministers have faced a similar challenge. The pastors who served us faithfully have attempted to lead us or shoo us in an effort to help us reach the safety provided by the Christ Child. These men have met with success and failure over the years but they have always faced the challenge with faith and in many ways they have imparted that faith to us and we have been blessed and nurtured by the experience.

The Christmas season will soon be upon us and all over the world people will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. This is a special time of year and we all look forward to sharing time with family and friends. Part of our joy comes from giving and remembering others with gifts, cards and the greetings of the season.

It always warms your heart to receive a card or greeting from friends that you have known through the years but no longer see on a regular basis. As time passes, our lives change and we move from one place to another but it is always good to keep in touch with people we have known through the years to let them know that we have not forgotten them or the memories we share.

Remember Them!

Over time some of the ministers who have faithfully served your church have changed pastorates and are no longer an active part of our church family. Many of these men are still working hard in their capacities as pastors while others who, because of advancing years or disability, have retired from the pastoral ministry.

These are the men that preached the revivals, baptized our children, and performed the marriage ceremonies of our parents. Now many of them are unable to attend the Conference meetings or the Convention and we have lost touch with them.

Each year the Minister's Program acknowledges these men who have given so much to our people and churches during Operation Christmas Cheer. During this season the Minister's Program sends Christmas greetings to all ministers age 65 and over along with a monetary gift in the amount of \$150. While the Minister's Program sends the gift we make it clear that it is the generosity of God's people that make it possible. This program reaches over 100 ministers at a cost of over \$15,000 to the Ministers Program.

Who Makes this Possible?

You do! It is our churches and other organizations within the church that make this

program a reality. However, last year approximately 30% of our churches provided no gift support to the Minister's Program. Your support through the year makes programs like this possible. Help us remember them! Those who receive these greetings write back to thank the churches for making this program possible.

What Can You Do?

This program is not self-funding and we depend on churches, Sunday School classes, Auxillaries, Layman's Leagues, individuals, and youth groups that take the time to ask members if this is the type of program that they would like to support. The generosity of Free Will Baptists is well documented and a small gift of \$150 can make the season a little brighter for those who have served.

Your gift helps make a difference during this season to men who have served over the years. Please contribute \$150 or more to help sponsor at least one of these men who have served so well. In addition, we hope that you will include the Minister's Program in your budget. Some churches are able to do more and we would like to encourage them to do this during this special time of year to sponsor two or more ministers. Each year the Minister's Program steps out in faith to make Christmas Cheer a reality, because without your support we could not afford the cost. Thank you in advance for all that you do and may all the blessings of this season be yours.

To participate please send your gift to:

The Minister's Program
Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries



"For even hereunto were you called: Because Christ also suffered for us, Leaving us an example, That we should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).

TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS IN MINISTRY FOR ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

W. Burkette Raper, President

Original Free Will Baptists are facing a crisis that is becoming increasingly acute. That crisis is the limited availability of pastors who can provide the quality of services our churches need and deserve. In addition to pastors, there is also an urgent need for youth directors, church musicians (choir directors and instrumentalists), counselors, and services to the elderly.

To address these needs the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is giving priority to helping remove the financial barrier for those who wish to prepare for excellence in Christian ministry. We wish for every person called of God to have an opportunity to equip themselves for a ministry that is worthy of their calling. To this end, the Foundation has established the "Annual Fund For The Education of Ministers." The Foundation also provides management and investment services for permanently endowed scholarship funds.

Annual Fund For The Education of Ministers

The Annual Fund is composed of gifts made by churches, individuals, conferences, and other denominational organizations. All gifts to this Fund are awarded to Original Free Will Baptist applicants upon the recommendation of their home church, the Foundation Scholarship Committee and approval by the Board of Directors. Licensed and ordained ministers must also be recommended by the Board of Ordination of their conference. No portion of gifts to this Fund are used for overhead or administrative expenses.

The goal of the Foundation is to help bridge the gap between the cost of attendance and scholarships available from other sources. Foundation scholarships are available to those

preparing for full-time Christian ministry at any location of Mount Olive College or at divinity schools and seminaries accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

Endowed Scholarship Funds

An endowed scholarship is a permanent fund in the amount of \$10,000 or more. The principal of the Fund is invested, and each year the income is used for one or more scholarships. To date, the following endowed funds have been established to provide scholarships for those preparing for Christian ministry: *(list follows on next page)*

For excellence in Christian Ministry

Beginning with the fall semester of 2006 and continuing through the fall semester of 2007, the Foundation has awarded scholarships in the total amount of \$24,129 to twelve Original Free Will Baptists preparing for Christian ministry.

Additional ministers have already applied for scholarships for spring semester 2008. Included in these applicants are ministers enrolled in the non-traditional programs of Mount Olive College at various locations. The number and amount of scholarships the Foundation can provide these new applicants will depend upon gifts to the "Fund For The Education of Ministers." Gifts for this purpose may be made by individuals, churches, and denominational organizations.

The most difficult task in the Free Will Baptist Church today is to be on a Pastoral Search Committee, and there is no solution to this problem apart from the proper education of those who serve as the pastors of our churches. We are fortunate to have an increasing number of persons who are answering God's call to Christian

ministry, but the quality of services these persons can provide will depend upon how well they are equipped to fulfill their calling. To help remove the financial barrier to excellence in Christian ministry is one of the best investments Original Free Will Baptists can make in the future of our Church.

For more information

- On gifts to the "Annual Fund For The Education of Ministers,"
- On how to establish an endowed scholarship,

- On applications and requirements for scholarships,

- On the general work of the Foundation

Contact:

W. Burkette Raper, President
North Carolina Foundation
For Christian Ministries
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
Telephone: (919) 658-3855
E-mail: wraper@moc.edu

Endowed Scholarship Funding List

1. The Donnie E. and Linda Vann Lassiter Family Endowment

Scholarships for students in eastern North Carolina for undergraduate scholarships at any location of Mount Olive College or graduate education in seminary and divinity school.

2. The Casey-McCormack Endowment

Scholarships for students at any location of Mount Olive College or graduate education in seminary or divinity school.

3. The Michael R. Pelt Endowment

Established by friends and former students of Dr. Pelt in appreciation for his thirty years as chair of the department of religion at Mount Olive College and for his continued services to Original Free Will Baptists—scholarships for graduate education in seminary and divinity school.

4. The Michael Rouse Family Endowment

Scholarships for students preparing for Christian ministry at any location of Mount Olive College or graduate education in seminary and divinity school.

In addition to the above fully funded endowed scholarship funds, the following funds have been initiated:

5. The Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists Endowment

Scholarships to Central Conference ministers for graduate education in seminary or divinity school.

6. The Teresa K. and K. David Hines Endowment

Scholarships for nontraditional students majoring in religion at Mount Olive College.

7. The Rose M. and W. Burkette Raper Endowment

Scholarships for students at any location of Mount Olive College or graduate education in seminary or divinity school.

Camp Vandemere



CAMP VANDEMERE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGER WISH EVERYONE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON

"O send out thy light and thy truth" (Psalm 43:3)

Looking back over this past year, God has again been an active, vital leader in the ministry at Camp Vandemere. Following is the report given at the 2007 Eastern Conference Annual Meeting. It does not touch on every blessing that has transpired at camp this year, but covers some of the highlights that helped to make this year a very successful year of reaching out to anyone who came for camp weeks or retreats and meetings.

Upon arrival at Camp Vandemere, one immediately sees what God has accomplished since the last seating of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. Again, let us give praise to the Lord. "To God be the Glory."

Beginning around November/December, the Maintenance/Development Committee began making plans to start on the Sports Court and Road Relocation project. After final planning, work began on moving the existing road located between the dorms and chapel to the new access created behind the chapel so visitors could get to the lodge building and full service RV camp sites which created a safer flow of traffic. Next came the Sports Court area, which includes capability to play basketball or tennis. Again, this project neared completion before the 2007 camping season began so that our campers were able to utilize the new area during their stay. Final installation of lighting will complete this project and enable campers and other visitors the opportunity for additional activities. Thanks to everyone that had a part in this project through

prayer, labor and finances. A special thank you goes out to S. T. Wooten for the generous donation of over 40% of the quoted cost of foundation work and asphalt needed.

Two areas that are used a lot during camping season were upgraded during the Spring of this year. The volleyball court saw new sand and boundary pipe added for a better playing area, while the camp fire area has seen new seating and fire pit installed enabling groups to hold devotions and singing sessions while looking out over the Bay River, day or night. A new lighthouse was placed at the point this year as a symbol of our signature verse, "O send out thy light and thy truth." Many thanks go out to groups and individuals for the labor and financial support given toward these improvements to the camp's facilities. New dining hall chairs were purchased with donations this year, also. With the additional chairs, the dining hall can now seat 160 people for a meal or meeting at anytime.

This year the camp hosted eight weeks of Summer Youth Camp and one Woman's Auxiliary Week. Over 500 youth and ladies attended this year under the direction of many dedicated directors and counselors. God worked in many campers' lives for the first time while others rededicated their life to Him. As always, Camp Vandemere's goal is to provide a spiritual retreat for campers, young and old. The board and camp manager would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for carrying out camp

weeks and weekend retreats. Without each of you, Camp Vandemere's ministry would not be successful in spreading God's Word.

This year's Fall Singin' by the River event was held on Friday night and Saturday, October 19-20. The Wehry Family, Juniper Five, A Peculiar People, Willing Heart, Second Edition, and Four in Christ brought uplifting messages in song during the day's worship services. The camp saw over 200 individuals come down during this event to enjoy the services, food, and serenity of the camp by the river. This annual fund raiser for the camp realized approximately \$13,000 to help in the general operations during the coming year.

The End Is In Sight

The Board of Directors continues to fulfill the commitment made two years ago to retire the debt incurred. At present, the camp has been able to reduce the principal owed to approximately \$19,000 with donations and scheduled budget payments. Any monies that you would like to contribute to this effort would be greatly appreciated. Please earmark your offering to debt retirement.

Please invite the camp manager or a board member to your church or meeting for a presentation.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Vandemere through prayer and financial means. Without you, our camp cannot fulfill its mission of bringing youth to Christ.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 camp office
(252) 514-3222 cell

Damon Kennedy, Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 home
(910) 296-7100 cell

Camp Vandemere, Inc.
215 Third Street
Vandemere NC 28587



Woman's Auxiliary

PRAYER BAND

by Mrs. Marvin Moore, Scotland Neck, NC

This article is reprinted from page 13 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, April 1, 1959, Vol. 74—No. 13

Someone has said, "People find time and opportunity to do things they consider important." How true this is in our daily lives. We rush about doing things for our family and loved ones such as cooking, washing, ironing, cleaning, etc. Maybe we are even busy doing things for the Lord such as teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, or visiting the sick. Now think a minute about your prayer life. Is your prayer life a busy one or do you just say a word or two? A time of prayer is the most important time to a Christian. This is the time we talk with God and commune with Him. This is the time we receive strength and guidance in order to better do our good deeds for others, and participate in the services of our church.

United prayer can move mountains. When you, as a member of our Prayer Band pray, you are uniting with all the members of your group and through your united prayers God will bless the different phases of our denominational work, and our own beloved America. If you are not a member, we would welcome you in our group. Write me and I will send you a prayer list that you may join us in prayer.

The following is a tract, "Secret of a Happy, Yielded Life," by Billy Graham. I hope it will bless you as it has blessed many others and that it will also inspire you to a more active prayer life:

Prayer is the most important spiritual exercise that a Christian can have. If you are to live a happy, yielded, and victorious life, prayer is absolutely essential daily. The apostle said that we are to pray without ceasing. The reason you may be having difficulties in your business, work, home, or social affairs is because you are not spending time daily in prayer.

Here are a few facts on prayer that may be of help.

First, the place of prayer

It is not the place, but the spirit of prayer that is the all important factor. Jacob found that desert stones can become an altar. Peter prayed in a storm tossed ship. Hagar cried to God in the heat of the desert. Hezekiah prayed to the Lord on his sick bed. David prayed while hiding in a cave. The penitent thief prayed from a cross. God's ear is open to our cry, whether on the seashore or the housetop, on a mountain or a battlefield. However, daily prayer is better and easier under favorable surroundings. Learn to shut the door on conditions that would bring disturbance. Ordinarily, it is best to have a place for daily prayer. Jesus suggested, "Enter into thy closet." It is good to pray at least once a day in a secluded place, praying out loud, guarding yourself against wandering thoughts.

Second, the posture of prayer

No particular posture is prescribed in the Bible. You should certainly shun all slovenly habits when you assume a prayer attitude. The Bible indicates many postures in prayer.

- Lifting up of hands (Exodus 9:33, Psalm 28:2). Charles Wesley had this posture in mind when he wrote: Father, I stretch my hands to Thee; no other hope I know."

- Sitting is another posture. David used this posture as mentioned in 2 Samuel 7:18.

- Standing was the usual Jewish attitude of Christ's day.

- Kneeling is a reverent attitude adopted by others. Daniel knelt three times a day. Stephen knelt and prayed. Peter and Paul knelt several times according to Scripture. I personally find this the best posture.

You should choose a posture best fitted for your own realization of the Divine Presence and not condemn others who adopt different habits. It is actually the posture of the soul that pleases or offends the Lord.

Third, the period of prayer

The time you give to prayer is governed by desires, need, circumstances, and physical ability. The most active life needs the most prayer.

Jesus seems to have devoted Himself especially to prayer at times when His is full of work and excitement. The Bible says to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Charles Wesley gave two hours daily to prayer. John Wesley arose at four o'clock to pray. John Fletcher sometimes prayed all night. Bishop Andrews prayed five hours a day. Martin Luther had to have three hours a day in prayer. Judson of Burma said he had to pray a dozen times a day.

The Bible makes it clear that you can pray at any time for God never sleeps, and His ear is ever open to your cry. The Bible teaches us that there is public prayer, family prayer, and private prayer. When Christ prayed in public, He was brief. When He was with the disciples, He prayed longer. When He was alone, He prayed all night.

God help us to pray! If we are to survive, we must have spiritual revival! If we are to have spiritual revival, we must have more earnest, effectual praying!—Good News Publishers.

WELCOME HOME NEWS

"Closer to Heaven in 2007" is the theme taken up by Welcome Home OFWB Church in Bettie, NC, since January and that is what we feel we have been accomplishing. Over this year, we have been blessed by God to see Him working in many ways within the church, and equally blessed to be used within the community. A year ago, God sent the Rev. Michael Lewis from Fremont to our little community, where after being ordained, allowed him to become our Pastor. This was made available after the death of the Rev. Roland Cherry of 23 blessed years. Since that time, Mr. Lewis has continued to build upon Mr. Cherry's work. This is evident in our worship services where we totally rely upon God (John 15:1-14) and prayer. For without Him we can do nothing. This year we have seen 18 decisions for Jesus Christ and 15 have been baptized through our new pastor. God is breathing life back into our church, and great things are ahead in 2008 as we are beginning to pray already.

On June 11-15 we held VBS, and though numbers were about the same as last year, we were blessed by the enthusiasm of the students and volunteers. Everyone indeed plunged right

in to learning more about Jesus, and even participated in a lesson of humility and love when they washed each other's feet. Some modern churches have begun to leave feet washing behind, but we continue to follow the example, as we foster love, humility, and brotherhood among believers. All in all we are able to say God is working in our church.



The Rev. Lewis participated in feet washing with the youth during VBS.



Some of the youth of Ormondsville Church spent their Veteran's Day Holiday out of school raking the yard of veteran Bennie Harris and his wife, Sybil, near Grifton.

PASTOR APPRECIATION NIGHT AT WINTERVILLE CHURCH



Sunday night, October 28, 2007, the Winterville F.W.B. Church in Winterville, NC hosted Pastor Appreciation Night. We honored our pastor, the Rev. David Langley.

David Langley is a native of Greenville, NC, where he graduated from J. H. Rose High School. He is a 1974 graduate of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN. He and his wife, the former Mary Marcia Winslow, also of Greenville, married in 1972. They are the parents of a son, Michael and a daughter, Rachel. Winterville F.W.B. Church has been blessed to have David and Mary Marcia as a part of our church family since 1991.

The dictionary defines the word pastor as "the minister of the gospel." I would define a preacher as a minister of the gospel. A pastor is so much more.

A pastor is there when you graduate from high school and from college and he shares in your accomplishments and in your parent's pride.

A pastor is there when you say "I do" to the love of your life and wishes you many years of happiness together. He is praying that you will make God the head of your new home.

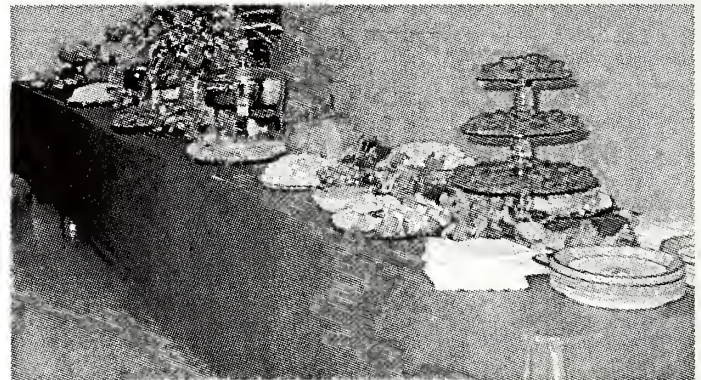
A pastor is there when your first child is born. He shares in your happy tears and smiles. He prays for God's blessings on this child and he prays for you as you begin the lifetime journey of a parent.

A pastor is just a phone call away when trials and troubles become a part of your life. He prays that you will trust God knowing that God wants what is best for His child.

A pastor is there when a loved one dies, when you've lost a part of yourself and you feel all alone. A pastor feels your heartache and shares your tears.

A pastor is more than a minister of the gospel. A pastor is the shepherd who loves and cares about those whom God has put in his flock. He teaches them, prays with them, cries with them, and laughs with them.

Thank you, David, for being more than a preacher that preaches the gospel. Thank you for being our pastor.



The luncheon spread



Pastor David Langley takes a break and enjoys some refreshments on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, October 28, 2007.



EASTERN CONFERENCE

The One Hundred Twelfth Annual Session of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina met for its 2007 session at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC on October 25. The meeting started on Wednesday evening with the Conference Quartet bringing special music and the Rev. John Williams, Manager of Cragmont bringing the introductory sermon. He inspired us all with the message, "Life after Easter."

On Thursday morning it was noted to the Conference that this was a history-making event as it is the first time that the Eastern Conference in its regular session has ever met outside its conference bounds. Cragmont Assembly had several years ago invited us to meet with them here, high in the beautiful North Carolina mountains. And indeed it was beautiful. The fall leaves were in full autumn colors, and as always the Presence of God was prevalent throughout the meeting as well as the fellowship and meal times. The session opened with a song, and prayer requests were made and prayer was offered for those in need as well as for the conference.

Mr. Ronnie Taylor, conference clerk, called the business session to order and welcomed visitors from other conferences, and convention officers were recognized. The Rev. Tim Heath, conference moderator, appointed the temporary committees. Then he brought the moderator's address using Acts 10:1, noting that while events are happening all around us, meanwhile God is....

The treasurer, the Executive Committee, and the Ministerial Examining Board Committee each made their reports. The nominating committee gave its

report and the following officers were elected: Assistant Moderator, the Rev. John Mark Windley; Clerk, Mr Ronnie Taylor; Member at Large, Dr. K. David Himes; the Ministerial Examining Board, the Rev. David C. Hansley; the Board of Trustees, Mr. Carroll Hawkins; the Digest Committee, Mrs. Nancy Cook; the Memorial Committee, the Rev. Ronnie Parker; Credentials Committee, the Rev. Terry Coats; Representative to the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Mr. Roy Wetherington; the Camp Vandemere Board, Ms. Angie Toler, Ms. Janet Jones, the Rev. Tim Lawrence, the Rev. Owen Arthur, Ms. Audrey Quinn, Ms. Lorraine Garner. These officers either filled expired terms or filled vacancies. The other officers were not up for election this year, they are: Moderator, the Rev. Tim Heath; and treasurer, Mr. Bill Cook. The credentials committee reported 38 ordained ministers, 5 licensed ministers, 3 visiting ministers, 33 delegates, and 27 visitors, making a total of 106 persons in attendance. Various reports were given from conference ministries as well as the general report of denominational ministries. During the Cragmont report each church was reminded that we were challenged to make a \$1,000 gift to the New Heights campaign; however, the offering did not reflect that this challenge had been met, so we were extended the challenge to go home and report this back to our local churches.

The morning worship began after a short break by special music being presented by the Rev. and Mrs. Steven Prescott. The Rev. Charles L. Renfrow, President of the Annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists brought the message from Deuteronomy

28:15, asking us "What do you think that God is saying about us, His people," and "Have we tried to change God to fit our image of Him?" This message was thought provoking as we were challenged to think about these questions as we live our daily lives.

After a delicious lunch served by the staff of Cragmont, we met once again for the afternoon session. After a congregational song, several other reports were given, including the Harvest Connection Report by Mr. Roy Wetherington, and the North Carolina Foundation of Christian Ministries by Dr. W.

Burkette Raper. The resolutions committee made its report, giving thanks to the Cragmont Assembly for its invitation and to the management and staff for serving the Conference in such a hospitable manner. There being no other business, the Conference adjourned. The next regular session of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina will meet with the Edwards Chapel Church, South River near Beaufort, NC.

Mrs. Mary Dudley served as song leader, and Mrs. Gail Heath, pianist assisted by the Rev. Buddy Sasser.

GORDON V. OWENS

On a crisp, autumn morning, November 5, 2007, beneath a flag-draped casket, the flag flying at half-staff, and the sound "Taps," friends and family gathered as Gordon V. Owens, of Walstonburg, NC, was laid to rest in Walstonburg Cemetery at 11:00. Two ministers read Scripture and a nephew prayed the closing prayer.

Funeral services were at Farmville Funeral Home, Farmville, NC, on Sunday, November 4, 2007, conducted by his pastor, the Rev. Frank Cockrell, and former pastor, the Rev. Edward Thornton.

Having passed away quietly at home on Saturday, November 3, at the age of 86, he is survived by his wife, Kathleen Owens; their son, Don Owens and his wife, Renee; sisters, Dorothy Owens Baskette and Susie Owens Clifton; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, Linda Finch and Claudia Goff. Four brothers and two sisters predeceased him.

Claudia, who lives next door, and Linda, as well as a cousin, Jean Owens Allen, often assisted Aunt Kathleen with the dialysis process.

Twenty-five nieces and nephews often found a haven in their home.

Uncle Gordon's life was his beloved family and his countless friends and neighbors, as well as Aspen Grove FWB Church, near Fountain, the Woodmen of the World, the Pitt-Greene Membership Corporation, where he served on the Board of Directors for over thirty-one years, and the Walstonburg Fire and Rescue for over fifty-one years. A veteran of World War II, he served in the Pacific Campaign, including the mainland of Japan. Following his years in the Army, he was a lifelong member of the American Legion, Walstonburg.

Each spring, Uncle Gordon planted a big garden, not only for himself but also for neighbors and friends. It was not unusual for neighbors to find vegetables from his garden on their porch or doorstep. He enjoyed his farming years, as well as public jobs that he chose.

One day, when I was very young, as I was leaving their home, I said, "Uncle Gordon, please pray for me." Aunt Kathleen immediately replied, "Your Uncle Gordon prays for you every night."

Later, I learned that Uncle Gordon prayed aloud every night for family, neighbors, friends, pastors, churches, our nation, and the world.

For six-and-one-half years, Aunt Kathleen put Uncle Gordon on home dialysis each night. She told me that during all these years, as soon as she finished, he continued to pray faithfully, often aloud, for all of us, often longer than an hour.

On Sunday, September 1, 1991, Uncle Gordon and Aunt Kathleen renewed their vows at Aspen Grove FWB Church, on the occasion of their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. Through all their sixty-five years of marriage, they were as devoted as any couple can be.

Uncle Gordon's Christian presence will be missed, but his example of character, faith, stewardship, faithfulness to work and good works, and especially his deep, abiding love for each of us—and the memory of his prayers—will remain with us always.

As has been said, he cannot come back to us, but we can go to him. I believe that his prayer was that we continue to live in harmony and peace and love, praying for one another and helping one another—and following God and the Savior he loved.

Joyce Proctor Beaman

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS FROM POWHATAN!

We hope all our churches enjoy the blessings of this season as part of the family of God!

Three members from Powhatan attended the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Conference at Palmer Memorial on Saturday, October 6—district officers Ann Narron, Wanda Benson, and Rita Jones. The Rev. Fred Baker brought the message with Betty Strickland's daughters bringing the blessing of special music. Mary Allen of Bethel was honored with a life membership award. That evening, deacon Buck Canady drove the Powhatan bus to Goldsboro 1st for the Cape Fear Youth rally. Four churches were represented with Powhatan having the most at 16. Phillip and Mary Allen and son Nathan presented a program about the summer mission trip to Denver sponsored by the Youth Convention and shared about the work that was accomplished. Next year's trip is tentatively planned for Seattle.

Descendents of brothers John Calvin and Matthew Jones gathered for a family reunion following morning services on October 7. Member Ada Jones Kittle welcomed all family members to be a part including any who have moved away and no longer attend Powhatan. A love offering of \$200 was collected and given toward the fellowship building loan.

The quarterly business meeting was conducted on October 10 with 39 present. Three members were lost during the last quarter with one gained.

Deacon Stan Jones and his wife Deb hosted a fellowship meeting of the Mt. Olive College Commuters Club on October 27. Deb has returned to college to complete a degree with plans to become a math teacher.

The *Four in Christ* came for the annual gospel sing on October 27. The group has been coming to Powhatan for about the last 25 years, each time bringing a blessing in song. Refreshments followed in the fellowship hall. The youth had an outing the same evening at the home of Buck Canady and his wife Sandra. They played games, shared hot dogs and hamburgers, roasted marshmallows, and enjoyed the nice fall weather.



B In Memoriam

Member Christine Spence Hill joined her husband, Charles, with the Lord on October 11. She had been a faithful member at Powhatan for many years (after being baptized at Everett Chapel at the age of 15) and continued to attend until her health prevented it. She served as a past treasurer, Sunday School teacher, choir member, Woman's Auxiliary officer, deacon's wife (and mother), and in many other capacities. Please remember her son, the Rev. Roger Hill of Oak Grove, and his family during this time.

Member Helen Barbour passed away on November 2, another of our beloved senior citizens gone on to her reward. She moved to the area and joined our fellowship in 2003. She loved everyone and was proud to be recognized with our "eighty and over" group for the first time this fall on Senior Citizen Sunday. Please pray for her family as well during this time of loss.

THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE WHAT CAN'T BE BOUGHT

by Dan Fader

Christmas is well upon us and for many this is the season of the year that we empty our savings and pull out our charge cards in an effort to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas, gift giving. Many within the church have bought into the hype and promotion that surrounds the Christmas season as it relates to giving. Television,

radio, and print ads challenge us by saying, "If you love them, show them, by buying them the perfect gift this Christmas." After all, isn't love the latest electronic gadget, expensive clothing or jewelry?

Of course not, but people must really believe that nothing says Happy Birthday Jesus like credit cards charged to their limit. People who practice discipline in their spending all year long seemingly lose

their minds at Christmas and are left with the bills long after Christmas morning has come and gone.

We know deep in our heart that this is not the way to show love or celebrate the Savior's birth but we seem helpless to stop ourselves from buying the hot new gift this season. I remember when our boys were young, Angela and I would go to Raleigh on the Saturday following Thanksgiving and shop for toys at the Best Store. You remember the Best Store, don't you? Anyway, we would have a list of the toys and gifts we wanted to buy and we would make a serious dent in our Christmas shopping that day. Well, this was 1983 and the hot new item was "The Cabbage Patch Kids." The doll appeared on the cover of *Newsweek* that year and everyone wanted a

"Cabbage Patch Kid" that Christmas and there was a serious shortage in supply. Let me explain that neither of our sons had expressed any interest in the ugly little trolls but while standing in the aisle the clerks brought out 3 dozen and placed them right beside us. Well none of our crowd was interested in this doll; after all we had two boys.

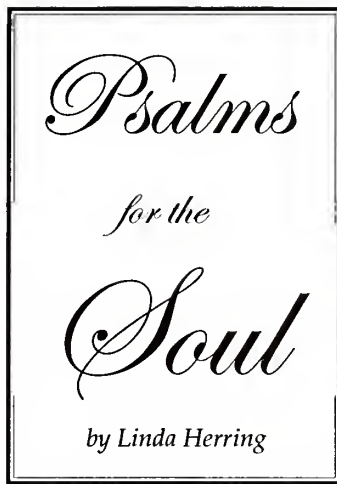
So what did we do? That's right; we walked away, with two dolls. We were even interviewed by a Raleigh radio station that wanted to know how it felt to be in possession of "the most sought after gift" for the Christmas season. And by the way, even though everyone else apparently wanted a "Cabbage Patch Kid" that year, our kids didn't.

Sad isn't it? In a world so desperately in need

of what God gave us on the first Christmas we are willing to accept substitutes. Think about this before you get in debt to buy gifts you can't afford, to impress people you don't like, by giving them things they don't need. God's great Gift revealed the heart of the giver. It was a heart of love and remember a merry Christmas has less to do with what's under the tree than what is in the heart. A gift from the heart can't be bought at the mall, it comes from within and it reveals much about the character of the giver. Give yourself to those you love and teach your children a valuable lesson. Christmas is way too big to fit in the toe of a stocking. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).



The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Have you ever been afraid? I have and it is not a good feeling. I just felt sick. Take a few minutes and read 1 Samuel 21:10–15. David was a man afraid. He had fled from the home of the priest of Nob with Saul in hot pursuit. He made his way to Gath, the home of his enemies, where they recognized him and brought him before King Achish. David's fame was known everywhere. Here was his chance to take revenge but David was afraid. He lost his nerve. He pretended madness and scratched on the doors of the gate and let his saliva fall down on his beard. Achish dismissed



David with contempt and would not let him enter his home. Psalm 56 is David's prayer for relief from his enemies. As David experienced the solitude of that café, he reflected on God's tender, faithful love. He wrote in verse three and eight of Psalm 56 "When I am afraid, I will trust in God. You have put my tears in a bottle and wrote them in a book." God knows when we are afraid. God knows when we cry. Turn to Jesus and let Him comfort you. Perhaps you are in a cave today. You, too, can say, "In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid." Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm. God loves you.

A HISTORY OF EAST ROCKINGHAM FWB CHURCH

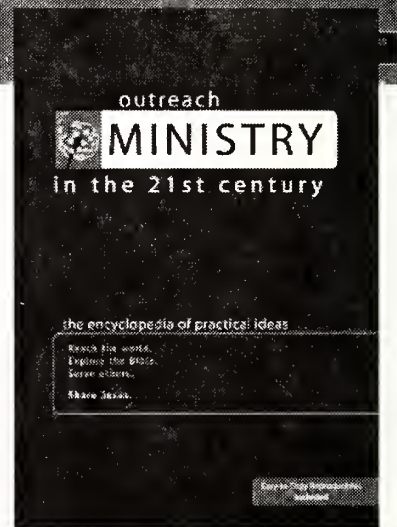
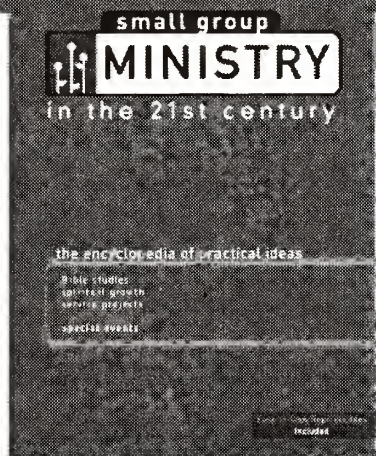
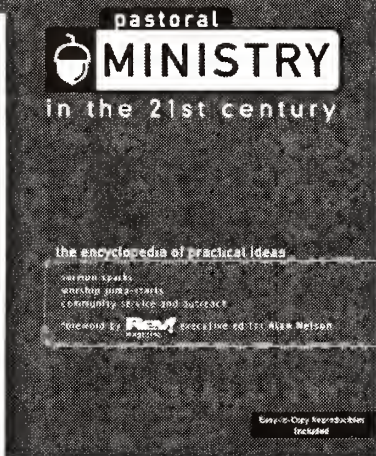
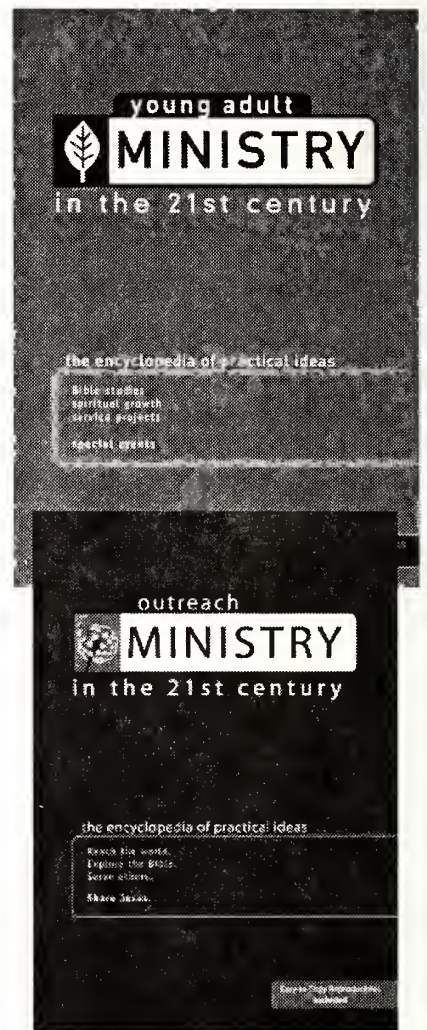
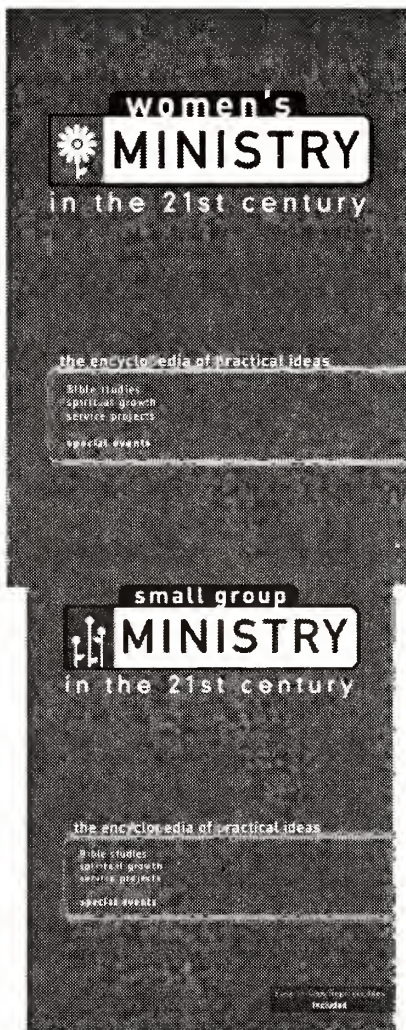
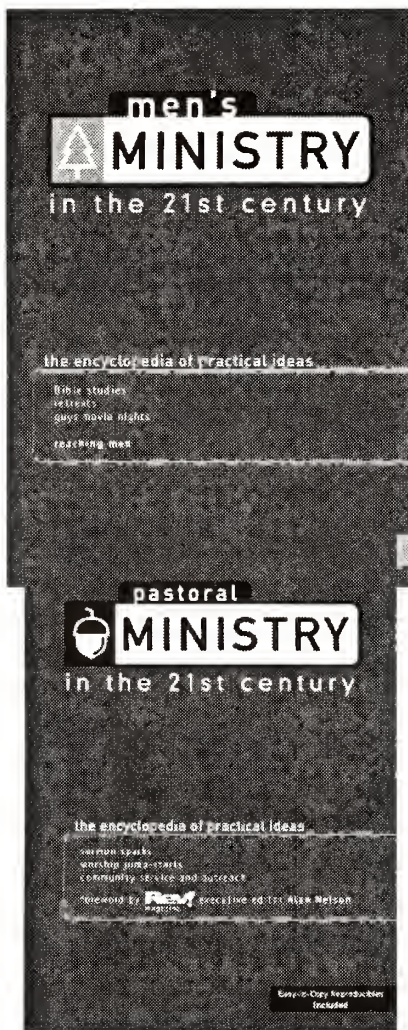
(This article is a partial re-print from p. 6 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, May 9, 1962, Vol. 77–No. 19.)

The Free Will Baptist doctrine was first preached in East Rockingham by the Rev. A. J. Pearson, who, at that time, was pastor of Mt. Moriah FWB Church near Hamlet. He would preach on Sunday afternoons in the homes of East Rockingham. Later in 1932, the Rev. A. L. Duncan of Tabor City held a revival and organized the East Rockingham Church. In 1936, the Rev. O. M. Hilburn reorganized the church and moved into a new building. The same year, the Rev. Walter Carter organized a Free Will Baptist church in another section of the town. In 1937, the Revs. Carter and Hilburn, with officials of both churches, met and merged. Mr. Hilburn was pastor and Mr. Carter was assistant. Both official boards were consolidated.



Later, Mr. Hilburn resigned and Mr. Carter was called as pastor, preaching his first sermon on the third Sunday in October, 1937. The church has continued to make progress. In 1938, a new sanctuary was built with four classrooms. In 1943, a parsonage was built. In 1945, five classrooms were added to the church.

On April 23, 1961, the church broke ground for a new building. On Sunday, April 22, 1962, the congregation moved into the new building. The new building consists of an air-conditioned sanctuary that will seat 400, 14 classrooms, two rest rooms, a kitchen and dining facilities, and heating plant, with plenty of parking space.



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