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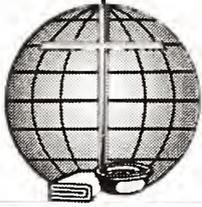
January 2009

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
MONTHLY PLANNER

January 2009



RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				NEW YEAR'S DAY		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		EPIPHANY				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The basic color is green, which symbolizes growth in Christ. Red may be used on civic holidays.

COMING SOON:

February 21: FWB Church Night @ MOC. First game begins at 5 p.m.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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POWER UP!

Never confuse the will of the majority with the will of God.

DAYS OF UNCERTAINTY

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

The past year will be remembered as a time of troubling uncertainties. The day-by-day news reminded us of national and worldwide crises that most of us have never experienced before. The outlook for 2009, in the opinion of many, doesn't look any better, particularly in the financial world. Unlike the recessions of the past, this one is worldwide and we are wondering what will happen next. Yet, is this not as it has always been? There have been times of prosperity and times of decline throughout our history. Life always has its ups and downs, and our hope is that the "downs" will be few.

No life is trouble free. As Christians we are not exempt from it, but Christ assures us of His presence in all circumstances. Jesus knew about troubles and sought to warn his followers that they, too, would face troubles: "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). In John 15:18 He said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

Jesus lived in a hostile world, and so did His chosen disciples. He was "...despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief..." (Isaiah 53:6). The political world of Rome surrounded Him, but He declared:

"...My kingdom is not of this world..." (John 18:36). Religionists feared His teachings and miraculous powers over sickness and death. Yet, He pressed on in the fulfillment of His Father's will to "...preach the good tidings unto the meek...to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).

Likewise, followers of Christ live in a hostile world. We are in the world; we live in a nation of liberty and opportunities, but, our kingdom is not of this world. He would say to us today, "...see that ye be not troubled!..." (Matthew 24:6). Human nature would cause us to worry and fret as we face the current crises. The name of Christ is hated and despised by many today. Christianity is under attack. The financial world seems to be falling apart, but we have the assurance of His divine love, grace, and mercy to sustain us. A heavenly kingdom awaits us where all things shall become new. Meanwhile, may we be faithful in our prayers for our nation and the world. God willing, the present crises will pass and God will continue to bless America.



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Living Your Faith

According to The Epistle of James

(This is part one of a five part series on the book of James.)

by Nina Grace Register

Most of the early Christians were Jews who scattered to all parts of the Roman Empire. James felt they were still growing, not mature enough in their faith to stand up to all the temptations and trials they faced in a pagan society. As leader of the church at Jerusalem and half-brother of Jesus, a man who didn't believe in Christ until after the risen Lord made a special appearance to him (see 1 Corinthians 15:7), James well knew both the "before" and the "after," the rules of Law and Grace. He sympathized with Gentile Christians' problems and was more lenient than the apostles (see Acts 15).

James wrote to help them to mature in their faith and show it by their works. His advice is as appropriate in the 21st century as in the first century.

CHAPTER ONE

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: ¹⁰ But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. ¹¹ For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. ¹² Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: ¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. ¹⁶ Do not err, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: ²⁰ For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. ²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. ²⁶ If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. ²⁷ Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

We usually feel the opposite of joyful when life goes wrong. James, however, tells us to be happy when testings and trials hit us for they help shape us into the kind of person Christ wants us to be. If we can endure these tests, the result is patience. No one is born patient—we have to "grow" it as we go. We need God's wisdom to do this, and He has promised wisdom if we ask in faith, never doubting. If our faith

comes and goes like the waves of the sea, we shouldn't expect God to hear our prayer. However, by the time we overcome these trials patience has become ours and we can live our faith in any circumstances.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways (v. 8) reminds us of Proverbs 3:5-6 by being its opposite. A wishy-washy person cannot be trusted and will never reach his goal.

Those who think they are poor, unworthy, and have nothing must remember how far Christ has lifted them, and how far they have come, and what great things are in the future. On the other hand, the wealthy man must not be proud of or depend on his riches, for they can disappear like dew. His life can fade like the flowers. Even if his name is on great buildings, in a few years people might look at the engraving and ask, "Who was he?" Our most precious possessions are what we have in Christ.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (v. 12). It sounds like a beatitude, doesn't it? Stress can depress or strengthen us, depending on our attitude. Treat it as something put in our life to tempt us, ask God for wisdom, and trust Him to lead us through it.

Temptation to sin, or do things against God's will, is very strong; but, we have this precious promise that, if we "endure" and do not yield, we will receive the crown of life. In ancient Greece, the winner's crown was a circlet of leaves that soon died. The crown of life is worth much more than a wreath of leaves. It is a reward to those who love Him and it will last forever.

God never tempts us to sin, but sometimes He allows Satan to tempt us. If we sin, it is because we want to; if we don't yield, we become stronger to face the next temptation. By remembering God's goodness and His blessings to us, and resisting temptation, we finally get strong enough to just say NO.

James gives other good advice. Watch your tongue. Think before you speak. Be a good listener. Pay

attention to what the other person is saying instead of thinking of what you're going to say. Control your temper. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty..." (Proverbs 16:32). Anger is not compatible with the righteousness of God. Neither is filthy talk. It is not sophisticated or "cool;" it is only risqué, suggestive, and sinful, leading to all sorts of lusts and wickedness. The *engrafted* (or implanted) *word* of God (v. 21) in our minds can keep our thoughts pure. His Word is a mirror for us to use in examining ourselves to see how our lives stack up with His teaching.

What's the point in reading His Word unless we practice it, though? If we only read it or hear it and forget about it, we miss the blessing of *doing*. Our faith is between us and God, proving to us and Him that we are His. Our works, however, are between us and people, proving to them that we are what we say we are. If it's true that we are the only Bible the world reads, what we do speaks louder than what we say. In Acts 10:38, we read how Jesus "went about doing good." By following His example, we become living witnesses for Him.

There is great blessing in doing good works and giving. When Paul was leaving the Ephesian elders who were so dear to him, he told them to "...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Henry H. Halley, in his *Bible Handbook*, says: "A life of charity and kindness free from overmuch attachment to earthly things, is religion's glory" (659). Doubtless, James would agree with that.

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Why Do We Doubt?

by Celia Hales

Matthew 14:29–31 gives a poignant picture of Jesus' place as the Savior of Peter—and of us. The verses read, "And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Here we see a miracle of Jesus—walking on water—while we glimpse in Peter our own hesitations to step out of the work-a-day world and participate in the miracles Jesus holds out to us. I believe that Jesus has not left us alone for the 2,000-odd years since His sojourn on Earth. Christianity spread like lightning around the globe as convert after convert answered the call. The same call goes out to us daily, as it did to Peter, with Jesus all too often having to say to us, as He did to Peter, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Why do we doubt? Is the message of Jesus just too

good to be believed? Are we bound too tightly to our careers to ask Divinity for the help we need? Do we fear to ask, thinking the answer might be "no"? For all of these reasons and a myriad more, we are men and women who have little faith that a miracle might be wrought to transform our little world. In short, most often, we are afraid to ask for a miracle, lest it be denied. Yet, religious commentators have written of many thousands of miracles that have come to ordinary people like you and me. Why beseech Heaven for a miracle if we would not recognize it at high noon?

It is my belief that miracles occur all the time and to everybody, but we are too blind to see. Pray that our eyes might be opened and that we do recognize Jesus at work in our world of 2009. With this response on our own, Jesus is freed to be Himself in our all-too-secular world.

Across the centuries, Jesus says to us, as He did to Peter, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" And, why indeed, do we?

We Are Not Alone

by Celia Hales

I was a skeptic as a child; I didn't quite believe what I heard in Sunday School and church once I studied science in school. Was this skepticism a bad thing at the time? I think not, for it launched me on my teen and adult quest for what I could believe. I knew there was something there in all this God talk; I just had to find it. I had to find what I could believe without doubting.

I was buoyed on my quest in my college history class as a freshman. I read that one of the early religious writers had said that there need be no conflict between faith and reason. That sounded fine to me, because I had, as a young person, little patience with people who bade me to accept the Gospel solely on faith. (Now I have more patience with this sentiment.)

My skepticism about the teaching of the Bible, especially the miracles depicted therein, led me to read widely outside the classroom. I had internal religious experiences also that made an old-fashioned faith grow in me. I even had a few visions at night when I would awaken from a sound sleep. Much of my budding faith came in late adolescence (16 and up) and early adulthood (my twenties). I returned to the New Testament, especially to learn that other-worldly experiences and messages in dreams were accepted ways that God spoke

to His people. This gave me reassurance that I was not alone in an unsafe universe.

You see, I was growing up in the civil defense era, the nuclear power race between the United States and the Soviet Union, and these were very scary times indeed to an impressionable child. We even studied civil defense for six weeks in my freshman year of high school, and in this unit of study I had to learn all the effects that radiation could have on the body. My best girlfriend had nightmares about it all; I just lay awake at night, unable to fall asleep until long after my bedtime hour.

I was seeking a way to trust God in what seemed to be a very unsafe world. And is that not what young people, and adults as well, face today with the threat of terrorism?

If I had to offer advice I would offer Jesus' injunction, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7). I remember clinging to that promise as a senior in high school. To my mind, and in my experience, those are some of the truest words ever spoken.

Now I say with confidence: We are not alone. God walks with us wherever we go. And in that assurance we can surely walk in peace.

The Attitude of Gratitude

A personal letter from George Stevenson

Dear Mr. Editor,

Early in 1942, when I was at the age of 4½ years I was admitted to the Free Will Baptist Orphanage (later named the Children's Home) at Middlesex, NC. I was raised there until removed by my father early in 1952. Recently I was asked by another child, now a grandfather, to write an account of my childhood there. As I began to cast my mind over the past, I became aware that I had been gravely remiss for the past 55 years. During all that while I have failed to express thanks to those who ought to have been thanked or to render praise and honor where praise and honor have been due. I speak of the many Free Will Baptist churches spread across the state from the coast to the mountains. The works of feeding, clothing, and providing a home for orphaned children was a work dear to their hearts. During fat years and lean years, even during the worst of times in the Great Depression, their support of their most Christian work of charity was unfailing. The Ladies' Aid Societies were untiring.

It is not that the churches just included money to support the orphanage in their budgets. Many of them "adopted" a child and became responsible for supplying the money, necessary to clothe him and to supply him with such incidentals as school supplies year after year after year until the child left the orphanage. In addition, as the "concert classes" of children from the orphanage went on fundraising tours to the churches in the late springs and early summers of each year, the various Ladies' Aid Societies arranged for homes where the children would be taken in for meals and stay the night when they visited their church.

The churches made possible the two great festivals every year that were an unforgettable experience of every child who ever lived in the orphanage. The first of these was Thanksgiving Day, and the second was Christmas. In some ways Thanksgiving may have been bigger than Christmas in the minds of the children. On that day a large number of women from different churches would come to the orphanage laden with roast turkey, ham, fried chicken, candied sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, potato salad, pickles in great variety, egg salad, deviled eggs, pies, cakes—in short, too many good things to enumerate. An outdoor table had been improvised, in anticipation, by tautly stretching a great length of wire fencing horizontally and supporting it by inserting wooden forms under it. Tablecloths were spread by the women, and platter after platter, dish after dish, bowl after bowl of wonderful food was spread from one end of the table to the other. Paper plates, napkins, and eating utensils were placed at convenient intervals. After a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing, everyone helped himself to what he desired, or, if too little to help himself was helped by an adult. A Thanksgiving feast for the children was unfailingly provided by the churches year after year after year. Perhaps I should add that the day was blessed with good weather. Although I recall one year in which there was a brief dash of hominy snow on the Wednesday before, I cannot recall a single instance of Thanksgiving Day being ruined by inclement weather from 1942 to 1952.

At Christmastime packages addressed to individual children began arriving at the orphanage in mid-December. Each church that had "adopted" a child to clothe and care for wrapped and sent a Christmas present to their child. As they arrived, the presents were put aside in the superintendent's office. During the week of Christmas a large handsome cedar tree was cut and brought from the woods to the dining hall where it was put up and well-decorated with strings, colored electric lights and large shiny glass ornaments. The packages that had been piling up were all put under and around the tree. After all the children had assembled and taken their seats in the dining hall, the superintendent took up the packages and read off the name of the child for whom it was destined. There may have been a few children who received a present from a kinsman, but by far the greater part of the children in the orphanage would have received no present at all at Christmastime had it not been for the kindness of their sponsoring churches.

I know that our churches held the work of the orphanage to their hearts because of the teachings and injunctions of Jesus. It was not out of a desire for recognition or for praise. Nevertheless I do praise them. I find, 55 years later, that my heart is still filled with gratitude to them.



Retirement Homes Ministry

JANUARY IS RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

As a new year begins, the challenge ahead to make sure our people are getting the help they need is looked upon with anticipation. The very thought of being able to help those who are in need is a blessing within itself. We currently are serving 15 clients. There are two in the residential program and 13 in the supplement housing support program. I know we have many more of our Original Free Will Baptists who are struggling to make ends meet each month and I trust as applications are received, we will be able to meet the needs.

The Youth Project of 2008 was designated for Retirement Homes. Over \$6,600 was raised for Retirement Homes. This money was put to good use with the addition of porches on the rear entrance of the duplex and a new roof on the storage building.

We continue to receive disability equipment and are pleased that we have been able to loan out numerous pieces of equipment, which has saved our folks a lot of money. This is just another example of People Helping People.

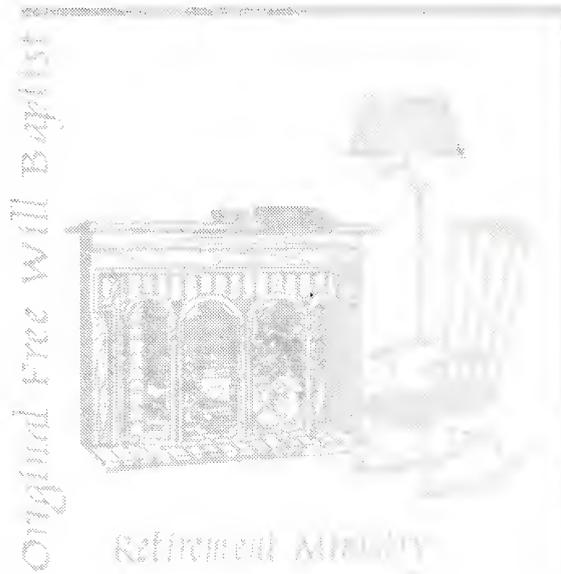
This past year has been a good year in many ways, but also has been sad, because we had three of our clients go home to be with the Lord. It was a sad time for us, but I know it was a glorious time for them. Mr. Jeffrey Reason, Mr. Ed Wood, and Ms. Betty Johnson went home to be with the Lord during 2008. Praise God we were able to add Ms. Lola Earley to our client list in December. She is a member of Hickory Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Ahooskie. It

was a real blessing to be able to make her a part of the Retirement Homes family.

Everyone realizes that our economy has been hit hard in the past few months and that things are really tight for a lot of our people. If we are going to continue to serve our people who are in need, we really need more of our churches to put us in their budget. Only about 60% of our churches are supporting the Retirement Homes Ministry. If all our churches were supporting, I believe that all needs could be taken care of and we would have money left to expand our services. Just like your homes and church buildings, the cost of maintaining and operating our duplex and the apartments we rent is increasing rapidly.

We diligently request your continued prayers for this ministry and our clients, and for your continued financial support. If your church is not supporting our ministry, ask why. Any one of us could find ourselves in need at any time and it would be a real shame if the help needed was not available because giving had not been sustained or begun.

The Board of Directors and staff of your Retirement Homes Ministry pray that you and your church family have a prosperous year ahead. Please remember that January is Retirement Homes month and Sunday, January 18, 2009 is Retirement Homes Sunday. A special offering for Retirement Homes on that Sunday, along with your church's regular contributions, would go a long way in increasing our ability to help others.





Children's Home

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATED

On November 22, 2008, more than 170 friends gathered at Whitley Center for our Friends of Children's Day Celebration.

The festivities started with a traditional style thanksgiving lunch, followed by special music from Joel Gay, Minister of music at Daniels Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and an inspirational message by the Rev. Johnny Sullivan, pastor at Daniels Chapel.

To finish the celebration, Gary Lee, president of the Children's Home, made an announcement of the establishment of the Fannie Holland Garris Endowment fund, made possible by her son, Mr. Roger Garris, his wife Brenda, and their children and grandchildren. This endowment will allow us to continue to provide services to children and families for many years.

Mrs. Fannie Holland Garris came to live at the Home on July 12, 1925 through June 22, 1935. She was the 91st child admitted into our care. To our knowledge, she is the oldest living alumna. She turned 91 years of age on June 23, 2008. She was married to the late Wilbur Asa Garris of Littlefield, now the Ayden community, for 55 years. Together they had 5 children. She has 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grand children. She

has been a member of the Elm Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church for more than 70 years.

Mrs. Garris is a special lady who has become a familiar face at the Children's Home events such as homecomings and Friends of Children's days. She is not only loved and special to us but also to her family and extended families.

Gary Lee, President/CEO presented Mrs. Fannie with a dozen red roses—her favorite flowers. Mr. Lee also presented Roger and Brenda with an endowment certificate.

In addition to the endowment, Roger and Brenda Garris have provided the Home with a 15-passenger van. It was parked just outside the entrance of Whitley Center for everyone to see. The van will benefit the children as they travel to many events including outings, appointments, and school functions.

These gifts total \$25,000 of support from the Garris family. We would like to thank them for their concern for children and faithful support of this childcare ministry.

If you would like information about establishing an endowment, please contact our President/CEO, Gary Lee, of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.



Greetings from the Children's Home

Dear Friends,

2008 has been a fast year, at least for me. This has been one of the most important years of my life as I think about the important task I was given to serve as the President of this ministry.

Last year I pledged to always give my best to serve this ministry. Although, I'm far from perfect I have tried each day to give all of myself to this ministry. I'm here to serve GOD. My purpose is to always trust in Him from whom I get my strength. I believe this is the ministry for which I have been called.

As I reflect on the past year many things are brought to my remembrance. I have had many joyous occasions as I celebrated with the children and staff at many events. I have easily accepted the role of becoming the face of the Children's Home. The time I have spent one-on-one meeting new people has been encouraging and uplifting.

I'm here to serve you. It is my job to lead and guide the Children's Home. In order to do this I have learned to serve others. I have learned it is important to serve others such as the staff, donors, and community. I have done this in many ways. I have educated them to help them better understand what we are doing, what we are planning, and I have evaluated what we have accomplished. I have had a great time meeting so many people who are concerned and interested in what we are doing for children and families. We look forward to serving children in the New Year as we launch new programs.

God never intended for His children to be the victims of abandonment, abuse, and neglect. He wants the best for His children; therefore, we must protect, love, support, nurture, and teach *His* children, that they might achieve their full potential. I believe every child who comes our way was specifically put before us as part of God's plan. In 2008, we provided a safe home for over 100 children. That's over 100 reasons we need your support.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again call on your support in the future. I believe it is a time to look to GOD for guidance. I ask you to pray for this ministry. Pray that we may be all that GOD wants us to be. We have the biggest responsibility on us, to care for *HIS* children. Without our faithful Free Will Baptist church community our ministry would soon fall to the economic conditions faced by our nation.

With all of my heart I wish each of you a very happy New Year.

For Yours I remain,

Gary Lee

President/CEO

Campus Needs

- Personal Hygiene Items—Antiperspirant (boys and girls)
- Body Wash, body lotions, bath powder, shampoo
- 5—Aluminum or fiberglass "A" step ladders for cottage
- Renovations to Heritage Hall (estimated \$50,000)
- Dryer Sheets (Fabric softener sheets)
- Bath Towels & Bath Cloths
- Curtains/Valances for cottages
- Ice Chests (4)
- Large (cool side) griddles
- Crock Pots (6–8 quart or larger)
- Trash Bags (33 gal or larger)
- 33 gal or larger trash receptacles
- **Extreme Teen Bibles NKJV
- Kitchen Towels & Dish Cloths
- Mini Blinds—vinyl (call for sizes)



PREACHING GOD'S WORD SAMAR, PHILIPPINES

by the Reverend Orlando T. Garcia

In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul commanded Timothy to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season..." I would like to express my gratitude to the Rev. Harold Jones, Foreign Missions Director, for giving us the opportunity to go to Western Samar for our birth certificates, which is very important to us to complete our requirements in Social Security.

As a minister of God, we are commanded to preach the Gospel. This gave us the opportunity to share the Gospel with relatives of my wife. We had a time of fellowship and singing and many of the neighbors came to hear God's Word. I preached two nights. I was only planning to preach one night, but one of the neighbors requested that I preach another night. As I shared the Word for two nights, 16 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Savior. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



A PERFECT CHOICE CALAWAG, PHILIPPINES

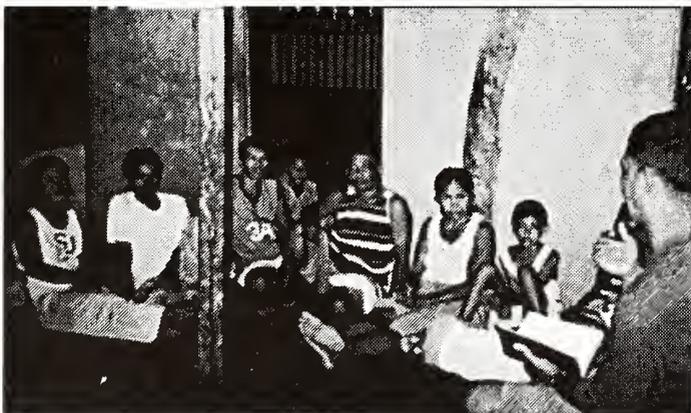
by Pastor Leo Dejon

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

October 11, 2008, the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Calawag, Taytay, Palawan, held an outdoor fellowship. We started with songs of praise, then an inspiring message by the Rev. Sofronio Gamoso. Following the message we held a baptismal service for four young people and three adults who surrendered their lives

and committed their service to God. This was one of the most joyful occasions I have ever experienced as a member of the family of God. There were hugs and tears of joy as we welcomed these new members into the family.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we ask you to pray for these new members and for the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church. We are eager to serve the Lord. May God bless and enable us to fulfill His command.



GYPHY SUMMER CAMP VARNA, BULGARIA 2008

by Tezjan

In the fall of 2007 we planned a youth summer camp in Turkey, together with Turkish and Romanian Christian youth. But two of the organizing persons were forced to leave Turkey within 5 hours, not able to return on time to continue their preparations for the camp. The Turkish Church leaders were concerned about the safety of the youth and we agreed with them not to bring our young people into any risky situation. The Reverend Kosta Ivanov and our youth leader, Brother Nikolai Asenov, at Varna, decided to organize a National Roma Summer Camp for the Gypsies in Bulgaria from 22nd until 24th of August. Because all the participants had to pay the cost for lodging and food, not all members were able to attend the summer weekend camp.

On Thursday evening, August 21, together we prayed in 'the upper room' of our Church center in Varna asking for the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, for God's guidance, His wisdom, and love during the Camp days. We asked God to touch the hearts and minds of all who would hear the Good News of salvation and use us as good vessels for His purpose. Another goal has been to develop a positive identity among the Christian Gypsies; how do we view our position in Bulgaria, what place do we share with other Christians in the world, in which way do we fulfill our missionary task as churches and as a denomination?

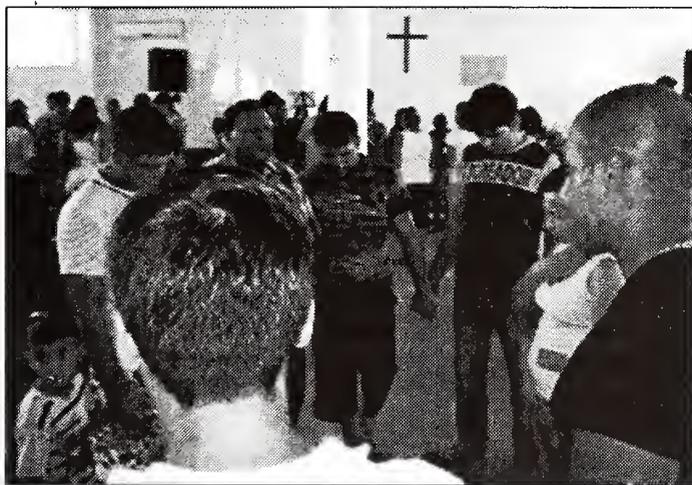
The attendants came from our churches in Varna, Balchik and Targoviste and some Gypsies, members of other denominations, came from Stara Zagora and Sliven. The participants, more than 125 persons, enjoyed the programs during the morning and evening devotions. In spite of the heat, the sanctuary was filled with interested and concerned people.

To escape the heat of the city, we took time to go to the beach for a refreshing dive in the Black Sea. Youth of the different churches prepared dramas, which were interesting for the Gypsies youth; themes such as friendship, love, marriage, and how to love God and serve Him. People formed prayer groups spontaneously. Others brought humoristic skits and songs. Watermelons and cold soft drinks were welcome refreshments during those hot days. Watermelons were given as rewards to the actors who participated in the dramas. Nikolai, our youth leader in Varna, distributed t-shirts and caps with the name of the church of Varna on them as advertisement.

The Spirit of the Lord indeed was present upon that place during this special weekend. All of us still enjoy the special time that God has given us and we have promised one another to meet soon again, if possible after two months. It is a delight to work for God in and out of season; Paul's words are true when he writes: "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Let me write you some of the reactions of the participants. Eight out of ten guests declared: "I have never been in such a nice place. I feel so good here." Some said, "Though I am poorly dressed and I am a Gypsy, I feel no shame here; we are equals." Others said, "I have met the Lord and been feeling His love in this place. We know that the Spirit of God is with us."

One Gypsy girl has been cleaning the rest rooms during the weekend; she was not from Varna and nobody told her to do it. When I asked her, "Why are you taking this task completely upon yourself?" she said, "I love to do this job, because the building is so beautiful, it is my pleasure."



YOUTH ON THE RISE CAMP MORELOS, MEXICO

by Everarado Martinez Hernandez

Camp Morelos was held August 4–9, 2008. The young Bible College students were responsible for the youth program from ages 11 through the teens. Their aim was to emphasize the importance of spiritual formation, because these young people will be the leaders of the church in years to come. It is important to keep their minds and hearts on the true purpose of life.

The youth leaders used several methods to teach: class discussions, games, and service. Their activities were carried out in groups, according to their ages. The idea was to give each group the “spiritual food” they needed to direct their thoughts to the true meaning of worship.

They had three basic studies:

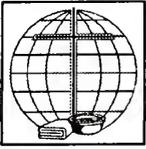
- What is worship? By Wendy Rangel
- The Joy of the Lord By Eunice Dueñes
- Why God Is Angry With His Servants By Isai Dueñes

To confirm this, they developed games where they had to work as teams led by a captain. These games lead them to work together as a unit for one purpose, to bring glory and praise to the Lord. God greatly blessed their activities. Two young people accepted the Lord, and seven more came to Christ during our time of praise and worship.

This was one of the most successful camps we have ever conducted at Camp Morelos. We sincerely thank our Bible College students for their dedicated service.

Happy New Year
OFWB International, Inc.
(Board of Foreign Missions)

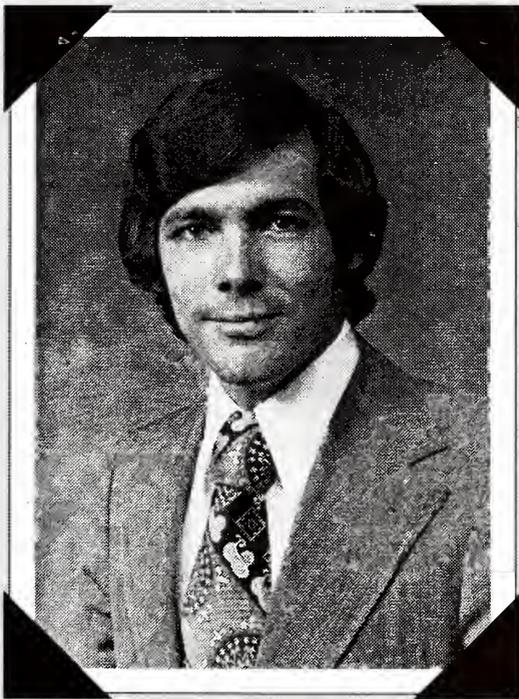




Pictures From the Past

Often the secret to a successful future is the knowledge of one's past. As Original Free Will Baptists, we have a rich heritage that has been directed by many determined leaders. Over the course of the next several issues of this magazine we will be publishing pictures of OFWB leaders, many of them taken from decades-old sources.

We challenge you to identify each picture. Some will be easy while others will test your visual memory. All who contact our office with the correct identity of the Picture From the Past will be eligible to win a \$10 gift certificate courtesy of the FWB Press redeemable at any of their bookstores (Ayden, Kinston, and New Bern). Contact must be made by telephone at (252) 746-4963 (ask for Andrea or Buddy) or by e-mail to <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org>. Deadline is the 20th of each month. The winner will be determined by a drawing and will receive the gift certificate by mail.



Here's the January Picture From the Past!

Your Clue:

*He loves seafood,
but travels a long
way to a fresh catch.*



Sunday School Ministry

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry and the Barrow Endowed Fund for Christian Ministries are pleased to sponsor a learning opportunity for all church leaders.

“*LEAD! The Four Factors of Effective Leadership*”

Place: Raper Hall, Mount Olive College

Date: Friday night, March 6, 2009

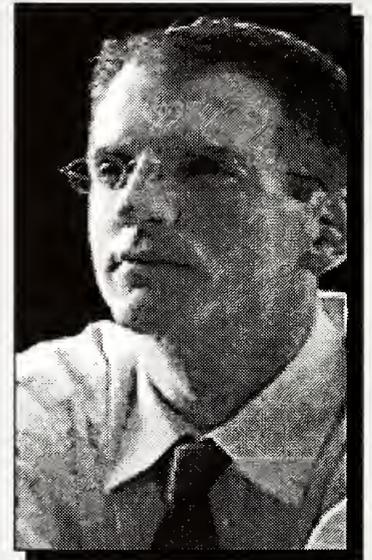
Time: 7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Cost: None

This seminar combines the wisdom of ancient philosophers, successful executives and leadership gurus into a clear roadmap for effective leadership. The four factors focus on common themes that are found throughout most advice on leadership and interpersonal effectiveness. Using stories of famous leaders and infamous failures, this seminar illustrates the importance of influence, integrity, inspiration and improvement. These four factors are contrasted with the pitfalls of ineffective leadership: power, position, popularity and personality.

The four factors demonstrate that:

- Everyone can be a leader.
- Leadership begins with you.
- Leadership is a relationship.
- Leadership produces positive change.



The resource person, Dr. David Rendall, is currently an international speaker, author, consultant, and entrepreneur. He is Assistant Professor of Business at Mount Olive College where he was nominated for Teacher of the Year in 2006 and he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in management, leadership, strategy and organizational change for the University of Phoenix and Keller Graduate School of Management.

He has more than fifteen years of experience leading people and organizations. He earned a doctor of management degree in organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix. He also has undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology.

He is a member of Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC and comes highly recommended by the pastor and staff of the church.

Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. The first 50 people who pre-register will have their names placed in a drawing for a copy of Dr. Rendall's book, *LEAD*. **Complete the information, detach and mail to Ms. Mary Dudley at the Sunday School Office at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 by March 2, 2009.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CHURCH: _____



Mount Olive College

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR SPRING 2009 AT ALL MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE LOCATIONS.

Daytime classes begin January 6, 2009. For admission and enrollment information, contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, <twoodard@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854. Special programs of interest at MOC include agriscience education and agribusiness, instrumental music, forensics, computer information systems, middle and secondary teacher education, religion, and many others.

Space is available for working adults who wish to attend MOC's unique one night a week programs at Mount Olive, Johnston Community College (JCC), New Bern, Washington, RTP, and Wilmington. Programs offered include Heritage, a two-year program that leads to the associate degree, and various upper level programs which lead to the bachelor degree: Management and Organizational Development (MOD), Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC), Early Childhood Education, Modular Religion Major (MRM), and Healthcare Management (HCM).

Spring 2009 One-Night-A-Week Schedule For All Moc Locations

Program	Location	Begins	Hours	Contact	Contact	Phone
CJC	Mount Olive	1/17/2009	online*	asullivan@moc.edu	mammons@moc.edu	(800) 653-0854
MOD	JCC	1/22/2009	6-10 P.M.	asullivan@moc.edu	mammons@moc.edu	(800) 653-0854
ECE	JCC	2/5/2009	6-10 P.M.	asullivan@moc.edu	mammons@moc.edu	(800) 653-0854
Heritage	Mount Olive	2/5/2009	6-10 P.M.	asullivan@moc.edu	mammons@moc.edu	(800) 653-0854
*1 st session	Mount Olive	1/17/2009		<i>all other classes online</i>		
MOD	New Bern	1/12/2009	6-10 P.M.	gprichard@moc.edu	srggurich@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
Heritage	New Bern	1/21/2009	6-10 P.M.	gprichard@moc.edu	srggurich@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
HCM	Washington	1/12/2009	6-10 P.M.	cjohnson@moc.edu	khinson@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
MOD	Washington	1/21/2009	6-10 P.M.	cjohnson@moc.edu	khinson@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
MOD	RTP	1/8/2009	6-10 P.M.	dkimbrough@moc.edu	bdahrooge@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
HCM	RTP	1/14/2009	6-10 P.M.	dkimbrough@moc.edu	bdahrooge@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
Heritage	RTP	1/15/2009	6-10 P.M.	dkimbrough@moc.edu	bdahrooge@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
Heritage	Wilmington	1/15/2009	6-10 P.M.	bkrosse@moc.edu	fkinney@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL
HCM	Wilmington	1/21/2009	6-10 P.M.	bkrosse@moc.edu	fkinney@moc.edu	(800) NEW-GOAL

High School Visitation Day at Mount Olive College

Campus visitation day for high school students will begin at 9 A.M. on Monday, January 19, 2009. For registration and tour information, contact Jamie Massengill, Assistant Director of Admissions, at <jmassengill@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE'S

26th Annual Basketball

Church Night

Saturday, February 21, 2009



Scholarship awarded to the church
with the largest attendance!

Drawing for Door Prizes! Half-time
activities for all ages!

**Mount Olive College
Trojans vs.**

Erskine College

5:00 pm, Women's game

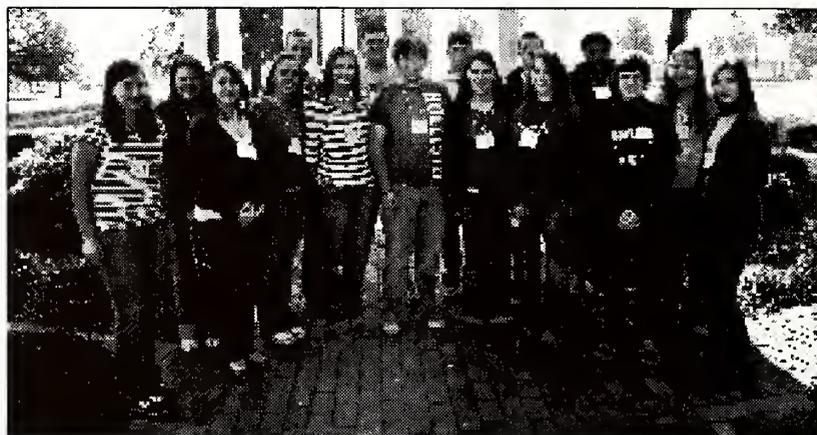
7:00 pm, Men's game

Kornegay Arena

SPECIAL TICKETS \$1.00

To reserve your tickets,
call Tim Woodard in the
Admissions office today!

(919) 658-7793 or
twoodard@moc.edu



Fifteen FFWB students attended Visitation Day at Mount Olive College in November. The students are pictured as follows:

1st row L-R—Nicole Puckett (First Smithfield), Sarah Eonta (Princeton), Kayla Whitley (Saint Mary's), Kaitlyn Twigg (Pine Level), Zach Peele (Micro), Katie Smith (Wildwood), Caitlyn Head (First Wilson), Alex Galloway (Daniels Chapel), Elizabeth Groce (Daniels Chapel).

2nd row L-R—Jamie Hollowell (First Wilson), Donny Jernigan (White Oak), Matthew Lemmons (Marsh Swamp), Matt Sullivan (Daniels Chapel), Seth Hinés (Rose of Sharon), Riley Kennedy (Sandy Plain)

Working Adults: Transform Your Life... One Night a Week

Bachelor Degree Programs:

Criminal Justice and Criminology
Early Childhood Education
Health Care Management
Management and Organizational Development
Management of Information Systems
Modular Religion Major

Associate Degree Program:

Heritage Plus—no college experience required

- Attend class one night a week
- Small classes
- Financial aid available
- Convenient locations including Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, RTP, Washington and Wilmington

Classes start soon. Call TODAY!

www.moc.edu • (800) NEW-GOAL

SAVE THE DATE

The Mount Olive College Alumni Association requests the pleasure of your company for an elegant evening of dining featuring

Michelle Johnson Braxton
Entertainer and humorist

Tom Casey
Accompanist and dinner music
at the

"Winter Glitz" *Hooray for Hollywood* *An evening on the red carpet*

Saturday, the seventh of February
two thousand and nine
six o'clock in the evening

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College

Silent Auction - Proceeds to benefit student scholarships

Winter Glitz evening \$50 per person or \$375 for a table of 8

Please contact Brenda Edwards by January 20, 2009.

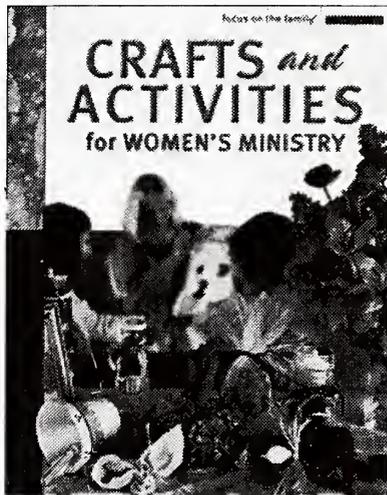
For more information call 919-658-7800 or
email bedwards@moc.edu



HOLLYWOOD



Snapshots from Winter Glitz 2008



Crafts and Activities for Women's Ministry

God has made the creative journey immensely fulfilling—especially when we travel it with a fellowship of friends. Together, we can discover imaginative ways to express our creativity that can be shared with one another and used to serve our homes and communities.

This book provides everything you need to put together a fun and inspiring collection of creative activities for your women's ministry. You'll get tips on leadership, planning, shopping for supplies, and more. Plus, you'll find thoughtful activities for serving your church and community in special chapters, including "Caring for Moms in Crisis" and "Honoring Seniors and the Disabled."

Includes:

- Community builders and crowd breakers
- Reproducible craft patterns
- Creative activities for meetings, special events, and retreats

Retail: \$19.99

Our Special Promo Price: \$17

(plus NC tax & shipping charges, if applicable)

Offer good through June 30, 2009.

To Purchase: Visit our Ayden, Kinston, or New Bern Bible Bookstore or call toll free 1 (800) 849-3927

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries



*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us.
Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*

A RISING TIDE FOR CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

W. Burkette Raper

Where the tide comes in, it lifts all ships from ocean-going vessels to the smallest boats. The goal of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries is to be that kind of tide for Original Free Will Baptists—to help lift our churches to a level where they will not be marooned on a sandbar. Shallow water is dangerous, not only to ships but also to churches and Christian ministries. The call of our Lord is to “Launch out into the deep,” where the fish are (Luke 5:4).

To help our churches and the ministries of our Convention avoid the sandbars of shallow water, where the winds and waves of a secular age can batter them to shreds, the Foundation has two primary goals.

First, we want to encourage those called to Christian

ministry, both pastors and others, to equip themselves for the kind of service required for fostering growth and spiritual vitality in the work of the church. To achieve this goal, the Foundation provides scholarships, that otherwise might not be available, to assist those who seek to equip themselves to the highest level of their God-given potential.

Second, through the establishing of endowments, the Foundation can provide churches and ministries with financial resources to advance their work beyond what would otherwise be possible. To this end, consider some examples of endowments that have already been established.

Foundation Endowment For Churches, Ministries, and Scholarships For Church Ministries

- Mae Haddock—Established by Don Ribeiro, M.D., in memory of his mother, for the Youth Ministry of Ormondville Original Free Will Baptist Church (Greene County).
- Walter and Evelyn Reynolds—Established by the Reverend and Mrs. Reynolds for the benefit of Friendship Church (Greene County) in appreciation to the church for the privilege of serving as its pastor for thirty years.
- 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.
- Casey-McCormack—Established by a donor in memory of her husband and her parents to provide an income for special purposes to her church and scholarships for students preparing for the Christian ministry.
- Michael Rouse Family—Initiated by Mrs. Rouse in honor of her husband, to advance the Christian faith they share by providing scholarships for those preparing for Christian ministry at Mount Olive College, Campbell University or any accredited divinity school or seminary.
- Blended Fellowship Mission—A ministry to the deaf. “The deaf in the United States are a mission field, virtually unreached—only 7% of deaf adults have ever had the Gospel presented to them in their own language. Fewer than 2% call themselves Christian.”

The Fellowship is a ministry sponsored by the Cape Fear Conference and serves deaf people throughout eastern North Carolina and beyond. A major goal of the ministry is to establish a Christian school for the deaf. The Foundation is assisting in the development of an endowment that will provide this ministry with much-needed funding for the support and extension of its work—a ministry that is beyond the scope of most churches.

- Beulah D. and William Cecil Raper—An endowment initiated on the 100th anniversary of the birth of the parents of W. Burkette Raper, the Reverend James Earl Raper, Mary R. O'Donnell, and Catherine R. Davenport. Orphaned by the death of their father at an early age, the children wished to provide the home church of their parents (Little Rock in Wilson county) with a

benevolent fund that would have an annual income to assist needy families, with special consideration given to children.

- K. David and Teresa K. Hines—To provide scholarships for non-traditional students majoring in religion at any location of Mount Olive College. These scholarships will help fill a gap where only limited assistance is currently available.
- Michael R. Pelt—Established by friends and former students of Dr. Pelt in appreciation for his thirty years as chairman 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.

How do these and other endowed funds help lift the tide for the work of Original Free Will Baptists? Consider the following appreciation letters to the Silverthorne Family of Pamlico County:

Dr. Raper recently delivered a check to the college for the unrestricted use of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection which represented a distribution from the Silverthorne Family Endowment which is entrusted to the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries. On behalf of the Collection and from me personally, I wish to express sincere appreciation for this and future gifts we will receive because of the generosity and foresight of the family.

The operation of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection is vital to the preservation of the history of our denomination and has now served the Church and interested researchers for over fifty years. Your gifts and that of others have enabled us to assemble the best collection of materials on the history of the Free Will Baptists of North Carolina and the southeast anywhere. We are now enjoying our new and much expanded quarters in the new library addition.

I assure you and the family that I will be a good steward of the monies generated from your family endowment.

Gary Fenton Barefoot, Curator
Free Will Baptist Historical Collection
Moye Library, Mount Olive College

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC, is pleased to recognize a gift, received from the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, made possible by the Silverthorne Family Endowment.

I want to personally acknowledge with great appreciation this gift from the Silverthorne Family Endowment. It is always a humbling experience to see caring individuals such as Mrs. Mae Silverthorne Nunnally reach out to others. Our ministry has a rich heritage of caring for children and families in need.

The successes and achievements made at the Home today and in previous years would not have been possible without the support received from our Free Will Baptist churches, friends, and community. This gift will be used to carry on our important responsibility to children now and in the future.

Gary Lee
President/CEO
Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.

Through an endowment, not only is the work of a church or ministry strengthened, but the donor experiences joy and fulfillment in knowing that every year—both in their lifetime and beyond—they are helping to advance the work of God on Earth.

Endowment Goals of the Foundation

Because of the potential of endowed funds to lift the tide for our churches and ministries, the directors of the Foundation have set the following goals for endowed funds by the year 2013, the 100th anniversary of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists:

1. Endowed funds for ministries of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. \$2,000,000
 2. Endowment for "Scholarship Fund For Christian Ministry" 1,000,000
 3. Endowed Funds for churches:

1 church @	\$100,000	=	\$100,000	
2 churches @	50,000	=	100,000	
4 churches @	25,000	=	100,000	
50 churches @	10,000	=	500,000	
43 churches @	Various	=	200,000	
100 churches				1,000,000
 4. Endowment for the Foundation. 1,000,000
 5. Endowed funds for other Charitable and Educational Purposes. 2,000,000
- Grand total for endowments by the year 2013 \$7,000,000

Churches, ministries, individuals, and families interested in establishing endowed funds with the Foundation are invited to contact any member of the Board of Directors for information and assistance.

W. Burkette Raper, President

619 W. Main Street
 Mount Olive, NC 28365
 Phone: (919) 658-3855
 Email: wraper@moc.edu

Don Lassiter

132 Batten Road
 Selma, NC 27576-7564
 Phone: (919) 965-8040

Charles L. McLawhorn, Jr. Vice President

Attorney at Law
 McLawhorn & Associates
 P. O. Box 8188
 Greenville, NC 27835
 Phone: (252) 321-0473

Don Ribeiro, M.D., Treasurer

P. O. Box 485
 Maury, NC 28554-0485
 Phone: (252) 747-2438

The Rev. Walter Reynolds

4483 Friendship Ch. Rd.
 Farmville, NC 27828
 Phone: (252) 796-0606

The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood

203 Spence St.
 LaGrange, NC 28551
 Phone: (252) 717-4221

Mrs. Judy Thaanum

P. O. Box 145
 Vandemere, NC 28587
 Phone: (252) 745-3687



Gary F. Barefoot, (right) Curator of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College is shown receiving the first distribution for the Collection from the Silverthorne Family Endowment. Making the presentation is Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of the Foundation. Other beneficiaries of the Silverthorne Endowment include the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Camp Vandemere and Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Pamlico County, the ancestral home of the Silverthorne family. In making the distribution, Dr. Raper declared that in future years each of the beneficiaries would receive annually support for its work from the Endowment.

People & Events

POWHATAN CHURCH NEWS



Cape Fear Conference

Powhatan Church in Clayton hosted the annual Cape Fear Conference on November 11, 2008. The Rev. Ricky Warren brought the morning's message, and a catered meal was enjoyed in the fellowship hall. A short afternoon session concluded the business for the year. Pictured, from left to right, are Peyton Lee, Braxton Carter, and the Rev. David Charles Hansley at the Cape Fear Conference.

In Memoriam:

Firefighter Andrew Johnson (pictured at the right), a member of Powhatan, tragically lost his life following injuries sustained in an ATV accident on December 2. Please remember his wife Melissa and all of his family during this time. At age 25, Andrew had begun taking part in working with our young people and serving the church that had been such an important part of his grandmother's life (the late Margaret Johnson). Please remember the driver of the ATV (a fellow firefighter) and of the car that struck them, as well as the entire church family during this time of loss.



Woman's Auxiliary Breakfast Outing

The Woman's Auxiliary enjoyed a breakfast outing on November 22 to Cracker Barrel in Smithfield followed by a visit to the fall fundraiser at Hopewell. Many homemade items were bought as Christmas gifts or just for decorating for the holidays.

*Happy New Year
from Powhatan!*

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

Revival

Christ Free Will Baptist Church of Stokesdale, NC had a revival the week of November 9–12, 2008. The guest preacher, the Rev. Joe Paschal, preached each night of the revival.

Earl Brewer, a former member of The Harvesters Gospel Group, played the piano and sang the first night. His grandson, Justin Brewer, attends our church.

We had several churches to come each night and join us in the revival. Mr. Paschal preached the Word and God's Spirit flowed through our church. Mr. Paschal also sings and plays the guitar and the dobro. God has blessed him with many talents.



The Rev. Joe Paschal and his wife, Christine Paschal.



Earl Brewer and wife and their grandson, Justin Brewer



The Thanksgiving centerpiece "Horn of Plenty" made by an anonymous church member.

Thanksgiving

On Saturday November 22, 2008, we had a Thanksgiving supper. The Ladies Auxiliary donated the food, which consisted of the traditional turkey, ham, and all the trimmings along with lots of desserts.

We raised a generous amount of money for our building fund. The cost was all you can eat for \$5 a person. There was plenty of food but there were absolutely no leftovers this time. Everyone enjoyed this delicious meal, and the visitors there told me how much they enjoyed it and a low price for all that big meal. God gets all the thanks and praise for that wonderful supper. There was a lot of good fellowship among our church family that night. Thank you Lord for blessing us.

Brunswick Stew

The Ladies Auxiliary and men's brotherhood had a Brunswick stew on Saturday, November 1, 2008. There is a lot of preparation to make a stew. Church members donate the ingredients and we put the money that's made in the building fund. We have made at least one stew a year. The beef and chicken are cooked by volunteers on Friday before the stew. The stew is started Saturday morning in a 100-gallon pot about 4:30 A.M.

Curtis Stevens, our "master chef," has been cooking stew for almost 50 years. He has cooked a stew every year since 1959. Our church has had at least one stew every year since 1975 and Curtis Stevens has always been a main part of the church stew for 34 years. Thank you God for our church family, the effort and teamwork that God's people enjoy and share year after year.



Men's Brotherhood stirring stew in a 100-gallon pot. Pictured left to right: Bud Stevens, Mike Stevens, Ronald Tilley, Curtis Stevens, the Rev. David Atkins, Frankie Vernon, and Junior Purdy.



Stew helpers inside work preparation. Ladies Auxiliary and master chef Curtis. Pictured from left to right: Ann Tilley, Curtis Stevens, Nancy Stevens, Pat Hicks, and Nellie Hopper.

TARBORO FIRST CHURCH NEWS



The youth of the Tarboro First Free Will Baptist Church (with a little help from some older youth) presented a musical play "Where Jesus Is" for the congregation and guests after the homecoming service on Sunday, September 28, 2008. The cast consists of 25 performers, with some playing multiple characters. The public enjoyed a 2nd presentation on October 4, 2008. Joyce Hathaway and Rhonda Wells directed the presentation.

First Free Will Baptist Church in Tarboro, NC presented perfect attendance pins to James Beach for 57 years, Kim Davis, with children, Grayson and Cole for 2 years and Sophia Sisk, 1 year. Presenting pins was Larry Hathaway, (in back) Sunday School Superintendent.

FOLKSTONE CHURCH NEWS



A Folkstone Church group experienced a little winter wonderland, when they encountered snow on their trip to Cragmont on October 28, 2008.

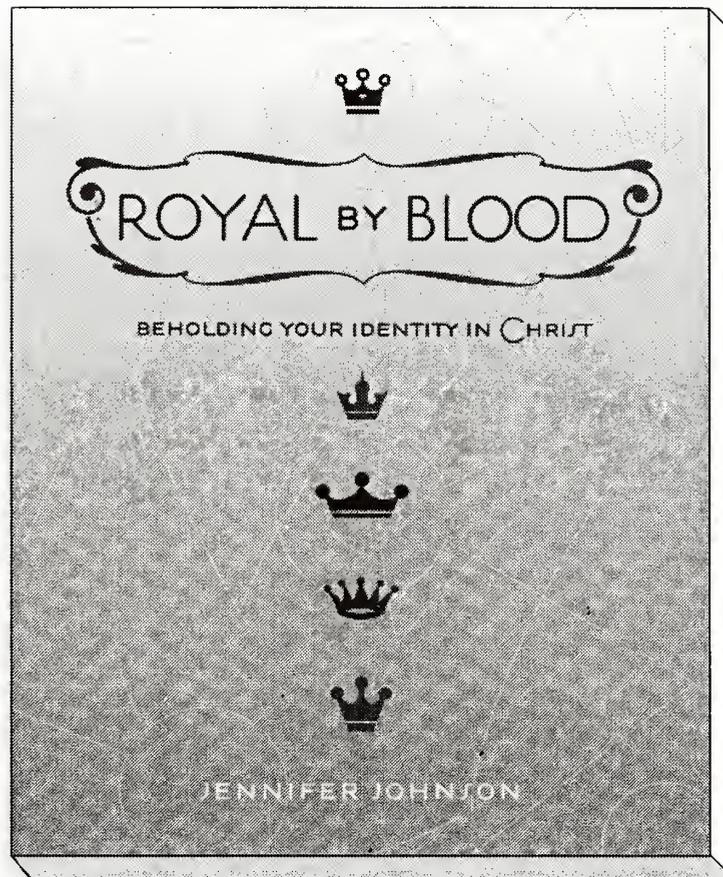
SMYRNA CHURCH HNEWS

Pictured left to right are Leslie Herring, Jr. who was just presented his 34th perfect attendance Sunday School pin; Graylon Noles, who received his 40th and Doris Godwin receiving her 48th year pin. Presenting the pins was Sunday School Superintendent Ricky Raynor (far right).

The presentations were made during Sunday School Promotions Sunday on September 8 at Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church in the Meadow community.

During the same service Kayla Hickok, Brittney Watson, and Nathan Raynor were promoted to the High School class and Brooke Parker was promoted to the Primary class.





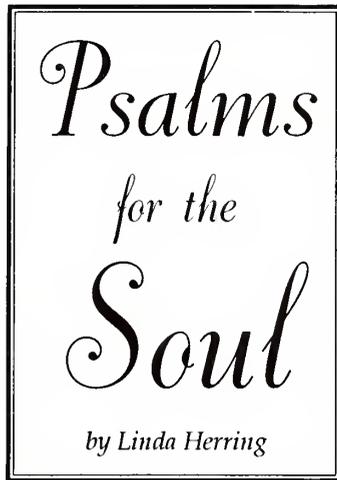
DISCOVER THE TRUE VALUE THE HEAVENLY KING PLACES ON HIS CREATION.

Welcome to a six-week study that will open your eyes to see mankind from God's perspective. Each week you will focus on the role of royalty and the role of a servant the believer is called to fulfill in God's family. Jennifer Johnson wants you to learn how to better relate to God, family, and friends based on the value God places on each life, including your own.

The topics discussed in the study include:

- 👑 Eternity in Our Heart
- 👑 Gracious Speech
- 👑 Living Life with A Right Perspective
- 👑 Abounding with Love
- 👑 An Increased Faith
- 👑 Being Pure

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 119:129–130 says “Your testimonies are wonderful therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of your words gives light Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm. It gives understanding to the simple.” Is God’s Word wonderful to you? As we read and study our Bibles, has the light of the Word changed us? The Bible says when we are born again, we become new creatures, old things have passed away and all things become new. In our service for the Lord, we may ask Him for some



token of His favor, His presence, or power to overcome some sin in our lives. God knows how to answer our request and He knows how to send encouragement our way. I experienced the encouragement from the Lord just this week. He sent a person who brought me a Word from the Lord and she did not even know she was an answer to my prayer. What a mighty God we serve. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.

If you have any comments or prayer requests, you can contact me at <lherring.theword@hotmail.com>.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHTS

(This article is a partial re-print from the front cover of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, May 18, 1955, Vol. 70–No. 20.)

In 1955, a \$10,000 improvement project at the Bethel Church, Pamlico County, was completed and formal dedication service was held. The members followed a rigid pay-as-you-go policy and there was no indebtedness accrued on the new structure.

During the renovation, a group of five Sunday school classrooms, made of modern frame construction, with a central heating plant, was built across the rear of the church. The entire auditorium was renovated including re-flooring, repainting, and a new ceiling. A new roof was also put on the entire building. The windows in the new Sunday school rooms were stained glass, and the church was making plans to add this type of windows in the auditorium.

At the time, Bethel Church had a total membership of about 140 members with about 75 being active. The Sunday School enrollment was around 65, with an average attendance of 60. The church was operating on a half-time schedule with the Rev. Elmo Harper as pastor. Mr. Harper was also serving Mt. Zion Church.

The Bethel Church was organized the first or second decade after the Civil War, and the present building is the second one to be erected. The first building stood on the old Bayard Woodard lot about half a mile from the present building.

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 3 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, November 13, 1957, Vol. 72–No. 45. The original article was entitled Kinston First FWB Church Moves Into New Building.)

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Kinston was organized during the year of 1900 by the Rev. Warden Lewis in the Lenoir County Courthouse with about twenty members.

The first building, as a house of worship, was built during the years of 1901 and 1902 on Tiffany and Chestnut Streets. This building served the congregation until the year of 1942, when the congregation purchased a new building.

The Rev. J. W. Alford was called as the first pastor. Facing a growth in membership of four hundred members and an average Sunday School attendance of two hundred and sixty, the congregation realized that their facilities and buildings were being overtaxed for space and growth, and they needed larger and better facilities and buildings.

The church purchased from the First Presbyterian Church of Kinston, property located on Lenoir and College Streets for the sum of \$50,000. The lot on which the church is located is a beautiful tree-shaded lawn. The exterior of the sanctuary is a beautiful, colonial design, brick structure. The interior is worshipful and inspiring. The educational building is a two-story, fifteen-room structure.

The congregation held its first service in the new location on Sunday, November 17, 1957.



Stoney Creek OFWB Church

Goldsboro, NC

will host their annual women's conference

REJUVENATE IN THE LORD

February 21, 2009 • 8:45 A.M.–2:30 P.M.

The keynote speaker for the day will be Carol Pittman from Daniels Chapel OFWB Church of Wilson County, NC. Our conference theme is "Releasing God's Power Through Faith, Hope, and Love" based on the Scripture from 1 Corinthians 13:13. This conference is planned to spiritually inspire women in renewal of mind, heart, and soul with their relationship with God.

Carol Pittman is an inspiring speaker. She is a graduate of Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) and has a BS degree in elementary education. She has taught in public school as well as a church affiliated pre-school. She retired two years ago as a Reading Recovery teacher in the Wilson County school system. She is married to Charles Pittman and together they have two adult children and four grandchildren.

The day will begin with a complimentary breakfast (continental) served in the church Fellowship Hall from 8:45–9:20 A.M. Registration will be in the Fellowship Hall during breakfast. Pre-registration is important in the planning of meals.

Cost of the conference is \$15. This includes a catered, hot lunch.

For more information, please contact the church office at (919) 735-3916, by e-mail at stoneycreek@ncrrbiz.com, or check the church's web page at www.stoneycreekchurch.net where you can download a reservation form.

Anyone needing a scholarship for the registration/lunch fee should contact the church. No one will be turned away for financial reasons.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PRESS RELEASES BARBARA J. MAYER'S POETRY BOOK, *PEACOCK* (2008)

Barbara J. Mayer, *Peacock*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 2008. 68 pages.

Poet Barbara J. Mayer has won the Sam Ragan Award from *Crucible*, the Archibald Rutledge Award from the Poetry Society of South Carolina, and First Prize in Light Verse from the Robert Ruark Foundation. Her new poetry book, *Peacock* (2008), is divided into four parts: *The Motor*, *Shadow Time*, *They Say Gods Invented This Game*, and *Peacock*.

In her first section, *The Motor*, Mayer recalls her childhood days at the lake, fishing with her Grandpa, sunning on the pier, watching baseball games, riding ponies, eating ice cream, secretly reading *Gone With the Wind*, and ice skating at O'Halloran Park.

In Mayer's second section, *Shadow Time*, she gives us poems of the night, driving into the city at "shadow time when all movement/becomes a leap of faith" (21). She explores in her poetry Miss Cioni teaching "high school sophomores" (23), "freshman orientation" where a "moon-faced boy" (24) thought of her as his mother. She writes about birds and the Vietnam Memorial.

In the third section, *They Say Gods Invented This Game*, Mayer explores bowling as a metaphor, North Carolina hurricanes, housework, her home at 940 Milton Bridge, and surgery.

In the fourth section, *Peacock*, Mayer gives us metaphors of roads with "unexpected hazards" (53), of the "pink flamingo" (55), the headless grandfather clock" (54), her "mother's broad-brimmed hat" (56), her father though dead making "amazing music" (57), and the peacock lifting its "dazzling fan" (66).

Barbara Mayer's poetry is rich with metaphors that stretch the eye and ear, giving us a sudden richness of both the outer and inner world of human experience.

For more information about Mount Olive College Press books, contact Sheila Benson, MOC Press Administrative Assistant at (252) 286-6851 or e-mail: sbenson@moc.edu.

2009 CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete ONE form per person (make copies as needed)
& mail with \$20 nonrefundable registration fee to:

Joan H. Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828
(Make all checks payable to Cragmont Woman's Conference.)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Church _____
Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

**PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS BELOW WHICH APPLY TO YOU.
ROOMS WILL BE ASSIGNED IN ORDER OF REGISTRATION RECEIVED.**

___ I NEED a downstairs room due to MEDICAL reasons. (Availability is limited.)

Roommates desired: _____

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___ New Lodge (3-4 per room)
___ Motel (2-4 per room) ___ Hollifield House (6-8)
___ Girls Dorm ___ Boys Dorm ___ Floyd House (8)

CHECK Conference for which you are registering. You may register for more than one.

___ April 17-19 ~ Morning Star ~ Speaker: Cathy Crumpler
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

___ June 10-13 ~ Day Spring ~ Speaker: Linda Herring
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$85 Balance Due upon arrival.)
Day Spring Conference also welcomes couples and families.

___ August 2 (Sunday)-August 7 (Friday) ~ Speaker: Teresa Allen
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$120 Balance Due upon arrival.)
___ I plan to ride the bus. Travel Day will be on Sunday PM. Bus—\$55.
___ I plan to go on side trip.
\$30 nonrefundable deposit enclosed.
There will be 2 afternoon trips to Asheville. (\$10 each) No deposit required.

___ September 18-20 ~ Speaker: Linda McCoy
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

All Conferences are open to all women regardless of membership or age.

These churches keep up-to-date with the latest through group subscriptions to

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Bethany Layman's League, Winterville, 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
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
Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Dilda's Grove Church, Fountain, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
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Randy Pausch, age 47 (1961–2008)

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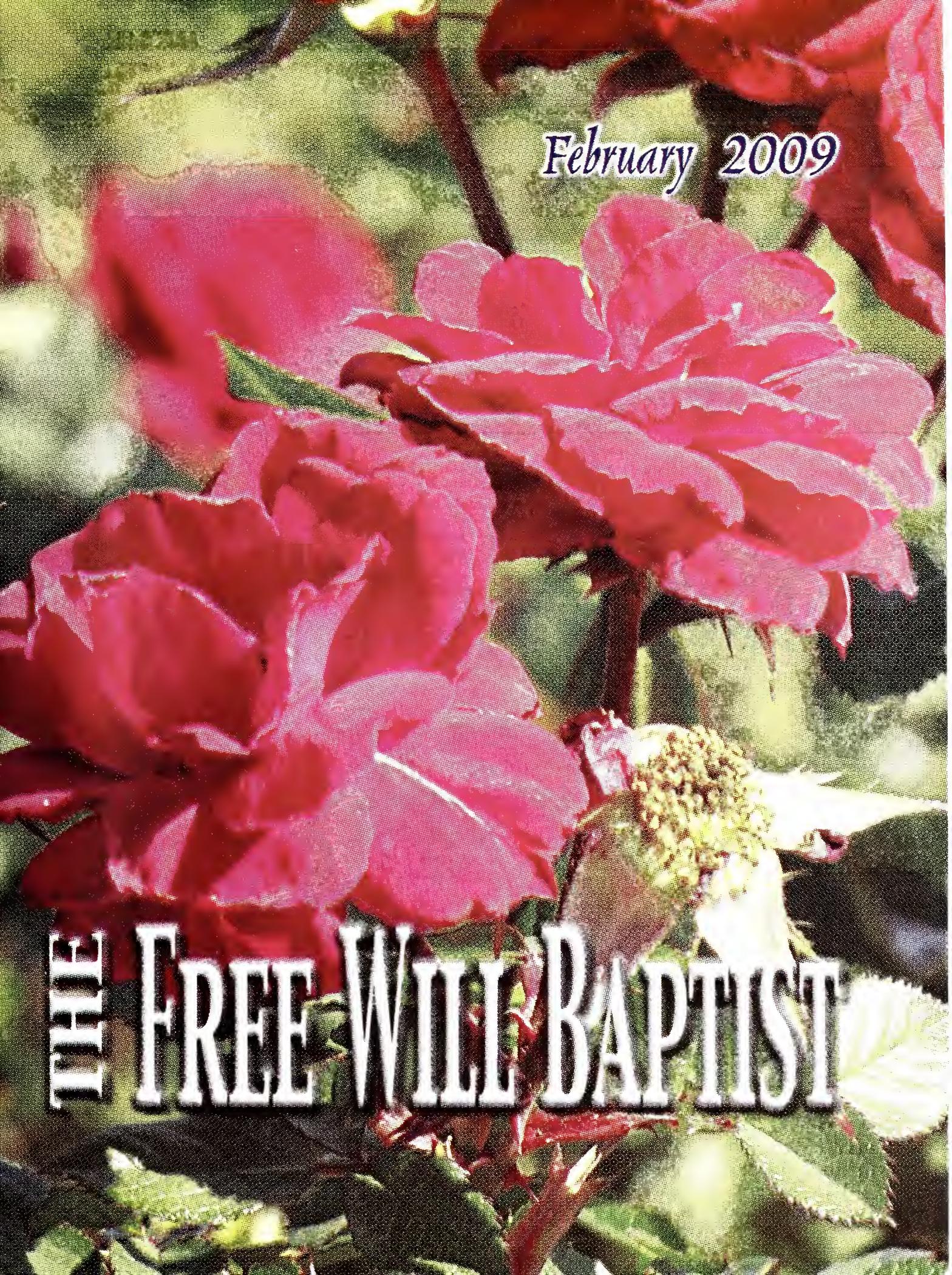
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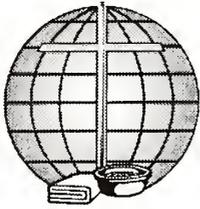
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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
MONTHLY PLANNER



February 2009

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY	GROUND HOG DAY					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
BOY SCOUT DAY	ARBOR DAY					VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	PRESIDENTS DAY				VBS Workshop, 7 P.M. @ FWB Press	VBS Workshop, 10 A.M. @ FWB Press FWB Church Night @ MOC—First game begins 5 P.M.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Transfiguration Sunday			ASH WEDNESDAY			

NOTE:

Dates of Lent: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays.

Color for Lent: Purple

COMING SOON:

March 1: 1st Sunday in Lent

March 8: Daylight Saving Time Begins

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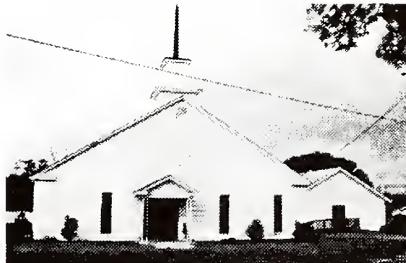
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POWER UP!

What a scarcity of news there would be if everybody obeyed the 10 Commandments!

GOD'S UNBEATABLE BAILOUT PLAN

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

Much has been written and spoken in the past few months relating to financial bail-outs. Some major financial businesses and major production giants have found themselves in dire financial straits. So the government has provided the enormous funds to supposedly get them over the hump, at least for a while, with the hope that the financial crisis will improve. The bailouts, in reality, serve as a loan in which someone has to pay the price. As the old saying goes, "nothing is really free." For example, free lunches are paid for by someone. Charitable contributions are made possible because someone has given donations to make them possible. As with practically all government run programs, etc., someone pays the price to make it possible, and ultimately the burden falls upon the taxpayer—the average hard-working citizen.

God's unbeatable bailout plan, however, does not function based on man's scheme of things. No greed is involved on His part; however, much of the present financial crisis exists because of man's greed—his desire for more money, for that which is bigger and more expensive.

The Christian surely knows about God's plan. It is expressed so eloquently in what has been termed the "Golden Text of the Bible," John 3:16: "For God so love the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God has paid the price for our salvation. The apostle Paul profoundly expressed it in 1 Corinthians 6:20: "For ye are bought with price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

The Gift of salvation through Jesus Christ is free to all who receive Him. God gave His Son, and His Son willingly came to this earth for the sole purpose of laying down His life for lost mankind. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

His unbeatable plan delivers the soul from the bondage of sin, creates a new creature in Him, and assures us of an eternal abode with Him in Heaven. You can't find a better plan.



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Living Your Faith

According to The Epistle of James

(This is part two of a five part series on the book of James.)

by Nina Grace Register

Called "James the Just" by his countrymen, James was known as a very good, fair-minded man. During the ten or so years he served the Jerusalem church, he met Paul, Barnabas, and other converted Jews. After Paul's conversion, Barnabas took him to Jerusalem "to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way...And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem" (Acts 9:27, 29). Scofield tells us in footnote 4 (James 9:26) that "the apostles of Acts 9:27 were Peter and James, the Lord's brother." At times Paul and James seem to contradict each other, but on closer examination we see that they are speaking to different audiences, and saying the same things in a different way. Though Paul's ministry was with the Gentiles, James continued to win the Jews and help them find a smooth pathway into Christianity.

CHAPTER TWO

¹My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. ²For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; ³And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: ⁴Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? ⁵Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? ⁶But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? ⁷Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

⁸If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: ⁹But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

¹⁴What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²²Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James cautioned against partiality in the church. It is human nature to prefer the upstanding, outstanding, well-dressed person and draw away from the obviously poor, dowdy, ragged person. Christ, however, did not cater to the rich or ignore the poor. He treated all people equally. Teaching that Jews and Gentiles who have accepted Christ as Savior are the same in His sight, Paul wrote, "Wherefore, receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of

God" (Romans 15:7). We can accept people as they are if we remember "There is neither Jew nor Greek,... bond nor free,...male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). There should be no class distinctions or preferential treatment among God's family. However,—

The early churches were patterned after the synagogues. Ushers were responsible for seating people according to their rank, so those who

practiced the same trade sat together (The women, of course, were not allowed to mingle with the men but had their own place). Cliques are easily formed in such a situation, and the church may feel more like a club than a house of worship. When good-looking, desirable people visit, someone may whisper, "I hope they join. They'd be a real asset to us." On the other hand, if the visitors do not look desirable, someone may whisper, "Who are they? I don't like the way they look. They're not our kind of people."

This kind of partiality cannot be pleasing to Christ any more than it was to James. As Christians and followers of Jesus, it is our duty to accept them and get to know them, for His sake, instead of judging them on their outside appearance. Warren Wiersbe says, "Christian love simply means treating others the way the Lord treats you and doing it in the power of the Spirit" (*With the Word*, 825).

James speaks of testing our faith by our works. This is not a contradiction of Paul's teaching, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Faith is between us and God, and God knows our faith. Ordinary people may not understand our faith. But they can see our works, a testimony to our faith in Christ. James is not teaching that we can work our way into salvation. He is teaching that if we say we are saved and do nothing

to show it, it is "dead," useless, non-productive and does nothing to foster our growth in Christ or to help other people. Our works prove to the world that our faith is real.

As further evidence that actions prove our faith, James cites Abraham's obedience to God in being willing to sacrifice his only son, through whom God had promised to bless the world. Rahab also was saved by trusting God, and she proved it by aiding the spies, rescuing them from certain death if discovered by her people.

James was speaking to people who had to guard against being outwardly religious and doing good works for show, and who at the same time had to prove their religion by doing good works. If our heart is right with God (our faith in Him is sincere), we will be happy to serve Him because we love Him. That love will be followed by the good works that prove our faith and trust in Him as we serve our fellow man. Our compassion will be more than words such as "May God bless you with food, fuel, and clothing," but we will feel compelled to provide the food, warmth, and clothes. Christ said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16; emphasis added.) It is our duty and pleasure to obey Him.

Living Your Faith

The Ordination of Josh Whitfield (December 13, 2008)

by The Reverend Adrian Grubbs

1 Corinthians 1:1-7 is one of my favorite Bible passages for three primary reasons.

First, in his opening statement Paul describes the nature of his calling: he was called of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. His calling did not come from human authorities; his calling came from God.

Secondly, verse 2 speaks of the nature of the church. The Greek word here for church is *ecclesia*, which literally means "those who are called out." God calls people out of the world and into the fellowship of Christ. He sanctifies them, i.e., He sets them apart for a holy purpose.

In my classes for new converts I like to use an illustration from my childhood. In our house we had two sets of dishes. One set was used every

day at every meal. There were eight of us children, and we all learned to wash dishes at an early age. One cleared the table, one washed, one rinsed, one dried, and another put the dishes away. Over the years those everyday dishes took quite a beating. The floral pattern faded, the dishes became chipped, and from time to time one would crack. We continued to use the cracked dish until it was beyond repair; but, of course, the replacement did not match the others. Those everyday dishes showed the wear and tear from constant use.

There was another set of dishes that we children were not allowed to wash. They were special dishes reserved for special occasions and special guests. You know about those kind of dishes; most of the time they are on display in a special cabinet.

Many people, when they come into the church, think that they are like those special dishes. They think God has set them apart to look special—and seldom used. But they clearly misunderstand their calling. God calls us out of the world and into His church; He sets us apart for a holy purpose; and that holy purpose is daily service. A Christian who is in the service of the Lord will become chipped and tarnished, bruised and scarred; but His love and grace soothes and heals that we may continue in service to the King of Kings.

God calls people out of the world and into the body of Christ; He sanctifies them, and they are called saints. And He sends them back out into the world to BE the people of God. Another thing about the nature of the church is that the local church does not stand alone; it is joined together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.

Thirdly, I like this text because of the greeting in verse 3. The greeting Paul uses here, and in most of his letters, is not our customary greeting, "Hello, how are you?" It is not the casual greeting, "Hey, how's it going?" Nor is it flippant, "Wha's up, Dude." In Paul's greeting the words "grace" and "peace" are both rich in meaning for those who belong to the Christian fellowship. And so, Paul says, Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not only a letter from Paul, but he is passing on a word from the Lord.

Let us focus on that first point that Paul's call is from God—called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

In most of his letters Paul begins with an affirmation of his calling. His calling did not come from the Apostles in Jerusalem, and he did not choose the ministry for himself. Paul was called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

The call of God came to Saul on the Damascus Road. He was on a mission; he carried papers from the authorities in Jerusalem authorizing him to enter the synagogues in Damascus to arrest "any who belonged to the Way" (Acts 9:2 NRSV) and to bring them back to Jerusalem for trial. On the way, before he reached Damascus, he was suddenly blinded by a light from Heaven. The Lord instructed him to

go into Damascus and to wait for his instructions. In the meantime, the Lord spoke to Ananias about Saul, "...he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel" (Acts 9:15 NRSV). Ananias was sent to lay hands on him, and Saul's sight was restored. He was baptized and was filled with the Holy Spirit. He became known as Paul, and he began to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God.

Not everyone who is called to the Gospel Ministry is blinded by a light from Heaven. Each individual's call is unique, but that call is no less certain.

We have before us today another who is called of God. Josh, from this day on, never forget that your calling is from God. Your calling did not come from this board of ordination. Your calling did not come from the church treasurer who writes your check. Your calling did not come from the deacons with whom you will be working closely. Your calling is from God.

We Original Free Will Baptists believe that God calls individuals into the Gospel Ministry. When a person comes to us, the Ministerial Examining Board, to be examined for license, we always ask about his or her calling. However, it is not our prerogative to question that call; but we do need an affirmation that that call is of God.

In The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage) on page 83, "Section 2: The Ministry," we have this statement:

Having recognized that God calls His people into His service, no member shall take unto himself the public Ministry of the Gospel unless he feels sure he is Divinely called to that Ministry. Each individual's Divine calling is unique and different.

Josh assures us that he is convinced that God has called him. He was not called to preach by his dad. He was not called to the ministry by his church. His call is from God. And we are here today to set him apart for the Gospel Ministry by the laying-on-of-hands, as prescribed in the Scriptures and in our Articles of Faith, ...because he is called of God!

Prayer Is A Lifeline

by Celia Hales

In the past year I have been awakening in the middle of the night, staying awake for varying periods of time. I suppose that my age has something to do with it, but I have been looking deeper for an explanation, perhaps a metaphysical explanation. I have read from a number of writers with a spiritual message that they too awaken early and spend that time with God. So that is what I have been trying to do.

The “trying” hasn’t been hard; God is very near, and except in dark nights of the soul, I have always found closeness to God in my prayer times. I am blessed by that warmth of spiritual consolation that I usually feel, and in that habit of mind, it is easy to feel gratitude for my many blessings. Gratitude is a key that unlocks the heart to prepare for God’s inner messages—this I have long found in my experience. I did not just come up with this truth; I read it from spiritual messengers in Scripture as well as modern guides. It works.

From an expression of gratitude, I move easily into prayers of petition. I know that God is my Friend, and that He is there for me. “Asking” is the most elemental form of prayer, and He understands, I believe, that in our limited state on Earth, regardless of our many blessings, we do have very basic needs without which happiness becomes very problematic.

And then there is silence in prayer—the “listening” part of my prayer life. I do believe that God speaks in silence—the still, small voice that guides and directs my life if I am sufficiently open to guidance. This is, in fact, my favorite

time in prayer. It is easy to move into reverence in the early morning, with the birds singing outside the windows and the rest of the world just barely waking up.

This brief message would not be complete without telling you how I came to depend so much on prayer. I was just 24, and I revisited my college and one of my professors. It had been almost three years since I had seen him, and I found him a changed man—in the good sense. When I had been a student, he had seemed to me to be unsteady in his emotional reactions, tentative perhaps. He oscillated between confidence and insecurity, to my mind. But in seeing him again, I noticed that he was very steady and solid.

I exclaimed to him, “You’re solid as a rock! How did you get that way?”

He responded with the most powerful sermon I have ever heard. It was only one word. He replied, “Prayer.”

And I nodded my head, for in that moment, and in that time and place, I understood.

I have returned in memory to those words many times over the years. I even wrote about this crystallized moment in *The Free Will Baptist* many years ago. Now, 35 years later, this message of prayer as a steadying influence has stayed with me. And I am glad to have the opportunity to share the story once again.

If life seems to be tougher than it ought to be, give prayer power a chance. It will not fail you for long, and sooner or later, it is always successful.

You Shall Be Joyfull!

by Celia Hales

My favorite psalm is Psalm 100, which begins, “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.” It is disconcerting just now to contemplate this injunction to be joyful, because the Sunday School teacher who taught this verse in her class in Zebulon, North Carolina, in the early sixties has just died after a long and fruitful life. Her name was Sarah Ihrie, and the tribute appearing in *The Raleigh News & Observer* ran three-fourth’s of a column.

But Mrs. Ihrie would not want the people whose lives she touched to be sad now. She was a devout Christian, a wife and mother in the midst of her many outside activities. Psalm 100 became important to me because she bade us high school students to read the entire book of Psalms, select the one that appealed to us the most, and commit it to memory. I did that, finding Psalm 100, and Mrs. Ihrie blessed my life by this assignment.

The psalm goes on, “Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the

LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves....”

I think we are particularly prone to forget this latter part—that God made us—when we are ruminating over a worry or are even in despair. Would the God who made us leave us to fend for ourselves, or would He be closer to us always than our very breath?

Philosophers of various ages have speculated on a distant God who just set the universe in action, and then removed Himself from the scene, but this is not the God in whom I believe.

I can be joyful even as I hear of my Sunday School teacher’s death because I knew her well enough to know that she walked with God every step of the way. She led us in those classes so long ago by gentle urgings—such as memorizing Scripture—and by example. I know that she lives on in another, better realm, reaping the rewards of a life well-lived. Could any of us hope for more?



Sunday School Ministry

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

8:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE
RAPER HALL

MOUNT OLIVE, N.C.

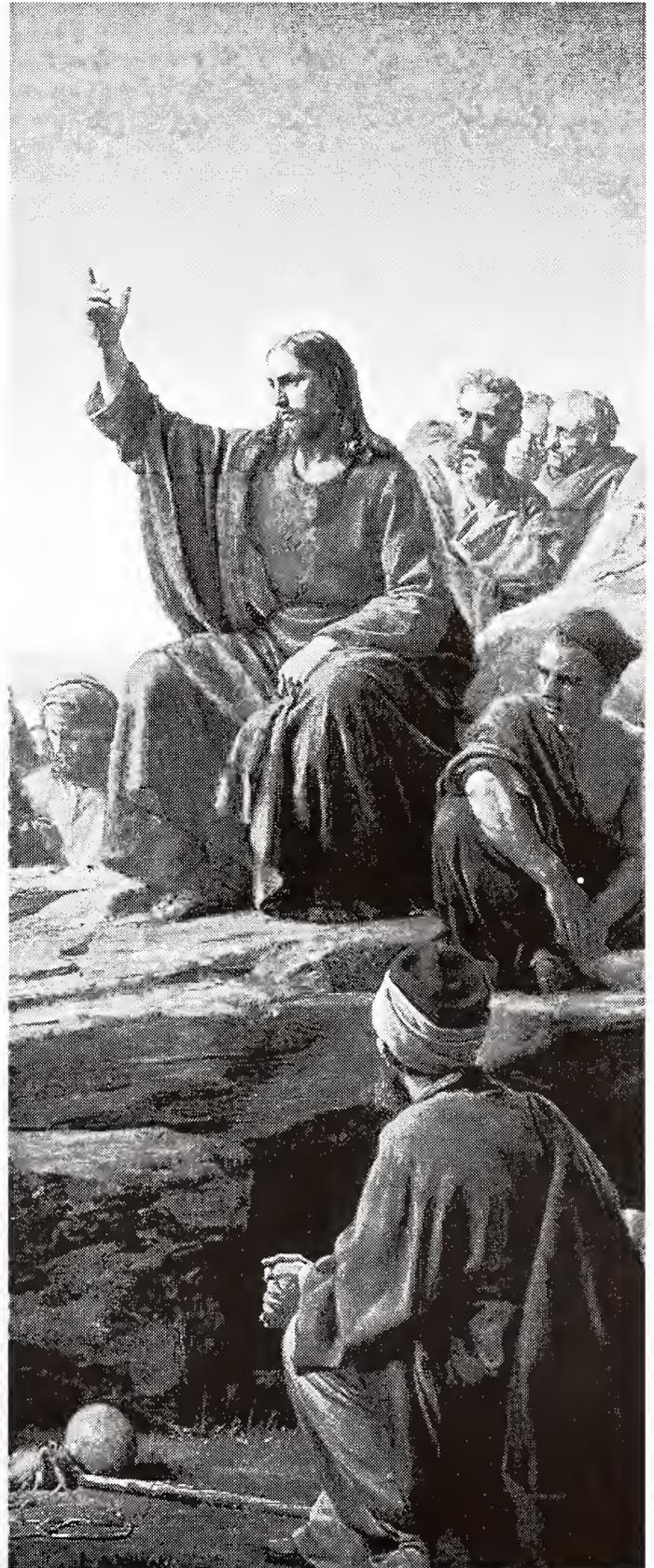
Theme:

*Teaching and Learning
for All With Enthusiasm*

- Workshops and Activities for All Ages
- 40 Different Opportunities for Learning Activities.

Special Notice:

The registration fee(s) to cover all materials and food are: \$5 per person ages 4–12, \$15 per person ages 13 and up, or a maximum cost of \$60 per church.



Sixty-Eighth Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Institute

Saturday, March 7, 2009

“Teaching and Learning for All With Enthusiasm”

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

8:00 A.M.– 9:00 A.M.	Registration, Mix, Mingle, Eat, and View Displays
9:00 A.M.– 9:40 A.M.	Opening Assembly, Directions, and Awards (in <i>Raper Hall Auditorium</i>)
9:50 A.M.–10:50 A.M.	Workshop Session #1
11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.	Workshop Session #2
12:00 P.M.– 1:30 P.M.	LUNCH—Murphy Center, Dedicated Exhibit Time, Talk to Vendors and Leaders
1:40 P.M.– 2:40 P.M.	Workshop Session #3
2:50 P.M.– 3:50 P.M.	Workshop Session #4
3:55 P.M.– 4:30 P.M.	Closing Session in the Raper Hall Auditorium (<i>Look for a surprise!</i>)

The children, ages 4–12, will gather in Murphy Center when they arrive where they will have a small breakfast followed by study sessions, games, food, arts and crafts focused on God’s Word. They will have different opportunities to discover God’s love through discovery. They will have a day of fun and learning with Ms. Gail Heath and her daughters, Megan and Miranda. 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 4 workshop sessions in Raper Hall. If parents are needed by the children during the day, the instructors will contact Mrs. Dudley. The teenagers, ages 13 and above, are encouraged to participate in the workshops in Raper Hall in order to understand how they can be of service in their churches. Come and have a GREAT time in the Lord!

WORKSHOPS

— SESSION 1 —

A Brief Look at the Book of Luke

This workshop, led by Dr. De Eakes, will provide the participants with a ready reference for the book of Luke in preparation for the Sunday School lessons found in the Uniform Lesson Series during the Spring of 2009.

Basic Understanding of Multi-media

This workshop, led by James Lewis of Worship Films, Inc., will provide the participants with an understanding of the use of projectors, computers, software, etc. needed if your church is thinking or is already using multi-media to enhance your worship experience.

Activities for Youth Ministry

This workshop, led by Cathy Crumpler, will provide the participants with an array of different types of activities that anyone involved with the youth of your church could use.

Play-Doh People

What This Teaches About Mentoring—This session, led by Ron Hunter, you will learn that Play-Doh is more than a toy for kids. The molding and shaping of this bright colored substance teaches us about mentoring. Because none of us have arrived in this life, we can all improve in this life. How better to do this than to have our life shaped by mentors? But how do we select them and what are their responsibilities? Come have fun while we begin the journey to better shape our lives. Taken from the book, Toy Box Leadership, you will enjoy this fun session — toys included.

A Basic Understanding of Autism

This workshop, led by Rhonda Jones, will provide the participants with a multidimensional look at autism, how it affects an individual and the person’s family at home, school, and church.

**Equipping the
Congregation to Provide
Emotional First-Aid**

This workshop, led by Dr. Eddie Moody, is about how to prepare congregations to help those who are struggling with emotional problems like grief, depression, and addictions.

Vision Infusion

This workshop, led by Dr. John McMurphy, will help us catch a glimpse of what God desires to do through you and your ministry. It deals with developing and establishing a vision with staying power.

**A Preview of Gospel
Light's VBS for 2009**

This session, led by Ron Richardson, will provide the participants with a look at SouRock Kids Camp for 2009. The leader will share ideas for implementation at your site.

**How the Church Can
Build Bible Literacy
Part 1**

This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will help the participant identify and address the problem of building Bible literacy with specific methods and tools. In this session, you will look at crash Bible courses and a life passage plan.

**An Overview of
Standard Publishing's
VBS for 2009**

This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, will provide the participant a dynamic look at Studio Go! This game show format should be most interesting to young people.

Sanctuary Etiquette

This workshop, led by David Charles Hausley, will provide the participants with an understanding of the proper look of a church's sanctuary. It will focus around the question, "What does your church's sanctuary say to visiting guests?"

**The New VIEW for
OFWB Woman's
Auxiliary Members**

This workshop, led by Becky Jo Sumner and others, will provide the participants with an in-depth look at the new Manual of Methods for the Woman's Auxiliary. This is a MUST for present and future auxiliary members.

— **SESSION 2** —

**A Brief Look at
the Book of Ezekiel**

This workshop, led by Ray Wells, will provide the participants with a brief overview of the book of Ezekiel since some of the Sunday School lessons from the Uniform Lesson Series in the Spring of 2009 will be based on this Old Testament book.

Personal Soul Winning

This workshop, led by Tim Copeland and others, will focus on the rationale for personal soul winning and different methods of implementation. In this day of anxiety, frustration, and confusion, more and more people have need of a personal walk with God. The presenters will help you understand how you can overcome your fear of talking to people about their soul.

Balloon Sculpture

In this workshop, led by Sarah Crumpler and others, the participants will learn how the use of balloons can enhance the ministry for children and adults. Come and learn how to make the sculptures.

**How to Develop
a D6 Family**

In this workshop, led by Ron Hunter, the participants will look at the question, "What is a D6 family?" It is a family that understands the power in following the direction God gave to parents in Deuteronomy 6 (D6) and is willing to take the responsibility in transferring spiritual values to their kids. It is not the job of the church, although families have delegated it to the church. God says it is the parent's job, and you are capable of making it happen not only in your family but also in others in your church.

**A Basic Understanding
of Autism**

This workshop, led by Rhonda Jones, is a repeat from Session 1.

**Helping People
Overcome Grief and Loss**

In this workshop, led by Dr. Eddie Moody, will address the needs of those who experience a sudden trauma or death of a Loved one. Concrete steps that can be taken to help people overcome will be examined.

Vision Diffusion

This workshop, led by Dr. John McMurphy, looks at three aspects. They are: 1) Dissemination of your vision requires a God ordained timing; 2) An unrestrained giving of yourself to the goal and sharing it with others; 3) An expression of extravagant faith in God's ability to do His work!

Creating a 5-Star Nursery	<i>This workshop, led by Ron Richardson, will help the participants understand the words of Elmer Towns who said, "The nursery is the 'handshake of the church.'" This workshop will give you tips and guidelines on creating a quality nursery. The workshop will help you organize your nursery with a safe, clean environment, and equip caregivers for effective teaching of babies and toddlers about God and His Word, and make a connection to the home.</i>
How the Church Can Build Bible Literacy Part 2	<i>This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will provide the participants who use the Standard Lesson Commentary a coordinated, comprehensive strategy for implementation of the Uniform Lesson Series.</i>
Energizing Children's Ministry in the Smaller Church	<i>This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, will provide the participants with an understanding of the needs of children in today's society and how the church can effectively rise to meet those needs. This is a MUST for anyone working with children in the small church who have wondered, "Just what do I do now?"</i>
Ushering is More Than Taking Money	<i>This workshop, led by David Charles Hansley, will provide those people who have the role of usher in a church with an understanding of their full duties. This is an extremely important matter because the ushers present the first impression of a caring church to guests who come for Sunday School or Morning Worship.</i>
The New VIEW of the Standard of Achievement Chart for the Woman's Auxiliary	<i>This workshop, led by Becky Jo Sumner and others, will share how the new Standard of Achievement Chart differs from the old one that has been used for years.</i>

— SESSION 3 —

Preserving the Past Through Scrapbooking	<i>In this workshop, led by Brandy Whitley, the participants will have a hands-on at how to use the scrapbook as a tool for preserving the activities of one's family and church. If you have already started a scrapbook, please bring it to the session.</i>
Finding God in the Coffee Shop	<i>This workshop, led by Brian Everette, will provide the participants with an understanding of the needs of the young adult, ages 18–30. He will use the Faith Café Curriculum, which is designed specifically for this age group. This is the group that needs a great deal of attention in our churches if we are to keep them in the way of the Lord.</i>
Weebles: Getting to Success Through Failure	<i>There is a classic commercial that has a jingle of kids singing, "Weebles wobble but they don't fall down." The truth is they do fall down, but they get back up every time. How can we learn from these enduring egg shaped toys to reach success through failure? What can God do with our valleys that He cannot do with our mountaintops? This fun, informative, and enjoyable session, led by Ron Hunter, is taken from the book, Toy Box Leadership.</i>
Men in Ministry	<i>In this workshop, led by Roy Wetherington, the participants will understand how important it is for the men in the church to rise to the occasion and involve themselves in the full ministry of the church. Too often, we find ourselves involved in more 'in-reach' than 'outreach.' We MUST get involved in order to be motivated, mature Christians.</i>
Helping People Break the Addiction Cycle	<i>This workshop, led by Dr. Eddie Moody, is about how to help those who are struggling with physical addictions (alcohol and other drugs) as well as other addictions and problems (e.g., gambling, pornography, etc.).</i>
Facing the Legal Aspects of Death	<i>This workshop, led by Dr. Burkette Raper and others, will provide help in understanding the process of preparing a Last Will and Testament, when to file the proper papers and other topics after a person has passed on.</i>
Play Is Our Business	<i>Play for preschoolers is work. Words take on meaning as children manipulate and connect the world around them through their senses. This workshop, led by Ron Richardson, will help you learn how to use a variety of learning activities such as dramatic play, art, blocks, home living, and nature with preschoolers and how to connect God's Word to their world.</i>

**Go Multi-media With
the Standard Lesson
Commentary—Part 1**

This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will assist those who are using the Standard Lesson Commentary with an understanding of the importance of the full utilization of the CD that goes with each lesson.

**Making Middle School
Ministry Simple**

This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, will help the participants remove their fear of working with middle school children. Their age group can be difficult at times, but the leader will provide some practical helps in understanding these children and how to minister to them.

**What Do Robert's Rules
of Order Have to Do
With Anything?**

This workshop, led by Bnddy Sasser and Tim Heath, will provide you with the proper methods of effectively conducting business meetings at the church. It will be an interactive session. It is a MUST for any licensed minister and for an ordained minister who needs a refresher.

**Building Women of
Integrity Through
Service to God, Family,
Community, and Country**

This workshop, led by Linda Classen and Patti Garibay, will show us how the American Heritage Girls organization provides great opportunities for girls to enjoy outdoor adventure, patriotic and religious programs, skills and leadership training, community service, and a great sense of belonging. Come and learn how to help girls strengthen their own lives and the lives of their friends through this organization.

— SESSION 4 —

**Preserving the Past
Through Scrapbooking**

This workshop is a repeat from Session 3.

**Finding God
in the Coffee Shop**

This workshop is a repeat from Session 3.

**Rubik's Cube:
Ethics That Affects the
Whole Organization**

Solving the cube is no easy task. Each turn effects the other side of the cube and so does every action we make in our churches and organizations. Ethics are part of our testimony both individually and as part of the group. Come to this workshop, led by Rod Hamter, and see how we need to take our ethics to a whole new solution. This session is taken from the book, Toy Box Leadership. Come and enjoy this fun session — toys included.

Biker Prison Ministry

This workshop, led by Tim Webber, will provide some valuable information concerning the implications of the ministry to those who are behind bars for whatever reason. The Christian Motorcycle Association is doing a commendable work and Brother Tim Webber is working through Home Missions to implement evangelism through a different medium. He will share some astounding statistics with you.

**When Getting Down
Gets Dangerous**

What is real depression and how can we help people who experience it get through it? This workshop, led by Dr. Eddie Moody, is a MUST for anyone because depression knows no age limits or boundaries and can strike at anytime in one's life.

Vision Fusion

This workshop, led by Dr. John McMurphy, will provide the participants with an understanding of the merging of adjacent perspectives into a single vision. Our reality lines up with God's reality. It will also show how being combined into one body with a singular purpose helps in the alignment of our vision with God's.

**Go Multi-media With
the Standard Lesson
Commentary—Part 2**

This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will show the participants how to fully utilize the free web site downloads and other web resources to enhance the use of the Standard Lesson Commentary.

**Connecting Kids
With Heartshapers**

This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, shows specific ways the Heartshaper Curriculum connects kids with dynamics that transform their hearts. Included will be Bible stories, unit memory passages, Bible skills development, parent take-home letters, follow-up learning activities at home, etc. With this curriculum you will be exposed to a multitude of methods for reaching the younger children.

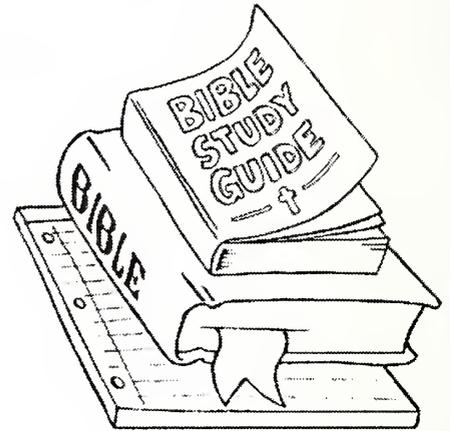
**Using Black Light
Ministry**

This workshop, led by Sarah Crumpler and others, will provide the participants with a look at a different form of ministry to reach our youth. It is uniquely interesting and fun to implement.

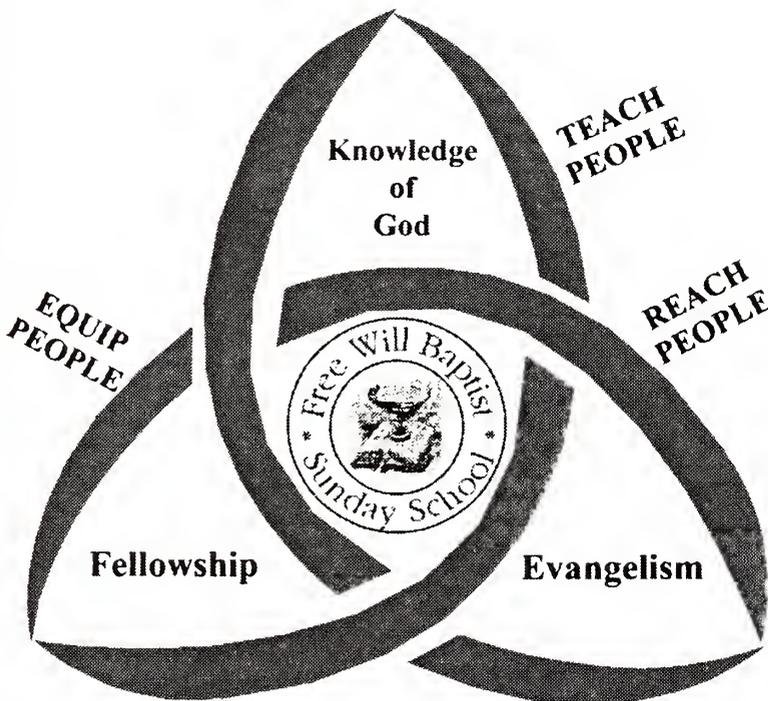
Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Rally Day

THEME:

*Teaching and Learning
With Enthusiasm!*



† SUNDAY



† FEBRUARY 22, 2009

† CELEBRATE SUNDAY
SCHOOL

† RECEIVE A SPECIAL
OFFERING FOR THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
MINISTRY



A GREAT YEAR AT PLARIDEL ABORLAN, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Jimmy Ombang, Pastor

Plaridel is the largest barangay (community) in Aborlan, located along the North-South Highway. We are continually ministering the Word of God, with the help of our leaders and youth. This past year was a fruitful year for the Plaridel Free Will Baptist Church. Among the many activities of the church were the following:

The Annual South District Conference was held there with the theme, "Working Together for God's Kingdom." Various speakers shared messages on this topic and greatly encouraged all who were in attendance. This meeting was especially meaningful to the church, since it was the first time the conference was held here.

The church also hosted a Pastor and Youth Fellowship for workers from different denominations in the area. The purpose of this meeting was to promote unity, pray together, and strengthen one another. The church provided merienda and lunch.

One of the highlights of the year was a baptismal service for fourteen young people who accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. I officiated at this wonderful service held at the beautiful Estrella Falls near Narra. The whole congregation attended this service to express their thankfulness to the Lord for these young souls.

Please keep Plaridel in your prayers. Our desire is to grow for the Lord. To God be the glory for His faithfulness!



Annual South District Conference.



Pastor's and Youth Fellowship.



Young ladies using their taubourines during the worship service.



Baptism at Estrella Falls.



Congregation of Plaridel.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS
ANNUAL TELETHON
TELETHON SUNDAY
MARCH 22, 2009**

Theme: "Our Chief Business"

Making Christ known to the World



THEME VERSE:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15

GOAL 2009: A total of \$225,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.



**Since reaching the world with the Gospel is our chief business,
this goal should easily be reached.**

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

CALL

IN YOUR SPECIAL OFFERING ON MARCH 22, TELETHON SUNDAY BETWEEN 1:30 AND 5:00 P.M.

252.746.4963

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT
ON TELETHON SUNDAY.**

**PRAYER GOAL MARCH 22, 2009:
All churches joining together in united
prayer during the Morning Worship Hour
in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY**

**DFWB
INTERNATIONAL
FOREIGN MISSIONS
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
252.746.4963**



Mount Olive College

OPPORTUNITIES AT MOC

FAFSA Day will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2009 from 9 A.M. to noon in Raper Hall at Mount Olive College. Continuing and future MOC students wishing to complete the free application for federal student aid should bring their tax returns and W-2s for tax year 2008. Financial aid counselors will be present to assist students and their families in the completion of the FAFSA worksheet and its processing online. This event is sponsored statewide by College Foundation, Inc. To register or for more information visit <www.cfnc.org/fafsaday> or call (866) 866-CFNC.

The Admissions Office at Mount Olive College (day program) is accepting applications for Summer school and Fall 2009. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> or call Tim Woodard, director of admissions at (800) 653-0854 for a paper application and other information.

One night a week programs are starting at Mount Olive locations near your home. MOC's two year associate degree program, called Heritage (HP), requires completion of high school or equivalent and that the applicant be twenty-one years or older. The minimum admissions requirement for MOC's upper level programs in religion (MRM), early childhood (ECE), management and organizational development (MOD), criminal justice and criminology (CJC), healthcare management (HCM), and management of information systems (MIS) are 55 semester hours of transferable college credit, 12 hours of which must be general education (3 semester hours must be English Comp I or equivalent). Check the schedule below for start dates by location. All classes begin at 6 P.M. and last until 10 P.M.

Mount Olive Evening College 1-800-NEW GOAL

HP begins 2/5/09 and 5/21/09

ECE begins at JCC on 2/5/09

HCM begins 3/10/09

MRM begins 4/20/09

MOD begins 5/18/09

MIS begins 5/28/09

MOC at New Bern 1-800-NEW GOAL

HP begins 4/20/09 and 7/14/09

CJC begins 4/28/09

MRM begins 5/11/09

HCM begins 5/19/09

MOC at RTP 1-800-NEW GOAL

CJC begins 4/28/09

ECE begins 5/19/09

MOD begins 5/26/09

MOC at Washington 1-800-NEW GOAL

MOD begins 8/24/09

HP begins 9/14/09

ECE begins 4/28/09 and 5/15/09

MOC at Wilmington 1-800-NEW GOAL

CJC begins 6/1/09

ECE begins 6/9/09

COMING EVENTS

February 7

6:00 p.m.

Winter Glitz

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

For more information or to make your reservation

Contact Dianne B. Riley (919) 658-7761

February 21

FWB Church Night

George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena

For more information or to reserve your tickets

Contact Tim Woodard at (919) 658-7761 or

twoodard@moc.edu

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE GRADUATION



Graduates Mary Hare (left) from Rains Crossroads OFWB Church in Johnston County and Amy Stokes (right) from Little Creek OFWB Church in Greene County are shown receiving a gift from alumni president Carolyn Fader Hill (center).

Mount Olive College held its 55th fall commencement on Saturday, December 13, 2008 in the George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena. H. Martin Lancaster was the guest speaker for the event.

In April 2008 Lancaster retired from the North Carolina Community College System after an 11-year stint as president of the organization. With 58 institutions and almost 800,000 students, the system is one of the largest in the country.

During his presidency Lancaster was recognized internationally as ambassador for the North Carolina model of workforce and economic development. He has done major speeches as the guest of the European Union, and he has consulted with government and education leaders in the United Kingdom and Thailand. He holds honorary degrees from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, Sandhills Community College, and South Piedmont Community College. In the summer of 2003, Lancaster was elected Chairman of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges.

Previously, Lancaster served as assistant secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and as the special advisor to the President on chemical weapons. Lancaster's other public service includes his serving as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Born and reared on a tobacco farm in Wayne County, Lancaster graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with undergraduate and law degrees. In 1967 he became a judge advocate in the U.S. Navy, serving

three years on active duty and continuing to serve as an active reservist until his retirement as a Navy captain in November 1993.

After release from active duty, Lancaster returned to his hometown of Goldsboro, where he was engaged in the private practice of law, served as a member of the General Assembly and in a variety of additional community leadership roles until his election to Congress.

Since retiring from the North Carolina Community College System, Lancaster has joined Smith Anderson, a law firm in Raleigh.

Lancaster and his wife, Alice, have two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Preceding graduation was Mount Olive College's traditional worship service in Southern Bank Auditorium in W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall. Dr. Tommy Benson, Chairman of the Department of Education at Mount Olive College, spoke for the service.

Benson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from UNC-Chapel Hill, a Master of Arts degree in education from East Carolina University, and a doctor of education degree from Nova Southeastern University. He was employed as a teacher in Edgecombe and Duplin counties, where he worked with all ages. Benson's career history also includes being a principal, director of programs for exceptional children, and assistant superintendent and superintendent for Duplin County Schools. He has also served on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees.

Benson and his wife, Shirley, reside in Hampstead. They have three adult daughters.

COLLEGE LIFE CAN BE TRANSFORMING

Transforming lives is the motto of Mount Olive College, and for Nick Lewis, a junior religion major at the institution, that is certainly true.

"The religion department at MOC is absolutely amazing," Lewis commented. "The MOC faculty have influenced me and played a part in God's transforming of my life into who I am today and who I am growing to become."

It was during Lewis' freshmen year at MOC that he felt God calling him to the ministry.

"I was a physical education major, and I remember having the feeling that I was not doing what I should be," Lewis stated. "I was sitting in my advisor's office getting ready to sign up for fall classes. I looked at him and said, 'I want to change my major to religion.' I finally realized it was time to live a total life for God."

Lewis received his ministerial license at the May 2007 Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. Since that time, the 20 year old spends most weekends preaching at churches throughout Eastern North Carolina. Lewis also works at the College as a Resident Advisor and volunteers his time in various clubs and organizations such as the Mount Olive College Ambassadors.

When asked how difficult it is for him to juggle being a college student and a minister considering all the pressures facing young people today, Lewis stated, "It is very difficult sometimes and at others not difficult at all. Having Christ in my life does not make everything crystal clear and picture perfect, but it sure does help more than anything else."

Lewis has the support of his friends to keep him focused.

"My friends think it is pretty cool that I am a minister, but some make the comment, 'that it is crazy.' They say that because they say they do not know how I can preach in front of all those people," Lewis smiled. "My hope is that people see the way



Christ has an impact in my life. Doing what I can to try to live every day serving God and others makes life fulfilling and purposeful. I know the days when I am not doing a good job at the two because those are my worst days. I hope that when people look at me, they see the love and care that only Christ can provide, along with the hope for all of life's struggles that only comes through faith in Christ."

Lewis is the son of Ray and Terri Lewis of Reelsboro, NC. He is a member of Antioch Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County.

JEAN F. ACKISS RECEIVES AWARD AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Jean Fillingame Ackiss, director of Church Support at Mount Olive College, received the J. William Byrd Award for Staff Excellence during the opening session of College Conference. The award, sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris, a long time MOC supporter, is given annually to a staff member that exemplifies excellence in all areas of his or her profession.

Ackiss graduated from Mount Olive College in 1960 and began work at the College on September 17, 1965 as assistant to the President. She has served as Director of Church Support since 1979, bringing her total years of service to the College to 43.

One of Ackiss' coworkers nominating her for the award stated, "Jean is committed to quality work. She is a person of utmost honesty and trustworthiness. She is always fair in her dealings with others and is a very compassionate person. Jean is sensitive to the needs of others and has caring spirit that guides her actions with people. Mount Olive College has been more than a place of employment for Jean Ackiss. Her belief in the College mission and working to help fulfill that mission has been a way of life for her. The College has been a better place because of her service and influence."

Another of Ackiss' coworkers stated, "I have seen Jean work long into the night and on weekends. I know she knows by name and sight most of eastern North Carolina and every Free Will Baptist. She is an organizer like no other; a 'meeter' and a greeter; a 'how is your mother?' question poser and the most caring individual in all of Mount Olivedom. She knows our founding church and lives our mission. When alumni and families come to campus, they always call her by name. When speakers

honor Mount Olive College and cite the difference this College has made on their lives, they always enter Jean's name at the top of the 'Thank You' list. Hers is not a high profile job; she is not in the executive suite. She is not only the little engine that could, she keeps on doing. I am not sure how she sleeps because her 'go' button is always on. Jean has set the bar very high."

Ackiss received an engraved plaque and \$2,000 as part of the award.

On receiving the award, she stated, "It was a very humbling experience to receive this honor. The only thing I have tried to do during my years at Mount Olive College is to serve the best I can in all I do. I am so thankful for the contribution this college has made to my life. The people I have worked with through the College and the Free Will Baptist Church have been such a joy to know and love. It is a 'calling' for me and a work of love."

Ackiss is married to Bob Ackiss. She is a member of Spring Hill FWB Church in Goldsboro. In 2005 Ackiss was presented the Mount Olive College Founders Leadership Award.

In addition to the J William Byrd Staff Excellence Award Dr. Morris funds 10 other awards totaling \$20,000 annually. Reared on a farm in the Nahunta Community of Wayne County, Dr. Morris worked his way through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the School of Optometry at the University of Memphis, TN. A military medical officer with the rank of Lt. Col., Dr. Morris served during the Korean Conflict. Now blind, he is retired but retains an active interest in community, church, and educational affairs.



Cragmont Assembly

PASTOR/DEACON SEMINAR

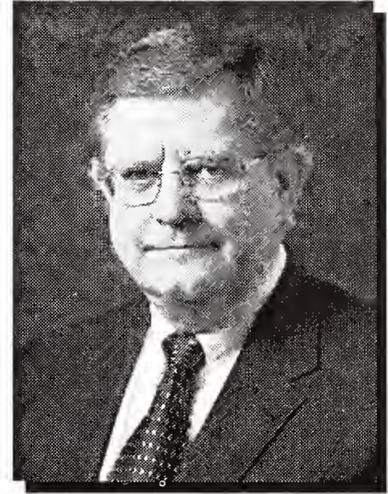
Cragmont Assembly

March 26–28, 2009

Cost \$110 per person (\$50 per person deposit)

The Reverend George Bullard, DMin.

Dr. George Bullard will be our guest speaker for the two-day event. We are taking registrations now for this retreat. You may send in your information by mail or you may call the office to make your reservation at (877) 669-7677.



George Bullard Is A Ministry Partner With The Columbia Partnership

George's vision is to use his spiritual and strategic giftedness to empower congregations and congregational champions to fulfill their vision for Kingdom growth.

George is also Project Director for Lake Hickory Learning Communities Sustaining Pastoral Excellence process (this is a Lily Endowment funded grant working with 70 pastors from multiple denominations on sustaining their excellent practices of ministry). This process is hosted by Hollifield Leadership Center at <www.Hollifield.org>.

George is Senior Editor for The Columbia Partnership Leadership Series, a book series with Chalice Press. (George's first book in this imprint is *Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation*.)

In Baptist denominational service George was one of the organizational architects during the 1970s of the North American emphasis on congregational redevelopment known as PACT, was the primary organizational architect during the early 1980s of the Mega Focus Cities effort that addressed the Great Commission and Great Commandment challenges in the 50 largest megalopolitan areas of the United States, was the primary organizational architect during the early 1990s of the first round of the Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and has been the primary architect of the Pursuing Vital Ministry emphasis of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 2001. This latter emphasis is known in The Columbia Partnership as a Spiritual Strategic Journey and is supported at the following website: <www.SSJTutorial.org>.

George has coached numerous local, regional, and national denominational organizations among various

Baptist groups. Since 1996, George's ministry has been expanded to include work with various denominational families throughout North America. Among them are Assemblies of God, Baptist, Christian Disciples of Christ, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Christian Reformed, Church of God (Cleveland), Episcopal, Evangelical Covenant, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal Holiness, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and other denominational, non-denominational, and para-church groups.

George is widely recognized as an advisor to denominational leaders, a futurist, a strategic planning expert, a group process facilitator, a church growth strategist, an authority in conflict management, and a writer. He has extensively developed a lift cycle model for congregations, which helps congregational leaders know what types of assistance they may need to best facilitate growth.

Strategic planning, church growth, missionary church, and conflict management consultations and training have been a major part of George's denominational service during the past 27 years. He has provided in depth consultation services to more than 500 congregations and denominational organizations. He has led or assisted in-depth training to more than 1,000 denominational workers in strategic planning, church growth, mission movements, and conflict management consultation skills.

George is a graduate of Mars Hill College in North Carolina and has seminary degrees of Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Ministry.

Cragmont 2009 Schedule

Morning Star

April 17-19, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Ministerial Association of OFWB

June 8-10, 2009
John Hill
312 Pineview Street
Lucama, NC 27851
(252) 239-1958

Day Spring Conference

June 10-13, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 15-20, 2009
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5918

Christian Cadet Conference

June 22-27, 2009
Joey Williams
139 Windyfield Dr.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 734-9080

Bed, Breakfast & Blessing

June 29-July 4, 2009
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

July 6-11, 2009
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 13-18, 2009
Brad Williamson, Director (252) 752-5846
Wilma Parker, Registrar (252) 522-0967
PO Box 6423
Kinston, NC 28501

General Youth I Conference

July 20-25, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 792-5745

Young People's Bible Conference

July 27-31, 2009
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Road
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 734-3320

Cornerstone Women's Conference

August 2-7, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Pee Dee Youth Conference

August 10-13, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 792-5745

September Women's Mini Conference

September 18-20, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217



HARVEST CONNECTION DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS ASSIST AFTER TORNADOS

Several volunteers from Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry recently delivered emergency kits to the Kenly area after devastating tornadoes recently caused extensive damage to homes, businesses, vehicles and lives. One woman lost her life in the Kenly area and a young boy died in the storm in the Elm City area. Inspectors worked early in the area and expected the damage to top \$1 million dollars.

As early as the next morning, a host of volunteers were on hand to help families recover what they could from their demolished homes. A picture of the deceased woman was found in the wreckage. It will be a prized possession for the family for years to come.

The Reverend Harold Swinson, pastor of the Kenly Original Free Will Baptist Church and member of The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry, was designated as the volunteer coordinating leader right after the storm. He said that it has been overwhelming the number of people that came out, not just to look, but to offer help.

The Rev. Swinson opened the church on the night of the storms and when the survivors began to arrive, he and the church members were there to receive them, to hear their stories, and to counsel them. The Red Cross soon came on site and used their trucks to deliver meals. But those meals going to storm victims and to the volunteers out cleaning up were all donated locally from all the restaurants in town, from the local grocers, from farmers bringing in sweet potatoes; someone sent a pallet of sausage, and church members from not only churches in Johnston County but from across the state were manning the kitchens and serving lines.

The motto of the Disaster Relief Ministry is "Touching Lives for A Lifetime." This was apparent as local people came to help others. There have been so many donations and volunteers that Brother Harold has been unable to write them all down. Many gifts have been given anonymously. He wants to thank each and every one who has helped and that will give their time and support as the reconstruction begins on the many homes that were destroyed.

At the present time, all the families that were displaced have found alternate homes in which to live until their homes are rebuilt or repaired. Plans are in the final stages to begin the process of rebuilding. If you are interested in making a donation or giving time to help, you may contact The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry at: (252) 526-9908.

(Excerpts and pictures used by permission of the Kenly/Pine Level News)



The Reverend Harold Swinson addressing his volunteers.

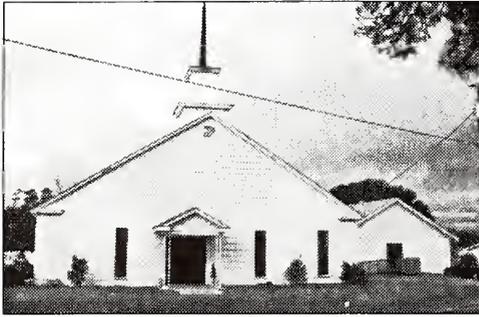


A destroyed home near the Kenly area.



Volunteers helping with the cleanup.

CHURCH NEWS



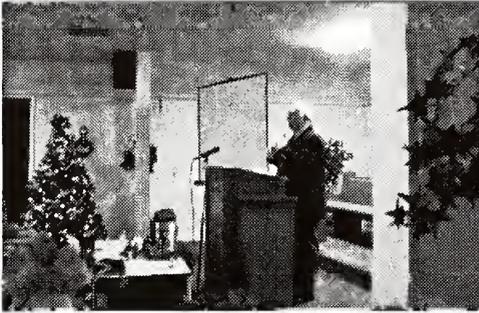
The Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church and Training Center.



The Reverend Harold Swinson and grandson cooking the meal.



Attendees preparing their plates for the meal.



The Reverend David C. Hansley addressing the congregation.



The congregation listening intently to the message.



One of the bedrooms in the Training Center

A new chapter in the life of Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church of Morehead City, NC, began on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Meeting with the Carteret County Union Meeting, the Home Missions & Evangelism Ministry commissioned the church also as The Faith Original Free Will Baptist Training Center. The Reverend Harold Swinson and other members of the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry, prepared a delicious meal for those present which included members of the families of former pastors and those who had donated their time and funds to renovate the church and Sunday School rooms making it convenient for use as a training center, along with the members of the churches of the Carteret County Union Meeting. The ribbon cutting service included: The Reverend David C. Hansley, Home Missions and Evangelism Director; Dr. W. Burkette Raper, President of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries; The Reverend David Vesper, Moderator of the Carteret County Union; The Reverend Tim Lawrence, Mission Pastor of Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church; The Reverend Kevin Stott, Pastor of the Davis and Pilgrim's Rest Original Free Will Baptist Churches; The Reverend Mitchell Parker, Pastor of Russell Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church; and The Reverend James H. Gurganus, Coordinator of Faith Training Center.

Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church had its beginning in 1956 when the Reverend Noah Brown saw a need for a mission church in the Morehead City area. It became known in the area as West End Mission Church, but soon was renamed Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church. It was a thriving church, but through some difficult times it declined and had to once more come under the auspices of the Home Missions and Evangelism Ministry. It was in May of 2007 that the appointment of the Reverend James Gurganus as its coordinator that the plans were made to develop a training center that would benefit all Original Free Will Baptists. Through many donations of time, money, and support from dedicated people, who wanted to see this work come to fruition, Faith Training Center is now in operation. There is the sanctuary of Faith Church, the full kitchen, dining room, as well as several beautifully decorated bedrooms, a lounge, office, and two bathrooms complete with showers.

The Reverend James Gurganus, coordinator, would like to invite any and all churches, youth groups, auxiliaries, layman's leagues or any other groups within the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination to use this facility for training and retreats. For further information, he may be contacted at the Harvest Connection Headquarters, phone number (252) 526-9908 or (252) 714-0917. His e-mail address is: <jamesgurganus@embarqmail.com>.



Church Finance Association

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR THOSE HOLDING MEMBERSHIPS IN THE CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD

February 10, 2009

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place: Murphy Center, President's Room
Mount Olive College

Date: February 10, 2009

Time: 10:30 A.M.

The purpose of this meeting is:

- 1) To review the financial condition of the Association and to act on the financial report.
- 2) The election of one (1) member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
- 3) The transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

You are urged to attend the meeting in person. However, membership holders who do not expect to attend are requested to sign, date, and return the proxy provided. The execution of this proxy will not affect your right to revoke such proxy or to vote in person should you later decide to attend the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors
Hubert S. Buress, Secretary



Convention News

*Mark your Calendar
for the*

97th Annual Session of the

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 19–21, 2009

Meeting on the Campus of Mount Olive College

Mount Olive, North Carolina

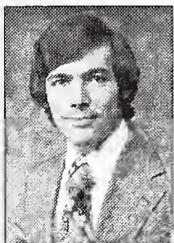


Here's the February Picture From the Past!

Your Clue:

*Though slight in stature, his wisdom,
character, and integrity make him a
giant among ministers.*

You know him best by his nickname.



January's Picture

Cragmont Manager,
The Reverend
John Williams

Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or e-mail
<buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct
identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate
to the FWB Press Bookstore.

Student Ministry Ideas

Sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary Taskforce for Youth Ministry

Each month, the Taskforce on Youth Ministry will sponsor a page of helps for anyone working with children or youth. Ideas will range from administration to games to a great website. Here's a sampling...

Ministry: Handwrite a letter/card

In today's world where an e-mail or text message is quick and easy, break it up by mailing a card or handwritten letter. Our world is too quick to point-n-click its way through life. By "snail mailing" a letter or card it forces the child, parent, or volunteer to stop, hold, and read. It shows them that you cared enough to take a moment to "endure" the process of writing a note. And, don't wait for special occasions—send one just for the giggles!

Administration: Write a needs list for parents

Parental involvement is very important to any youth organization. Some parents are upfront about their wishes to help. But there are others who feel they have nothing to contribute or they are not gifted. Make out a list of things you need. Perhaps it's chaperones, food, or paper and pens. Be intentional about what you need, and don't be afraid to include senior adults.

Web-Connect: www.Birthdayalarm.com

This website is a free service offered to help you keep track of birthdays. You can either enter the information yourself or you can opt to e-mail invitations to your friends and students. The invitation will prompt them to enter their birth date. Each day, a reminder will notify you of the person and the date. Then, mail them a handwritten letter or card!

Game-Time: The Impossible Game (with Prize Accumulation)

Overview: The continuing game works by picking a challenging activity to do. The activity must be very hard to do (like a half court basketball shot) and if a student can complete the activity they win a prize. If nobody wins, which should be happening or your activity is too easy, then the next week there is a new activity with the prize from the first week and a new prize for the current week. What will happen is that the jackpot of prizes should begin to accumulate and the anticipation of winning should also until one lucky student wins the prizes and then you can start anew.

WHAT YOU NEED: Difficult Activity each week and a new prize each week.

David Currie, Marsh Swamp OFWB, plays the "Impossible Game" in which a paper circle 2–3 inches wide is taped on a wall in the far corner (20–25 feet away). From the stage, a student throws a tennis ball and tries to hit any part of the circle. The prize—\$100.

Other Tips and Ideas:

- If you have a large group, you need to be more creative or break them up into smaller groups and have a leader for each group leading the challenge with that group for the week.
- Plan out the summer with the activity. That way you aren't wondering what to do for the next week.
- Make sure that you try to equally do challenges that are non-strength oriented and strength oriented so that everyone gets a fair chance.
- Be creative with your prizes from cash to candy to gift certificates.
- Ask a church member to contribute a prize for a particular week or month so you don't dig into your budget.

Woman's Auxiliary

Youth Materials Recommended by the Woman's Auxiliary Literature Committee

These materials may be used with the youth of our churches, ages 2–20. As youth leaders, we know our unique students and will make the materials we choose work for them. Our youth leaders are challenged today to choose the best for their students and share the materials with love and devoted attitudes. Have fun and enjoy working with them—and have a wonderful year with our leaders of tomorrow.

Standard Publishing

Small Group Guides

- ~ *Let's Get Started! How to Begin your Small Group Ministry*
- ~ *Now That's a Good Question! How to Lead Quality Bible Discussions*
- ~ *Why Didn't You Warn Me? How to Deal With Challenging Group Members*
- ~ *I'm a Leader...Now What? How to Guide an Effective Small Group*

Happy Day Book Series (story books, coloring books, and stickers)

- ~ Level 1 is for pre-readers.
- ~ Level 2 is for beginning readers.
- ~ Level 3 is for independent readers.

Object Talk Books (Lessons from Old Testament, New Testament, special days, sports, animals, toys, etc.)

Superstart! A Preteen Curriculum (teacher's guide, student book, and teacher's DVD available)

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

- ~ *Dare to be like Daniel: How to Win Souls for God*

Gospel Light Publications

- ~ *God's Word for Every Kid's World* (curriculum is divided into 2 & 3 year olds, 4 & 5 year olds, grades 1 & 2, grades 3 & 4, grades 5 & 6.)
- ~ *Movers and Shakers* (curriculum, divided as above)
- ~ *Prime Time* (curriculum, divided as above)
- ~ *Uncommon: Be Extraordinary* (a decidedly different program for youth)
- ~ *First Place 4 Health: The Most Complete Christ-Centered Health & Wellness Program*

Randall House Publications

- ~ *Youth Ministry Kit for Student and Children's Ministry* (contains annual calendar and supply of Bible studies for one year)
- ~ *The Clear Curriculum-Family D6 Life*. (small group and S. S. curriculum for the entire family—magazine will come with it)

Orders for any of these materials can be placed through:

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

by calling toll free (800) 849-3927

or through one of its Bible Bookstores at these locations:

Ayden Bible Bookstore
3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128 • (800) 849-3927

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1232 South Glenburnie Road
Glenburnie Plaza
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193 • (800) 875-8048

Kinston Bible Bookstore
123 North Queen Street
Kinston, NC 28501
(252) 527-2843 • (800) 875-8049

Layman's League

The Convention Layman's League Board has implemented a program called "MEN OF GOLD Award" program. We pray this program will get all laymen involved. Please study this program and inform the Board of your opinion. Contact Elmer E. Harrell, 502 S.E. Third St., Snow Hill, NC 28580 or (252) 747-2894.

MEN OF GOLD AWARD PROGRAM

"...when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold!" (Job 23:10).

Gold is a precious metal that becomes more valuable the more it is tried. As laymen are challenged, they can do even greater things to further the Kingdom of God. The purpose of this program is to help our laymen become more involved in their churches and communities as well as become committed to the entire of the Laymen's League of the district and convention.

— CROSS —

- Meet at least ten times a year
- Utilize the Layman's League Program Book
- Contribute to the Layman's League Convention at the rate of \$25 per ten members per quarter (\$100 yearly for every 10 men; \$200 for every 20 men, etc.)
- Sponsor a church-wide Ladies night in which all of the ladies (wives, widows, single women) are treated to a meal and program.

— STAR —

- All under Cross level plus:
- Attend four district meetings
- Sponsor a yearly fund raising project for one of our ministries (including Camp Vandemere and Carolina Bible Institute)
- Volunteer to host a district meeting

— CROWN —

- All under Cross and Star levels plus:
- Attend both Layman's Convention meetings
- Plan and conduct a Sunday morning worship service (make it layman's day in which the work and purpose of the Layman's league is emphasized)
- Develop a program of community involvement where the local Layman's League reaches out to meet the needs of the poor and elderly
- Volunteer to host a Layman's convention program (Annual Gospel sing, Ladies Night or semi-annual meeting)

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries



*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us.
Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*

WHY ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT?

W. Burkette Raper

This article will be personal. It is personal because I am writing out of my own experience.

I was blessed to have parents for whom the Christian faith was the rudder of their lives. During the bitter winter of 1936, my father—at the age of 28—died from the complications of pneumonia. He was a tenant farmer, the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression, and family finances were severely limited. A small footstone was placed at his gravesite with the inscription: “William Cecil Raper, August 20, 1907–February 13, 1936. Gone but not forgotten.”

At that time, I was eight years old, and my brother and two sisters were ages 4, 2, and 1. The three oldest of us soon went to live at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage, now Children’s Home. Since our younger sister was not old enough for admission to the Orphanage, she was reared by our maternal grandmother.

Fast speed to the year 2007—the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of both our mother and father. The words, “Gone but not forgotten,” came back to me with profound meaning. Our father never had an opportunity to live out his life—except through his children, one of whom is already deceased. Would the identity of our mother and father simply be the dates of their birth and death?

For most of us, who we are and what we have become is in no small measure due to the heritage we have received from our parents, along with the contributions our spouse and other family members have made to our lives. In the recognition of these contributions, two inescapable questions confront us: “What do we owe back? We are debtors, but how do we pay that debt?”

The Transcending Value of a Family Endowment

Surely, endowments consist of money, but families establish endowed funds not because they find themselves with extra money that they do not need, but because they have a deep desire to express appreciation for what others, especially their parents and spouse, have done for them. It was for this purpose that our family established the “William Cecil and Beulah D. Raper Family Endowment.”

The endowment is with the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, which will manage and invest gifts to the endowment and make annual distributions to the Benevolent Fund of Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama, NC. The church will use the income to minister to needy

families, with special consideration for children. Little Rock Church was chosen because it was the home church of our father and in large measure represents our spiritual heritage. In addition, the “Ladies Aid Society” as it was known then—now the Woman’s Auxiliary—helped sponsor clothing for us during our years at the Free Will Baptist Children’s Home.

Although we can never fully repay the value of a Christian heritage, through an endowment we can perpetuate our heritage to future generations. In a previous article (February 2008), we related the story of the Silverthorne Family Endowment, and in future issues of *The Free Will Baptist*, we anticipate including the story of additional funds.

Services of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries

One of the primary purposes of the Foundation is to provide appropriate assistance to those who wish to establish permanently endowed funds. Below are guidelines for those interested in the services of the Foundation:

- I. Whom would you like to honor or memorialize through an endowment?
- II. What charitable purposes best represent the interest of the family or person(s) establishing the endowment:
 - A ministry of Original Free Will Baptists?
 - The work of a local church?
 - Educational purposes? and/or
 - Other tax-exempt charities?
- III. How will the Endowment be funded? (No pledges required):
 - Out-right gifts at any time in any amount by family members and friends, including memorials.
 - Kinds of gifts: cash, stocks, bonds, life income funds (trusts and annuities), life insurance, real estate, bequests, special assignments and other marketable assets.
(Annual distributions begin when gifts to the endowment total \$10,000.)
- IV. Services of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries
 - Management and investment of endowment assets;
 - Annual distribution to qualified beneficiaries;
 - Acknowledgement of gifts to donors;
 - On-going reporting of gifts to the family;
 - Annual or periodic reporting to designated family members;
 - Complete record keeping;
 - File required reports to U. S. Internal Revenue Service and N. C. Department of Revenue;
 - Responsible for assuring operation and management in compliance with IRS Code Section 501(c)(e); and
 - Endowment governed by written agreement between the family and the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries.

A representative of the Foundation will be glad to meet with interested persons to review requirements of the Internal Revenue Code for tax-exempt endowments and the services of the Foundation. For more information, contact W. Burkette Raper, president, at 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, phone (919) 658-3855, e-mail: <wraper@moc.edu>.

People & Events

JCC HELPED SHAPE HIS SUCCESS

(reprinted from the November 2008 Johnston Community College newsletter.)

When Gary Lee was a senior in high school, he wasn't sure where he wanted to go to college.

"To be honest, I had a lot of friends going to Johnston Community College, so I pretty much just followed their lead," Lee explains.

Lee of Four Oaks started out pursuing an associate's degree in general education but soon realized he wanted to major in business administration. Thanks to the guidance of instructors and counselors at JCC, Lee earned his two-year degree and transferred to Mount Olive College where he received his bachelor's degree. In 2004, Lee earned his master's in business administration from Campbell University.

Earlier this year, Lee was named president and chief executive officer of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, a Christian home in Middlesex for boys and girls ages 12 to 18.

Lee says his years at JCC instilled in him the importance of education.



"When I got to the community college, everybody there wanted to be there," he says. "For the most part, you were surrounded by people who wanted to be successful. For the first time in my life, I realized that I was in a place that shared this common interest with people. My high school experience was not like that."

Lee described himself as a timid student who didn't always

receive support from home about education. But he says the support he received from JCC motivated him to value education and be a first generation college graduate.

"My instructors were always very encouraging, understanding and held me accountable, Lee says. "I felt like they were just as much invested in me being successful as I was myself and that made an impression on me."

Lee says JCC played a pivotal role during a critical time when he was confused about his future.

"I've always been very positive and encouraged people to utilize the community college," Lee says. "I think starting out at a community college is a good start for some students. I know in my heart without a doubt if I had gone to a four-year school out of high school, I would never have graduated. I believe JCC allowed me the opportunity to gain the experience and confidence to be successful and that's really what's contributed to the success I have today."

Name: Gary Lee

Occupation: president and chief executive officer, Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Education: associate's degree in business administration, Johnston Community College, 1992; bachelor's in business administration, Mount Olive College, 1994; master's in business administration. Campbell University, 2004.

Hometown: Four Oaks

Family: wife, Janet; son, Payton, 7; daughter, Reagan, 2

FROM QUILTS TO BIBS



A couple of years ago some members of Pearsall Chapel OFWB Church near Kenansville attended the Sunday School Institute at Mount Olive College. They went to the quilt making class where quilts were being made for Home Missions teams to give to people in need. Following that event Janice Coile presented to the Woman's Auxiliary the possibility to do the same as a benevolent activity. Many Saturday mornings (and evenings with "homework") our auxiliary members met and made quilts of all sizes. These quilts have gone to shut-ins, nursing homes, and individuals who have lost their homes to fire. What started out as only making quilts has now taken a turn to something different. This year we began making large bibs for individuals in care facilities. These bibs protect their clothing. They are made of colorful fabrics that also look like clothing, and the results have been positive.

Pearsall Chapel's Woman's Auxiliary has made bibs for the patients of Autumn Village (an assisted living facility) in Beulaville, North Carolina. Prior to Christmas four of our ladies delivered approximately 100 bibs. The residents were so appreciative and thankful. Our group enjoyed every minute of their visit with the residents.

Pictured in her new bib is Miss Katie Lanier. She is 104 years young. The auxiliary members who took the bibs to Autumn Village are pictured with her. They are Pat Stroud, Adrenia Kennedy, Connie Taylor, and Linda Evans.

Thank you to the Sunday School Ministry and Home Missions and Evangelism for their inspiration, which guided us to accomplish this endeavor.

*Fallen seed emerging from soil of discontent caught in "spirit of age"
harvest of unholy yield in tune with worthless wage.*

*In His image created hope ingrained
a calling to surrender lest the vacant heart full rage.*

— Scotty McCoy —
Core Creek Church, Eastern Conference

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

On Sunday December 21, 2008 Christ Freewill Baptist Church of Stokesdale, NC had its annual Christmas play. The title of the play was "The Christmas Family." It was about a handicapped boy in the Children's Home who had no real family. This handicapped boy learns that through Jesus he can have a Christian family with the other children who are at the home. The child feels happiness when he accepts Jesus. He realizes that he has a family now in the Lord through Jesus Christ.

Picture 1—from left to right are: Nellie Hopper as Santa, Adam Tilley as the handicapped boy Daniel, and Pebbles Joyce as Mrs. Dickenson.

Picture 2—from left to right are: (sitting on floor) Jacob Woodlieff, Noah Bankston, Nellie Hopper, Lily Hopper, Seth Woodlieff, and (sitting in chairs) Adam Tilley as the now older Daniel, Nancy Hopper, and Pebbles Joyce as the now older Mrs. Dickenson.

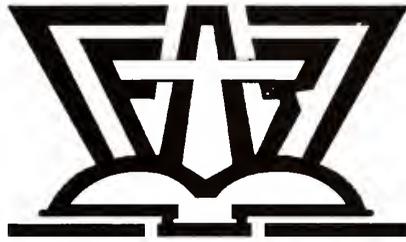


SMYRNA CHURCH NEWS

Pictured are Erin Parker, who played the part of Lindsey, and Dawson Jackson who did the part of Jack in the Christmas program at Smyrna Original Free Will Church in the Meadow community held Sunday evening December 14.

The story portrayed Lindsey, who was left by her mother in a toy store and who fell asleep and dreamed about the real meaning of Christmas—not that of toys—but to celebrate the Birth of Jesus and doing acts of love for others.





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Vacation Bible School Season Is Here Again!

Our workshops this year are as follows:

—Place—

Free Will Baptist Press
3928 Lee Street, Ayden, NC

—Dates & Times—

Friday, February 20 @ 7 P.M.
or
Saturday, February 21 @ 10 A.M.

Come and see the excitement brewing this year with theme's from these publishers:

Standard • Group • Gospel Light

Representatives will be making presentations for 5 different themes!

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10% off of all VBS product—New this year!

There will be light refreshments available along with plenty of time to shop.

Study Course Opportunity

The
Woman's Auxiliary
of

Pleasant Hill Church (Western District)

will host a study course on the new auxiliary *Manual of Methods*.

on

Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7 P.M.

The guest speaker will be Becky Jo Sumner.

All Who Are Interested Are Welcome To Attend!

A new quarter of Sunday School literature

begins the first Sunday of March.

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>.

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

WHITE OAK CHURCH, Eastern Conference, is seeking a pastor. The church is located at 5744 Kennedy Home Rd., La Grange, NC. It is a rural church with 100+ members, including a large number of young people. A parsonage is available. Regular services are held on Sunday mornings and evenings as well as Wednesday evenings. Send resumés to: David Dawson, Chairman of Pulpit Committee, 5376 Mays Store Rd., La Grange, NC 28551 or e-mail to <davidjdawson@embarqmail.com>.

EVERETT CHAPEL CHURCH, Clayton, NC is accepting resumés for an experienced full-time senior pastor. If you feel the Lord is calling you to our service, please submit a comprehensive resumé to Everett Chapel Church, 307 Everett Ave., Clayton, NC 27520, Attn: Pulpit Search Committee.

THE REVEREND SWADE BENSON is available for supply and interim ministry. He may be reached by phone at (252) 223-4837 or by mail at 120 Beaver Dam Trail, Newport, NC 28750

THE REVEREND ERNEST JONES is currently available for supply and interim ministry. He may be reached by phone at (252) 725-1729 or by mail at 235 Tom Mann Rd., Newport, NC 28570.

Since the old-time evangelist has almost disappeared from the scene,
Hell doesn't seem half as hot as it used to.

Spreading the Word Through the Printed Page!



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123 North Queen Street

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Ladies' Day of Renewal

REJUVENATE IN THE LORD

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Rejuvenate In the LORD is a Women's Conference planned to inspire women of all ages. This year's focus is to help women discover a greater understanding of Faith, Hope, and Love. Using the theme of "Releasing God's Power Through Faith, Hope, and Love," the conference will be based on 1 Corinthians 13:13.

The keynote speaker for the day will be Carol Pittman from Daniels Chapel OFWB Church of Wilson, NC.

She is an inspirational speaker. Carol is a graduate of Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) with a BS Degree in Elementary Education. She has taught in public schools as well as a church affiliated pre-school and retired two years ago as a Reading Recovery teacher in the Wilson County school system. She is married to Charles Pittman. Together they have two adult children and four grandchildren.

The day will begin with a continental breakfast served in the Church Fellowship Hall from 8:45-9:20 A.M. The first session begins at 9:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary. Registration will be in the Fellowship Hall during breakfast.

The cost of the conference is \$15, which covers breakfast, lunch catered by McCalls of Goldsboro, and other expenses.

Pre-registration is required of all attendees in order to make proper preparations. You can print a registration form by going to the Church's website, www.stoneycreekchurch.net, selecting the Women's Conference tab, and clicking on the link at the bottom of that page. Complete this form and mail to the address provided along with \$15 for each person you are registering.

For more information, please contact the church office at (919) 735-3916, or by e-mail at <stoneycreekchurch@ncrrbiz.com>.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PRESS RELEASES

THE VOLUME 10, FALL 2008 ISSUE

OF THE MOUNT OLIVE REVIEW

The *Mount Olive Review* of Fall 2008 features literary criticism, essays, poetry, and a book review. Pepper Worthington's literary criticism, "Crosscurrents of English Literature and Art in Gail Godwin's *The Odd Woman* (1974)," links Godwin's heroine, Jane Clifford, to Jane Eyre and Jane Austen. Godwin's title echoes George Gissing's 1890 novel, *The Odd Women*. Dara Boland, Elizabeth Burgess, and Virginia Eliot Bridgeporte give us essays that cut across River Day parties, winters in Germany, and satires of teachers.

The poetry in Volume 10 of the *Mount Olive Review* features an array of North Carolina writers: Betsy Humphreys, Elon G. Eidenier, Patrick Bizzaro, Barbara Mayer, Dede Wilson, Peggy Gambill, Jo Barbara Taylor, and others. Barbara Mayer describes her encounter with a dolphin as she writes in her poem, "Dolphin Ballet":

*...The ocean nudged
my bare stomach, teasing me
deeper and deeper.
Finally I swam, lifting
my head to glimpse
a burst of silver as a dolphin
leapt out of the water, then another
and another—a dolphin ballet.*

(p. 43)

A review of Howard Zinn's historical book, *A People's History of the United States, Volume II: The Civil War to the Present*, appears in this 2008 issue of the *Mount Olive Review*. The review sweeps from the 1898 Spanish-American War to the Clinton years.

For more information about Mount Olive College Press books, contact Sheila Benson, MOC Press Administrative Assistant at (252) 286-6851 or e-mail: sbenson@moc.edu.

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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
Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Dilda's Grove Church, Fountain, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
Everett Chapel Church, Clayton, NC
First Church, Durham, NC
First Church, Goldsboro, NC
First Church, Kinston, NC
First Church, Plymouth, 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, Fountain, NC
Free Union Church, Spring Hope, NC
Fremont Church, Fremont, NC
Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, NC
Harmony Church, Wilson, NC
Harrell's Chapel Church, Snow Hill, NC
Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC
Hickory Grove Church, Robersonville, NC
Hillsberry Church, Clinton, NC
Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC

Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
Howell Swamp Church, Walstonburg, NC
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Jakin Church, Jakin, GA
Johnston Union Church, Smithfield, NC
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Pleasant Hill Church, Grimesland, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC
Powhatan Church, Clayton, NC
Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly, NC
Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, NC
Robert's Grove Woman's Aux., Dunn, NC

Rock Springs Church, Bailey, NC
Rose Hill Church, Winterville, NC
Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville, NC
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Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
Saratoga Church, Saratoga, NC
Sarecta Church, Kenansville, NC
Selma Church, Selma, NC
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Sherron Acres Church, Durham, NC
Sidney Church, Belhaven, NC
Silver Creek Church, Swansboro, NC
Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run, NC
Smyrna Church, Benson, NC
Sneads Ferry Church, Sneads Ferry, NC
Snow Hill Church, Mount Olive, NC
Soundside Church, Columbia, NC
Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC
Spring Hill Church, Goldsboro, NC
St. Mary's Church, Kenly, NC
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Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC
Union Grove Church, Fremont, NC
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Welcome Home, Beaufort, NC
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There is no charge for feature article submissions and news releases of recent church happenings.

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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 28513.

- *Phone-in or handwritten information is acceptable. However, we cannot be held responsible for errors!
- *Pictures are not returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

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Mail This Form With Payment To: *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Life Expectancy Chart

Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female
41	34.7	39.8	56	22.0	26.2	71	11.8	14.6
42	33.8	38.8	57	21.2	25.4	72	11.2	14.0
43	32.9	37.9	58	20.4	24.5	73	10.7	13.3
44	32.0	37.0	59	19.7	23.7	74	10.1	12.6
45	31.2	36.0	60	18.9	22.9	75	9.6	12.0
46	30.3	35.1	61	18.2	22.1	76	9.1	11.4
47	29.4	34.2	62	17.5	21.3	77	8.6	10.8
48	28.6	33.3	63	16.8	20.5	78	8.1	10.1
49	27.7	32.4	64	16.2	19.7	79	7.6	9.6
50	26.9	31.5	65	15.5	19.0	80	7.2	9.0
51	26.0	30.6	66	14.8	18.2	81	6.7	8.4
52	25.2	29.7	67	14.2	17.5	82	6.3	7.9
53	24.4	28.8	68	13.6	16.8	83	5.9	7.4
54	23.6	27.9	69	13.0	16.0	84	5.6	6.9
55	22.8	27.1	70	12.4	15.3	85	5.2	6.4

Tables are furnished by the Department of Health and Human Services and reflect life expectancies for all races.

“So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”
(Psalm 90:12).

(For information on the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, see pages

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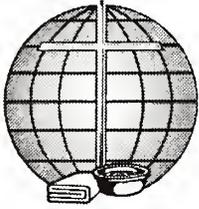
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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



March 2009



THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

March 2009



OFWB INTERNATIONAL MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 st Sunday in Lent						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 nd Sunday in Lent DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS				Braswell Lecture, 7 P.M. @ Southern Bank Auditorium, MOC		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3 rd Sunday in Lent		ST. PATRICK'S DAY			SPRING BEGINS	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
4 th Sunday in Lent		MOC Recital Series, Jeremy Thompson on Piano, 7:30 P.M. @ Rodgers Chapel, MOC—\$5 Admission			St. Andrews Pipes & Drums Band, 7:30 P.M. @ Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, MOC—\$5 Admission	
29	30	31				
5 th Sunday in Lent						

NOTE:

Dates of Lent: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays.

Color for Lent: Purple

COMING SOON:

April 4: Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
10 A.M. @ Mt. Calvary Church

April 5: Palm Sunday, 6th Sunday of Lent

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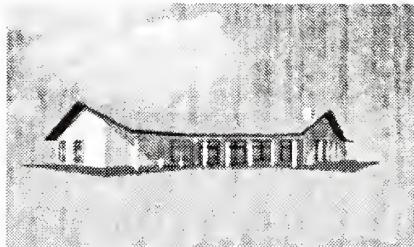
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POWER UP!

Don't stay away from the church because you have the idea that there are too many hypocrites in it. There's always room for one more!

THE TRUE GOSPEL REMAINS THE SAME

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

Various words and terms are being used nowadays to define the present-day gospel, especially in the areas of music and preaching. We now have contemporary music, praise music, and worship music. In preaching and Christian writings, there's the social gospel, the contemporary gospel, the prosperity gospel, and what we may term, "pleasing the crowd gospel." The true gospel, however, remains the same—the proclamation of the Good News realized in Jesus Christ, that through Him sins are forgiven, a new life begins, and Heaven is assured for the faithful.

Much of the preaching we hear today is nothing more than a form of entertainment in which the speaker uses humorous stories and illustrations about himself, or herself, relating their accomplishments in life, etc. The same can be said of much of the music hitting the airwaves today. There's more to worship and praise than just using the words repeatedly.

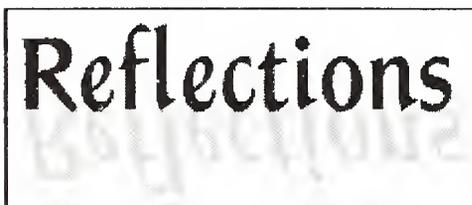
True depth in worship and praise is not found in the beat and tempo of the music. True worship emanates from the depth of the soul. It is prompted by the proclamation

of the true gospel, whether through words spoken, words sung, or read. It's the traditional hymns, scripturally based, that remind us of our need for Christ and teaches us the foundational truths of the Christian faith (and they resound with words of "praise and worship").

The true gospel reminds the believer of God's infinite love, mercy, and grace. It also declares that we are sinners saved by grace, and therefore prone to sin; thus, it is

necessary to be reminded of our need for daily forgiveness. The idea that people do not need to be reminded is a fallacy. The preaching and teaching of Christ, the apostles, and the fore-runners of the Christian movement refutes the fallacy of only a soft-spoken gospel.

Methods of presenting the gospel have changed drastically in recent times. Advancements in technology have made it possible, and thank God for such progress. We must remember that Jesus Christ is the "...same, yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). Thus, the gospel does not change. If so, it may be that we have removed ourselves from it as did the Galatians to whom Paul wrote (see Galatians 1:6-9).



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Living Your Faith

According to The Epistle of James

(This is part two of a five part series on the book of James.)

by Nina Grace Register

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Not true. While it’s true that words will not break your bones, anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of verbal abuse knows that words can hurt both us and others. If we sing in the choir on Sunday and cheat, steal, curse and lie on Monday, what do our words say about our faith?

In Chapter 1, James shows faith tested by trials but not with evil; by God’s Word but not by man’s word. In Chapter 2, our faith is tested by our attitude with respect of persons. Now in Chapter 3, he shows our faith being tested by our tongue. These tests are like examinations that prove how well we know the subject matter and whether or not we are practicing it.

CHAPTER THREE

¹My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. ²For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. ³Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. ⁴Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. ⁵Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. ⁷For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: ⁸But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. ¹¹Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? ¹²Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

¹³Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James was writing to some people who evidently had trouble with tongue control and freedom of speech. Of course, the trouble begins in the heart a long time before it reaches the tongue.

Too many young Christians want to teach before they have learned. We need to know the Word of God before we try to teach. Teachers have a great responsibility, because what we teach influences the pupil his whole life and may determine where he spends eternity. And it’s very easy to be misunderstood, too, if we are not sure of our subject. J. Vernon McGee says, “Don’t think that the minute you become a child of God you can...teach the book of Revelation” (Thru the Bible, Vol. 53, p. 77). James warns that “we shall receive the greater condemnation” (v.1) if we teach incorrectly. It’s awesome to think that we’re standing before God when we teach.

However, we all stumble and make mistakes. Thank goodness He is a loving, forgiving God of second chances! And James say, if we “offend not in word, the same is a perfect man [or woman], and able to bridle the whole body.” The word “perfect” means we have grown up from a baby Christian to an adult Christian, fully matured in

Christ. So, with Christ in control, we can have rule our speech, our emotions, and the whole body.

Do small things matter? A bit in a horse’s mouth is small, and the helm of a ship is small, but they control things many times their own size. Our tongue is small, also, but James thought it more dangerous than a runaway horse or a storm at sea. When the writer of Proverbs listed the seven things the Lord hates, a lying tongue is listed between a proud look and hands that shed innocent blood (see Proverbs 6:16–17). Evidently, he considers the tongue as bad as a lethal weapon. James says in verses 5 and 6 that the tongue “is a little member, and boasteth great things.” It’s like a fire that begins small, gets out of control, and causes damage like the fire of hell.

What will be the consequences of our speech? Will it help and encourage? Will it hurt someone? It can ruin a reputation, split a church, separate a family, and destroy ambition. Once the words are spoken, they cannot be recalled. Trying to get them back is as easy as regathering the feathers of a split pillow scattered by the wind.

Fire is good: it warms us, cooks our food, and destroys trash. Fire is also bad: the London fire of 1666 devastated

London and the Chicago fire of 1871 did untold damage. Each year California has forest fires, and most of them can be traced to a carelessly discarded match. Smokey the Bear has warned us since we were children that a little fire can destroy a lot.

Yet we use the same tongue to say good things about God and bad things about our friends and neighbors. James says, "My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (v. 10).

To prove our faith and please God with our words, we need to examine our motives. Is God in control—or am I? He is the only one who can truly master our tongue. Am

I speaking with bitterness and envy, or with God's love and wisdom? Godly wisdom is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (v. 17). These are fruits of faith, and there is one more, just as important. It is "righteousness"—and results in a righteous life full of good works, the result of salvation through Christ.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

The Commission on Education for Christian Ministry

by Dr. Michael Pelt

A new Commission of our Convention was recently initiated as a result of actions taken by the Executive Committee in its report to the Convention at its annual session in 2008. It is the Commission on Education for Christian Ministry, which is composed of seven persons who serve terms of seven years, with the term of one member expiring annually. The following persons were chosen by the Executive Committee to serve during the coming years with one member expiring annually: Dr. Michael Pelt, 2010; the Rev. Rudy Owens, 2011; Dr. Deborah King, 2012; Mrs. Pam Braxton, 2013; the Rev. Michael Bryan, 2014; the Rev. Josh Whitfield, 2015; Dr. Tommy Benson, 2016. The Duties and Responsibilities of this Commission are stated in Article III, Section 21 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention.

The groundwork for this Commission was laid by the Task Force on Education for Ministers, which reported to the Convention in 2005 and 2006. One outcome of the Task Force effort was the establishment of a partnership between Mount Olive College and Campbell University Divinity School, enabling certain core courses of the divinity school curriculum to be offered on the Mount Olive campus for two years and support for these students as they continued their studies at Campbell. Another outcome of the Task Force was the formation of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries under the direction of Dr. Burkette Raper, which made possible the establishment of endowed funds that provide support of both undergraduate and graduate studies in religion and theology as preparation for Christian ministry, as well as gift support from individuals and churches for that purpose. Still another outcome of the Task Force was a recommendation to the Convention in 2005 that a committee or commission be appointed whose task would be to promote continuing education opportunities for all ministers.

The president of the Convention, the Rev. Charles Renfrow, convened the first meeting of the Commission on Education for Christian Ministry on January 22, 2009. In his opening remarks he stated his views on the work of the Commission and stressed the importance of the tasks

assigned to us. He underscored an emphasis on continuing education for all who are engaged in ministry, including both ordained clergy and laypersons who are involved in the local churches or in programs and institutions supported by the denomination.

As an invited guest, Dr. Burkette Raper addressed the meeting, outlining his vision on the purpose and work of the Commission. He spoke out of his wide experience as a minister in our denomination over a period of 62 years, going back to his ordination in 1946 (See his article in this issue of *The Free Will Baptist*). In recent years he has spoken and written about his concern for the quality of pastoral leadership in many of our churches. He has said that too often the level of education in the pulpit is lower than the level of education in the pew. Many who have served on a pastoral search committee would agree with his analysis of the situation. The Commission will attempt to address this problem in the coming years.

But the term "Christian Ministry" has a broader meaning in the context of the New Testament. There the word minister means *servant* or *one who serves*. In the church that role is shared by all who truly desire to follow Christ's example as one who came to serve and not be served. These members of the body of Christ are said to be gifted by Him for various forms of service in the church (see 1 Corinthians 12). Some will be teachers while others are able to work with children and youth. Some will exhibit musical talents while others will administer the resources of the church. Some will reach out to sinners and to the least of those who belong to the family of God (see Matthew 25:40) while others will give generously to the support of the church's benevolent work. All of these will need instruction and nurturing to develop the gifts that are to be used in the service of Christ and those whom he loves.

In the coming days the Commission will continue to define its work and to study the best means of encouraging the development of those persons whom Christ has called to serve Him in some capacity. But who is going to assume the responsibility of actually nurturing and guiding those whom Christ has gifted for service in the church?

Traditionally that task falls upon pastors and teachers to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:11–12 NRSV), but in the final analysis these church leaders must be willing to prepare themselves for that noble task.

And that will require commitment to excellence, personal sacrifice, and the willingness to do whatever is necessary, including higher education, to prepare for and to fulfill their special calling.

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The Commission on Education for Christian Ministry shall be composed of seven persons, each selected for a period of seven years, with the terms of one member expiring annually; the vacancy to be filled by the Convention.

The work of the Commission on Education for Christian Ministry shall be:

To provide a medium for voluntary coordination of services by agencies within the Convention which address the equipping of those called to Christian ministry,

To provide a resource of information, publications, literature, and other media, along with appropriate consultation relative to educational options, for those called to Christian ministry, including pastoral services, youth ministry, services to the elderly, church music, counseling, Christian education, and other Christian vocations, and

To provide appropriate conferences, workshops, and other learning opportunities that will foster excellence in Christian ministry.

(Constitution and By-laws of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, May 22, 2008)

A Calling That Is Worthy of Our Best and Our All

by W. Burkette Raper

These words are written out of a love, appreciation, and commitment to the faith and work of Original Free Will Baptists. The perspective I share is rooted in sixty-two years as an ordained minister, going back to my ordination by the Western Conference in 1946 at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage, now Children’s Home, Middlesex, NC.

Both before and since my ordination, the Free Will Baptist Church has shaped my life and work. My mother and my father were both Free Will Baptists; and eight of the most formative years of my life—from ages eight to sixteen—were spent at the Children’s Home. It was during these years at the Children’s Home that I made the decisions that have determined the foundation for my life: my conversion to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and the call to Christian ministry as my life’s work.

At the ages of 14–16, I did not have the knowledge or insight to understand the life-long significance of these decisions, especially my call to the ministry and the kind of education that would best equip me to fulfill God’s purpose for my life. Left to myself, I shudder to think of the dead-end roads I might have taken.

In retrospect, I was providentially blessed to have the counsel and guidance of ministers and laypersons who understood the biblical and historic faith of Original Free Will Baptists. I will always be indebted to these servants of God who encouraged me not to settle for the quick and easy, but who helped me understand that a call to Christian ministry is a sacred calling to which God will not be pleased with anything less than our best and our all. It is my hope and prayer that the Commission On

Education For Christian Ministry will do for others called to the ministry what was done for me.

For more than six decades I have observed the ebb and flow of Free Will Baptists. There was a time when our churches were handicapped for lack of financial resources for the support of the local church and denominational ministries, but today many churches have substantial funds in savings. There was a time when our churches had inadequate physical facilities—when multiple Sunday School classes met in the sanctuary, sometimes with draw curtains to create “class rooms.” Today most of our church plants are equal to those of our church neighbors. During the early years of my ministry, I was the pastor of four churches simultaneously—preaching at each church one Sunday in the month. Today, all churches I know have “full-time” services.

Likewise, at the Convention level much progress has been made. In 1953–54, while serving as a full-time pastor, I also served as “Promotional Director” for the Convention. My work was to promote the work of the Convention and its ministries, each of which—except for the Children’s Home and the Press—was served by a pastor out of an “office” in his home or parsonage. At that time, we had no college, no minister’s program, and no Sunday School or retirement homes ministries. Today, the work of the Convention and its ministries are greatly expanded. During fiscal year 2008, Original Free Will Baptists contributed more than \$3 million to the work of the Convention and its ministries. And while I do not have the figures, I am sure support for the work of local churches was several times this amount.

A Crisis In Ministry

But not withstanding the progress made during the past half-century in financial affairs, facilities, programs, and denominational ministries, Free Will Baptists today are facing a crisis. It is a crisis in ministry. The crisis is not in the number of ordained ministers but in the shortage of pastors who are quipped and available to provide the kind of leadership and services our churches need and deserve. Fortunately, we have some of the best prepared and dedicated pastors in our history—but not enough of them. I believe that the most difficult task among Free Will Baptists today is to serve on a pastoral search committee.

In a state with one of the fastest growing populations in America, we are barely maintaining our membership. Here we are—the third oldest organized church in North Carolina—but with few, and in many cases no viable churches in the major population centers of our State, including cities like Wilmington, Raleigh, Greensboro, High Point, Charlotte and Winston-Salem. The primary problem is no longer a lack of money, but the shortage of adequately equipped ministers.

Even in eastern North Carolina, we are having more churches to celebrate their centennial than new churches being planted. In addition, some of our long-established churches are experiencing an erosion of members—most often to churches of other denominations that have the quality of leadership and service these members seek. The sand is shifting beneath our feet.

I consider one of the most important lessons I have learned in my study and observation of Free Will Baptists is that

whatever happens to our ministry will eventually happen to our denomination. Over time, the pew gravitates to the level of the pulpit. When the level of the pulpit becomes lower than the pew, leading members will either take steps for a new pastor, or they will transfer their membership.

In past generations, it was said of Free Will Baptists that we were “poor and ignorant.” That statement is no longer true. Today, our people have attained a financial and educational status on par with our population; and an increasing number of our members have excelled in their educational attainments.

Unfortunately, in many cases, the educational level of the pulpit has not kept pace with the pew. Education alone is not going to solve our crisis, but the crisis cannot be solved apart from education. The greatest waste in human lives is the difference between what we are and what, with God’s help, we could become.

Free Will Baptists are a good and noble people with an historic faith rooted in a sound interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, which we believe were inspired by God. On the whole, Free Will Baptists are devout Christians who have an extraordinary loyalty to their church; they are generous in their financial support; and they are a people who trust their pastor, unless they feel misled or have reasons to become disappointed. In return, they deserve a pastoral ministry that will enable them to become the kind of people God has called Free Will Baptists to be. It was primarily for this purpose that the Commission On Education For Christian Ministry was created.

An Unchanging Faith In A Changing World

The Bible has not changed, nor will it change, neither has the historic faith of our church changed. What is needed is a ministry that can “rightly divide the word of truth” and effectively relate its message to the life and needs of people in a changing world.

Preaching will always be an important means of proclaiming the Gospel; but in today’s world, churches do not grow solely through preaching, regardless of how eloquent or fervent the preaching might be. The successful pastor in the 21st century must also be a knowledgeable teacher, a good counselor, an effective administrator, and one who understands and practices the ministry of pastoral care. The successful pastor is also one who knows the difference between leadership and authority. A good shepherd leads—never drives—the sheep.

The logo of Original Free Will Baptists is a globe—a picture of the earth with its billions of people, most of who do not embrace the Christian faith. In addition to a globe, our logo includes the Cross, along with a basin and a towel,

symbols of Christ’s call to be His servants and messengers. In awe, we have to ask: How prepared are we, as ministers of Christ, to communicate the Gospel and to build up His body on Earth—the Church?

I believe that there is no work among Original Free Will Baptists that is more important than what this Commission has been asked to do. The task will not be easy, nor will the work ever be completed. We have been entrusted with the Gospel, and in the Kingdom of God there is no place for any work less than the best we can bring to it. God has given to everyone He calls to Christian ministry the potential to effectively fulfill that calling, but it is the responsibility of those called to develop their potential. This development is the purpose and meaning of education.

The role of this Commission is not to decide who is called to Christian ministry—that is God’s calling. The work of the Commission is to provide guidance and assistance to those whom God calls in equipping themselves for a ministry worthy of God.



WE ARE THINE

by Tezdjan

Every church receives a mission to the community and the world, which is her very essence of existence. The Church has always been in struggle with the world. Since the time of the early Christians, she is determined to invest recourses which are leading to improvement or at least to change her towards a better state of



being. Often churches seek ways to communicate this in different ways: through honest objectivity and by persevering in sincere prayers. Our mission statement is as given in the Gospel of St. Mark 16:15. As part of the body of Christ, we have concern about the pastoral and spiritual needs of people, regardless of nationality, color, age, abilities, and confession. With the help of the Holy Spirit we do our utmost while fulfilling our spiritual, pastoral, and evangelistic outreach, through Sunday Worship Meetings, Bible studies, daily children and youth Bible clubs, by hobby and handcraft groups.

Yet, in all these activities the Free Will Baptist Church in Balchik, Bulgaria, fails to identify fully with its mission. There are conditions that need to be changed. The form of ministry and outreach needs to be empowered and energized. Evangelism needs to be better equipped and promoted through congregational involvement. A warm welcome and lasting hospitality to old and new converts needs to be practiced. This is essential for the atmosphere in the church.

The condition that needs to be changed is our church building. Since 1992, our church in Balchik meets for worship, fellowship, evangelistic activities, and other types of meetings in a garage room with a surface of 12 m², which is less than 14.4 sq yards. This space has served us sufficiently and still does, but the purpose and form of our outreach and ministry are

giving us difficulties in managing within the present space we have. Beyond limited, regular worship, we are not open to our community, because disabled people cannot participate in our meetings, due to access difficulties. Parents can't often afford to come to prayer meetings with their children, because we have no extra room

where they can be taken care of. As a church we have difficulties offering a warm meal to those who suffer extreme hardship during the cold winter days, because we have no facilities to do that. We invite friends to participate in our in-door activities, but they soon cease to come, because there is no place for them to sit. In all these matters we are not attracting cooperation.

As the Church, we are provided with resources of high value, but we face difficulties in sharing them with the community. The "House of Prayer" that we planned and received building approvals for, filled our church-workers with great enthusiasm for the work of the church. The building permit encourages church leaders to concentrate their energy on ministry planning. It will attract cooperation and enrich our fellowship with each other. It will guide us towards better distribution of church recourses and give us better access to our community. With this long awaited building, the body of Christ in Balchik will be equipped for social meetings, friendship meetings, discipleship activities, and to promote healthy growth in the word of Christ.

There is no worship without love. True love to God demands to be shared with people, shared in words and in works. Then, we continue traveling our pilgrim journey, following the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BOHOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP MEETING CARMEN, BOHOL, PHILIPPINES

by The Reverend Dario S. Basingil

The Original Free Will Baptist Church workers' meeting was held in Carmen, Bohol, Philippines on November 29, 2008, with 20 workers coming from different towns of the Province of Bohol. This is one of the nearest islands to Cebu Province. It takes two hours by boat from Cebu City. The meeting started at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, headed by Faith G. Perocillo, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of OFWBCII. She spoke on leadership.

The work in Bohol covers two districts, the East District, and the West District. The East District is supervised by Pastor Jose Degamo and is composed of seven local churches with seven pastors. The West District is supervised by Pastor Alfonzo Marzan and has 10 local churches and 10 pastors.

At the closing of the meeting, a challenge was given to all workers to excel in their work.



BETHEL MISSION RAMOS, ARZIPE, MEXICO

by The Reverend Antonio Escobar

The work of this mission during the year 2008 was to reach different families and to share the work of God with them through teaching and prayer in their various neighborhoods. It was also a work of keeping them as a part of the mission.

One of the problems that we face is the different time and hours that the people use in their local work. Many of them work in the mornings and many of them work in the evening, so they cannot all meet at the same time for worship services. Some of them work the midnight shift and so we see little of them in the mission. However, during the time of worship, those who are not at their work are in the services with us. We thank the Lord for this. At every service we have a good number of children, young people, and adult.



**FOREIGN MISSIONS
ANNUAL TELETHON
TELETHON SUNDAY
MARCH 22, 2009**

Theme: "Our Chief Business"

Making Christ known to the World



THEME VERSE:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15

GOAL 2009: A total of \$225,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

**Since reaching the world with the Gospel is our chief business,
this goal should easily be reached.**



PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

CALL

IN YOUR SPECIAL OFFERING ON MARCH 22, TELETHON SUNDAY BETWEEN 1:30 AND 5:00 P.M.

252.746.4963

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT
ON TELETHON SUNDAY.**

**PRAYER GOAL MARCH 22, 2009:
All churches joining together in united
prayer during the Morning Worship Hour
in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY**

**OFWB
INTERNATIONAL
FOREIGN MISSIONS
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
252.746.4963**



Sunday School Ministry

CINDERELLA SISTERS



On Thursday, January 29, 2009, 14 brave souls left the Disaster Relief Building in Kinston, NC for a weekend of meditation and Bible study at Cragmont Assembly in Black Mountain, NC. We arrived safe and sound thanks to the Reverend Buddy Sasser who served as our bus driver for the weekend. During the weekend, we studied the book, *You Are Worth More Than You Think* by Dr. Leslie Parrott. Ms. Mary Dudley, director of the Sunday School Ministry, led the discussion. We began the process of keeping a journal as we thought about the issues that were addressed. During our free time, the ladies arranged flowers into some very beautiful arrangements. Several of them will be available at the Sunday School Institute for purchase. Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Guy Whaley for

coming to our aid. Mrs. Whaley helped us learn a great deal about flower arranging. Mrs. Brenda Best, a member of the Sunday School Board, came along to provide assistance in the discussions and the other activities of the weekend. On Saturday, the ladies, along with the assistance of the Cragmont Staff, had a delicious steak dinner with all the trimmings and Valentine decorations. On Sunday morning, the Reverend John Williams delivered a short meditation before the group left for home. All the "Cinderella Sisters" can whole-heartedly recommend Cragmont Assembly for retreats and time away from home. We encourage your support for this ministry in the mountains as John and Arlinda begin their 30th year in management.

CORRECTIONS TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE SCHEDULE

Brian Everette

Teaching That Connects With Pre-Teens

Session 4 Rm 130 2:50-3:50 P.M.

Ron Richardson

Play is Our Business

Session 1 Rm 117 9:50-10:50 A.M.

Creating a 5-Star Nursery

Session 2 Rm 117 11:00-12:00 NOON

Overview of SonRock Kids Camp for 2009

Session 3 Rm 117 1:40-2:40 P.M.

Karen Apple

"Over the Top" Preschool Bible Stories and Worship

Session 1 Rm 112 9:50-10:50 A.M.

Overview of VBS—Wildwood Forest: "Discover the Untamed Nature of God"

Session 2 Rm 112 11:00-12:00 NOON

Keep 'Em Tuned In: Preschool Classroom Discipline

Session 4 Rm 112 2:50-3:50 P.M.

Karen Apple is replacing Dr. John McMurphy who is unable to attend. Ms. Apple is a consultant for David C. Cook.



GIVING THE GIFT OF HELP

by Amy Kelly, staff writer, Sampson Independent

This article is reprinted from the Sampson Independent. It is used with permission.

Free Will Baptist Harvest Connection working to serve those suffering in times of crisis.

Romans 12:4–6a states, “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”

Duplin County resident Joe Crumpler serves his function as a member of the body of Christ so that others, too, may serve.

Crumpler calls himself a “Jack of all trades, master of none,” and he uses his many skills to volunteer with Harvest Connection, the disaster relief program created by the Department of Home Missions and Evangelism of the Convention of Free Will Baptists. Crumpler serves on a setup team to establish bases of operation for disaster relief workers in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and other devastating storms.

The first week in November, Crumpler traveled to Cameron Parish, Louisiana which is located in the very western corner of the state, at the Gulf of Mexico and next to the Texas border, Crumpler described.

In Cameron Parish, Crumpler and a team of others set up living quarters so that other volunteers would have a place to stay and keep equipment while helping to rebuild the area. Crumpler and his team set up the plumbing, wiring, water and power for “work and play” trailers. So far Crumpler has helped to set up four trailers, two of which are in Cameron Parish.

The team converted the cargo area in the rear of the trailers into additional sleeping area by building bunk beds. The bunks are built so that they can be moved to utilize the area for cargo

when necessary. Another trailer was converted to a dining area. Crumpler remarked that the trailers are “very versatile.”

Once the living quarters are set-up, other teams can come serve the area and have a place to sleep, dine, and store tools and other supplies.

These living quarters sit in the backyard of the First Baptist Church of Cameron which was completely destroyed by the 30 foot storm surge of Hurricane Rita in September 2005, after losing its sanctuary to Hurricane Katrina just shy of a month before, Crumpler reported.

In addition to setting up these trailers, Crumpler also uses his skills as an EMT while on these mission trips. He said many of the storm-torn towns they have worked are in “remote places” with no incorporated town for miles, maybe only one store and the nearest medical facility over an hour away.

When asked why he volunteers his time to set up these living quarters, Crumpler replied, “Somebody’s got to do it. It’s just that simple... we need Jacks and Jills of all trades to help.” He sees service to others as service to God.

The words of a respected old minister have stuck with Crumpler his entire life—“You don’t serve God by serving God. You serve God by serving people.”

Crumpler said he “go(es) prepared to do whatever needs to be done,” to meet physical, spiritual and emotional needs in Louisiana. “When the opportunity presents itself, we pray with people. If there is a need for literature, we present literature.”

Crumpler admitted that he enjoys the work and has met some very good

people.

Harold Swinson, food coordinator for the Harvest Connection, served alongside Crumpler in Louisiana on the set-up team. He said if the team sets up the living quarters fast enough, they perform assessments and complete paperwork so that when the work teams arrive, they have somewhere to work immediately. Also, as food coordinator, he is responsible for providing food for those working and Cameron Parish locals who are in need.

In addition to serving in Louisiana, Swinson has taken several mission trips to Mississippi. He mentioned doing disaster relief work needed from Hurricanes Floyd, Katrina and Isabel. Swinson said he volunteers because he “feel(s) for those people” who have lost everything to the recent hurricanes.

Swinson explained that working groups rotate about every week, and no less that every two weeks because the working environment “takes effect mentally.” “So many have come back and said this thing has really stayed on my mind about how blessed we are and how critical they are... People work as hard as they can for what they’ve got and suddenly it’s gone.”

Teams will continue to come and go to work to alleviate the devastation caused by the hurricanes in the southeast part of the U.S., and because of the work of Crumpler, Swinson and others from the Harvest Connection, these workers will have a place to sleep, eat and shower each day. When the work is complete in Cameron Parish, the setup team will dismantle the living quarters and move them to another area in need, continuing to serve people, and in turn serve God.



Cragmont Assembly

PASTOR/DEACON SEMINAR

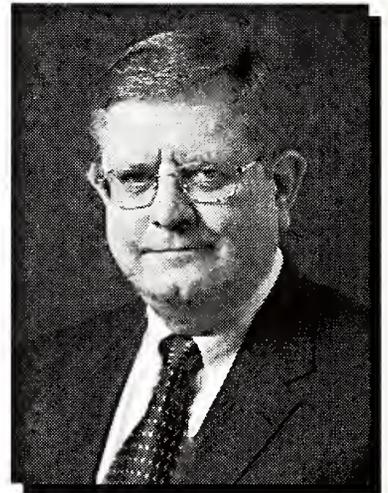
Cragmont Assembly

March 26–28, 2009

Cost \$110 per person (\$50 per person deposit)

The Reverend George Bullard, DMin.

Dr. George Bullard will be our guest speaker for the two-day event. We are taking registrations now for this retreat. You may send in your information by mail or you may call the office to make your reservation at (877) 669-7677.



George Bullard Is A Ministry Partner With The Columbia Partnership

George's vision is to use his spiritual and strategic giftedness to empower congregations and congregational champions to fulfill their vision for Kingdom growth.

George is also Project Director for Lake Hickory Learning Communities Sustaining Pastoral Excellence process (this is a Lily Endowment funded grant working with 70 pastors from multiple denominations on sustaining their excellent practices of ministry). This process is hosted by Hollifield Leadership Center at <www.Hollifield.org>. View and purchase books imprint at <www.cbp21.com>.

George is Senior Editor for The Columbia Partnership Leadership Series, a book series with Chalice Press. (George's first book in this imprint is *Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation*.)

In Baptist denominational service George was one of the organizational architects during the 1970s of the North American emphasis on congregational redevelopment known as PACT, was the primary organizational architect during the early 1980s of the Mega Focus Cities effort that addressed the Great Commission and Great Commandment challenges in the 50 largest megalopolitan areas of the United States, was the primary organizational architect during the early 1990s of the first round of the Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and has been the primary architect of the Pursuing Vital Ministry emphasis of the Baptist

State Convention of North Carolina since 2001. This latter emphasis is known in The Columbia Partnership as a Spiritual Strategic Journey and is supported at the following website: <www.SSJTutorial.org>.

George has coached numerous local, regional, and national denominational organizations among various Baptist groups. Since 1996, George's ministry has been expanded to include work with various denominational families throughout North America. Among them are Assemblies of God, Baptist, Christian Disciples of Christ, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Christian Reformed, Church of God (Cleveland), Episcopal, Evangelical Covenant, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal Holiness, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and other denominational, non-denominational, and para-church groups.

George is widely recognized as an advisor to denominational leaders, a futurist, a strategic planning expert, a group process facilitator, a church growth strategist, an authority in conflict management, and a writer. He has extensively developed a lift cycle model for congregations, which helps congregational leaders know what types of assistance they may need to best facilitate growth.

Strategic planning, church growth, missionary church, and conflict management consultations and training have been a major part of George's denominational

(continued at the bottom of the next page)

Cragmont 2009 Schedule

Morning Star
April 17-19, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Cragmont Youth Conference
June 15-20, 2009
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5918

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)
July 6-11, 2009
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

Young People's Bible Conference
July 27-31, 2009
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Road
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 734-3320

Ministerial Association of OFWB
June 8-10, 2009
John Hill
312 Pineview Street
Lucama, NC 27851
(252) 239-1958

Christian Cadet Conference
June 22-27, 2009
Joey Williams
139 Windyfield Dr.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 734-9080

General Youth II Conference
July 13-18, 2009
Brad Williamson, Director (252) 752-5846
Wilma Parker, Registrar (252) 522-0967
PO Box 6423
Kinston, NC 28501

Cornerstone Women's Conference
August 2-7, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

September Women's Mini Conference
September 18-20, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Day Spring Conference
June 10-13, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Bed, Breakfast & Blessing
June 29-July 4, 2009
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

General Youth I Conference
July 20-25, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 792-5745

Pee Dee Youth Conference
August 10-13, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 792-5745

service during the past 27 years. He has provided in depth consultation services to more than 500 congregations and denominational organizations. He has led or assisted in-depth training to more than 1,000 denominational workers in strategic planning, church

growth, mission movements, and conflict management consultation skills.

George is a graduate of Mars Hill College in North Carolina and has seminary degrees of Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Ministry.

Web site: <www.TheColumbiaPartnership.org>

Church: _____

Contact Person: _____

Number Attending: _____ Buliding: _____

Do you need first floor: _____ Phone #: _____

You may mail, fax, call, or e-mail this information to Cragmont:

1233 North Fork Road • Black Mountain, NC 28711

(877) 669-7677 phone • (828) 669-1463 fax

<cragmont@character.net>



Retirement Homes Ministry

We have a new member of our Retirement Homes family. Mrs. Lola Earley, a member of Hickory Chapel Church in Ahsoskie, was added as a client in January. Mrs. Earley is like so many of our older members in that she was reluctant to ask for much needed help. Mrs. Earley says she has outlived the retirement money that her late husband and she had set aside. Mrs. Earley was 93 years young on December 30, 2008.

I had the opportunity to visit and talk with Mrs. Lola on January 27 and it was a great joy for me. Her pastor, the Reverend Michael Williams, accompanied me for the visit. He was very instrumental in encouraging Mrs. Lola to apply for assistance. She has so many stories to tell about life and if you ever have the opportunity to meet her I hope you will. She loves to talk and has so much to say that is really worthwhile if you listen.

Thanks to our members and our churches, it was possible for us to add Mrs. Earley to our family. This ministry is geared to help folks just like Mrs. Earley who may need a little assistance to make ends meet each month.

2008 was a great year financially for the Retirement Homes Ministry. We were able to meet our projected budget and do a few things that we had not placed in our budget when it was adopted. Thanks to the Youth Convention for making much of this possible.

If the trend continues that began with our January 2009 contributions, we again should be able to meet our projected budget and hopefully be prepared to assist others who may find themselves needing a little help.

I encourage you to continue to give God the glory for all things and continue to pray for this ministry and our clients. We are currently serving 15 of our wonderful people. I have faith in us as Original Free Will Baptists, and in God as our creator, protector, and provider. He will not let these 15 clients, and any others who need help, go lacking in anything.

May God continue to bless our churches, pastors, and members in all their undertakings.

Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director



Pepper Worthington, *Empress Josephine And Other Poems*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 2008. 128 pages.

Pepper Worthington's new book of travel poems carry the reader from Martinique to Easter Island. Photographs of the locations have a certain appeal, blending the visual image with the poetic description. In the first poem, "Empress Josephine," the decapitated statue of Josephine reinforces the poem's account of a man from Martinique who despised Josephine, the girl from Le Trois-Ilets who married Napoleon. Laborers of the island remember their slavery in her family's sugar plantations. Many of the locals "spit at her headless form" (p. 9).

Poignant is the photograph of the street man in Valparaiso (p. 50) whose arms wave "as if on a cross" (p. 51), his forehead "cut" (p. 51). Worthington writes:

*His smile was as wide as
his welcome stretch,
eyes laughing in denial
of pain
or street debris
being free as he was
with nothing to lose.*



Photographs of numerous travel locations appear with the adjacent poems—Bora, Bora, Fortaleza, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Guam, Saipan, Hong Kong, Punta Arenas, Coquimbo, Arica, Antarctica, Devil's Island, French Guiana, and the Orinoco River, Venezuela. Fascinating is the woman on her bicycle in Tianjin, China, her load she is carrying beyond imagination as the puffed white bags rise in the sky.

In the poem, "Pilgrimage Up Mt. Corcovado," Worthington blends the **real effort** to reach the Christ the Redeemer statue standing over Rio with the **transcendental vision** of faith:

*The old Brazilian man stumbled up the hill,
his chub foot twisted as his handmade shirt
and pants hung together with a crude rope belt.
His thin arms held the rail while sweat
dropped from his rough gray moustache.*

*Determined, he moved with methodical will
as if the moment of healing lay ahead
at the foot of the great statue,
Christ the Redeemer towering over Rio
in fact and vision. (p. 57).*

For more information about Pepper Worthington's new book, contact Sheila Benson, MOC Press Administrative Assistant at (252) 286-6851 or e-mail: sbenson@moc.edu.



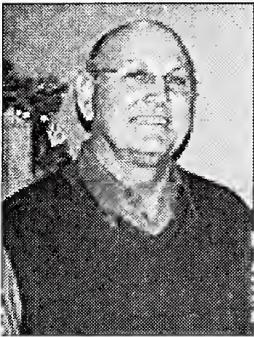
Children's Home

CHRISTMAS

Christmas was a joyous occasion at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home this past year. We strive to share the real meaning of Christmas with all the children with which we are entrusted. Your thoughtfulness and care helped us do just that.

Some of the events included Christmas parties, special meals, *The Christmas Story* (presented in Memorial Chapel by our residents), and, of course, gifts for each child.

Thank you for sharing.



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

On December fourth nominations for employee of the year were presented to the board of directors. Employees were asked to submit their candidate in writing for consideration. At our annual staff Christmas party the winning candidate was announced. Our 2008 employee of the year was Mr. Donald Batchelor. Mr. Batchelor has been employed by the Free will Baptist Children's Home for more than 31 years.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Batchelor on a job well done!

NEEDS LIST

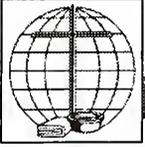
- Bed Pillows
- Heavy Duty Cookware sets
- Kitchen Towels & Dish Cloths
- Dryer Fabric Softener
- 33-gallon Black Trash Can Liners
- Vinyl Mini Blinds (call for details)
- Extreme Teen Bibles (NKJV)—Hardcover
- Heritage Halls Renovations (estimated \$150,000)
- (4) Fiberglass or aluminum 6 ft. "A" ladders
- Personal hygiene Items (body wash, body lotions, bath powder)
- Art supplies (sketch pads, water colors, paint brushes, markers)
- Plastic Clothes Racks
- Cleaning Supplies—Lysol Tub & Tile, Scrubbing Bubbles, Fantastic, Greased Lightning, Clorox Clean-up, Pine-sol, all purpose cleaners
- Soft Soap & Soft Soap Refills
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Washing Liquid

INSPECTION GRADE

On Wednesday, February 4, 2009, the state inspector came to the Children's Home campus. All cottage staff were anxious to learn the results of their cottage inspection.

We are pleased to announce that all five cottages posted excellent scores. This inspection is just another avenue to ensure we provide excellence in all avenues of care.





Convention News

THE DISCOVERY OF CHANGE

Convention Headquarters Office

The word for 2009 is "change." From political circles, to the economy, to our own denomination—change is in the making. Not all types of change are good, or necessary. Sometimes change benefits many, at other times it profits only a few or even one. We don't have to agree with how the change is made, nor in the results of the change. However, no one can deny that in our current political, social, economic, and religious climate, change is needed. And in order for change in any area of life to really make a difference, as individuals we must endeavor to work with or through those changes that most affect our lives and families. For the purposes of this article I choose to stay away from the political and socio-economic movements in our world. I would, however, like to focus on a couple of "changes" that are finally being recognized by many within our local Original Free Will Baptist Church congregations.

During the first two months of 2009, the Headquarters office fielded numerous calls from churches seeking information and direction, primarily in the area of pulpit supply and pastoral selection. To clarify this statement you must know that as of the writing of this article, approximately 10% of our 254 churches are seeking pastoral leadership. That's 25 churches that do not have a pastor. When the call comes in, the questions invariably are "What are we going to do?" and "Where can we get the help we need?" Requests for assistance come almost every day, and we try to help whenever we are able. Herein lies the first "change." Churches are recognizing and calling for assistance from their denominational Headquarters, and receiving that help. Currently (January 2009), the Headquarters Office is assisting four churches with information and instruction on the establishment and work of the Pastoral Search Committee. We are also, at the request of these churches, providing pulpit supply on Sunday, many times with candidates who are themselves seeking a church to serve. As a sidebar statement, it is very difficult to explain to a church that is seeking a pastor how our denomination can have 25 vacant pulpits and over 50 ordained, physically healthy, unretired ministers who are not currently serving a church. Any response would consist of opinion and speculation, so I just answer with, "I don't know."

The second area of "change" we are seeing comes from congregations who have recognized their limited

knowledge of our denominational structure. Members are beginning to learn that their denomination extends far beyond the tidbits of information they receive from their local pulpit. It has become the desire of the local congregation to learn more about our Ministries, our Doctrine, and our Heritage, as well as the proper administration of Original Free Will Baptist Church Government. Working with our Department of Home Missions and Evangelism and the Sunday School Ministry, the Convention Headquarters Office provides a proper course of study on these important topics upon request to any congregation. In addition, we have recently completed Deacon Training opportunities in two of our churches and are currently working with another. This particular study not only provides direction to those who serve on the Deacon Board, but also gives an understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the servant office to the entire church membership. We also encourage deacons and their pastors to attend the annual Pastor-Deacon Seminar held annually at Cragmont.

Recently I was in a telephone conversation with a leading member of one of those 25 churches seeking pastors. After sharing some of this same information with him, he paused and with an agitated but excited voice said, "We have been sitting here all these years with a gold mine of information and assistance within our grasp that no one ever told us about." My answer to him was that this is just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much to offer our churches, congregations, and ministers. Our hope is that you, as a pastor, or a congregational leader will understand that there are places you can call and people that will help find the assistance and answers you need for your church.

There has truly been a "change" in the eyes of many within the OFWB Denomination. The "change" however, is not just in the development of new ideas, but rather in the "discovery" of long-standing policies, procedures, information, and education. We don't need to re-invent the wheel...we just need to oil the one we have. By praying for our Headquarters staff, becoming aware of our services, and providing consistent support, you just may "discover" that "change" is not so bad, after all.

How may we assist you and your church? Just give us a call at (252) 746-4963 or e-mail us at <ofwb.hq@ofwb.org>. Our desire truly is to Serve Him by serving you.

The Nominating Committee of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention announces the following Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Officers whose term expires in 2009. All nominations should be mailed to:

The Reverend Jeff Daughtry
634 Henderson St.
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Nominations must be in writing and must include:

1. Name, address, and phone number of the person being nominated,
2. Position for which that person is being nominated,
3. A brief statement of why you think this person should be nominated, and
4. Name, address, and phone number of the person presenting the nomination.

Positions to be filled:

Convention Executive Committee

Secretary
Treasurer

Convention Board of Trustees

One (1) term ending in 2012

Children's Home

Three (3) terms ending in 2013

Foreign Missions

One (1) term ending in 2014

Retirement Homes

Two (2) terms ending in 2014

Layman's League Board

Four (4) terms ending in 2012

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation Rep.

One (1) term ending in 2010

Chaplain's Commission

One (1) term ending in 2014

Cragmont Assembly Stock Representative

Three (3) terms ending in 2012*

**Note: One term for Cragmont Assembly Stock Representative was previously filled by the League Convention*

Conference Representatives

Albemarle Pee Dee Piedmont
Paul Palmer Western

Church Finance Association

One (1) term ending in 2010

Home Missions & Evangelism

One term (1) ending in 2016

Minister's Program

One (1) term ending in 2014

Cragmont Assembly Stock Representative

Two (2) terms ending in 2012

Mount Olive College Board of Trustees

Five (5) terms ending in 2015

Sunday School Board

Three (3) terms ending in 2012

Historical Commission

One (1) term ending in 2012

Commission on Youth Ministry and Student Ministry Leadership

One (1) term ending in 2014

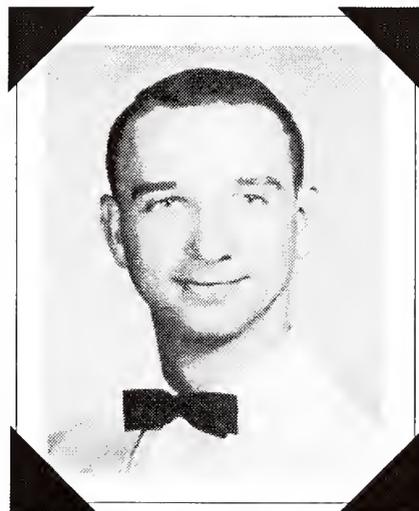
Here's the March Picture From the Past!

Your Clue:

A pastor, counselor, and teacher

February's Picture

The Reverend W. H. Willis





Mount Olive College

OPPORTUNITIES AT MOC

Scholarships for Fall 09

MOC has scholarships and grants available for eligible students who want to attend MOC in Fall 09. Complete our free online application at <www.moc.edu> or call us at (800) 653-0854 for more information.

Earn Your Degree on our One Night a Week Program

Working adults who want to start or return to college in the MOC one night a week format can visit <www.moc.edu> to learn more about these convenient programs. A free online application is available there. To make an appointment or talk to an admissions person, call (800) NEW GOAL.

BEST SPEAKS ON VALUE IN HIGHER EDUCATION AT SPRING CONVOCATION



Pictured (L to R): President J. William Byrd, Roshelle Branch, student, Dr. Kathy Best, Dr. Tyanna Yonkers-Day, and Jeff Daughtry, Director of Institutional Advancement

Mount Olive College's Spring Convocation was held January 13, 2009. Each person present was taught the value of higher education. The address was given by Kathy Best, recipient of the Morris Award for Teaching Excellence and a professor of Computer Information Systems and Accounting at Mount Olive College. Best has been teaching at Mount Olive College since 1981.

In addressing those present, Best stated that "Higher education makes a difference to individuals and society." She followed by mentioning the true values of a college education: the opportunity and

ability to "Read, reflect, explore, listen, argue, and especially, stretch their known boundaries."

Best emphasized the importance a college education makes not only to those who earn it, but to everyone in the world. "Every time graduates walk across the stage at commencement, there are benefits there that are accruing to all of us, in terms of leadership and future advancements in every field," she explained. "One day we may discover that our own students, in collaboration with faculty, have furthered the cure for cancer."



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION.
TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE.

The Barrow Family Endowed Fund for Christian Ministries Presents
A Learning Opportunity for Lay Persons & Pastors with the Reverend Wave Nunnally

Saturday, April 18, 2009

First Original Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC
604 East Ash Street, 27534
The Reverend John Hill, pastor (919) 735-0065

10:00–10:30 A.M.—Registration/Check In

10:30–11:30 A.M.—“Effectively Communicating the Good News to a Postmodern World”

12:00–1:00 P.M.—Lunch. The cost of lunch is \$7. Please complete the form below to reserve your lunch.

1:00–2:00 P.M.—“How Can We Share Jesus With People Who Do Not Accept the Authority of the Bible?”

About the Reverend Wave Nunnally

The Reverend Wave Nunnally has four years of pastoral experience and is currently professor of Early Judaism and Christian Origins at Evangel University in Springfield, MO. He has degrees in Biblical Studies from Mississippi College, The Institute of Holy Land Studies (Jerusalem), Reformed Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College. He has written numerous articles and books concerning Biblical Studies and modern Christian Thought.

Dr. Nunnally comes highly recommended by Dr. W. Burkette Raper. He has family connections in Wilson, NC; his grandfather, W.W. Silverthorne, and other relatives were members of Bethel FWB in Whortonville, NC; and at least one family member is a Mount Olive College graduate.

Other Opportunities Open to the Public

Dr. Nunnally will preach at Stoney Creek OFWB Church in Goldsboro on Sunday, April 19 at 11 A.M. On Monday, April 20, he will meet with two classes on the Mount Olive College Campus at 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. He will also deliver the worship message on the MOC campus in Rodgers Chapel at 11 A.M. on Tuesday, April 21.

Lunch Reservations

If you plan to eat lunch on Saturday, April 18, please complete the form below and mail (address listed above) or email it to the Reverend John Hill at <bfirstfreewill@nc.rr.com>. The cost of lunch is \$7 per person.

Name: _____ Number attending: _____ Church: _____

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Mount Olive College Trojans vs. Kinston Indians

The Office of Alumni Relations and The Trojan Club invite you, your family, and your church group to join us Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7 P.M. as the

Mount Olive College 2008 NCAA Division II Baseball National Champions

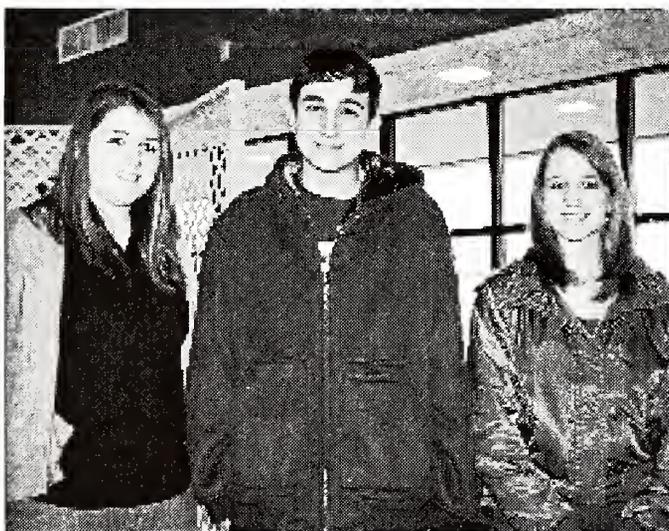
Take on the Kinston Indians at Historic Grainger Stadium in Kinston

For Reserved Tickets

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations by March 13
(919) 658-7761, <driley@moc.edu>, Fax (919) 635-3777

Great time for family fun!

VISITATION DAY



Pictured above are three Free Will Baptist students who attended the Visitation Day on Monday, January 19. From left to right: Katherine Nelson and Ryan Galfetti of St. Mary's FWB of New Bern and Caitlyn Head of First FWB of Wilson.

BASEBALL COMPLEX

When the Mount Olive College Trojan Baseball team captured the title of NCAA Division II Champions in 2008, it was tangible proof that MOC baseball is as good as it has ever been. In building on that momentum, the College, with the help of many friends and supporters, has embarked on a baseball complex improvement project.

Phase 1 of the baseball complex improvement project is nearing completion. The new baseball dugouts will be ready for the home opener on February 10. The dugouts are larger, accommodating more players, and slightly recessed, providing better sight lines for the players and fans. The dugouts include an enclosed storage room on the visitor side and a bathroom on the home side.

Funding is still being sought for Phase 2, which would create stadium-style spectator seating with elevated seating that will accommodate 50 chair back seats and 400 bleacher seats. Phase 3 would encompass a family pavilion complete with picnic shelter and playground equipment along the right field line.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Six students from Mount Olive College were among the 670+ students from around the nation attending the Presidential Inauguration Seminars in Washington, DC from January 10-21. The students were nominated through their departments and schools. Representing the Tillman School of Business were: Yeeka Yau of Killara, Australia, Jenna Gudac of Pine Level (Pine Level Church), Trenton Lassiter of Selma (Selma Church), and James Vickory of Mount Olive. Representing the School of Arts & Sciences was Jessica Dennis of Meadville, PA, and representing The School of Professional Studies was Crystal Guy of Clayton (Powhatan Church).

They attended seminars with such well known guest speakers as Dana Perino, White House press secretary

for the Bush administration; Ted Koppel, former host of ABC News Nightline; Clarence Page, columnist with the Chicago Tribune, members of the secret service and many others. After each day's presentations, the students participated in small group discussions and then departed for various site visits around DC. They met Richard Burr, United States Senator of North Carolina; they sat in on a Senate vote in the Capital building; they were on CNN; and they witnessed Barack Obama become the 44th president of the United States of America.

For an in-depth look at their travels, check out the daily blogs from Yeeka Yau and Crystal Guy at <www.moc.edu>.

FREEMAN TO SPEAK AT MOC HARRISON LECTURE

Mount Olive College will hold the 19th Annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, March 10, beginning at 10:30 A.M. in Rodgers Chapel. The guest speaker will be Dr. Curtis W. Freeman. The theme for this year's event is "And Your Daughters Shall Prophecy: Women's Voices in the Church."

Freeman is a research professor of Theology at Duke Divinity School where he is also the director of the Baptist House of Studies. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University. He earned his Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. From 1987 to 2001, Freeman was Professor of Christianity at Houston Baptist University. He has previously served as pastor at several churches and is active in the Baptist World Alliance, serving on the Doctrine and InterChurch Cooperation Commission. He is also a participant in the current five year round of Catholic-Baptist conversations between the BWA and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Freeman recently authored chapters entitled "To Feed Upon By Faith" and "Can the Secular Be Sanctified?" in a book on Baptist Sacramentalism in The Future of Baptist Higher Education. His article "God in Three Persons: Baptist Unitarianism and the Trinity" appeared in the fall 2006 issue of Perspectives in Religious Studies.

Freeman and his wife, Debra, currently reside in Durham

with their newly adopted son, Curtis Richmond "Rich" Freeman. They also have an adult son, Cole, and an adult daughter, Lauren.

The Vivian B. Harrison Lecture was established by the Reverend Frank R. Harrison in memory of his late wife. The purpose of the lecture is to provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and laypersons of North Carolina.

Mrs. Harrison was a graduate of Mount Olive College and Barton College, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in elementary education. She taught public school in North Carolina for 17 years before retiring in 1986 due to illness.

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 \$5. For more information, contact Dr. David Hines at (919) 658-2502 or email <dhines@moc.edu>. Funding for this event is provided by the Vivian Harrison Endowed Fund.

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. For more information, visit <www.moc.edu>.

COMING EVENTS

March 12

7:00 P.M.

Braswell Lecture
Southern Bank Auditorium

March 24

7:30 P.M.

MOC Recital Series
Jeremy Thompson on Piano
Rodgers Chapel
\$5 admission

March 27

7:30 P.M.

St. Andrew's Pipes & Drums Band
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
\$5 admission

ROCK THE TOWN OF MOUNT OLIVE

Over 150 people weathered 30-degree temperatures January 31 to attend "Rock the Town," a worship event organized by the Mount Olive College campus ministry team, Route 7.

"Rock the Town" featured the Matt Bartlett Band of Goldsboro, the band 6:22 from Greenville, the MOC Praise Ensemble, and guest speaker Brian Rogers.

"We organized this event to bring together the College and surrounding community," stated Andrew Alphin, a student leader of Route 7.

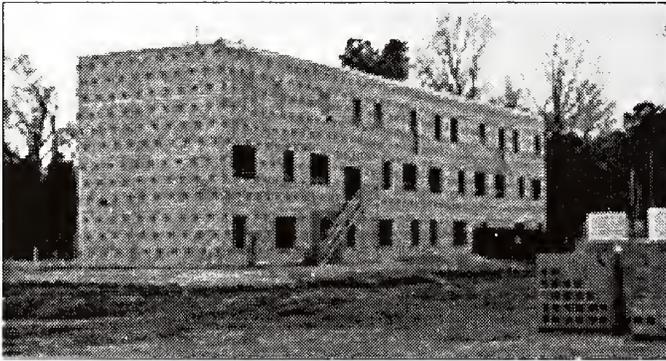
Brian Rogers inspired those in the audience with a message entitled "Discovering God's Will for Your Life." He emphasized the importance of obedience to God and how it helps Christians discover God's Will for their lives. "It is only discovered by seeking God in prayer and His Word," Rogers explained.

Route 7 ministries collected monetary donations and canned food items for several charities, including the FWB Children's Home.



FWB students Sara Strickland, Alyssa Cummings, and Tabatha Kennedy help out at Rock the Town by selling Route 7 t-shirts.

NEW RESIDENTIAL HOUSING



Ground has been broken for the first phase in a residential housing plan that calls for the addition of two residence hall courts on the campus of Mount Olive College. The three-story residence facilities will feature single occupancy rooms with semi-private bathrooms and a living room and kitchenette for each four-person grouping. The enclosed courtyard will contain a common room for use by all residents.

Progress has been steady with much of the exterior structural work complete on the first facility. Construction has already begun on the second facility with the development of the pad. It is expected that the entire project will be completed in time for students to move in for the fall 2009 semester. The residential housing project is being made possible by a \$3.5 million gift by an anonymous donor.

BOOKSTORE EXPANSION

"Expansion of the College's bookstore will happen," says Vice President for Finance Bam Alling, "we are close to having the final construction drawings completed and are looking at contractors now."

Delayed from its original start date, the bookstore expansion is expected to be completed by the end of the school year. The 1,300 square feet addition will bring the total square footage of the bookstore to 2,500. Features of the expanded facility will include additional retail space; an area for processing merchandise; a campus living room for relaxed reading, conversation, and a terrace. The new facility will be named the Dr. Pepper Worthington Bookstore in honor of Dr. Worthington and in appreciation for the \$100,000 gift she contributed to the project.

NEW BERN EXPANSION

In April, Mount Olive College at New Bern will move about a mile down Trent Road. The move will increase our space from 6,000 to 14,000 square feet allowing MOC New Bern to better serve our growing student population in and around Craven County. The new space will have nine classrooms, including a computer lab; additional office and storage space; and a reception area. The move is the first phase in the college's expansion plan for New Bern, which could eventually include building a freestanding campus.

Student Ministry Ideas

Sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary Taskforce for Youth Ministry

Each month, the Taskforce on Youth Ministry will sponsor a page of helps for anyone working with Children or Youth. Ideas will range from administration to games to a great website. This Month... Strategy!

1. Develop Leadership Qualities in Students!

Jesus called the disciples to come and follow. During those three years Jesus gave them opportunities to lead. When they failed, he dusted them off and taught them and encouraged them. Give them a job and let them do it! When they fail, run to their aid with encouragement and a teaching spirit. You will find that students will "own" their ministry and improve their leadership abilities.

2. Encourage Parental Support and Inclusion!

Believe it or not, some see children/youth ministry as a divider of parents and children. However, to cultivate a family church atmosphere you must engage students with adults and parents with children. It will directly foster greater concern among the groups.

3. Create an Evangelistic Atmosphere!

Shift the attention in your classes to help students see each classmate as a "PC"—*Potential Christian*. Create a church atmosphere where students will want to return to your church. Visit their schools, games, events—be present—they'll eventually warm up to you!

4. Establish Good Relationships with Other Youth Groups!

This includes the youth groups of other churches—other non-Free Will Baptist Churches! Learn from their youth directors. Sponsor a mixer for the students (they go to school with each other anyway!) Host a volleyball game, movie night, swim party, lock-in, or go see a MOC game?! Then move on to sponsoring service projects and outreach events for your community.

5. Include Teens in the Congregation!

Create a teaching spirit for your adult board members by putting teenage students on boards or as teaching assistants. This will help students learn leadership skills and various jobs of the church.

6. Equip Students to Share Their Faith!

Recently I heard of a middle-aged man being led to the Lord by his seven-year-old daughter! The main job of the evangelical church is—well—evangelism! We do a poor job of teaching our students to share their faith and in turn are sentencing our churches to death.

Woman's Auxiliary

RESOLUTION

Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

WHEREAS; Ruth Warrick, Ruth Moye Clark Taylor, Hilda Gray Batten Sasser, and Clara Smith Patrick gave untiringly of their talent, time, and support to the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists throughout their adult lives, and

WHEREAS; Ruth Warrick, Ruth Moye Clark Taylor, Hilda Gray Batten Sasser, and Clara Smith Patrick were examples of Christian commitment for the members of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, and

WHEREAS; Ruth Warrick, Ruth Moye Clark Taylor, Hilda Gray Batten Sasser, and Clara Smith Patrick served with dedication and self sacrifice for the Lord as officers in the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the wonderful gifts and blessings which flowed from God through the lives of these women; Ruth Warrick, Ruth Moye Clark Taylor, Hilda Gray Batten Sasser, and Clara Smith Patrick; into this organization.

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries

You Are Invited
4th Annual Session

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Tuesday, April 28, 2008

6:30 P.M. — Dinner

7:15 — 8:15 P.M. — Program and Foundation Report

Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
U.S. Highway 13 South, Newton Grove, NC

Come and learn how the Foundation is helping to build a Foundation for the future of Original Free Will Baptists through the education of pastors and endowed funds for churches and convention ministries.

The program will include music by the "Signing Choir" of Blended Fellowship, a Christian ministry to the deaf.

This event is open to the public and all who attend will be guests of the Foundation.
The dinner will be home cooked food served by the Woman's Auxiliary.

Reservations Required by April 20

_____ Yes, I (we) plan to attend the Foundation dinner and program on April 28:

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Church _____



Respond to: N.C. Foundation For Christian Ministries
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
Phone: (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250
Email: wraper@moc.edu

Please list the names of others who will be in your party: _____

Camp Vandemere



*"O send out thy light
and thy truth"
(Psalm 43:3a)*

SUMMER CAMP WEEKS FOR 2009

June 1-4	Women's Week: Stumpy Quinn, (252) 638-6406 Judy Kennedy, (910) 298-4311
June 7-12	Open Week
June 14-19	Daniels Chapel: The Reverend Walt Tyndall, (252) 753-5005
June 21-26	General Youth Camp 1: The Reverend Tim Heath, (919) 809-0045
June 28-July 1	Lighthouse Keepers Cristy Ramsey, (910) 358-2103 Angie Toler, (252) 244-1850
July 5-10	Spring Hope Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346 Debbie Warren, (252) 637-4760
July 12-17	General Youth Camp 2 The Reverend Wesley Taylor, (252) 514-3222
July 19-24	New Bethlehem Sandy Williams, (252) 745-9840
July 26 - 31	First Baptist The Reverend Doug Radford, (919) 734-4602
Aug. 2-7	Son Quest The Reverend Terry Dennis, (919) 284-6144
Aug. 9-13	Jackson Heights The Reverend Ashley Summerlin, (252) 560-8995
Aug. 16-21	Crusaders The Reverend Ashley Trogden, (252) 799-3185

A LIST OF SCHEDULED DATES FOR 2009

Feb. 20-21	Feb. 27-29
March 20-22	March 27-28
April 18	April 24-28
May 1-3	May 22-24
May 30	June 1-4
June 5-6	June 12-14
June 14-19	June 19-21
June 21-26	June 26-27
June 28-July 1	July 1-5
July 5-10	July 10-12
July 12-17	July 17-19
July 19-24	July 24-26
July 26-31	July 31-Aug. 2
Aug. 2-7	Aug. 7-9
Aug. 9-14	Aug. 14-16
Aug. 16-21	Aug. 21-23
Aug. 29	Sept. 4-6
Sept. 11-13	Sept. 18-20
Sept. 25-27	Oct. 2-4
Oct. 9-11	Oct. 16-18
Nov. 6-8	Nov. 22

Greetings from camp vandemere! Well, for the winter months, it hasn't been so very cold! We did have about four inches of snow! It was awesome! The first winter i've been at the camp and it snows! I've always thought it didn't snow at the coast. We inlanders (if there is such a word), think of snow only from I-95 and west of it. My home town is in Selma and we really don't get that much snow there either. Things are going great at the camp! We have about 30 weekend events scheduled and 11 summer camp weeks scheduled for the upcoming year. That's awesome! I'm looking forward to the warmer weather and people! Yep, it's been real quiet here.

I've had services in the chapel every sunday this year. Sometimes there's just me and then at other times, there's been up to 10 A.M. for church. We will continue to have the church services at 11 A.M. every sunday, even during summer camp weeks. God has certainly blessed our camp and we want to give him all the praise and honor that he deserves. Please pray for the camp and its direction for the future. We want to be a light house in the community that shines for jesus!

Now it's march and it will be spring soon! We've already had 2 retreats and are continually scheduling more events for the camp. If you, your church or organization would like to schedule an

event, please call well ahead of the time you wish to schedule. I have had to turn down several requests because preferred dates were already scheduled.

We have completed some of our projects and the web page has proven to be a very good asset for the camp. Just in case you haven't visited it yet, the address is <<http://campvandemereministries.embarqspace.com>>. Check it out! I am constantly updating and adding more information to it.

I am also available to do camp presentations at your churches and special events. My schedule is flexable, but also booking up fast! If you've never been to camp vandemere, that's a good way to be introduced to the camp. If you, your church, or organization have never held an event at the camp, you can also just come and take a look around. I'll give you a tour of our facilities and grounds. I know in our society today that we don't have a lot of extra time on our hands. If that's the case for you, I would be glad to mail you a presentation CD. Just give me a call at (252) 670-9775.

On our web site, I have posted a wish list for the camp. I have had a great response from this! I will update this list and take items off as they are given to the camp. I offer a special thanks to anyone who has given any of these items. Thank you!

Camp Vandemere

215 Third Street

Vandemere, NC 28587

Web: <<http://campvandemereministries.embarqspace.com>>

Interim Camp Manager: Rick Price

Mobile: (252) 670-9775

Phone: (252) 745-3171

Fax: (252) 745-7938

People & Events

GRANDDADDY

by Martha Anne Godwin

Granddaddy and the five of us have so many wonderful memories, but there are a few that stand out above the others.

Jonathan's most special times with granddaddy come with the onset of the age of computers. They enjoyed sharing new information—they were learning and comparing notes. Granddaddy was always self-taught at anything he did and was always working on some special project.

When I asked Laura what her fondest memory of granddaddy was, one main thing popped out above the rest. Her most special memory occurred when granddaddy would ride her on his John Deere tractor. He would let her drive and she never realized he had his hand at the bottom of the steering wheel, helping her out. Another thing that Laura recalled was when she would sit on granddaddy's lap and type on his typewriter. She always had so much fun playing in his computer room.

Hilliary's most special times with granddaddy were on Friday afternoons when Uncle Pat and Aunt Sue would drop her off at the bank, where granddaddy worked, to go home with him for the night. The ride from Dunn to Spivey's Corner on his truck seemed like an eternity and she would get sleepy. She would close the left eye and have the right eye open. He would always say in a very kind voice, "You better open that eye," with a great big smile on his face.

When Holly was discussing her memories with granddaddy, she remembered the nights she spent with him. Grandma would shout out from the kitchen, "What do y'all want for breakfast in the morning? Do you want pancakes, bacon, and eggs?" Granddaddy would always say, "You know what I want, brains and eggs." Guess what—he REALLY meant—brains and eggs. The next morning, granddaddy would really eat brains and eggs, but grandma cooked Holly what she chose and it was not brains and eggs!

On my first birthday, granddaddy retired from the bank. From that day on, granddaddy and I had a special friendship that no one could ever begin to

understand, because as he would say, "he needed me and I needed him!" When I was about six years old, I decided that I wanted some farm animals. My mama and daddy didn't think that was a good idea, so I asked granddaddy. If anyone knew my granddaddy, they knew he was the one that spoiled me. So that next day or so after I mentioned it to granddaddy, my dream came true and I had "Martha Anne's Animal Farm." We had a sign, cages, and fences with goat, chickens, and rabbits. We always had the best time tending to our animals.

When my mama and daddy took my pacifiers away, granddaddy got me about twenty more and kept them in a little red box in his computer room. Whenever I went and stayed the night with him and grandma, I would get to have my "pacie" under one condition, I could NOT tell mama and daddy.

I also remember always being in granddaddy's computer room. He would type on his computer, and I would draw him pictures that he would post all over the room. I loved to make a little pallet on the floor of his bedroom and go to sleep.

One of our most precious memories was playing checkers. He taught me to play when I was very young and we played from as far back as I can remember. A few weeks ago, granddaddy was having a very good day, so I talked him into playing a game of checkers with me. We played, and I am comforted to know that we tied. That was the last game we ever played.

The last and most recent thing that I will always remember about granddaddy was dealing with Molly Grace, my dog. Granddaddy always said that no dogs were allowed in his house. Well that all seemed to change when "I" got a dog. The very day I got Molly Grace, we went to see granddaddy and from that day on when I went to see granddaddy, she went too. Molly Grace would walk around in his den, and granddaddy loved to just sit and watch her. When grandma and I asked what he was looking at, he would simply reply, "that is one purdy young'n," referring to my DOG!

Although there was a ten-year difference between the oldest and youngest grandchild, there were some special memories we shared. Granddaddy always took us to Cross Creek Mall to see the talking reindeer and bears. That trip became a Christmas tradition.

All five of us would spend the night at granddaddy's house and we had a special ritual. We would all watch movies and granddaddy would pop us popcorn in a popcorn popper. Then he would make us crackers with peanut butter and marshmallows. When bedtime rolled around, we would make a "pallet" (a mattress) on the floor between granddaddy and

grandma's beds. We would all pile on it like little monkeys. As morning approached, granddaddy would wake us and we would all talk on the radio with him. We thought we were "really important" when we talked on the radio and signed in for our granddaddy—WA4LZD.

Although our granddaddy has now passed, we will always cherish all of our memories. Thank you granddaddy for being the best grandpa we could EVER ask for. You will remain in our hearts forever. We love you so much!

HORTON ROAD CHURCH NEWS

Horton Road youth member David Ferrell accomplished a significant task on January 31, 2009 as he tested, passed, and received his 1st Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do/Shotokan. At age 9, David is one of the youngest "Shodan" or 1st Degree Black Belts in the State of North Carolina. Starting at a young age and mastering the art of Tae Kwon Do is not simple. "After years of dedication and hard work, it has paid off and I'm excited," said David. The test involved two and a half hours of Kata, Weapons, Sparring, and Board Breaking events of which he completed successfully. "He is a remarkable young man with a lot of heart and great potential," commented Chief Instructor Marcus Lee, David's Chief Instructor at Superior School of Martial Arts in Durham. The Review Board consisted of Grand Master Massey, Master McNeil, Master Washington, Sensei Lee, and Shodan Kelly. Grand Master Massey stated, "I like what I see in David." Master McNeil said that



Exhausted but relieved, David smiles as he is now a 1st Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

David's nickname should be "Fireball." These statements help to serve as encouragement to David as he, too, aspires to be "Grand Master" one day, a title given at the 10th Degree Level.

Several congregational members came to see David test for his belt. The Rev. Harry Brown commented on the events, "I think David was outstanding." Youth Leader and Deacon, Phil Brown, said, "I was proud of David. I was most proud of David in his last 30 seconds of sparring. He was hurt, tired, and exhausted but the Review Board stated that they needed '30 more seconds' of David sparring/fighting. He gave them those 30 seconds." Gina Balltzglier said, "I just wanted it to stop, it was very extensive but David was impressive." David's mother, Wendy Knight agreed that, "David did very well. I'm excited for him because he has worked really hard and has dedicated long hours for this opportunity." Good job David!

*Olive shadows sway the courtyard gate
By the crack in Jerusalem's wall
Sheep scattered past in that night late
Return only to Caleb's call.*

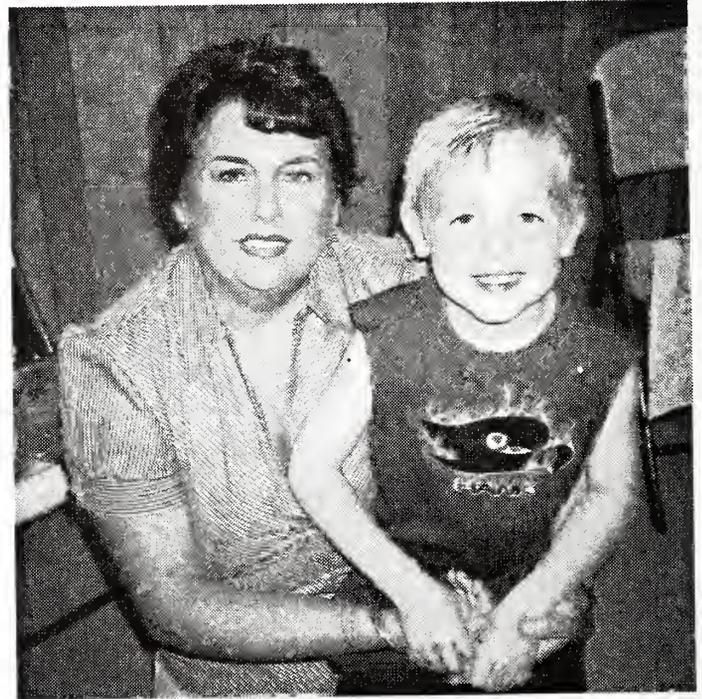
— Scotty McCoy —

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

Christ Church of Stokesdale, NC had a building fundraiser supper on January 31, 2009. It was a soup, sandwich, and dessert supper. Christ Church has a Fellowship Hall building fundraiser supper every month on the last Saturday of the month. A generous amount of money is made each time for the church. The Ladies Auxiliary always donates the food that is served. Everyone that attends has good fellowship and good times with fellow Christians. We thank God for these successful suppers.



The Reverend David Atkins and Noah Bankston

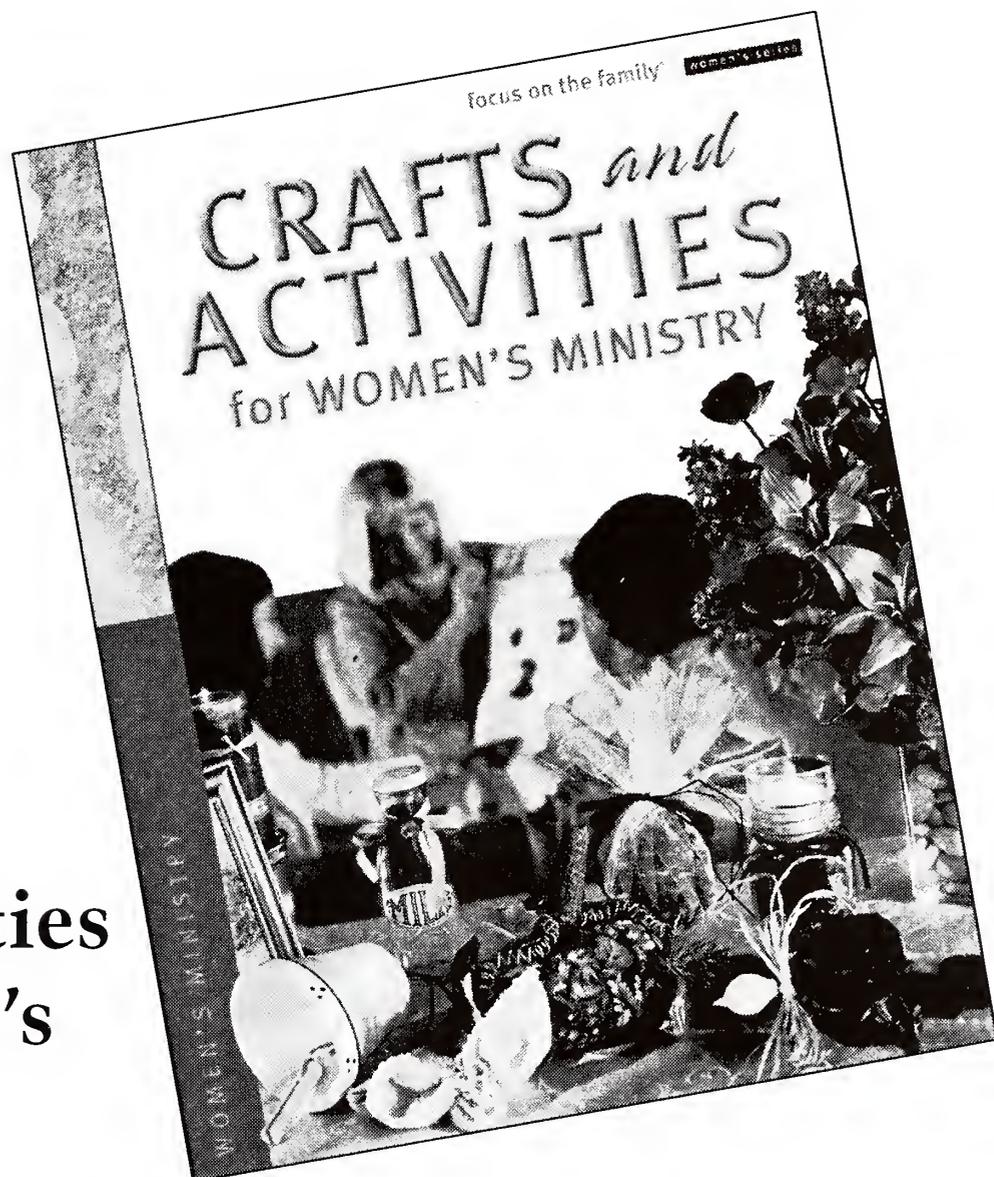


Kathy Woodlief and her son Seth Woodlief.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

The Hilda Sasser Circle of First Church in Tarboro, NC blessed their 300 prayer shawl/lap robes in December 2008. The circle has sponsored the prayer shawl ministry for the past 3 years. During this time they have made, blessed, and distributed over 300 shawls/lap robes to those in need of prayer and encouragement.





Crafts and Activities for Women's Ministry

God has made the creative journey immensely fulfilling—especially when we travel it with a fellowship of friends. Together, we can discover imaginative ways to express our creativity that can be shared with one another and used to serve our homes and communities.

This book provides everything you need to put together a fun and inspiring collection of creative activities for your women's ministry. You'll get tips on leadership, planning, shopping for supplies, and more. Plus, you'll find thoughtful activities for serving your church and community in special chapters, including "Caring for Moms in Crisis" and "Honoring Seniors and the Disabled."

Includes:

- Community builders and crowd breakers
- Reproducible craft patterns
- Creative activities for meetings, special events, and retreats

Retail: \$19.99

Our Special Promo Price: \$17

(plus NC tax & shipping charges, if applicable)

Offer good through May 30, 2009.

To Purchase:

Visit our Ayden, Kinston, or New Bern Bible Bookstore or call toll free 1.800.849.3927

These churches keep up-to-date with the latest through group subscriptions to

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Agape Church, Raleigh, NC
Antioch Church, Pikeville, NC
Barnes Hill Church, Nashville, NC
Beaufort Church, Newport, NC
Beaverdam Church, Clarendon, NC
Bethany Church, Wadesboro, NC
Bethany Layman's League, Winterville, 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
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
Everett Chapel Church, Clayton, NC
First Church, Durham, NC
First Church, Goldsboro, NC
First Church, Kinston, NC
First Church, Plymouth, 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, Fountain, NC
Free Union Church, Spring Hope, NC
Fremont Church, Fremont, NC
Friendship Church, Farmville, NC
Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, 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

Hillsberry Church, Clinton, NC
Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC
Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
Howell Swamp Church, Walstonburg, NC
Hugo Church, Grifton, NC
Indian Springs Church, Seven Springs, NC
Jakin Church, Jakin, GA
Johnston Union Church, Smithfield, NC
Juniper Chapel Church, Vanceboro, NC
Kenly Church, Kenly, NC
Kings Cross Roads Church, Farmville, NC
La Grange Church, La Grange, NC
Lanwood Chapel Church, Smithfield, NC
Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn, NC
Little Creek Church, Ayden, NC
Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC
Living Waters Church, Pikeville, NC
Longridge Church, Mount Olive, NC
Macedonia Church, Whiteville, NC
Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC
May's Chapel Church, Dudley, NC
Micro Church, Micro, NC
Mt. Calvary Church, Clarkton, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Nashville, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Bayboro, NC
New Sandy Hill, Bailey, NC
Northeast Church, Mount Olive, NC
Northern Church, Bahama, NC
Oak Grove Church, Bladenboro, NC
Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, NC
Pearsall Chapel Church, Kenansville, NC
Pilgrim's Home Church, Kinston, NC
Pine Level Church, Pine Level, NC
Piney Grove (Beaufort), Greenville, NC
Piney Grove (Pitt), 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
Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly, NC

Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, NC
Robert's Grove Woman's Aux., Dunn, NC
Rock Springs Church, Bailey, NC
Rose Hill Church, Winterville, NC
Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville, NC
Saint's Delight Church, Ayden, NC
Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
Saratoga Church, Saratoga, NC
Sarecta Church, Kenansville, NC
Selma Church, Selma, NC
Shady Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Sherron Acres Church, Durham, NC
Sidney Church, Belhaven, NC
Silver Creek Church, Swansboro, NC
Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run, NC
Smyrna Church, Benson, NC
Sneads Ferry Church, Sneads Ferry, NC
Snow Hill Church, Mount Olive, NC
Soundside Church, Columbia, NC
Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC
Spring Hill Church, Goldsboro, NC
St. Mary's Church, Kenly, NC
St. Mary's Grove Church, Benson, NC
St. Paul Church, Elizabeth City, NC
Steven's Chapel Church, Benson, NC
Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, NC
Stony Hill Church, Middlesex, NC
Sweet Gum Grove Church, Stokes, NC
Union Chapel Church, Middlesex, NC
Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC
Union Grove Church, Fremont, NC
Unity Church, Wilson, NC
Walnut Creek Church, La Grange, NC
Welcome Home, Beaufort, NC
Westside Church, Kinston, NC
Whaley's Chapel Church, Richlands, NC
White Hill Church, Aurora, NC
White Oak Church, La Grange, NC
Wildwood Church, Garner, NC
Winterville Church, Winterville, NC
Wooten's Chapel Church, Raleigh, NC
Yelverton Grove Church, Smithfield, NC
Zion Church, Blakely, GA

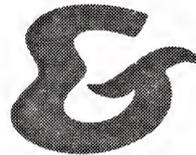
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Woman's Auxiliary Taskforce on Youth Ministry



Annual Bible Bowl



Sword Drill Competition

Saturday, April 25, 2009
9 A.M.—UNTIL

Churches wishing to compete should contact one or both of the following:

Sword Drill Assistance
Becky Jo Sumner
450 NC 561 E
Ahoskie, NC 27910
(252) 332-2772

Bible Bowl Assistance/Event Coordinator
Faye Bryant
515 Pine Level Church Rd.
Nakina, NC 28455
(910) 642-8209

Teams should contact the Event Coordinator by April 1, 2009.

Teams may submit questions to be used by the Competition Moderator.

Elizabeth Hansley Award Competition

This competition and award is in memory of Elizabeth "Ma" Hansley.
This competition is for whole youth groups to develop well rounded ministries.

For details contact:

Elizabeth Hansley Award Coordinator
Martha Parsons
2317 Bayside Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28306

Submissions should be turned in to the Coordinator by April 1, 2009.

2009 CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete ONE form per person (make copies as needed)
& mail with \$20 nonrefundable registration fee to:

Joan H. Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828
(Make all checks payable to Cragmont Woman's Conference.)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

**PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS BELOW WHICH APPLY TO YOU.
ROOMS WILL BE ASSIGNED IN ORDER OF REGISTRATION RECEIVED.**

___ I NEED a downstairs room due to MEDICAL reasons. (Availability is limited.)

Roommates desired: _____

Lodging request: ___ Main Bldg. (2-4 per room) ___ Upstairs ___ Downstairs
___ New Lodge (3-4 per room)
___ Motel (2-4 per room) ___ Hollifield House (6-8)
___ Girls Dorm ___ Boys Dorm ___ Floyd House (8)

CHECK Conference for which you are registering. You may register for more than one.

___ April 17-19 ~ Morning Star ~ Speaker: Cathy Crumpler
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

___ June 10-13 ~ Day Spring ~ Speaker: Linda Herring
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$85 Balance Due upon arrival.)
Day Spring Conference also welcomes couples and families.

___ August 2 (Sunday)-August 7 (Friday) ~ Cornerstone ~ Speaker: Teresa Allen
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$120 Balance Due upon arrival.)
___ I plan to ride the bus. Travel Day will be on Sunday PM. Bus—\$55.
___ I plan to go on side trip.
\$30 nonrefundable deposit enclosed.
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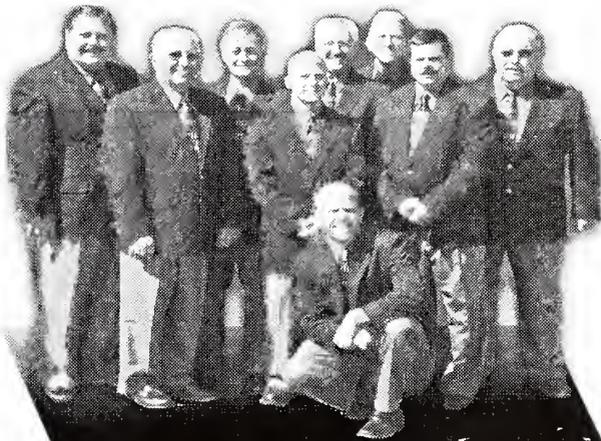
___ September 18-20 ~ Speaker: Linda McCoy
___ \$20 registration fee enclosed. (\$75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

All Conferences are open to all women regardless of membership or age.

Join us for Music, Food and Fellowship

Music Provided By:

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Legacy



The Royal Descendants

**SATURDAY
MARCH 28, 2009**

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Fried Chicken Supper Served from
4 pm to 6 pm in the Family Life Center
\$6.00 per person

Free Music at 7pm in the Church Sanctuary



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ATTENTION: Woman's Auxiliaries

The State Woman's Auxiliary Convention will meet May 14, 2009 at Robert's Grove Church, Cape Fear Conference. The registration fee is \$25 and should be sent by April 25 to the state treasurer. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M. In order for your local auxiliary to be registered, you must send your money to: **Mrs. Nadine Crocker, 568 House Rd., Kenly, NC 27542.** Even if you cannot attend, please send your registration anyway, as the Convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there. If you have any questions, please phone me at (919) 284-3341. Thank you.

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year in time to be sent to your district treasurer, before, or in time for, your District Convention. **The dues are \$1 per member per year.**

Send these dues to your district treasurer; she will keep 50¢ and send 50¢ to your state treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your Convention. Thank you for your past support. We know that we can continue to count on you.

Nadine Crocker, State Treasurer

EASTERN DISTRICT Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Sarecta FWB Church, Kenansville, NC

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

Theme: "Grace to Forgive"

Worship Service: Donna Whitfield



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Free Will Baptist Church

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through

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

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COMMUNITY CHURCH, Weldon, NC, is currently seeking a full-time pastor. A parsonage with utilities is provided. Contact Mr. Lynwood Acree at (252) 537-1098 or (252) 578-3325 for more information.

WHITE OAK GROVE CHURCH, located at 5744 Kennedy Home Rd., La Grange, NC, is seeking a pastor. We are a rural church with a large number of youth. A parsonage is available. Regular services are Sunday morning and Wednesday night Bible Study. Send resumés to David Dawson, Chairman of Pulpit Committee, 5376 Mays Store Rd., La Grange, NC 28551 or to <davidjdawson@embarqmail.com>.

When my spirit soars,
my body falls on its knees.

—Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

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Churches & Ministry Positions • \$8
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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 feature article submissions and news releases of recent church happenings.

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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 28513.

*Phone-in or handwritten information is acceptable.

However, we cannot be held responsible for errors!

*Pictures are not returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

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*“Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy time”
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In the conditions of modern life the rule is absolute, the race which does not value trained intelligence is doomed. Not all your heroism, not all your social charm, not all your wit, not all your victories on land or at sea, can move back the finger of fate.

To-day we maintain ourselves. To-morrow science will have moved forward yet one more step, and there will be no appeal from the judgement which will then be pronounced on the uneducated....

The essence of education is that it be religious.

— Alfred North Whitehead (1861–1947)

For information on the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, see page 27



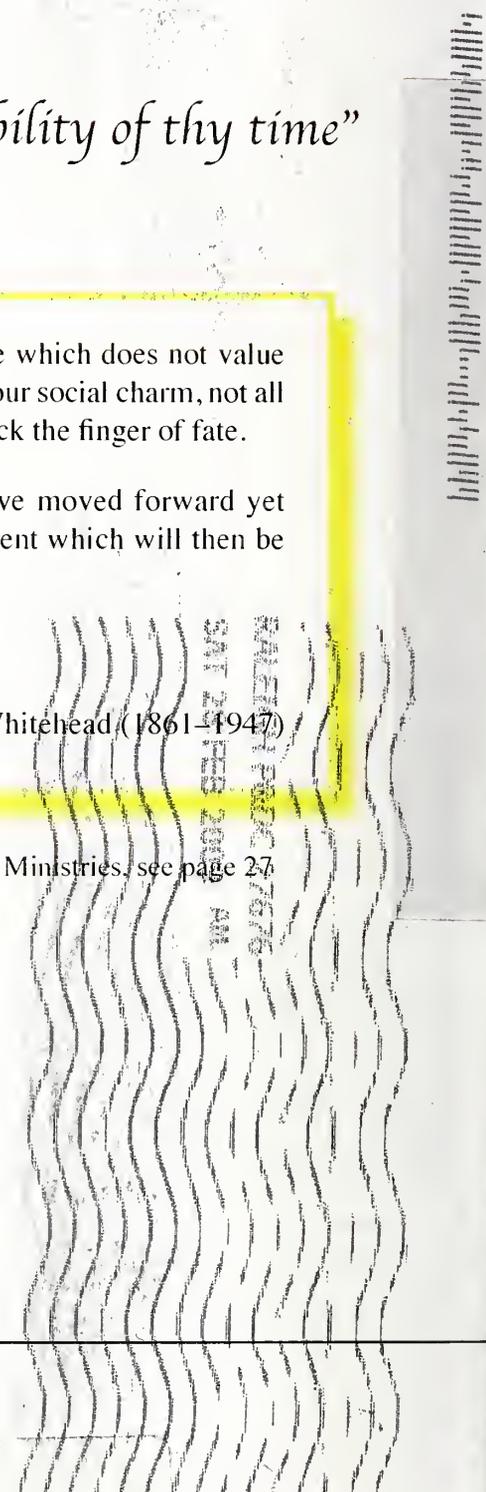
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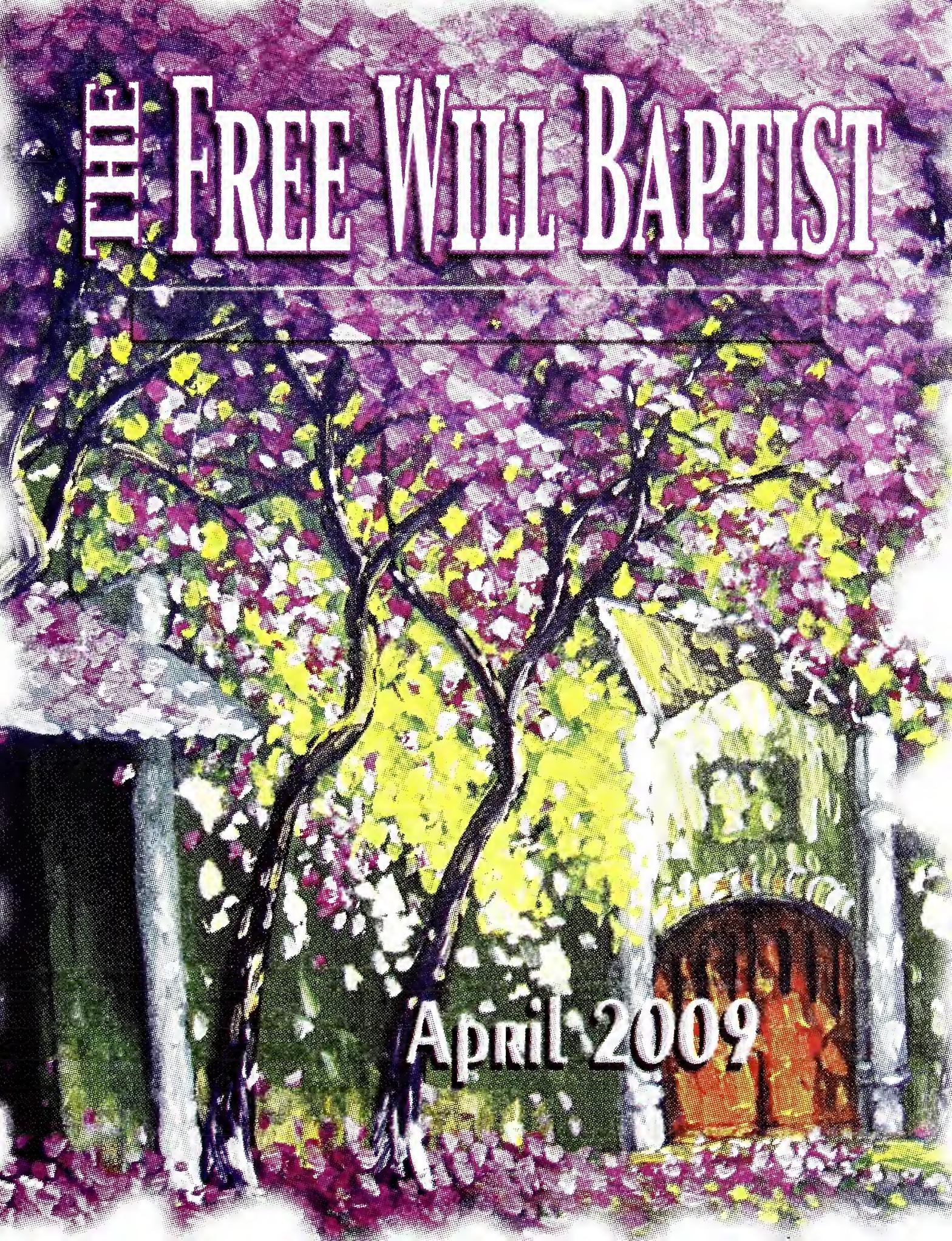
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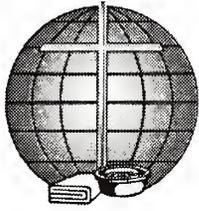
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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



April 2009



THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

April 2009



HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary Convention, 10 A.M. @ Mt. Calvary Church
5 PALM SUNDAY	6	7	8	9	10 GOOD FRIDAY	11
12 EASTER!	13	14	15 INCOME TAX DAY	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23 Awrds Day @ MOC, 11 A.M., Southern Bank Auditorium	24	25 NATIONAL ARBOR DAY
26 Good Shepherd Sunday	27	28 NC Foundation for Christian Min. Dinner @ Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, NC, 6:30 P.M.	29 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY	30		

NOTE:

Color for Easter: White

COMING SOON:

June 20-27: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions)

July 11-18: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions)

July 18-25: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions)

August 8-16: STT to Camp Morelos (Foreign Missions)

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POWER UP!

They are the true disciples of Christ,
not who know most, but who love most.

—Frederich Spanheim the Elder

THE FALLACY OF MINIMIZING

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

What we believe and practice is important, particularly in this era of political correctness when basic principles and truths seem to be less and less important and a time when we are not to offend anyone with our beliefs and practices. We are told to accept all other religions at face value, because they pray to the same God Christians pray to. We are inclined to compromise on moral issues because "everybody's doing it." In short, our society is saturated with liberal ideas and theology that minimizes (weakens) our core values and undermines the truth of the Holy Scriptures.

Each society in all generations has had its rules. Most people choose to follow and obey these rules. We find some of them difficult to follow, but we do so with the belief that those rules make us stronger and builds character and moral values.

There is no doubt that our founding fathers turned to God in the writing of our Constitution and By-Laws. This is not to imply that all of these men were perfect examples of holiness and righteousness. Yet, there are those today who would rewrite and reinterpret the meaning

of their words. It is certain they did not intend to do away with religion; instead, they sought to provide for the "free exercise" of religion without the interference of government. They wrote no specifics regarding morals; however when they wrote of the free exercise of religion and included certain rights of individuals they were incorporating Judeo-Christian principles into those laws.

Biblical laws and regulations concerning how one should live are clear. For example, when the The Ten Commandments say, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," it is quite clear as to what God was saying. The same can be said of all the Commandments. Yet, as generations come and go these laws of God are gradually being compromised, or minimized. When the

Word declares, "...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11), it means what it says. So it can be declared without reservation: His Word is truth. To minimize it is to weaken the very foundation of Christendom.

(To be continued in the next *Reflections*).



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Living Your Faith

According to The Epistle of James

(This is part four of a five part series on the book of James.)

by Nina Grace Register

Does your church have too many foremen? Is the congregation divided because the members are not sure which “boss” to obey? Why do God’s people have trouble getting along with one other? Is it because each of us wants to be head of the church, forgetting that Christ is meant to be the true head of the church? It seems that each of us wants our own selfish way, no matter if it hurts other people and hinders the progress and growth of the church.

Warren Wiersbe points out that people said of the early church, “Behold how they love one another!” Even if at that time, selfishness and covetousness was causing trouble. In Chapter 4, James addresses those things plus the worldliness, pride, criticism, and boastfulness that should have no place among God’s people.

CHAPTER FOUR

¹From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? ²Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. ⁴Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. ⁵Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? ⁶But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. ⁹Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

¹¹Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. ¹²There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? ¹³Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. ¹⁵For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. ¹⁶But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. ¹⁷Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Countries war against each other because one wants what the other has. Conflicts among church members spring from covetousness and pride. We want the positions of authority because we think we can do the job better than anyone else. Our passion to serve *our* way can stir up intense emotions of anger and unreasonable jealousy. Our bodies feel like a battlefield, and we’re ready to kill, but we still don’t get our selfish way. We pray, but God ignores us—because we’re asking for the wrong things. God will not give us His riches for us to spend selfishly or even to satisfy our own ego.

When we feel this way we are not being loyal to God. Jesus said it best when He said we cannot serve God and mammon (see Matthew 6:24). If we are friends of the world, we become the enemies of God. We have to be constantly on guard to live *in* the world and acquire the things that are necessary for our families without becoming a part of the world. Abraham knew how to do that: he was separated from sin and remained a friend of God, while his nephew Lot chose the lovely Jordan Valley, settling near the wicked men of Sodom. Lot chose to be a

friend of the world, bringing tragedy upon his family (see Genesis 13:8–13; 19:15–29).

God wants us to be His alone. The Devil knows how to use our pride to pull us away from God. This is when we need to submit ourselves completely to God. “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (v. 7). We cannot resist him on our own, but James says, “Draw near to God and he will draw near to you” (v. 8). The Devil is afraid of God. The closer we stay to God, through reading the Bible, praying, singing Christian songs, and thinking of all the good things He has done in our lives, the more distance the Devil will keep between us and himself.

Warren Wiersbe asks if we are laughing when we should be weeping over our sins? “Are you resisting the devil or resisting the Lord?” (*With the Word* 827). One of the easiest ways to cover up our own sin is to expose sin in other people. Criticism is a wicked tool and the Devil is a master at using it. Finding fault with the choir, the organist, the sermon, the parent whose child is too noisy, someone who is not dressed “right”—setting ourselves up as judge and jury of how a Christian should act—

these are dangerous positions to take. We should boost and encourage others in their Christian walk and not put stumbling blocks in their path.

And James warns us that, if we criticize or judge our brother, we are criticizing the law and judging it. Since the law came from God, does that also mean that we are criticizing and judging God? God Himself is the only one with the authority to judge. Rather than usurp God's authority, wouldn't we be better off to examine our own shortcomings, confess our failures to Him, and trust Him to make us what we should be?

We don't know what will happen tomorrow or next week, nor how long we will live, but many people make definite plans as though no one could change them. James reminds us that we have no guarantee of tomorrow. Life is short, comparatively speaking. It is like the fog hanging over a mountain, which evaporates as the sun rises overhead. Christians, especially, should be conscious of the fact that our time is a gift from God, and say, "If the

Lord wills...we will do this or that." Proverbs 27:1 tells us, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (RSV).

Another thing we need to be careful about is boasting. Arrogant boasting is evil. Many times we take credit for something we accomplished, when God made it possible and worked through us. Pride makes us want to be sure we get credit for what we have done. It hurts when someone else gets the credit, but we know that God sees what we have done and whether it is for us to get praise from people or for Him to get the glory.

And like a good parent, James warns us one more time about sin. If we know we should do a certain thing—to help a certain cause, to visit the sick, to pray for someone—and we don't do it, that is a sin. If we know to do good and do not do it, "to him it is sin," whether a sin of omission or a sin of commission. Doing God's will is more important than all these other things.



My First Miracle



by Celia Hales

Can we *really* believe in miracles? I know that most of us profess to believe in miracles, but do we believe with all our minds, intellectually? Or do we, instead, take a secondhand attitude toward the miraculous, almost without thinking, saying, "yes" because miracles are preached in the Bible, not to mention church and Sunday School?

As I have mentioned earlier in the pages of *The Free Will Baptist*, I was a skeptic in matter of faith after I had studied science in the schools. This phase lasted for about three years, while I was 13 to 16. Then something extraordinary (to me) happened that gave new life to my realizations and my religion.

I attended a youth conference at Duke University that, in the evenings, featured Dr. McMurry Richey, a professor in the Duke Divinity School. I was really seeking during those four evenings of Dr. Richey's classes. Here was a man who had had access to knowledge about religion that I could only dream about. I said to myself, thinking silently toward him, "Tell it like it is." I had had my faith shaken by the conflict between church and school, and I naively assumed that this learned man would tell it like it really was.

But Dr. Richey seemed strangely reticent to come straight out with any doctrinal assertions. Instead, he attempted to draw us out, to get us to talk about where we were in our search for faith.

It was on the third of the four evenings that my miracle

happened. Dr. Richey's topic for the evening was "Life After Death," and to his great, expressed surprise, the classroom filled up to overflowing with youthful attendees. He said that he didn't think people of our age would be so concerned about life after death. The classroom was so crowded, though, that I actually sat on the floor, a position that in retrospect seems a humble way to invite God's intervention in my life. It was about mid-way through that evening session that I felt my heart "strangely warmed." The quote is from John Wesley, founder of Methodism, who had the same experience.

I remember feeling an instant softening in my demeanor, and I thought to myself, "This is what it means to be 'saved.' I have been saved."

This was the first and most important miracle ever for me to witness, though there have been others as the years have sped by, and I will share some of these in upcoming features in *The Free Will Baptist*. After my miracle that evening at Duke University, I didn't worry so much about my salvation. I don't know if anybody else noticed, but I felt myself to be a gentler person. It was a real blessing to really realize that there was no conflict between religion and science. My full realization of this truth, though, as I have believed it, came only as more years passed. But the palpable warmth of my heart that evening was my own miracle, evidential to me, that made all the difference between a skeptic and a neophyte believer.

All, But One

by Elaine Swinson

My mother, my best friend, died a few weeks ago leaving a supreme sense of loss in my life. The moments we spent together in quietness, saying only a few words now and then, were perhaps some of the most significant times we shared.

On just such a time as this, we would sometimes break our silence to reflect on our children and grandchildren—the topic that brought us laughter, tears, pride, occasional apprehension, and that gave us an invincible bond to each other. “All, but one,” we would say, “lives for the Lord.”

We would then pause, each in our own thoughts, before we went on to discuss how we prayed for our “lost sheep” and had spent a lifetime witnessing to him. Mama would tell me, as she had so many times, that she believed in her heart that he was “almost ready—almost persuaded” to make that final step.

“He has a heart of gold and would gladly help anyone who came his way in need and he does believe in God,” she spoke aloud the words she had rehearsed so many times in her heart. I would easily agree, knowing that we needed to feel the hope that he still had time to not only believe, but to serve the Lord with all his heart and soul. Neither of us put in words the possibility of the alternative path that he might take.

Our thoughts would then again drift on to something else in the quietness of the moment....

That is why it is so important to me that since mama left us, one of my grandchildren’s normal “play dates” on a Saturday morning, with a friend from school, revealed a testimony that touched my heart in a very special way.

“Mama this one is for you!”

One of my five year old grandsons and his friend were playing alone, away from the other kids, but not so far away that my daughter could not overhear their conversation. My Conner, who was looking forward to a gathering at church that night, asked his friend, “Do you go to church?” His friend responded negatively.

Conner could not imagine life without going to church and pushed forward with another question. “Don’t you know who Jesus is?” And again his friend replied that he didn’t.

Then Conner, my precious grandson, shocked to hear that someone actually didn’t know who Jesus was, plainly stated to his friend, “Jesus is the man who died on the cross for our sins.”

That’s it—all that he needed to say to let his little friend know that he had a personal relationship with Christ, even at 5 years old. He didn’t look around to see who was listening to him tell his friend about Jesus—He just did it. It was a part of his natural conversation and he wasn’t afraid he might be laughed at or told he couldn’t talk about his Lord. We could all take a lesson from him.

There is no other “right” way to raise your child or grandchild than to carry them to church, read them the words of Christ, and live your life so they may see that you are a Christian.

As mama sleeps in the arms of God, battles of life in this world continue on from generation to generation. Stock markets go up and down, the cost of gas flutters from one day to the next, wars rage on, and the economy takes a plunge; but Jesus Christ never changes.

If you want an answer to all your problems, all you have to do is accept Conner’s Jesus, who “died for your sins.” Do you know who He is?

Nielisms

by Dr. T. R. Morris, Lt. Col USA, Retired

(blind, dictated)

Frederick Nietzsche (1844–1900) was a German philosopher and classical philologist, the first promoter of the “God Is Dead” doctrine, which still persists until this day. Bertrand Russell is probably the most recent promoter of this doctrine. The first issue of *Time Magazine* not to have a picture on the cover, but only the words “God Is Dead” on April 4, 1966 caused a circus in the fundamentalist and other religious denominations of the world. Russell, when asked why he did not believe in God, said: “I have not been presented enough evidence.”

From earliest childhood memories, boys have always played such games as “King Of The Hill.” The most popular comic books are the action figure, male superlative figures such as “Superman,” “Batman,” “Spiderman,” “Iron

Man,” etc. Not until the 21st century did psychologists, as well as pastors and parents, sense the feminization of males. Sensitivity training for maleness, the unpopularity of manliness even to the extent (probably from “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and the integration of females into male units of the military) that basic training and other very male, very rough survival requirements which had kept many males alive in past wars have been softened to suit the politically correct ambitions of the liberal media spectators.

As an Army medical officer with staff rank, I expected the non-commissioned officers to have the knowledge and control of all recruits and trainees. If an enlisted man got out of line, there was always a tough sergeant who would get in his face and tell him about the facts of life in the military.

The greatest thing about an all-volunteer military force is that you have forces who want to be there. In other wars where the draft was in effect and there were so many who resented their military obligation and even their country, esprit de corps was always a problem particularly in time of combat. After all, the military is not a democracy. You do not take a vote concerning a military objective.

It was truly amazing how smart my father became when I went to college. As many of his friends said to me at his visitation and funeral, "He was a man's man." There were many ministers who participated at his funeral. Each had remarkable things to say to the huge crowd but I will remember one saying, "He could butcher a cow or a hog, accomplish anything on a farm, but he could also sit down at a sewing machine and sew; he delivered all four of his children, he was an excellent cook, made sure his children were college educated, and his home and farm were show places."

After my mother's death, I was at the family farm home one day and there were probably 20 pecan pies on cabinet tops around the kitchen. I said, "What is the story with all these pies?" He said, "I could not sleep so I got up and baked pies. Like your Mother, I put them in the freezer, and if there is a need in the community I can always take a pie." This is the heritage he left his sons, and like his father and his father's fathers before him they knew the importance of a man in the house.

In the history of man, worship has always played a tremendous part. Every ancient city had an acropolis (highest point in the city) such as the Acropolis in Athens where the magnificent Parthenon was and is still located. Sculptures depicting their gods were so numerous around the Acropolis in Athens that even the Apostle Paul stated that they had a sculpture to an "unknown god." One never forgets such magnificence as the frieze or sculptures at the Parthenon (much of this sculpture was hauled off by the British during their occupation and is now found in the British Museum). But perhaps the most perfect example of ancient sacrificial worship is The Pantheon in Rome. The Pantheon dome is more than 43 meters high and, until 1436, was the world's largest. The Pantheon was built by Hadrian with a large opening in the center of the dome where smoke from animal sacrifices could escape and rainwater could come in and wash away the blood.

At the dedication of Solomon's Temple, which was and has never been surpassed as the greatest and most expensive building in the world (estimated \$20 billion dollars), there were 22,000 oxen sacrificed and "sheep without number." Solomon's Temple, built with cedar wood of Lebanon assembled without sound of hammer or ax or any tool of iron had the magnificence of gold and brass almost beyond comprehension.

It has always been a matter of a man's need to worship something greater than himself. Nietzsche, Russell, and even today's Hawkins (Steven Hawkins of Oxford) cannot understand this. Proverbs 24:9: "The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men." The worship of God has always been considered foolishness from the earliest history of man until the present.

Voltaire, a French philosopher and cynic said, "God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh" and "God is always on the side of the big battalions." It is significant that after his death, his home became a distribution place of Bibles.

Albert Einstein, an American physicist and greatest mind said, "God may be subtle, but He isn't plain mean" and "Before God we are all equally wise—and equally foolish."

Eric Berne wrote the book "Games People Play." The tragedy of the world, even in the year 2009, is that even those who do not believe in God play games with God. Polls show that 75% of the population of the United States call themselves "Christians" but it is hard to differentiate the Christian from the non-Christian. The greatest number ever, 15%, state that they do not believe in God.

One of the world's greatest creatures, Dr. R.G. Lee, famed pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, who preached to thousands in the huge sanctuary every Sunday and baptized an average of 20 converts each week said, before he died, "I wish I knew that 10% of my members would be in Heaven." He knew, as do most pastors, that he is preaching in a cemetery that most of his membership is already dead. The most alive people in the world should be those who trust God, alive while still breathing and alive after clinical death, last breath here, first breath there.

Nietzsche was not only a philosopher, but also a great pianist and a friend of many great musicians. Nietzsche said, and this says it all about him, "Is man one of God's blunders? Or is God one of man's blunders?" He never could understand why he could not play as well as some of his friends.

Ted Turner, one of America's wealthiest atheists, had little good to say about his ex-wife Jane Fonda or God when Jane professed conversion to Christianity.

Our only salvation, our only redemption is through Jesus Christ who put on a tent of human flesh as God and dwelled among us so that we could be Christ like. "Light has come into the world, men prefer darkness to light" (see John 3:19). The Scripture with which we should guide our existence is found in Paul's love letter to the church at Philippi. "To know him, the power of his resurrection, the fellowship of his suffering" (see Philippians 3:10).



Home Missions & Evangelism

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do..."
(Phillipians 4:9).

Good Shepherd Sunday

Sunday, April 26, 2009

With the support of your church, we have made progress in **TOUCHING LIVES FOR A LIFETIME**. Numbers of people and families have been assisted, and many have received Christ. Our priority is to continue to **REACH THE LOST** through:

HOME MISSIONS

Church Planting
Ethnic Missions
The Harvest Covenant Program
Harvest Helpers
Faith Training Center

EVANGELISM

The Lighthouse Ministry
Biker/Prison Ministry
American Heritage Girls
Boy Scouts
Mobile Ministry (Mobile Church)
The Harvest Connection Disaster
Relief Ministry

Our work is not complete because the doors of opportunity continue to open. We are counting on you and your church to demonstrate to "Serve with enthusiasm by observing **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**, April 26, 2009.

On this **SPECIAL DAY**, we are asking every Original Free Baptist Church to:

1. Have an altar prayer to pray for the lost, the family institution, and this ministry.
2. Receive a **LOVE OFFERING** for "Touching Lives for a Lifetime."

Thank you for being a vital part of this ministry.
Our success depends on your support.

American Heritage Girls, Inc.

2600 W. Vernon Ave. • Kinston, NC 28504 • (252) 526-9908

American Heritage Girls is the premier National Scouting Organization for young women that encourages family involvement and embraces Christian values.

American Heritage Girls is a Christ-centered, non-profit scouting organization, offering a wholesome scouting program for girls, ages 5 to 18. AHG was founded with the love of God...through the love of families...for the love of children.

Since its start in 1995 in West Chester, Ohio, American Heritage Girls has grown from 10 troops and 100 members to over 180 troops and more than 6,000 members in 33 states. AHG was founded by a group of mothers wanting an alternative scouting program for their daughters.

You may contact Mrs. Abby Rollins or Ms. Rose Rouse at the above telephone number for further information. They will be glad to visit your church to answer your questions about American Heritage Girls and help you organize a troop.



"I promise to Love God, Cherish my family, Honor my country, and Serve my Community."

(AHG Oath)

THE BIKER PRISON MINISTRY of Original Free Will Baptists

2600 W. Vernon Ave. • Kinston, NC 28504 • (252) 526-9908



The Biker/Prison Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists has a strong outreach emphasis. This ministry will take our team into youth detention centers, prisons, and to motorcycle events where they will "Serve with enthusiasm."

The Biker/Prison Ministry is under the direction of Dr. Timothy Webber and now has been granted permission to bring God's ministry to all the youth detention centers in North Carolina.

To become a member of this ministry or to make donations, please contact the Home Missions and Evangelism headquarters at (252) 526-9908.

2009 MISSIONS RALLY

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

Mount Olive College in Kornegay Arena, Mount Olive, NC

Theme: *"Working for God With Earnestness"*

Reports from: Home Missions And OFWB International

Hosted by: Home Missions and Evangelism



Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry

2600 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, NC 28504

(252) 526-9908

harvestconnection@enbarqmail.com

A WORK IN PROGRESS



Francis and Mike getting instructions from Julie.



Francis and Bill finishing sheet rock.



Team members:

Back row (from left to right): Bill Armitage, Mike Roberson, Jerry Sumerlin, and Francis Garner

Front row (from left to right): Phyllis Dupree, Lynette Sumerlin, and Lorraine Garner

It was a bitter cold morning on January 17, 2009, when the team (which consisted of Mike Roberson, team leader, Bill Armitage, Phyllis Dupree, Jerry and Lynette Sumerlin, and Francis and Lorraine Garner) left the Disaster Relief Ministry Headquarters—destination Cameron, Louisiana. It was a long 2-day trip, an overnight stay in a motel, and many miles later that we arrived at Cameron on Sunday afternoon at about 4 P.M. We were not prepared for the destruction that we saw. For about 30 miles, there is a lot of marsh land with many kinds of wild fowl, but nothing prepared us for what we encountered as we neared the Gulf Coast. Homes that have been flooded, most are unlivable, businesses destroyed, and churches decimated. We decided that there were 100% of the people that were affected by the two hurricanes, Rita in 2005 and Ike in 2008. It was reported by the locals that there had not been a hurricane in the area for 47 years. So almost no one remembered.

We came to the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief set-up where we would live in bunk trailers, cook and eat in the dining trailer. We moved in and began to survey our surroundings. We were set-up at the back of the Cameron Baptist Church, which had allowed us to use their property for our campsite. We realized that this is our opportunity to serve God by serving our fellow man that is in need.

On Monday morning, we met Julie Burleigh, who is the local coordinator for the clean up and reconstruction for the area. She takes applications from the local people and decides where the teams will go to work. And there is work everywhere for there is much to be done. While there we met volunteers from Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, Minnesota, and other places from the United States. But there is so much work to be done, it will take months and perhaps years for the people to get their lives back to normal.

The ladies were directed to clean a fence around a community baseball field, and we estimated that the water level there was about 8 feet. The men cleaned muddy insulation from under a mobile home which would be livable with much clean up and reconstruction. The men then met a local man, Monroe. His home had been destroyed after Rita in 2005. He had bought a new mobile home and it was almost destroyed by hurricane Ike in 2008. All the insides had to be taken out down to the studs, including the ceiling, sheet rock, insulation, plumbing,

electrical—everything. A team had replaced the outside siding and our team removed the insides.

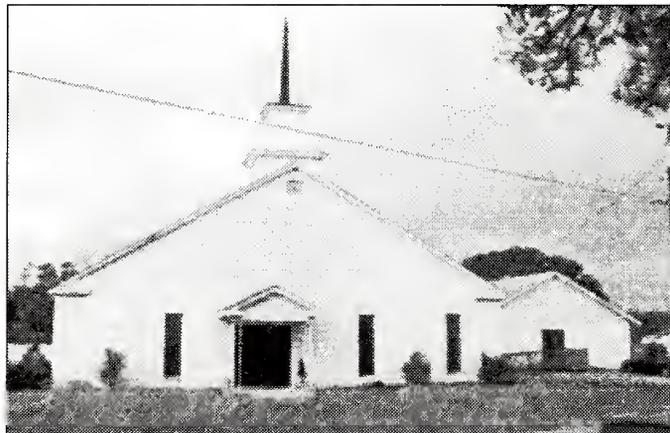
We also were directed to a home, replaced after Rita, to finish the painting for them. Everyone is grateful for the volunteer help, as they have almost no money for the materials. Some jobs were lost and others were cut back. When people look at you with tears in their eyes and you see hope coming back to them, we are so thankful that God had directed us to be a part of this ministry.

Now let me introduce you to Buck and Yvett Young. Buck works with heavy equipment and has no knowledge of building. He is not in good health and his wife Yvett, has been depressed for several years, most likely since hurricane Rita. They live in a small house, several miles from the Gulf of Mexico; however, their home was damaged badly by both storms. The house had been raised and new steps were needed. Our men were directed to find them and work on their home. Sheet rock had to be replaced and the floors needed repairing. When our team drove into

their yard, the man and wife met them with hopelessness on their faces and in their eyes. They had not had any help and didn't know what steps to take to get their home back so they could live there. After two days work there, Buck and Yvett were changed. We left them with tears in our eyes as well as theirs. We prayed with them and you could see the encouragement on their faces.

We packed up everything and on Friday morning, January 30, we left Cameron with tears in our eyes and an ache in our hearts, realizing that there is so much work to be done and we had accomplished so little. We arrived back in Kinston on Saturday, said our goodbyes to each other and are eager to share our experiences and memories of our Cameron, Louisiana mission trip.

Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in serving "God with Enthusiasm," please contact the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry at the address given above.



Faith Original Free Will Baptist Training Center

2900 Bridges Street • Morehead City, NC.

Faith Training Center has a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 160 persons, a fellowship hall and kitchen, also an office equipped with a computer and copier. There are classrooms, bathrooms with showers, and six bedrooms that will accommodate 17 people.

The purpose of Faith Training Center is to be available for all Original Free Will Baptists for meetings, training, and retreats. The facility will be structured to accommodate a staging area for The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry in times of disasters. Also, it has been designated as a collection point for the receiving of Disaster Relief Kits.

The major goal is to provide facilities for training Original Free Will Baptists for church growth.

You may contact Rev. James Gurganus, Coordinator at 2600 W. Vernon Ave. • Kinston, NC 28504
Phone (252) 526-9908 • Cell (252) 714-0917 • e-mail: <jamesgurganus@embarqmail.com>.



Sunday School Ministry



"Just a few of the 425 people who attended"



Dr. David Rendall



Ms. Dudley with Ms. Pat Taylor, Teacher of the Year from Whaley's Chapel and Mr. Jerry Barbour, Superintendent of the Year from Johnston Union.



There were 4 superintendent nominees and 17 teacher nominees representing 13 churches from six conferences. Each received a gift bag and a certificate with their church receiving a certificate of appreciation for participating in the Awards Program.

"Teaching and Learning For All With Enthusiasm"

68th Annual Sunday School Institute • March 6-7, 2009

Friday and Saturday, March 6-7, 2009 will be remembered as wonderful days in the Lord. At the 68th Annual Sunday School Institute, there were 45+ workshops held on many different topics of interest. There were 5 publishing companies represented. They were Randall House, David C. Cook, Standard, Gospel Light, and Free Will Baptist Press. Representatives from the first four publishing companies conducted workshops of interest.

These representatives come to share the materials that are available for help in enhancing the various ministries of the church. From time to time, folks call the Sunday School office as well as the Free Will Baptist Press to solicit information concerning what varying companies offer and this forum gives these folks an opportunity to

hear and see for themselves. The representatives come with no charge to offer help where it is needed. Dr. David Rendall, on Friday night, offered much insight into Leadership. He was well received and represented Stoney Creek Church and Mount Olive College extremely well. From suggestions from the attendees, the Sunday School Ministry is attempting to arrange different times during the year to have some of the presenters have more time to discuss their topic of interest by arranging locations for small group presentations.

The Sunday School Ministry staff cannot thank the attendees enough for their interest in the growth of their church through Christian Education. The offering for the Camp Scholarships was well over \$1,300. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



THANKSGIVING SERVICE (CEBU, PHILIPPINES)

by Rev. Dario S. Basingil



The God's Covenant Original Free Will Baptist Church, pastored by Nonoy Medina at Jugan, Consolacion, Cebu, Philippines, held their 4th Church Anniversary, November 30, 2008 with the theme "God's Word is Power for National Renewal."

I had the privilege to attend when they invited me as their speaker. I challenged the congregation concerning

renewal. According to God's Word, even the strongest people get tired at times, but God's power and strength never diminish. He is never too tired or too busy to help and listen. His strength is our source of strength. When we feel all of life crushing on us, and we cannot go another step, remember we can call upon God to renew our strength.

Isaiah describes God's power to sustain and his presence to help. God is almighty and all powerful. He cares for each of us personally. No person or things can be compared to God. Isaiah 40:29-31 tells us that He gives power to those who are tired and to those who are worn out. He offers strength.

God has good, pleasing, and perfect plans for His children. He wants us to be transformed people with renewed minds, living to honor and obey Him. We should joyfully give ourselves as living sacrifices for His service.

Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Only when the Holy Spirit renews, re-educates and redirects your mind, then He has truly transformed you.

JESUS' GLOBAL VIEW (BALCHIK, BULGARIA)

by Willem van der Plas

The social aspects of Missions developed mainly during the 20th Century and increased rapidly after the 1960s when most of the colonies received independence. Before, missions were instruments in the policies of the colonizing nations, while colonies were resources of income to the so-called "Mother-lands."

During the last decennia we have become familiar to the economical and political struggles of globalization with the purpose to bring the national economy on higher levels of prosperity and to promote free marketing to the benefit of the third world countries.

The globalization idea, however, is much older than we can imagine. Jesus already commanded his disciples to witness the Good News of salvation locally, regionally, nationally, and globally, to the "ends of the Earth." Yes, the free marketing project of Jesus shall be brought to the "ends of the Earth." The free gift of Grace through justification by the Father. That is not anything!

In India and also in other countries where our foreign missions serve, we see a growing opposition against the evangelical messengers of Jesus. Many nations



have religious freedom mentioned in their constitution, but local and regional they allow fanatics to oppose witnessing Christians by all means. Christianity is not forbidden, but in a very limited way tolerated as a phenomenon and at the same time cut off from all the rights that the constitution suggests to offer. Among these countries are India, Nepal, Bulgaria, Turkey, while Bangladesh dismisses the thought of freedom of Faith for Christians. Christian

faith demands to follow the command of Jesus to witness HIM globally.

Dear brothers and sisters, I highly admire the view of our denominational foreign missions, because it stands up for Jesus and for the global view of Jesus to witness HIM to the "ends of the Earth." Through the ages, our Fathers have endured persecutions and never quit the command to be witnesses of their Lord Jesus Christ. I highly admire your loving participation and your support to take the words of Jesus Christ into the world even at times of economical sorrows. We are a LOVING denomination that searches the ways to please the Lord, because we know what he has to offer to a world that is lost in itself.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE (VARNA, BULGARIA)

by Nikolai Asenov

Our church invited older women, divorced women with children, and orphans to have prayer and lunch with us on December 21, 2008. Pastor Kosta Ivanov preached during the Sunday worship about God's Love in Jesus Christ to the world; his love to the rich and to the poor people. We need not be ashamed to be poor. Quite a number of persons remained after the service; with them we shared praises, prayers, and a sober Christmas meal. Together we enjoyed the blessings of our Lord.

After the lunch we distributed 15 food packages to families that are in very difficult financial situations. Another 20 families received packages containing white beans. The Lord cares for us and he surely blesses us in our daily needs. We praise Him for His faithfulness.



YOUTH COMPETITION FOR DRAWINGS AND POETRY (VARNA, BULGARIA)

by Nikolai Asenov

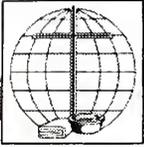
The youth leaders of our church at Varna announced a competition in the categories of drawings and poetry, with the theme "The Birth of Christ." Twenty-seven children and youth had the courage and found the means to participate in the competition. Most of them prepared one month ahead for the special event that closed on 24 December 2008. Some of the participants used not only crayons and felt-pens for the paintings, but also wool, grass, wood, and other materials. All received a small gift in the shape of hearts with the words "Love You" on it, expressing God's Love and our concern for them.

Jechko Rumianov, Iveta Marinova, and Ana Nicolaeva won the top three prizes. The children and youth continued with a celebration concert which was prepared especially for Christmas.

Pastor Kosta Ivanov delivered a sermon with wishes for a better new year, and prayer for all the gypsy quarters in Varna. We prayed for the family of Tezdjan and our missionaries Willem and Lydia. Together we brought thanks to the Lord for their lasting perseverance and courage in serving Him and His people in our difficult reality. We prayed for all our brothers and sisters in America who made it possible for us to have a church building where we can serve to our utmost for the up building of the Kingdom of God. Knowing about your hardship during the last years, we pray that the Lord blesses all of you and continues to supply your needs.

Thank you for your prayers and support during this past year. We, the church in Varna, want you to know that you all are in our daily prayers. May we all remain in the mercy and the love of our God and Father in Jesus Christ.





Convention News



The 13th Annual Original Free Will Baptist Convention *Open Golf Fellowship*

Monday, May 11, 2009
Happy Valley Country Club

Proceeds from this tournament will be shared
with The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief



FORMAT: 4-Man Superball • 9:00 A.M. Shotgun Start

THREE WINNING TEAMS

Juniors: At least 3 members under 50 — Back Tees
Seniors: At least 3 members 50+ — Middle Tees
Super Seniors: At least 3 members 65+ — Front Tees

SPECIAL EVENTS

Closest to the Pin **Straightest Drive**
Choose your Putt — **Choose your prize**

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 of Original 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)

___ **Juniors**
(At least 3 members
under 50)

___ **Seniors**
(At least 3 members 50+)

___ **Super Seniors**
(At least 3 members 65+)

ENTRY FEE

\$60 per player...\$240 per team

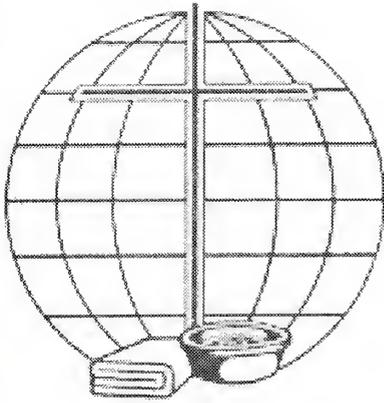
Please pay in full in advance
to assure your team's spot.

Make checks payable to OFWB Convention

MAIL ENTIRE FORM TO:
Buddy Sasser, Director
P. O. Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513

Call (252) 746-4963 for more information

* NOTE: The \$5 Choose Your Putt Fee
may be paid at the Tournament.



Join us for the 97th Annual Session of the
Original Free Will Baptist Convention

May 19–21, 2009

on the Campus of Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC

Theme: “Working for God With Earnestness” (Matthew 9:37)

For more information call (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <ofwb.hq@ofwb.org>

Program details in the May issue of *The Free Will Baptist*

Special features include:

Minister’s I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet

Speaker: Rev. Al Warrick

Tuesday Evening Worship

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Carden

Special Music by the Wilmington Celebration Choir

Wednesday & Thursday Worship Speakers:

Rev. Tim Heath — Rev. Calvin Heath

**More than 15 different workshop opportunities
on Wednesday afternoon**

Sunday School Banquet

Wednesday at 5:45 P.M.

Speaker: Keith Kenemer, Randall House Publications

Annual Mission Rally

Wednesday at 7:30 P.M.

Hosted by the Department of
Home Missions and Evangelism

**Here’s the April
Picture From the Past!**

Your Clue:

He’s like the Energizer Bunny

March’s Picture: The Reverend Frank R. Harrison

Previous winners:

January: Stearle Pittman • **February:** Louise Hines



Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.



Children's Home

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN 2009

Dear Church Friends:

Preparations are underway for our thirteenth annual "Change For Children" campaign. These campaigns continue to increase awareness of our childcare ministry and also generate financial support for the crucial months of summer.

Your church will receive information and collection bags later this month. We would like you to have your congregation start preparing now, by doing the following:

- 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 Sunday in your church

The Change For Children Campaign will encourage families and church groups to work together collecting their change to help further the cause of their child care ministry, and also provide new church members and youth an opportunity to learn about the Home. The funds collected allow us to continue meeting the needs of the children we serve.

Our previous campaigns have been successful, and I look forward to our 2009 Change For Children Campaign being even more so. This campaign's success is due to the many unselfish givers from within our denomination.

We thank you in advance for helping with this campaign.

Yours for His Children

Gary Lee, President/CEO

PRAISE REPORT

Providing the opportunity for spiritual growth has always been a priority at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The children at the home attend Memorial Chapel, our campus church, on Sunday mornings, and have nightly Bible study in the cottages.

Garry Bisette, our interim pastor, recently had the privilege of leading several of our children to Christ. He baptized one young lady in November, and five young ladies and one gentleman in early February. Please join us in lifting these young people up in prayer, as they step into their Christian journey.

DUPLICATE MAILINGS

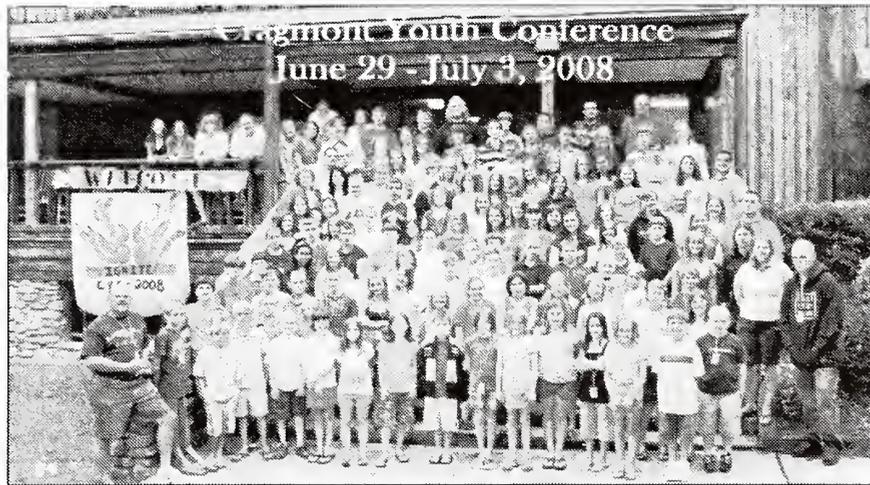
Recently, we have been updating our mail program. Some of you have received duplicate mailings. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused, and we hope to have the problem fixed soon.

NEEDS LIST

- Personal Hygiene items (body wash, body lotion, bath powder, shampoo, soap—boys and girls)
- Kitchen Towels & Dish Cloths
- Fabric Softener Dryer Sheets
- Trash Bags and Trash Receptacles
- Dish Washing Detergent
- Family Size Cool-Side Griddles
- (4) Aluminum or Fiberglass "A" Step ladders
- Renovations to Heritage Hall (\$150,000)
- (8) Twin Mattress Sets (\$200 per set – Call for Details)
- Recreation Center Roof (Call for Details)
- Vinyl Mattress Covers & Pillow Covers
- Bed Pillows
- Cleaning Supplies (Pine-Sol, Bathroom Cleaner, Kitchen Cleaner, soft soap)
- Queen Size Sheets (for staff Bedding)



Cragmont Assembly



It's Time for Camp!

CRAGMONT 2009 SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 17-19, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Ministerial Association of OFWB

June 8-10, 2009
John Hill
3445 NC 111 Hwy.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(252) 230-1845

Day Spring Conference

June 10-13, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 14-18, 2009
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5918

Christian Cadet Conference

June 22-27, 2009
Joey Williams
139 Windyfield Dr.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 734-9080

Bed, Breakfast & Blessing

June 29-July 4, 2009
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

July 6-11, 2009
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 13-18, 2009
Brad Williamson, Director (252) 752-5846
Wilma Parker, Registrar (252) 522-0967
PO Box 6423
Kinston, NC 28501

General Youth I Conference

July 20-25, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 792-5745

Young People's Bible Conference

July 27-31, 2009
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Road
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 734-3320

Cornerstone Women's Conference

August 2-7, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Pee Dee Youth Conference

August 10-13, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 792-5745

September Women's Mini Conference

September 18-20, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217



Mount Olive College

OPPORTUNITIES AT MOC

Scholarships for Fall 09

MOC has scholarships and grants available for eligible students who want to attend MOC in Fall 09. Complete our free online application at <www.moc.edu> or call us at (800) 653-0854 for more information.

Earn Your Degree on our One Night a Week Program

Working adults who want to start or return to college in the MOC one night a week format can visit <www.moc.edu> to learn more about these convenient programs. A free online application is available there. To make an appointment or talk to an admissions person, call 1-800-NEW GOAL.

One night a week programs are starting at Mount Olive College locations near your home. MOC's two year associate degree program, called Heritage (HP), requires completion of high school or equivalent, and that the applicant be twenty-one years or older. The minimum admissions requirement for MOC's upper level programs in religion (MRM), early childhood (ECE), management and organizational development (MOD), criminal justice and criminology (CJC), healthcare management (HCM) and management of information systems (MIS) are 55 semester hours of transferable college credit, 12 hours of which must be general education (3 semester hours must be English Comp I or equivalent). Check the schedule below for start dates by location. All classes begin at 6 P.M. and last until 10 P.M.

Mount Olive Evening College 1 (800) NEW GOAL

- MRM begins 4/20/09
- MOD begins 5/18/09
- HP begins 5/21/09
- MIS begins 5/28/09

MOC at New Bern 1 (800) NEW GOAL

- HP begins 4/20/09 and 7/14/09
- CJC begins 4/28/09
- MRM begins 5/11/09
- HCM begins 5/19/09

MOC at RTP 1 (800) NEW GOAL

- CJC begins 4/28/09
- ECE begins 5/19/09
- MOD begins 5/26/09

MOC at Washington 1 (800) NEW GOAL

- ECE begins 4/28/09 and 5/15/09

SECOND ANNUAL WINTER GLITZ ANOTHER SUCCESS



The second annual Winter Glitz was held at Mount Olive College on February 7 in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The theme for this year's black tie optional event was "Hooray for Hollywood: An Evening on the Red Carpet" enjoyed by 226 guests.

Entertainment for this year's event included Pianist Tom Casey and Vocalist Michelle Johnson Braxton; both alums of Mount Olive College with lots of performance experience.

"It was a fantastic evening," stated Dianne B. Riley, director of Alumni Relations. "The atmosphere was electric, the food delicious, and the entertainment awesome. I can't say enough about the alumni that make this event happen. They are the finest group of people you will ever meet. They come up with the theme, the ideas for decorations and help to pull it all together. That's what I enjoy most about this job...working with

people who care about Mount Olive College and want it to succeed enough to roll up their sleeves and help to make it happen. I am so appreciative to everyone who supports this event and ultimately supports our students."

Planned by the MOC Alumni Association, Winter Glitz is an elegant evening of dining and entertainment with proceeds benefitting student scholarships at the College. The proceeds for the two years have totaled nearly \$25,000 for endowed student scholarship funds at the College. February 27 is the tentative date for Winter Glitz 2010 so plan to join us as we visit "a different venue" maybe even a different country...

Pictured left to right are: Ann Taylor, Joan Little, May Pittman, Stearle Pittman, Jean Averette, and Carl Averette

GRUBBS NAMED MR. MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Andrew Grubbs of Oriental won the title of Mr. Mount Olive College at the College's annual pageant.

Grubbs, a junior criminal justice major, is the son of Paul and Teresa Grubbs and attends Pine Level FWB Church. Grubbs was also named Most Talented for the males. For his talent, Grubbs performed *Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone* by Chris Tomlin on saxophone.

Sixteen contestants (8 male and 8 female) were in this year's scholarship pageant and competed in interview, casual wear, talent, and formal wear categories. Grubbs received a \$500 scholarship along with additional prizes from area businesses.



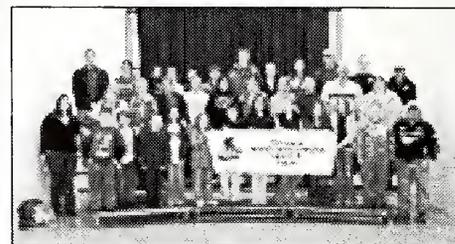
FWB Church Night



Deep Run



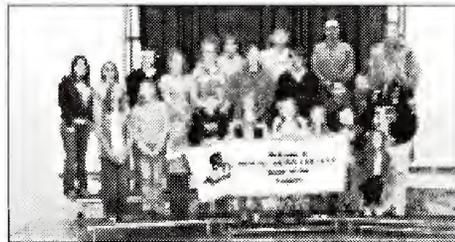
First FWB Goldsboro



Free Union—Beaufort



Haymount



Hopewell



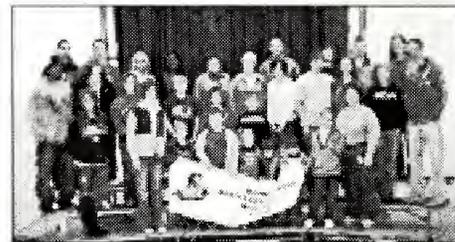
Lees Chapel



Marlboro



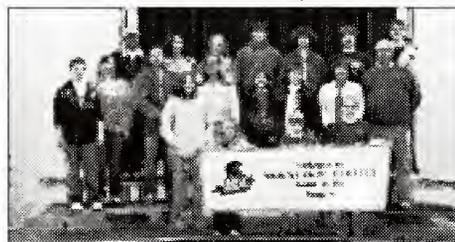
Marsh Swamp



May's Chapel



Mount Zion Albemarle Conference



Mount Zion Wilson



Piney Grove



Pleasant Hill—Wayne



Pleasant Hill—Pitt



Rain Crossroads



Rock of Zion



Saint Mary's Grove



Saint Paul



Saints Delight



Sandy Plain



Shady Grove



Silver Creek



Smith's New Home



Smyrna



Snow Hill



Sound Side



Spring Hill



Stancils Chapel



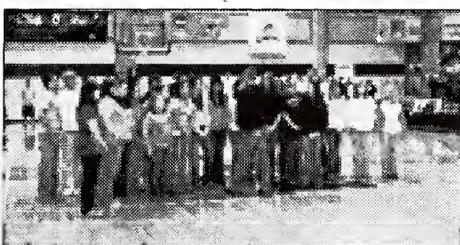
Stoney Creek



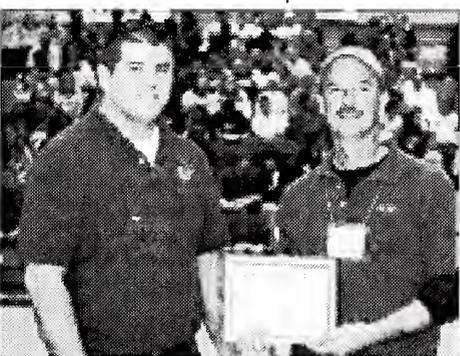
Union Grove



Wootens Chapel



Young Disciples Anthem



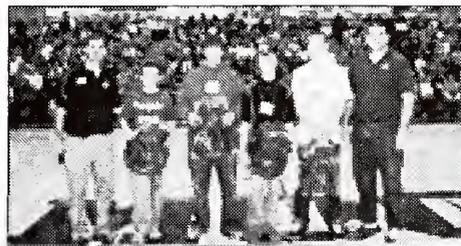
Brad Evans, Admissions Counselor, with Youth Leader winner for three point shot competition Jerry Woodard.



Brad Evans with Matthew Coates, Pine Level Church and Johnny Sullivan, Daniel's Chapel Church, Churches with Largest Attendance, Heather Beaman, Admissions Counselor, and Tim Woodard



Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, and Brad Evans, Admissions Counselor, with winners of half time free throw shooting competition (K through grade 6)



Tim Woodard and Brad Evans with winners of half time free throw shooting competition (grades 7-12)

BATTLING ALL ODDS

Battling all odds, Amy White, a 40 year-old mother of three, will graduate from Mount Olive College in May.

White enrolled at MOC in July of 2006 pursuing a degree in English with a concentration in creative writing. At the beginning of the fall 2007 semester, White was diagnosed with stage 3A breast cancer during a routine exam. It was not her first experience with such devastating news.

As a junior in high school, White was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. She overcame the disease and graduated with her friends. However, through the years, she dealt with many long-term effects on her health from the various treatments and surgeries. Still, she never let anything keep her from living life. Sometimes, she had to alter her goals or deal with setbacks, but determination pushed her forward.

So, when the news came in the fall of 2007 that she would be battling another life threatening disease, her immediate reaction was doubt that she could endure the treatment and go to school.

"After the shock subsided, I worried about my children, my club and tutoring commitments, and my classes," she stated.

White began treatments in February of 2008. Not wanting to burden anyone, she told only a select few about her condition. She went to classes daily and then headed to Greenville for chemo. Slowly, the news trickled through the small campus. After her second treatment, White lost all of her hair. It was at that point that she knew she had to tell her three daughters Paige (14), Erika (12), and Emileigh (4).

"I reassured them that I would fight hard to survive," she stated.

And fight she did! White maintained her busy schedule taking a full academic load, serving as president of Sigma Tau Delta, being editor-in-chief for the Trojan Voices literary



magazine, acting as Commuter Club vice president and serving on the Student Government Association. At the same time, White participated in her daughters' activities and school functions. Rather than pulling her down, the busyness of her life seemed to push her forward.

"Mount Olive College is the biggest part of how I made it through and continue moving forward," White remarked. "Everyone at MOC went above and beyond my expectations. I received emails, phone calls, and care packages from the clubs I participated in, as well as from professors and students I did not know on a personal level. The one thing that I appreciated most is that the entire campus lifted me up physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. They accepted me regardless of appearance, age, or status. Actually, the students genuinely treat me like I am the same age as they are and include me in their lives. The professors continually pushed me to achieve my goals regardless of adversity. They are my family. Outside of MOC, I had little support. MOC and my children are what encouraged me to fight for survival. They gave me a reason to get

out of bed every morning and live life to the fullest."

White is now in remission from the breast cancer, but continues to suffer from the side effects of chemo. A chapter in her life hopefully closed and a new one about to begin as she will graduate from MOC in May. It is her goal to then further her education by obtaining a master's degree, then PhD in English rhetoric and composition. Ultimately, she would like to teach in a small college setting similar to Mount Olive College.

"I believe in the importance of education and stress this daily to my daughters," White remarked. "I give my daughter's the best advice (by example and voice) they will receive in their life...you can achieve anything and everything you desire regardless of obstacles thrown in your way. Life will knock you down. Get back up and continue fighting for success. Without judgment or prejudice, love and serve everyone to the best of your ability. Always go beyond what is required. Be above average."

White's oldest daughter, who is now 17, will heed that advice and her mother's example. In August, Paige will enroll at Mount Olive College pursuing a degree in forensic science.

"Through the past three years, I've watched how the entire campus has surrounded my mom with love and support," Paige shared. "All the students treat her like a kid. Of course, she acts just like one of them, and that is why they love her so much. She understands them. When I go to MOC, I will live on campus. My mom wants me to have a complete college experience and take advantage of every opportunity offered. I've seen first hand the opportunities that the College presents. My mom has had the opportunity to visit places like Boston and Washington D.C. She is involved in different clubs and activities on campus. I have big shoes to fill, but know it is possible."

COMING EVENTS

April 3

12 P.M.

Endowed Scholarship Luncheon

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

For more information, contact
Vicki Robinson at (919) 658-2502.

April 16

7:30 P.M.

Spring Fling

Southern Bank Auditorium

For more information, contact
Gregg Cannady at (919) 658-2502
or <gcannady@moc.edu>.

April 23

11 A.M.

Awards Day

Southern Bank Auditorium

April 23 & 24

8 P.M.

MOC Concert Choir

Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

\$10 admission

For more information, contact
Alan Armstrong at (919) 658-2502
or <a1armstrong@moc.edu>.

May 9

2 P.M.

Spring Graduation

George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena

Admission by ticket only

For more information, contact
Kathy Gardner at (919) 658-2502.

ILA MAE OUTLAW DAVIS ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED

Johnny Davis, president of Tyndall Funeral Home in Mount Olive, has established an endowment at Mount Olive College in honor of his mother, Ila Mae Outlaw Davis. Mrs. Davis is a member of Rooty Branch Original Free Will Baptist Church in Duplin County and is a strong supporter of MOC.

She recently celebrated her 90th birthday, where she was surprised and honored with an endowment in her name. She is very involved in her church and according to her son, Johnny Davis, "believes everyone should attend Mount Olive College!" Johnny Davis established the endowment for his mother because she has always loved being involved with children and this allows her to help many young people for generations to come.

"She has given to others all of her life; I wanted to honor her," Johnny said, smiling. "And this is the best way to do that."

Johnny Davis is an alum of MOC from the class of 1966. He is a member of the Mount Olive Rotary Club, serves on the Mount Olive College Alumni Association Board, and in 2007 he was honored as the Mount Olive College Alumni Business Associate of the Year during the Awards Program of the annual Alumni Weekend. He participates in many College functions and is very active in the Mount Olive community.

The endowment will be used to supply financial assistance to students at MOC, with first preference awarded to students from Rooty Branch Original Free Will Baptist Church. Second preference will be given to students from Duplin or Wayne Counties.

For more information about how you can establish a scholarship to honor someone or to find out more about the Ila Mae Outlaw Davis Endowment, contact Jeff Daughtry, Director of Planned Giving at (919) 658-7831.



Woman's Auxiliary

Attention Women! It is time for the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Eighty-Second Annual Session
May 14, 2009

Hosted by the Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary
Robert's Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church

2.5 miles west of Spivey's Corner just off Highway 13

Theme: "Tangible Faith—Faith Put Into Action"

Scripture: "...I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18)

8:15 A.M.	Registration, Refreshments, and Fellowship Time
8:45 A.M.	Auxiliary Praise and Worship Choir in the Sanctuary
9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.	Program Joan Little, President

Three Sessions with different speakers, special music, convention business, denominational representatives, and breaks between each session will make up the program.

A catered lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall for \$5 per person.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY REPORT

by Mrs. Audrey Brown

On January 18, 2009, during the morning worship service, Micro Church Auxiliary honored eight members for their many years of service. These ladies go back a long time: 40 or 50 years or more. They held many offices during these years. They have influenced me and many others through their faithfulness, loyalty, and dependability. They have prepared and helped serve many meals. Even now, when we have a death in our church family, they still send food or want to help with expenses.

For many years, we met in our homes on the Tuesday night following the second Sunday each month. After the fellowship hall was built, we held our meetings there because it was more convenient. On special occasions, we still meet in our homes. We have a good working auxiliary with good attendance. Some ladies never miss a meeting. You see, it takes all of us working together to be successful. We honor these ladies for their love and the influence they have on us today. They helped instill in us to be the best we can be. When we, the older generation, are gone, we know our auxiliary will be in good hands. God has richly blessed us and we thank Him for these ladies we are honoring today with a pin and a Life Membership Award Certificate. They are:

Sadie Scott	Agnes Faucette	Ethel Godwin	Hazel Surles
Rosaland Howes	Kathleen Edgerton	Carolyn Hinnant	Doris Smith*

Doris Smith went to be with her Lord on November 8, 2008. Her award was given to her family.

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries



*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us. Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way For those who come after us.*

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE ABILITY TO HEAR?

by W. Burkette Raper

The church exists to proclaim the Gospel, but how shall it proclaim it to those who cannot hear?

Would you attend church if you could not hear a note of music by the choir or the singing of the hymns? Would you attend church if you could not hear the reading of the Scriptures or the message from the pulpit? How many deaf people were in your church last Sunday? Few, if any. Why? Because most churches are not prepared to proclaim the Gospel to the deaf in a language they can understand.

The deaf in the United States are a mission field, virtually unreached. It is reported that only seven percent (7%) of deaf adults have ever had the Gospel presented to them in their own language, and fewer than two percent (2%) call themselves Christian. These statistics indicate that, for the most part, the church is not effectively reaching deaf people.

Enter Blended Fellowship Mission-Ministry

Under the leadership of the Reverend Doug Seymour, a bi-vocational minister of the Cape Fear Conference, and his wife Melanie, Original Free Will Baptists have taken a major step forward in ministry to the deaf. Through Blended Fellowship Mission, located in Wayne County, near Pikeville, this ministry reaches throughout eastern North Carolina and beyond. Its mission is the proclamation of the Gospel in *word*—sign language, and in *deed*—love and compassion.

In the words of Pastor Seymour, "The primary goal of Blended Fellowship is to help deaf people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and attain spiritual growth that enables them to share their faith with other deaf. To accomplish this, we first demonstrate to the deaf that we truly care about them through various services we provide. We build relationships based on trust and respect. Blended Fellowship consists of two distinct components:

- A Mission—local congregation, and
- A Ministry—outreach to the deaf."

Our purpose, said Pastor Seymour, is "to build and nurture a blended congregation of deaf and hearing missionaries. This brings together a mixture of several ethnic backgrounds worshipping God together and growing spiritually together through the preaching and teaching of His Word."

To fulfill its mission, Blended Fellowship provides assistance to the deaf in a variety of ways, including:

- Serving as a mediator between the deaf and the various organizations with which they have to deal,
- Arranging for interpreters,
- Providing transportation,
- Making phone calls, and
- Assisting with correspondence and other aspects of their daily lives.

In addition to its direct ministry to the deaf, Blended Fellowship provides assistance to hearing people who have an interest in service to the deaf:

- Free sign language classes,
- Support for deaf advocates, and
- Resource materials concerning sign language and deaf culture.

An Endowment for the Ministry to the Deaf

The long-range goals of Blended Fellowship include a Christian school for deaf children that will address their special needs, and financial resources for the full-time services of the pastor. To help provide support for these goals and the overall ministry of the Fellowship, the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministry is providing assistance in creating a permanent endowment. An announcement of this endowment will be made at the annual meeting of the Foundation on April 28 at Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Newton Grove. For additional information, note the back cover of this issue of *The Free Will Baptist*.

Camp Vandemere



*“O send out thy light
and thy truth”
(Psalm 43:3a)*

NEWS FROM THE CAMP

Here we are in April already. It has been extremely cold here at the camp. I'm ready for springtime. I've had a lot of help cleaning up and doing projects around the camp. A group from my home church came in March and worked all day one Saturday on projects such as painting the dining room floor, the dorm room floors, and the bunks in the dorms. We also upgraded a couple of the lodge rooms and finished blocking the mobile home. It's really looking good around here! I'm sure you will appreciate the additions and upgrades. Summer will be here before we know it and the camp will be busy, busy, busy! As of now, we have added some more weekend retreats. We have a total of 35 scheduled. That's awesome! We're still having services in the chapel every Sunday. It's amazing how God blesses in these services! He is good all the time!

I've had the opportunity to go to many functions: the Union Meeting at Sarecta Church in January and to Memorial Church, where Mr. Owen Arthur is the pastor. Their church, for the last 15 years or so, has given all the donations during their revival week to Camp Vandemere. It's awesome to have supporters like that—thanks Memorial Church! I also attended the Sunday School Institute at MOC in March where we had Camp Vandemere information on display. I also was at the youth convention held at Mt. Zion Church.

Our retreats have already started! The youth group from Wintergreen came in February, and the youth group from Branch Chapel came the third weekend in March. The camp is ready and I'm excited about the upcoming events. Hope to see you soon!

Remember to book your event early. I've had to turn people down already because we're booked up on most weekends. Most that are coming back next year book their upcoming events while they are here this year (not a bad idea by the way). Don't forget to check out our web site: <<http://campvandemereministries.embarqspace.com>>.

God bless you and thanks for all your support!

—o— Rick Price —o—



A combined youth group from Wintergreen Church and two other nearby churches participate in a weekend retreat. They took part in a program called the "30 Hour Famiiue." Thanks for cleaning the tables!



Matthew Mauning, from Juniper Chapel Church, recently did an Eagle Scout project for the camp. He and his helpers came on a cold Saturday in December and built a paddle boat rack and a locker for the life jackets and paddles. Thanks for the great addition to our camp!



Group of men work on blocking up under the manager's residence. It's now complete. Thanks for all the hard work!

SUMMER CAMP WEEKS FOR 2009

June 1-4	Women's Week:	Stumpy Quinn, (252) 638-6406 Judy Kennedy, (910) 298-4311
June 7-12	Open Week	
June 14-19	Daniel's Chapel:	The Reverend Walt Tyndall, (252) 753-5005
June 21-26	General Youth Camp 1:	The Reverend Tim Heath, (919) 809-0045
June 28-July 1	Lighthouse Keepers	Cristy Ramsey, (910) 358-2103 Angie Toler, (252) 244-1850
July 5-10	Spring Hope	Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346 Debbie Warren, (252) 637-4560
July 12-17	General Youth Camp 2	The Reverend Wesley Taylor, (252) 514-3222
July 19-24	New Bethlehem	Sandy Williams, (252) 745-9840
July 26 - 31	First Baptist Church of Wilson	The Reverend Doug Radford, (919) 734-4602
August 2-7	Son Quest Youth Camp	The Reverend Terry Dennis, (919) 284-6144
August 9-13	Jackson Heights	The Reverend Ashley Summerlin, (252) 560-8995
August 16-21	Crusaders Camp	The Reverend Ashley Trogden, (252) 322-5552

We are still in need of some items before summer camp starts. We've had several items donated to the camp that we were in need of, such as fertilizer for the grass, software for the computers, items for upgrading two of the lodge rooms, rocking chairs, items for the director's home, etc. If you would like to help, we need at least 10 mattresses for the dorm room bunks before we start summer camps (approximately \$145 each), and could really use some split-rail fencing to define driving and separate property areas. We are doing the fencing for safety purposes.

Again, I would like to say thank you very much for your support of Camp Vandemere. It is because of everyone's dedication and willingness to take part in this support that we are able to continue reaching young people and older ones alike, for Jesus Christ.

In a service that I attended in March, the speaker asked some very specific questions that I continually think about now. One in particular was, "If you had a lost friend who had only one week to live and you could take him or her to church, would you take that friend to your place of worship, or would you consider taking them somewhere else?" In other words, if you only had one chance to lead that person to Christ, would you feel confident that your friend could find Christ at YOUR church, or maybe the church down the road was more "Spirit-filled" and on fire for JESUS! I think we all should ask ourselves that question. If we, in any way, doubt that someone could find Jesus at our place of worship, OR OUR CAMP, we need to reevaluate our direction quickly. There are lost people dying and going to Hell every day, and we, as Christians, need to stop "playing defense and play offense," as this minister said. Go out and find someone to witness to today!

Camp Vandemere

215 NW Third Street
Vandemere, NC 28587

Web: <<http://campvandemereministries.embarqspace.com>>

Interim Camp Manager: Rick Price

Mobile: (252) 670-9775

Office: (252) 745-3171

e-mail: rickeprice@gmail.com

campvandemere@embarqmail.com

People & Events

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH HOLDS CRAGMONT COOK-OFF

submitted by Cynthia M. Smith

It started as a cold day outside on Sunday, February 22, 2009, but was a warm day inside at Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Robersonville, NC. After the morning message everyone was invited to stay for lunch and enjoy spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert. Everyone brought something, and we all enjoyed a day of fellowship together. Donations were made to Cragmont in the amount of \$650. The Cook-Off was a great church event enjoyed by all!

SMYRNA CHURCH NEWS

Smyrna Church located in the Meadow area celebrated Sunday School Month during February.

The event featured a Bible character each Sunday to include students Dylan Hickok, Destiny Sessoms, Colby Jackson, and Kayla Hickok

Pictured left to right are: Brooke Parker of the Primary class and Destiny Sessoms of the Beginner class who were present every Sunday and participated in all activities for the month.

Each Sunday School class chose prayer partners and participated in activities such as making "thinking of you" cards for shut-ins and having special prayer time for special people in the students' lives.

Second Sunday was observed as "Kids In Sunday School Every Sunday" by chocolate candy kisses and hugs being distributed following worship service.



POWHATAN CHURCH NEWS

Two circle groups have formed for a trial period to see if there is enough interest from the women of Powhatan to make them successful. The "BB" group is meeting on a Tuesday evening of each month in different homes and the "R & R Sonshine" group is meeting on a Friday morning in each month at "Paint It Red," a coffee shop in Clayton. Dates and times can be found in the announcement section of the Powhatan website if anyone is interested in joining us: <www.powhatanchurch.com>.

Celebrate with us as we welcome several new members during this quarter. The Rev. Rayford Byrd

and wife Geraldine have returned to our membership after several years at a sister church. We are happy to receive all returning and new members into the flock.

There will be new faces in leadership positions, as well, in our future. The longtime clerk and assistant clerk stepped down in October, and the treasurer and assistant treasurer have announced they will be stepping down July 1. Three deacons will also be stepping down at that time. We pray that the right people will step forward to take on these positions in service to God at Powhatan.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

In January 2009, First Church in Tarboro, NC honored their pastor Stanley E. Buck, Jr. and his wife, Peggy for 25 years of service to the Tarboro Church.

In his response to the congregation he thanked the church for the opportunity to serve. "Thank you for being a very important part of our lives. We have been blessed in so many ways in the past 25 years. This is a good journey that we are on because it is God's journey. When I think about this church, I see your faithfulness to the gospel message, your desire to minister in the community, and your loving deeds toward those in need...with a lot of love, I pray for you."

Before coming to Tarboro, Pastor Buck served at Crab Point Church, Oak Grove Church, Mount Tabor Church, Union Chapel Church, and Juniper Chapel Church.



CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

Christ Church of Stokesdale, NC had a catered Valentine chicken supper on Saturday, February 14, 2009.

A large crowd of people attended. There were drawings for door prizes. Several people won Valentine chocolates and everyone had good fun and fellowship. We give God all the praise for this successful supper.

Pictured left to right are: Mrs. Janice Atkins and her sister, Linda Payne.



*The Accuser posed as resident sage
through covered hand, through finger bent poured rage
"No tomorrow, now be spent this immortal age."
Then, the "sun also ariseth" revealing but a knave.*

*The Light pours joy abundant and scatters all our sorrows.
His covenant seals our heart with hope for all tomorrows
and begins at Easter's empty grave.*

Scotty McCoy
Core Creek Church



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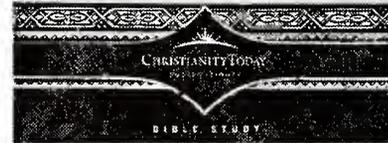
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Directors: Neal Cox & Angela Mattox

Every year we take a trip to beautiful Black Mountain, NC. This year is no exception.

The buzz is once again in the air about what great things will go on this year that will be remembered for years to come. While the details are still in the works, as we look forward to our week of camp there is some information we can leak to the public.

Your child must have *completed* the 3rd grade in order to go to camp. The cost of camp this year is \$260 per camper, which includes...Transportation, Food, Lodging at Cragmont, Daily Snacks, Group Pictures, Activity Fee, T-shirt, and our Off-campus Trips.

This is a time for all of us to get out of the "ordinary" surroundings and spend some time focusing on our walk with God. There will be crazy games, great food, amazing worship, awesome discipleship groups, and TONS of fun.

Registration is now open. Be sure to sign up ASAP.

For further information call Angela Mattox: (252) 671-7176 (cell)
Or e-mail: cragmontyouthconference@gmail.com

Cragmont Youth Conference
June 14–18, 2009

Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church

(Chadbourn, NC)

is searching for an

Associate Pastor

Tentative pastoral duties may include the following:

1. To preach the Word of God and conduct all weekly services at least one week per month and in the absence of or at the request of the Senior Pastor
2. To teach and/or assist League classes and special-topic lessons
3. To coordinate youth activities
4. To organize, administer, and direct the senior citizens program
5. To organize a visitation program for shut-ins and to visit church/community shut-ins
6. To establish and implement a visitation program for prospective church members
7. To assist the Senior Pastor in counseling the church membership
8. To assist the Senior Pastor in a subordinate role in order to conduct all pastoral duties
9. To assist in other capacities as requested by the Senior Pastor and/or the Board of Deacons

Qualifications must include the following:

1. Have been “divinely appointed” thus knowing that he has been called into a “ministry . . . received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24)
2. Exhibit a Christlike spirit and a commitment to servant leadership
3. Comply with biblical qualifications as prescribed in 1 Timothy 3:1–7
4. Comply with the examination and qualifications for ordination as outlined in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original FreeWill Baptists* (2001, 83–92)
5. Use only the King James Version of the Bible when preaching and/or presenting God’s Holy Word.

Interested applicants should submit a “letter of interest” and resumé to:

Danny D. McPherson, Chairman

· 69 Brice Ward Road • Chadbourn, NC 28431

(910) 642-5664 • (910) 840-6225

dmcpherson@weblnk.net

Deadline: April 15, 2009 or until filled

Yes, you can go to Cragmont... There is a way!

If you cannot afford the cost of an entire trip to Cragmont or have only partial funds, the Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund can help. Ages 8–18 can apply. Fill out the following application and return by April 30, 2009 to Ellen Forlines, 2925 Jolly Road, Winterville, NC 28590. The committee will notify the recipients as soon as possible.

WAYNE VINCENT ENDOWMENT FUND CRAGMONT TRIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Age _____

Parent _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Attending _____ City _____

(For the child) Why would you like to go to Cragmont?

(For the person referring the child) Give a brief statement of need.

CIRCLE THE WEEK YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND.

Cragmont Youth Conference ~ June 15–20, 2009 ~ Angela Mattox

Christian Cadet Conference ~ June 22–27, 2009 ~ Joey Williams

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC) ~ July 6–11, 2009 ~ Frankie Baggett

General Youth II Conference ~ July 13–18, 2009 ~ Brad Williamson & Wilma Parker

General Youth I Conference ~ July 20–25, 2009 ~ Bryant Hines

Referring Party _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Your comments _____

*The Christian Fellowship Class of the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church,
through the Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund, sponsors trips to Cragmont annually.*

~Attention All Free Will Baptists~

**You Are Invited to The 2nd Annual
BIBLE CONFERENCE**

**April 3–4, 2009
at King's Cross Roads FWB Church**

**Sponsored By:
Fellowship of Conservative Free Will Baptists**

**Conference Theme:
*A Return to Biblical Preaching***

Schedule:

Conference Convenes on Friday, April 3, 2009 at 1 P.M.

Session 1—starts at 1 P.M. ~ Speaker: The Reverend Bobby Carden

Session 2—starts at 3 P.M. ~ Speaker: The Reverend Jerry Stephenson

Session 3—starts at 7 P.M. ~ Speaker: The Reverend Mike Scott

Conference Convenes on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 9:30 A.M.

Session 1—starts at 9:30 A.M. ~ Speaker: Dr. Buddy Rogerson

Session 2—starts at 11 A.M. ~ Business of The Fellowship

Lunch will be provided by The Fellowship following the business session.

**You don't have to travel back in time to hear some old fashion preaching;
just travel on over to King's Cross Roads Church. The church is located between Farmville
and Faulkland and is approximately 12 miles West of Greenville and 25 miles East of Wilson.**

**King's Cross Roads REVIVAL begins Sunday, April 5 at 7 P.M. and Monday–Friday, April 6–10
at 7:30 P.M. There will be special music each night and a nursery will be provided.**

The evangelist is Dr. Jack Lassiter. We hope you will come and join us!

For more information, you may contact Pastor Bruce Jones at (252) 746-6293 or (252) 714-2440.

**The Reverend Jay Tripp,
pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church
and baritone singer with
Called Out Ministries
will be the guest evangelist
during revival services at
Harmony FWB Church in Wilson
on April 20–23, 2009.**

Services will begin at 7P.M. nightly.
Harmony FWB is located at 409 Atlantic Christian
College Drive in Wilson directly across the street
from the campus of Barton College.

**Everyone is invited to attend and hear
God's word proclaimed in the
messages and music each evening.**

For more information, call (252) 827-5813.

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS, Ayden, is seeking a full-time editorial assistant. Duties would include proofreading, typesetting, and graphic design. Good proficiency with computers, grammar/punctuation, and biblical knowledge are required. Inquiries can be made to the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

JOHN DAVIS, Licensed Minister of the Western Conference, is seeking opportunities to preach. He will be seeking ordination sometime next quarter. Anywhere—anytime—have Bible, will travel. (919) 210-0771 or <johnjdavis@earthlink.net>.

THE REVEREND SWADE BENSON is available for supply and interim ministry. He may be reached by phone at (252) 223-4853 or by mail at 120 Beaver Dam Trail, Newport, NC 28750

WHITE OAK GROVE CHURCH, located at 5744 Kennedy Home Rd., La Grange, NC, is seeking a pastor. We are a rural church with a large number of youth. A parsonage is available. Regular services are Sunday morning and Wednesday night Bible Study. Send resumés to David Dawson, Chairman of Pulpit Committee, 5376 Mays Store Rd., La Grange, NC 28551 or to <davidjdawson@embarqmail.com>.

WESTERN DISTRICT Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Rains Crossroads FWB Church, Kenly, NC

Registration: 9:00 A.M. — Starts: 9:30 A.M.

Speaker: Sondra Thick

Reminder: Special Offering for
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Personal Information Changes

(Beginning April 19, 2009)

THE REVEREND RONEY BUNN, JR.

7655 LEONARD RD.

KENLY, NC 27542-8203

E-MAIL: roneybunn@aol.com

PHONE: (252) 230-6818

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Bethany Layman's League, Winterville, NC
Beulaville Church, Beulaville, NC
Black Jack Church, Greenville, NC
Black Jack Grove Church, Goldsboro, NC
Cabin Church, Beulaville, NC
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La Grange Church, La Grange, NC
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Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC
Living Waters Church, Pikeville, NC
Longridge Church, Mount Olive, NC
Macedonia Church, Whiteville, NC
Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC
May's Chapel Church, Dudley, NC
Micro Church, Micro, NC
Mt. Calvary Church, Clarkton, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Nashville, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Bayboro, NC
New Sandy Hill, Bailey, NC
Northeast Church, Mount Olive, NC
Northern Church, Bahama, NC
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Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, NC
Pearsall Chapel Church, Kenansville, NC
Pilgrim's Home Church, Kinston, NC
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Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC
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Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
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You Are Invited

4th Annual Session

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
U.S. Highway 13 South, Newton Grove, NC

(This event is open to the public and all who attend will be guests of the Foundation.)

The program will include signed music by the "Signing Choir" of Blended Fellowship, a Christian ministry to the deaf.



Come and learn how the Foundation is helping to build a Foundation for the future of Original Free Will Baptists through the education of pastors and endowed funds for churches and convention ministries.

Reservations Required by April 20

Yes, I (we) plan to attend the Foundation dinner and program on April 28:

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Church _____

Please list the names of others who will be in your party: _____

Respond to: N.C. Foundation For Christian Ministries, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365
Phone: (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250 Email: wraper@mc.edu

For additional information on The Foundation, please note page 27.



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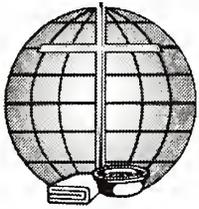


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CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH



This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
MOTHER'S DAY						ARMED FORCES DAY
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	MEMORIAL DAY					
31	<p>NOTE: Color(s) for Pentecost: Red or Red on White. Red, the color of fire, represents the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>COMING SOON: June 20-27: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) July 11-18: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) July 18-25: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) August 8-16: STT to Camp Morelos (Foreign Missions)</p>					
PENTECOST						

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POWER UP!

Nothing is really lost by a life of sacrifice;
everything is lost by failure to obey God's call.

—Henry Parry Liddon

MINIMIZING IS TO WEAKEN

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

It doesn't happen suddenly or overnight. Moral principles and values erode over a period of time. It's sort of like the destructive work of termites as they gradually gnaw away at the very foundation of a home. We may not know they are there until we see them swarming, or until we step through the floor in the back bedroom. Their destructive methods have done the job.

For decades we have observed the eroding of Christian values and principles, as we have alluded to many times in our writings. It begins when someone or some group or organization concludes that morals are not profound or definite. A remark such as "everyone's doing it," is what we often hear, and these days we hear the comment, "things are changing." And, indeed, they are, much to the disdain of many.

References to God, public prayers, and religious symbols are disappearing from the landscape. The influence and impact of the Ten Commandments as once displayed in court houses and schools has minimized their importance and value. Some would say it doesn't really matter. When the words, "In God We Trust," as imprinted on our

currency no longer appear which may have already taken place), we will have minimized the belief of our founding fathers that our nation came into existence because of His divine favor and blessings. When a coach is denied the privilege of praying with his team, when graduation exercises omit any reference to Jesus and prayer, we have minimized their importance. When teenage youth are provided with birth control information and methods of prevention, instead of teaching and urging abstinence, we have weakened our moral stance. On and on it goes, and we wonder where we are headed and what will be the consequences.

In a sense, the Word of God is being reinterpreted and redefined. Some modern versions and translations,

though they may be easier to understand, may actually be minimizing the truth and impact of the Bible.

Christians must realize anew that we are in the world, but not of it. Thus, Christianity will remain under attack, as has been the case since the days of Rome. We must remain "...stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).



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Living Your Faith

According to The Epistle of James

(This is part five of a five part series on the book of James.)

by Nina Grace Register

Other than a few scattered verses in the New Testament, most of the information we have about James is "according to tradition." His epistle, however, shows that he was a man of prayer. In fact, he spent so much time on his knees that the skin became thick, hard, and callused like a camel's knees. And some of his contemporaries called him "old knobby knees." Even at his death, he was praying for his enemies.

According to Josephus and other reliable sources, James was martyred between A.D. 62 and A.D. 66. The high priest Ananus, a Pharisee, was enraged at the large numbers of Jews embracing Christianity. After a called assembly of Sanhedrin, they commanded James to proclaim from one of the Temple galleries that Jesus was not the Messiah. Instead, he shouted to the crowd below that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, judge of the world, now sitting at the right hand of the Father, and coming again. His angry enemies then hurled him to the ground and began stoning him while he was on his knees praying, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." A compassionate fuller finally ended his sufferings with his club (Halley 657).

CHAPTER FIVE

¹Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. ²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. ⁴Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. ⁵Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. ⁶Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. ⁷Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. ⁸Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. ⁹Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. ¹⁰Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. ¹¹Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

¹²But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. ¹³Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. ¹⁴Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: ¹⁵And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. ¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. ¹⁷Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. ¹⁹Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; ²⁰Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

This is the fourth time James has spoken strongly against the rich men in the Judean church. There must have been some saintly wealthy people there, but James pictures them as un-Christian men bent on worldly pleasure, and heading into unhappiness, torment, and punishment. They will experience suffering, torment, and misery in the future, just like the rich man who "he lift[ed] up his eyes, being in torments" (Luke 16:23), and begged Abraham to send someone to his brothers to save them from misery such as his. If our main purpose in living is to amass wealth, we risk losing our true wealth in Christ and His kingdom.

Employers who hold back the laborer's wages are wrong in God's eyes. Some people have money invested at a good interest rate and want to draw the interest on it a little longer even if it means depriving their employees, but that money is not theirs to keep. No one who has been promised a certain wage should have to beg for money that is rightfully theirs. James says the Lord of Hosts hears their cries. At the proper time His armies will come out against all who have mistreated others and acted unjustly.

Even though we must endure hardships, though, James tells us to be patient through trials. Be like the farmer who plants and waits patiently. If we have sown good seed we will eventually reap a harvest of blessings, for the Lord is going to return. We should endure without grudging or murmuring against anyone. How embarrassing it would be if He found us criticizing and judging when the Lord returns! We should live and work with an eye towards His return, for then our suffering will be over. The story of Job should encourage us, for at the end God blessed him with much more than he had at the beginning.

In verse 12, James reminds us again to watch the tongue without swearing and unnecessary oaths. If we are righteous, upright, just, and dependable, our

word should be good enough. We use His Name too carelessly, as though it is just another by-word. How many professed Christians do you hear, in their ordinary conversations, profane His name? It does not strengthen our conversation. Some people use profanity because their minds are too lazy to think of the proper words.

Then he reminds us to pray when we are afflicted or grieved, burdened, and in pain. Singing will help us in those situations, and surely we will sing when we are happy!

Many kinds of prayer are listed here. First, he advises us to call the elders who will anoint the patient with oil, but it is the prayer of faith that saves the sick. We can pray about anything that concerns us, even the weather, as Elijah did! "There is no need that prayer cannot meet and no problem that prayer cannot solve," says Warren Wiersbe (*With the Word* 828).

James was concerned with individuals, and we should be, also. Since the church is the "family of God," how do we feel and act when a brother or sister is in trouble? When they are sick? When one starts to lose his or her enthusiasm and devotion and starts to stray? Do we agree with what Paul wrote in Galatians 6:1: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, [a transgression] ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"? Are we too hesitant, afraid of hurting their feelings? Suppose we were in need of prayer, how would we want them to treat us?

To win a soul for Christ or lead a straying one back into the path pleases God immensely. He loves us and overlooks our weaknesses, and because we love Him and His children, we can help them through love, which covers all sins. For it, we shall shine as the stars forever (see Daniel 12:3).

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A Bible for the Plowboy

(This is part one of a three part series)

by H. Adrian Grubbs

We believe that the Bible is “God’s revealed word to man” [Article 8 in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*]. Why, then, does the Bible come to us at such a heavy price? Why was there such strong opposition to making the Bible available to the people in their own native tongue? Why is there such strong resistance today to newer and better translations of the Bible?

In this series of articles I do not propose to give simple answers to those hard questions. Rather, by recounting some of the trials and struggles of the past and the great sacrifices made to make the Bible available to us, hopefully, it will help us in making choices in our struggles, today.

Languages change. The language of the Bible has changed over the centuries. Political upheavals, social revolutions, and religious reforms affect the languages of the people. Through the centuries, the language of the Bible has been adapted to meet the spiritual needs of the people. For example, when Alexander the Great conquered nation after nation in the fourth century B.C. he introduced the Greek language and culture to each conquered country. In the next century the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek. For another example, when Constantinople fell to the Muslims in 1453, classical scholars fled to Western Europe, bringing with them knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. This made it possible for William Tyndale in 1525 to produce an English Bible translated from Hebrew and Greek. It was his ambition to make the Scriptures available “even to the boy that drives the plough.” Language, especially English, continues to change, sometimes drastically. Most often it changes slowly and gradually as words and expressions drop from usage and new ones are added. The Bible has always been resilient. The Bible is God’s Word to us; His Word does not change, but every generation needs to have the Bible in a language they readily understand.

The writings that comprise the Old Testament were in Hebrew. But by the third century B.C. Greek had become the international language, and knowledge of Hebrew was on the wane. In Alexandria, Egypt, there was a perceived need for the Scriptures in Greek, so a company of seventy-two scholars were appointed to produce the translation. The result was the Septuagint, or LXX. These were the Scriptures (O.T.) in wide use during the time of Jesus. These were the Scriptures read and quoted by the Apostle Paul and others in the first century church. And Greek was the language in which the books of the New Testament were written.

By the second century A.D., with the expansion of

the Roman Empire, Latin was replacing Greek as the spoken language. Some pastors and bishops began translating portions of the Bible into Latin. By the fourth century Latin was the dominant language of Western Europe, and Pope Damasus (A.D. 382–384) appointed his secretary to make a revised Latin Bible from all the various Latin versions in circulation. Eusebius Hieronymus, better known as Jerome, found the task to be almost impossible. There were so many Latin versions that differed from one another that it was difficult to choose among them, so Jerome went back to the Hebrew and Greek. He completed work on the four Gospels, first, and dedicated the volume to Pope Damasus, Bishop of Rome. Damasus died shortly after, and Jerome left Rome. He completed the translation of the Bible into Latin while living in Bethlehem. But Jerome’s Latin Bible was not readily accepted; both Jerome and his translation were ruthlessly criticized. Over time, though, the resistance died down, and his Latin Bible gradually gained acceptance. It was not until 1546, however, that it received official endorsement at the Council of Trent, when it was given the title, Vulgate, which means “commonly accepted.” But by then the Protestant Reformation was in full bloom, and Latin was used only by the Roman Church.

England, in the fourteenth century, was dominated by Roman Catholicism. But in 1366 King Edward and the English Parliament balked at sending the annual tribute demanded by the Pope. In support of the parliament, John Wycliffe wrote a tract taking a firm stance against the papacy.

Wycliffe was educated at Oxford and taught in Queen’s College from 1363 to 1382. He believed very strongly that the Scriptures belonged to the people, rather than to the church hierarchy. As college professor, he lectured in Latin and in English. As parish priest, he often read the Scriptures in English and preached in English. In his

lectures, sermons, and writings John Wycliffe challenged the authority of the Pope. He taught that each person is accountable directly to God, not to intermediaries appointed by the church or state. His stance attracted a group of "poor priests" who became known as Lollards. In preparation for Sunday services they would write the English translation between the lines of the Latin Bible to be read to the congregation, rather than translating extemporaneously from the pulpit. With some urging from his friends, Wycliffe began preparing an English Bible translated from the Latin text, with the assistance of Nicholas Hereford and John Purvey.

In 1382 he wrote a paper disputing the teaching of the church that the bread and wine of Communion literally become the body and blood of Christ during the Mass. He caused quite a stir among the cardinals and bishops and, consequently, was summoned to trial at Blackfriars' Monastery in London on May 21, 1382. A few days later, twenty-four theses from his teachings and writings were declared heretical, and Wycliffe was excommunicated. He lost his teaching position at Queen's College but was allowed to continue as rector at Lutterworth in Leicestershire, where he continued translating the Latin Bible into English. The first edition, completed in 1382,

was an awkward, literal word-for-word translation of the Latin Bible. He began working on a second version, but before he could finish, he died of a stroke on the last day of the year in 1384. This translation was completed by a former student and fellow Lollard, John Purvey, around 1388. It was a much smoother translation into the native English idiom.

In 1409, several years after the death of John Wycliffe, church laws were enacted to prohibit translating, possessing, or reading any portion of the Bible in any written form of English from the time of John Wycliffe and after. In 1428, by decree of the Council of Constance under Pope Martin V, Wycliffe's body was dug up; his bones were burned and thrown into the river at Lutterworth. However, Wycliffite Bibles continued to be copied and circulated in secret.

It is a wonder that the Protestant Reformation did not begin in England with John Wycliffe; indeed, he has been called "the morning star of the reformation." The Reformation did not come to England until the sixteenth century. For a hundred and forty years no major efforts were made to translate the Bible into English. But the seeds of reformation had been sown, and the Bible would be opened to the people.

Next time, in part 2, the Reformation comes to England.

Strong at the Broken Places

by Celia Hales

One of the preeminent novelists of the Twentieth Century, Ernest Hemingway, weaved a tale of love and suffering in his classic novel, *A Farewell to Arms*, which was essentially pessimistic. His optimism, however, at one point showed through. He wrote, "The world breaks every one and afterward many are strong at the broken places."

I marked this passage in my college years and have never forgotten it. While I do not believe that it is necessary to learn through pain, I believe just as strongly that suffering often serves as a powerful instructor. In such times, God is ever present to give us solace, and our faith can affirm His presence even—and perhaps especially—when we feel only despair.

I have on any number of occasions learned through pain, but afterwards emerged stronger from the experience. Most of these times were still ahead of me when I marked that passage from Hemingway in 1968. Did I intuit that the quoted words, some of my favorite from the literature that I have read, would be a comfort later on? Perhaps so.

I suspect that similar types of suffering tend to recur for the same individual over a lifetime, though, not being at the end of mine, I can't say for sure. Certainly, until now, my

pain has clustered around anxiety in different forms. But I have learned, over the years, numerous coping techniques. When anxiety rears its troubling head once again, I reach inward to my mental list and pull out what seems at the time to be an appropriate antidote. And—whether soon or a bit farther down the road—*the antidote works!* Surely God is guiding my sense of rightness in how to handle the anxiety at each given time.

When Hemingway expresses optimism in this novel, I can feel empathy for I am an optimist by nature. I've never found any value in looking in a depressed way at the path that stretches before us. I know from personal experience now, more than 40 years after I marked that passage in *A Farewell to Arms*, that I am strong at the broken places. Just as a broken bone, once healed, is strongest at the break, so does life itself reveal the same characteristic.

Do not seek for pain and suffering. But when they come—and they will—know that there is a gift awaiting you at the ending of each time. That gift of healing strength is one of the greatest blessings that God can bestow on His beleaguered children in a world that can on occasion—but only on occasion—seem full of woe.



Children's Home

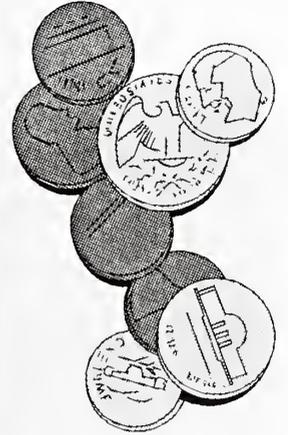
CHANGE FOR CHILDREN 2009

It is sometimes hard to understand how children can become the victims of abuse, but unfortunately in our society, it is an every day occurrence. The mission statement of the Children's Home states: "Children and families are our most valued resource. Our home is dedicated to the ministry of returning children to a family by providing for children's physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs. This is accomplished in a nurturing environment with compassionate care. Since 1920, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home has ministered to children and families."

With your continued support, prayers, and encouragement, we are continuing to fulfill our mission. We are making a difference in the lives of children.

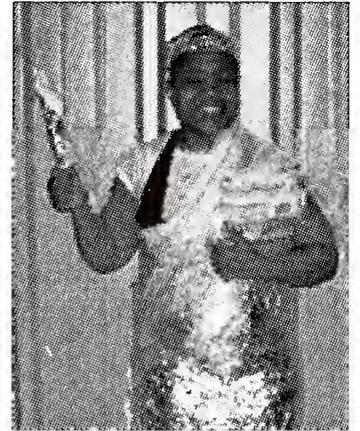
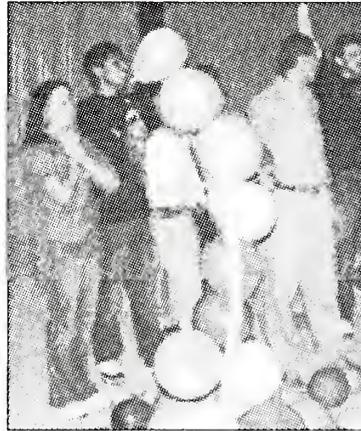
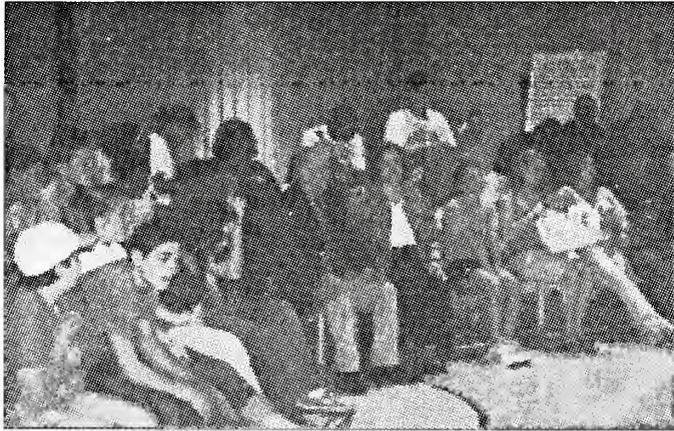
Our 2009 Change For Children Campaign should be underway in all of our churches. This campaign provides monies for the home during the crucial months of summer when the children are home from school.

We thank each of you for looking beyond yourselves and reaching out to help, and we know this campaign will be our most successful ever.



CAMPUS VISIT

Recently, more than 25 members of Branch Chapel Church, Selma and their ProTeens Group came to the Children's Home for a visit. While here, a time of worship through songs and Scripture was shared, as well as games and a meal. As shown in the pictures, everyone had a good time. They did some interesting things with Saran Wrap, tin foil, and tape. We would like to thank Branch Chapel for sharing with us.



NEEDS LIST

- Personal Hygiene Items: antiperspirant, body lotions, bath powder, shampoo body wash (boys and girls)
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning Supplies (Pine-sol, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleaners)
- Kitchen Towels & Dish Cloths
- Vinyl Mattress Covers and vinyl pillow covers
- Queen size sheets (staff bedding)
- Bed Pillows
- Dish Detergent
- Dryer Fabric Softener Sheets
- Plastic Coat hangers
- HD Cookware sets
- Cookie Sheets, Pizza Pans, Baking Pans
- (4) Aluminum or fiberglass ladders
- Renovations to Heritage Hall (estimated \$150,000)

If you have questions about an item, please contact the Development Office at (252) 235-2161



Retirement Homes Ministry

RETIREMENT HOMES

Your Retirement Homes Ministry is in the business of helping people. Many thanks go out to all our churches and individuals who contribute to this ministry.

With the down turn in the economy, I was fearful that our contributions would drop off and our ability to help others would be hampered. Praise the Lord that has not been the case. God's people are responding to the needs of His people.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Youth Convention, May 15-17, and the annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, May 19-21. We will again have a display at both of these events and I invite you to visit me there.

The donation of disability equipment has been nothing less than phenomenal. We have received three electric wheel chairs in the past month. Some repair is needed on two of them but the third one is

like new. If you or some of your church family may need one of these chairs, do not hesitate to call. Many other items have been received also.

Our disability equipment is loaned out free of charge to our people. We are so glad that we can do this but there is an expense involved. When the batteries in the wheel chairs have to be replaced, it costs about \$175. This is a cost over and above what is usually budgeted for our clients. I mention this because we continue to need your prayers and support to be able to continue collecting and distributing disability equipment.

Again I say thank you for all your support, both prayerfully and financially, and hope to see you at the conventions.

Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director

Here's the May Picture From the Past!

Your Clue:

This 50 year old photo shows a lady who loves flowers, music, and living life to the fullest.



April's Picture: The Reverend A. Graham Lane

Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.



WORKING FOR GOD WITH EARNESTNESS AT FREE SPIRIT ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION CHURCH

First, may I introduce myself? My name is Bobby Futrell. I've been a Free Will Baptist minister for more than thirty-five years. Serving in a number of churches and in various conferences and positions within our denomination left me well rounded in many ways. In 1990, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and told to apply for "disability."

The use of a cane (or two) seemed to disqualify me from any active ministry as churches found out my condition; it seemed no church was interested in me for any position—even "supply." Oh I'd preach in revivals once in a while, but I soon learned Free Will Baptists do not have full time evangelists and soon money ran excessively low.

In the fall of 1999, I sat in revival with the Rev. Buddy Sasser at Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church near Pikeville (I said "sat" because that's about all I could do with any degree of proficiency). At that revival, I made a commitment to serve God in some capacity, if He would use me. Shortly thereafter, it seemed a multitude of nonpaying positions were offered. I did not believe then nor do I believe now that God would "call" a man to preach and then not use him. By this time a wheelchair had replaced the canes and it seemed still fewer people seemed overly concerned that a man called by God to preach should be given an opportunity.

In early 2003, after much prayer, a church gave me an opportunity to supply for its congregation (it was during this time I discovered that one of our home missionaries was about to resign and I knew he would have to be replaced; I immediately sought an application from Original Free Will Baptist Home Missions and Evangelism. Filling out the application gave me opportunity to 'bare my soul' to someone who I knew might listen).

While at "The Press" one December afternoon in 2003, our director of Home Missions and Evangelism heard me talking and called me to his office. He informed me that he might have a church not too far from my home that may be able to use me (again, an interim was soon to resign). "DC," as we affectionately call our Home Missions director, made the necessary contact with Brother Nelson Rollins asking when he thought that I would be able to "supply." Brother Rollins said that Sunday would be fine. The Home Missions Director asked if I could be ready—to which I responded, "The Lord keeps me ready!" (As you read this, it must be kept in mind that this was done on Thursday afternoon after Christmas, four o'clock).

Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M., at a church that hadn't visited in many months, a somewhat apprehensive preacher shows up at the back door of another



The Rev. and Mrs. Bobby Futrell.



*Home Missions Board of Directors with
The Rev. and Mrs. Bobby Futrell and grandchild.*

"trial!" If first impressions meant anything, he would have left immediately (on the inside of this door was a ramp with a somewhat steeper grade than anyone on a wheelchair would dare to attempt! At least this was better than trying to negotiate the steps of the front door; he didn't have a key for any other door anyway.) With his lifetime best friend, God-given mate, and able-bodied assistant, he makes his way up the incline. At the top of the slope was a darkened hallway made even darker by the presence of the entire unknown. A light switch is located, flipped, and discovered it not working but the other side of the door seems brighter so on they trod discovering still more switches—only this time part of them worked. They reveal another ramp, somewhat less challenging and leading, apparently, to the sanctuary. The doors at its top are opened revealing still another less opposing ramp, this one up to the pulpit; though quickly fashioned, this means somebody knows the "supply" for the day is in a "chair."

Who knows how many will bother to come hear a 'disabled' preacher. Nine o'clock brings at least one more; Brother Nelson shows up, opens the front door, and is given a friendly greeting. "Good morning, how many more do you expect?" "Maybe three or four," is the unwelcomed answer. "On a good Sunday we might have as many as six if no one is sick."

As with a lot of other Free Will Baptist Churches, Sunday School starts at 10 A.M. As with a lot of other Free Will Baptist Churches, another person arrives about 9:55. This time there's two, a man and his wife. As with a lot of other Free Will Baptist Churches, no one else arrives until 10:15 and they're not for Sunday School, she's the piano player with her two teenage grandsons, then later one more. A preacher, even one disabled, knows when to praise the Lord; when no more than six are expected and nine show up. They've either come to welcome him or dismiss him, but he was commissioned a Missionary at Free Spirit on November 15, 2004, and he's still there now, praise the Lord!

I have been asked to share a few details about Free Spirit Original Free Will Baptist Mission Church. That should not be too hard, for the present "Free Spirit" didn't start until about a year from that preacher's first visit. Its charter membership had nine names on it. The first baptismal service was held on the first Sunday in July 2005 with six baptized. Our membership has grown to nearly sixteen with at one time more young people than adults. But as fate (if there is such a thing) sometimes dictates, the number in attendance fluctuates between as few as six to as many as twenty. Our Wednesday prayer and Bible

study group seems to have, at times, grown as large or larger than our Sunday morning group. As of this writing (3/20/2009) we're anticipating the addition of at least two or more members soon.

Miracles are an everyday occurrence with our group. Hurricane Floyd caused excessive damage to Free Spirit's roof but insurance paid for most of the damages. Recently a leak was discovered around our steeple that had repeatedly been repaired. Upon further investigation, extensive rot was revealed from old hurricane damage. Because insurance had already paid damages once it would not pay again, but we know our God can: an \$800 bill—paid in full! A leak was discovered in the roof where the fellowship hall joins the sanctuary: an \$1,100 bill—paid in full! Fuel bill, light bill, blown bulbs, and broken switches are all known by Him and needs are supplied according to His riches in glory. A \$30,000 bill made by those soon departed has been paid in full, and the remaining part of the church's debt to the Church Finance Association will be paid within the next twenty-four months. Some of these debts are old, but members have assumed the liability for them and are, with God's help, paying them!

The church has suffered from poor maintenance and improper attention to details, but God's people have come to the rescue allowing for the replacing of old, unheated bathrooms with new ones; the replacing of rotting, unvented floors with new sound structures; all our needs are not presently met but we rely on God supplying and God's people responding to God's power to bring all to fruition!

Our church's unity comes from our willingness to share our blessings and our needs on any occasion. For example, every first Sunday we have Birthday Sunday for anyone whose birthday happens to be in that month and, like all good Baptists, we enjoy a fine "covered dish" lunch. In our fellowship hall, we have a pantry that is capable of providing food for anyone in need.

It is the goal of Free Spirit Original Free Will Baptist Mission Church to bring the gospel to an area where there is a need for a church. We look forward to the time when we can become self-supporting and become an Original Free Will Baptist Church. We are located at 5413 Boswellville Road, Wilson, NC. Sunday School begins at 10 A.M. each Sunday, with the worship service at 11 A.M. Mid-Week Services for prayer and Bible study is also scheduled. Interested persons may call the Rev. Bobby Futrell at (919) 735-2497 for further information. We invite you to worship with us.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MISSIONS RALLY

THEME

THAT'S
THE

REASON

TO WORK FOR GOD WITH EARNESTNESS

(Matthew 9:37)

DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2009

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Kornegay Arena, Mount Olive College, Mt. Olive, NC

SEE AND HEAR UPDATES ON THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF:



HOME MISSIONS

- CHURCH EXTENSION
- ETHNIC MISSIONS
- BIKER/PRISON MINISTRY
- DISASTER RELIEF
- SCOUTING
- LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY
- TOUCHING LIVES CORPS
- HARVEST COVENANT



FOREIGN MISSIONS

- MEXICO
- PHILIPPINES
- BULGARIA
- LIBERIA
- NEPAL
- INDIA
- BANGLADESH
- GUINEA

THANK YOU for being a vital part of these ministries. Our success depends upon your support. We are counting on you and your church to demonstrate a **CONCERN FOR THE LOST** by bringing a contribution to the Rally.



CHASING JESUS

by Tezdan N. Murtazova

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord..." (Acts 9:1). Is it still possible to chase the Lord like he did? Is it possible to be educated and nourished in the word of God and still remain so ignorant? Saul was heading towards God on his own way and fell in the trap.

As a former Muslim I was reaching out to God on my own merits and good works, chasing the Lord so often. It is easy to speak against an unknown reality. I meet children, women, and men who are chasing Jesus with the same spirit of self-righteousness and stubbornness, hurting the Spirit of the Lord.

We cannot run away when the Lord is speaking—when that crushing revelation comes upon us. Unless we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we can fall into the trap of persecuting Jesus. The Lord cannot be served with a spirit which is different than His own. The ultimate manifestation of that spirit becomes visible when the church is involved in and committed to foreign missions. Regarding Jesus there are no different nations, but there is one world lost in sin.

Missionaries came to us. They taught and lived the love of God to 'Christless' people and a church was born. Missionaries cannot make disciples unless they themselves are disciples of Christ. During the past years our missionaries faced disappointments and difficulties. Yet in all these, they remained faithful to the call of God, giving us examples of walking with the Lord.

We got a chance to build our lives upon the truth of the Gospel. If it was not for the sacrifice, prayers, and support of the Original Free Will Baptist Church, we would probably continue to persecute Jesus. Your efforts and prayers have turned us from enemies into friends of Jesus Christ the Lord. And as we continue the journey, God's works will be revealed through us. People will be blessed by our prayers and efforts. Few will be grateful, most of them unthankful. However, we will commit ourselves in prayer, keeping our eyes on the Lord. We lift all of you up to God and pray: *"The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust"* (Ruth 2:12).



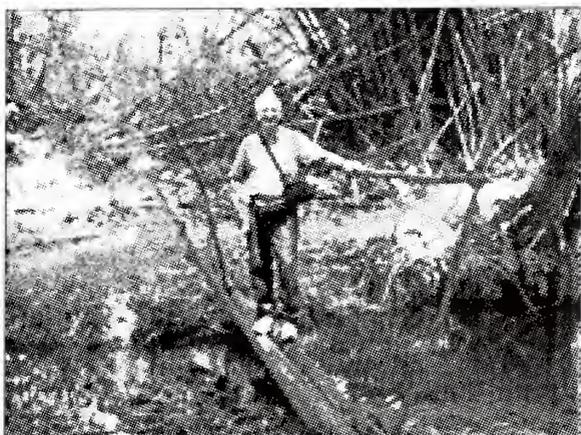
MISSION RALLY OFFERING

The Annual Convention Mission Rally will be May 20, 2009 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).

GOD'S WONDERFUL PEACE (TRIP TO LIBERIA)

by Harold Jones



Harold crossing a bridge made of bamboo.



James with some of the church members.



It's lunch time. Eating cassava.

On February 17, I departed on a trip to Liberia, West Africa. This trip would turn out to be one of the roughest trips I have ever made, but it also revealed to me once gain the awesome power and love of God to keep one secure in difficult situations.

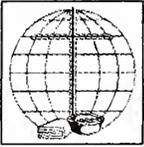
The first few days I spent in Monrovia, the capital city. We celebrated the First Anniversary of the Original Free Will Baptist Church of Liberia. This was a celebration of thanksgiving for all that the Lord has accomplished in the past year.

We made two trips outside of Monrovia to visit churches in the rural areas. On the first trip we made a walk through the jungle. They called it "a real man walk." It was hot and humid. We walked across logs, bamboo bridges, jumped stumps, climbed hills, and navigated some very rough terrain. Even with all these difficult hurdles, I really enjoyed the walk. We reached Robert's Town #4 where we were greeted by the people with songs, drums, and dances of joy. (This is the culture and custom of these people and it is a beautiful expression of joy and welcome.) I had an opportunity to share with them from God's Word.

While we were waiting for the meal of cassava and chicken to be prepared, James, one of our pastors, told us the following story. He had left Monrovia the day before to make preparation for our arrival in Robert's Town. He had to travel through the largest rubber plantation in the world. He boarded a taxi, which operates like a bus service. There were three men already seated. Later they picked up a woman and a child. The lady began to talk with two of the men and discovered that they were from another country in Africa and lived in an area of the plantation that is very unsafe for outsiders to enter. They say if a stranger enters this area, they never return. The people who live there practice witchcraft and offer human sacrifices. After talking with the men, she told James, "We are in trouble." He said, "What do you mean?" She replied, "They are going to kill us." The taxi driver sped by the place where James and the other passengers were supposed to get off. The taxi driver said, "We will go there and I will bring you back." He was a part of the scheme. James, the lady, and the other man passenger grabbed the driver and forced the vehicle to crash into the ditch. They jumped from the car and began to fight with the driver and the other two men. At this time a truck, with UN workers, came by. They stopped and intervened. Two of the men ran away and the UN officials made the taxi driver take James and the others back to the place where they were supposed to get off. We were not far from the place on our walk through the isolated jungle paths.

When we arrived back in Monrovia, I had a difficult time going to sleep that night. This story continued to be my focus and a spirit of fear came upon me, unlike I have known in many years. I said, "Lord, I think I will cancel the remainder of this trip and go home tomorrow." Then I thought, I did not come here to be afraid and leave. I began to pray the 23rd Psalm. I prayed it over, and over, and over again and the Lord restored my peace. I continued the trip and was in some very dangerous situations, but our wonderful Lord kept me safe and at peace through it all.

Thank you for your prayers that gave me strength. Please pray for this country that is in such desperate physical and spiritual need.



Working for God With Earnestness

**the 97th Annual Session of the
*Original Free Will Baptist Convention***

May 19–21, 2009

on the Campus of Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC

Tuesday, May 19

- I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet for Ministers and Spouses
- Convention Worship Service with our special guests
The Reverend Bobby Carden and the Wilmington Celebration Choir

Wednesday, May 20

- Opening Session
- Ministry Workshop Sessions in Raper Hall
- Sunday School Banquet
- Annual Mission Rally hosted by Home Missions and Evangelism

Thursday, May 21

- Closing Session
- The Convention is adjourned

Special Guests include:

President Charles Renfrow
The Reverend Bobby Carden
Miss Megan Pebbles
The Reverend Calvin Heath

The Reverend Al Warrick
The Wilmington Celebration Choir
The Reverend Tim Heath
Mr. Keith Kenemer

Working for God with Earnestness

the 97th Annual Session of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention

TUESDAY, May 19

5:30 P.M. Fifth Annual Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet
7:30 P.M. **Convention Worship Service**—Kornegay Arena
(The Reverend Bobby Carden, Minister)

WEDNESDAY, May 20

8:00 A.M. Registration Opens—Kornegay Arena
9:15–9:30 A.M. Singing, Scripture, Prayer, Special Music
9:30–10:30 A.M. **Opening Plenary Session**
Call to Order The Reverend Al Warrick
Welcome to Mount Olive College Ms. Hope McPherson
The President's Message The Reverend Charles Renfrow
Executive Committee Report Reverend Warrick
Finance Committee Report The Reverend Kevin Jackson
Nominating Committee Report The Reverend Jeff Daughtry
Announcements, First Readings
Recognition of Conference Moderators,
Fraternal Delegates/Guests President Renfrow
Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA
Worship Service—The Reverend Tim Heath
Information on Afternoon Workshops
Lunch in the Murphy Center
General Information Plenary Session in Raper Hall
Southern Bank Auditorium
Workshop Session I—Raper Hall
Workshop Session II—Raper Hall
Sunday School Banquet—Murphy Center
Mission Rally—Kornegay Arena
(Hosted by Home Missions and Evangelism)

THURSDAY, May 21

8:30 A.M. Registration Re-opens
9:00–9:15 A.M. Singing, Scripture, Prayer
The Convention Reconvenes
Announcements, Final Readings
* **Ministry Reports** *
FWB Press Mr. Cliff Gray
Foreign Missions The Reverend Harold Jones
Ministerial Association The Reverend Alan Joyner
Commission on Education for Christian Ministry Dr. Michael Pelt

Congregational Singing & Fellowship

Carolina Bible Institute The Reverend Rudy Owens
Layman's League Mr. Roy Wetherington
Chaplain's Commission The Reverend Harry Grubbs
Camp Vandemere Mr. Victor Jones

Ministries presenting workshops on Wednesday will not give reports to the full Convention. Recommendations will be considered during the closing session.

10:15–10:30 A.M. Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA
10:30–11:30 A.M. **Worship Service**—The Reverend Calvin Heath
11:30–11:45 A.M. Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA
11:45–12:30 NOON **Closing Session**

Election and Installation of Officers, Boards, and Committees
Approval of Ministry Reports and Recommendations
Resolutions Committee Report
Centennial Celebration Report
Memorial Committee
The Convention is Adjourned

12:30 P.M.

The 98th Annual Session of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention will convene May 18–20, 2010



Sunday School Ministry

MEMORANDUM TO ALL MINISTERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, PEOPLE IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP ROLES, AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN CHURCH GROWTH

Greetings on behalf of the OFWB Sunday School Board! The Annual Convention is upon us once again and we need to set aside a block of time to gather together on May 20, 2009 at 5:45 P.M. in the main dining room in Murphy Center. We will have plenty of room. We will have ample time to get to the Mission Rally, which will convene at 7:30 P.M. The cost of the meal will be \$6 per person, which is the regular cost of an evening meal at the college. The cost of the meal is payable before, at the Convention, or at the Banquet. You will be given meal tickets designating that you have paid in advance and are to be seated with the Sunday School Ministry. In order to have a fairly accurate count of people; it would be desirable to send your reservation ahead of time. You can pay later, but please try to let me know that you are coming. If you are not able to get a meal ticket, you can pay as you go through the serving line.

Our speaker for the Banquet will be Mr. Keith Kenemer, Consultant for Randall House Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee. He is back by popular demand. Mr. Kenemer is a dedicated Christian, Free Will Baptist, and he is a strong speaker. He will be speaking on the theme, "Working for God With Earnestness." Come and make him feel welcomed.

We welcome our Ministers, Sunday School Superintendents, Associate Ministers, Youth Ministers/Directors, Licensed Ministers, and other persons who might be assuming a leadership role in the near future. Please pass this information to folks in your churches. To make your reservations, complete the form below, detach it, and return it to Mary Dudley by May 16, 2009. Walk-ins are very welcome. See you at the Convention!

Registration fees may be sent to:

Mary Dudley
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

We also ask that checks be made payable to: OFWB Sunday School Board. We solicit your prayers and concerns for the work of the Sunday School Board and thank you for all your support during the past years.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Dudley

NAME: _____

CHURCH: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING THE BANQUET: _____

MONEY ENCLOSED: \$ _____



HOPE MCPHERSON TO JOIN MOC OFFICE OF CHURCH SUPPORT



On June 1, Hope McPherson (right) will join Mount Olive College as assistant director of Church Support. McPherson, who will graduate from the College in May with a degree in Business Management, has interned in the Office of Church Support for the past four years.

"Both the College and the Church have already done so much for me," McPherson stated. "I was brought up in the Free Will Baptist denomination and it was there that I received my strong foundation. At MOC I have gained the tools necessary to build on that foundation. Being able to serve through this position

is one way I can give back to MOC and the Free Will Baptist denomination. In this position, I will be part of the ministry that Mount Olive College is, and that in itself is worth it all. I am serving God through this ministry."

As assistant director of Church Support, McPherson will provide service in the operation of all church-related giving programs at MOC for annual support, endowed funds, and capital projects. She will also represent Mount Olive College at various events to effectively relate the mission of the College to the Free Will Baptist Church.

"Hope has a heart for serving God," says Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support at MOC. "She sees this work as ministry and understands the rationale of this office and its relationship with the Church. I am delighted to have her join our team and I look forward to her helping us work effectively with the Church."

McPherson is the daughter of Keith and Willa Dean McPherson. She is a member of Beaverdam OFWB Church in Chadbourn. McPherson's sister, Heather McPherson, is also a graduate of Mount Olive College.



NEW PRESIDENT APPOINTED AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Dr. Philip Paul Kerstetter, president and chief executive officer of Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas, has been selected as the fourth president of Mount Olive College by the College's Board of Trustees. Darrell Horne, chair of the MOC Board of Trustees, announced the appointment. Dr. Kerstetter, will take office on July 1, 2009 and succeeds Dr. J. William Byrd, who previously announced that he would be stepping down after 14 years as president of the College. More information will be in the June issue of the Free Will Baptist.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET HOSTED AT MOC

Mount Olive College recently held its Annual Scholarship Banquet to give students an opportunity to meet and thank the benefactors who generously help support their educational goals.

"My parents told me that I needed to find scholarships, or else I would not be able to attend college," said Christie Hamby of New Bern. "We prayed about it, and I have received enough scholarships at MOC that I do not have to take out student loans."

Andrew Grubbs of Pine Level said, "I have been blessed to receive a great deal of scholarship support at MOC which has allowed me to focus on my studies, and not worry about how to pay for college."

Donor Margaret Carol Banks of Trenton feels it is important to give to MOC for several reasons. "I give to Mount Olive College because I love watching students reach their potential," she said. Banks, who is a Free Will Baptist, believes in supporting her denomination and MOC. "An endowed scholarship program is a way of telling students that we want to make a difference in their lives. At Mount Olive College we know our gifts are making a difference," she said.

Dr. Donald Ribeiro, the keynote speaker at this year's Endowed Scholarship Luncheon, spoke

on the importance of every gift, big or small. He relayed the story of the boy who brought the loaves of bread and fish to Jesus.

Dr. Ribeiro said, "The disciples must have thought, 'What could such a little bit matter, when we need so much.' But, we all know that the little bit did matter."

Dr. Ribeiro also told about his own personal struggles as a young man seeking his Ph.D. "I didn't have a lot of financial means, and I often came up short," he recalled.

He told of an elderly man in his church who used to slip him money for his college expenses.

"I'll never forget those gifts from his heart that allowed me to reach my dream," Dr. Ribeiro said. "I continue to pray that God will put me in the right place so I can bless others." In closing he challenged the scholarship recipients to, "Never forget what others have done for you." And to the donors, he said, "Never think your gift is small."

At Mount Olive College, over 657 students receive a variety of scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition and books. In fact, during the 2008–2009 academic year, MOC is providing more than \$3.5 million in institutional aid to students.



Left to right: Bobby and Shelva Trivette and Dot and John Pate from First Church, Goldsboro, representing the Earl Hollis and Marie Gilbert Glenn Endowed Scholarship Fund; and Allison Wright (center) from St. Mary's Church, New Bern, Glenn Scholarship recipient.



Dr. Donald Ribeiro, speaker

MOC HOLDS HARRISON LECTURE



Reverend Frank Harrison welcomes Dr. Curtis W. Freeman, this year's speaker for the annual Harrison Lecture.

Mount Olive College held the 18th Annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, March 10, beginning at 10:30 A.M. in Rodgers Chapel. The guest speaker was Dr. Curtis W. Freeman, whose lecture was entitled: "And Your Daughters Shall Prophecy: Women's Voices in the Church."

Dr. Freeman explained in detail the struggles women have overcome throughout history in order to be considered leaders in the church. He went on to describe the hardships women continue to face today in the attempt to become ministers and be accepted by others as genuine prophets and the great success many women have found in the loving arms of their churches.

"So many gifted women are finding their way to seminaries and divinity schools..." Dr. Freeman revealed. "And indeed, God is using them, to bless the church when the people of God open their minds and their hearts to receive the word."

The Vivian B. Harrison Lecture was established by the Reverend Frank R. Harrison in memory of his late wife. The purpose of the lecture is to provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and laypersons of North Carolina.

Mrs. Harrison was a graduate of Mount Olive College and Barton College, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in elementary education. She taught public school in North Carolina for 17 years before retiring in 1986 due to illness.

OPPORTUNITIES AT MOC

The Admissions Office at Mount Olive College (day program) is accepting applications for summer school and Fall 09. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> or call Tim Woodard, director of admissions at (800) 653-0854 for a paper application and other information.

One night a week programs are starting at Mount Olive locations near your home. MOC's two year associate degree program, called Heritage (HP), requires completion of high school or equivalent and that the applicant be 21 years or older. The minimum admissions requirement for MOC's upper level programs in religion (MRM), early childhood (ECE), management and organizational development (MOD), criminal justice and criminology (CJC), healthcare management (HCM) and management of information systems (MIS) are 55 semester hours of transferable college credit, 12 hours of which must be general education (3 semester hours must be English Comp I or equivalent). Check the schedule below for start dates by location. All classes begin at 6 P.M. and last until 10 P.M.

Mount Olive Evening College 1-800-NEW-GOAL

HP begins 5/21/09
MOD begins 5/18/09
MIS begins 5/28/09
ECE begins at MOC on 6/9/09
HCM begins 6/25/09

MOC at New Bern 1-800-NEW-GOAL

HP begins 7/14/09
MRM begins 5/11/09
HCM begins 5/19/09

MOC at RTP 1-800-NEW-GOAL

ECE begins 5/19/09
MOD begins 5/26/09
HCM begins 6/9/09

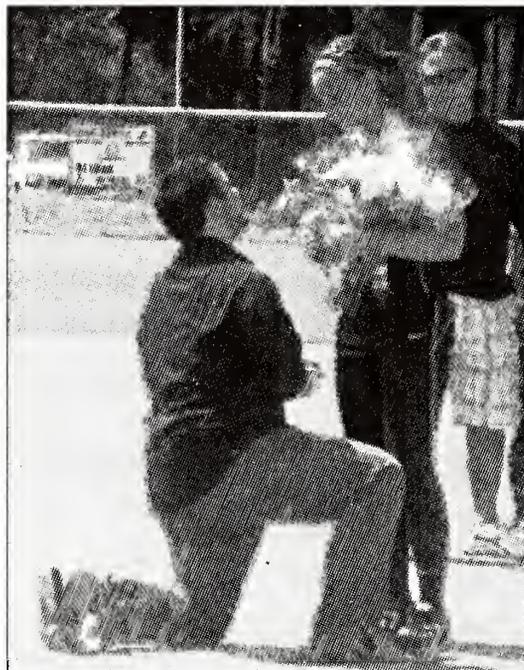
MOC at Washington 1-800-NEW-GOAL

ECE begins 5/15/09

MOC at Wilmington 1-800-NEW-GOAL

CJC begins 6/1/09
ECE begins 6/9/09

MOUNT OLIVE SOFTBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE KAT CAHOON RECEIVES PREGAME MARRIAGE PROPOSAL



Mount Olive College softball student-athlete Katherine "Kat" Cahoon knew she would be participating in Senior Day festivities on the softball diamond on April 5. She had no idea she would be leaving the field with a diamond.

Kat, a senior left fielder from Columbia, N.C., was the fifth of five Trojan seniors to be honored during Senior Day ceremonies prior to Mount Olive's doubleheader against Chowan University at Nancy Chapman Cassell Field. Trojan head coach Jaime Kyllis-Higginbotham, who presided over the ceremonies, saluted her seniors and then asked if any spectators had any amusing stories they wanted to share.

Andrew Alphin, Kat's boyfriend, walked onto the field. But instead of sharing amusing stories about her, he scripted a new story by bending down on one knee and taking a diamond ring out of his pocket. The proposal was away from the microphone, so those in attendance were in suspense over the answer. A kiss from the couple and a thumbs up gave the answer as the crowd erupted into applause. The Senior Day proposal was actually in the works for months, but Alphin and Coach Kyllis-Higginbotham managed to keep it a secret from her.

"I had no idea," said Kat. "When he came onto the field, I figured he was going to tell a funny story about me. Then when he got down on one knee, that kind of gave it away." Cahoon added, "I knew this would

happen one day, but I wasn't expecting it to happen today." "I started planning this in early December," said Alphin, a senior math major from Kinston, N.C. Both Alphin and Cahoon will graduate in May.

Kat is majoring in exercise science with a minor in religion, carrying a cumulative 3.592 grade point average. Before anyone was aware a marriage proposal was in the works, Kyllis-Higginbotham told the crowd of Kat's plans after college. "Kat told me she wants to have three to five kids," said Kyllis-Higginbotham, who is in her seventh year at Mount Olive. "She also wants to run a faith-based recreation center. And I can't see her doing anything else."

On the diamond, Mount Olive celebrated Senior Day and Kat's engagement party with a doubleheader sweep over Chowan. Kat hit safely in both games to extend her hitting streak to a career-high 10 games and improve her season batting average to .413. During the introduction of the starting lineups, she was announced as Kat Cahoon-Alphin.

Alphin said Kat answered his proposal with a question. "She asked me if I would do the dishes," said Alphin. "I said I would, so she said yes."

Kat joked about what she would remember most about the day. "I'll always remember that I got three hits today," she said.

Kat is the daughter of James and Katherine Cahoon from Columbia, NC and a member of Soundside OFWB Church, Albemarle Conference.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER HAVE DIFFERENT COLLEGE EXPERIENCES...SAME END RESULT



Jhnea Turner (right), and her mother, Carrie (left), attend Mount Olive College. But other than the fact that they will both graduate together, their experiences couldn't be more different.

Jhnea is a 19-year-old traditional student attending the MOC location in Mount Olive. She is majoring in visual communications with a concentration in photography and graphic design. Jhnea is a member of the MOC women's basketball team, volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, takes photos for the student newspaper, and works part-time as a waitress at Murphy's Restaurant in Mount Olive.

Carrie is a 46-year-old wife and mother of two. As a nontraditional student, Carrie attends one four-hour class per week at the College's RTP location. She plans to enroll in the Management and Organizational Development program in May after obtaining her associate's degree.

According to Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, the difference in the Turners' experiences at MOC is representative of the institution's ability to accommodate the needs of a diverse student population.

"We have excellent programming for traditional and nontraditional students," says Byrd. "Some students have jobs, families, or other obligations that they cannot walk away from. Students might have had some college experience or none at all. Whatever their situations are... we can work with them to accommodate their needs."

Carrie knew when she enrolled her daughter at MOC in the fall of 2007 that the school was unique.

"I still remember Dr. Jordon (vice president for

Academic Affairs) making all of us nervous parents feel comfortable about leaving our children at MOC," Carrie stated. "On the drive home I commented to my husband about how MOC felt different from the other college's we visited...more like family."

It was that feeling of family and the fact that her children, ages 19 and 17, weren't as demanding of her time anymore that led Carrie to take the educational plunge.

"I've always wanted to be able to go back to school and I've put it off mostly for family reasons, but now is a good time for me to focus on my education," she stated.

The experience has brought the entire Turner family closer together.

"I can relate better to my children when they are feeling overwhelmed, because I know the stress of exams, reading, final papers, and grades," Carrie stated. She added that her husband, Steve, has been a strong supporter, pitching in with housework and errands.

"It helps so much knowing that mom is going through the same stress as I am," Jhnea stated. "She understands how hard it can be to manage a busy schedule and have a good GPA at the end of the semester."

Set to graduate in 2011, Carrie and Jhnea are excited to experience this major milestone together. And although their experiences are very different, the end result will be the same...a college degree!

"My mom is my best friend and I am so glad that I actually get to share this experience with her," Jhnea enthused. "I love her so much and wouldn't be the person I am today without her."

Woman's Auxiliary

Eastern District's Auxiliary Report from the Spring Convention

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Spring Convention convened at Sarecta Church on March 21, 2009, with an attendance of 81. The theme for the convention was "Grace to Forgive" with Scripture from Matthew 5:44-45.

The President recognized four State Officers in attendance: Teresa Grubbs, Corresponding Secretary; Jean Averette, Vice President; Joan Little, President; and Jean Ackiss, Field Secretary.

Four auxiliaries were awarded A-1 status: Deep Run, Folkstone, Smith's New Home, and Westside.

Cliff Gray of the FWB Press reported they have the new Woman's Auxiliary Manual of Methods ready, which can be purchased for \$10. The new Standard of Achievement Chart is also available at a cost of \$5.

MOC representative, Jean Ackiss, encouraged each auxiliary to support Raper Hall, the state project, with their contribution of \$25. She also advised that church records could be microfilmed and preserved through the college library. You will need to leave the records with the library staff for an undetermined time to allow for microfilming.

Mary Dudley reported that Harold Jones just returned from Liberia. The new Command has all the details of his trip. He has the latest information and slides if anyone would like to have him visit their church or auxiliary.

Laura Monroe from Home Missions and Evangelism reported they have started a new Hispanic Mission in Morehead at Faith Mission. They still need kits and supplies. They have also added American Heritage Girls under their ministry umbrella and would welcome any opportunity to visit with your church. It is designed for girls 5-18. The director is Abby Rollins. Deep Run Church has started one and Whaley's Chapel has a meeting scheduled for April 1st.

The Rev. Ronnie Taylor from the Retirement Ministry advised they now have 15 clients. They recently added a new client, Mrs. Lola Early from Hickory Chapel Church who is 93 years young.

Cragmont's summer schedule is full. May Pittman, Cragmont Woman's Conference Director gave the dates and speakers scheduled for 2009.

Mary Dudley reported the Sunday School Institute held in March was very successful with over 400 people attending. The Teacher of the Year was Pat Taylor from Whaley's Chapel. Gail Heath has been added as the Assistant to the Director. They have applications for 55 children to receive assistance to go to camp this summer at a cost of \$15,000.

Christy Ramsey introduced us to her mother and our Life Membership Award recipient, Pat Smith Arthur, of Memorial in Chocowinity. Lois Wetherington presented her with the Life Membership pin and certificate.

Jean Ackiss briefly reviewed the new Manual of Methods and A-1 Chart. You can call Joan Little, Becky Jo Sumner, or Jean Ackiss if you have any questions regarding either.

JoAnn Parrish introduced Donna Whitfield, our guest speaker, from Rooty Branch Church. Donna spoke on our theme "Grace and Forgiveness" from Matthew 5:44-45. Donna told us Satan eases sin into our lives and we don't even recognize it. She said Christ calls us to be in this world but not of this world and that

He is with us through all things. We have to remember to call on Him. He is there for us. Friends and family can let us down, but He will never let us down. Love your enemies. Can you identify your enemies? Expand your thinking beyond your comfort zone (drug dealers and thieves). In the world, we as Christians have to deal with problems like homosexuality and music that says it's okay to profane God's name and disrespect law enforcement. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you and do good to them that hate you." Show love; it will overcome. Remember, we represent Christ. No one's flesh has been hurt any more than the flesh of our Christ.

Grace is a favorable disposition on the part of God. It is an undeserved or favorable blessing on the part of God. Forgiveness is estrangement from God. Grace to forgive is undeserved favor or blessing. Who deserves our forgiveness? We ask and out of God's grace He forgives us—our grace is free. God has already paid for it on the cross of Calvary. Works do not give us Salvation or enhance our relationship with God. We have to work on that with God. We have to make the relationship personal. We work for Him because we want to, not because we have to. We should not keep up with the number of times we forgive others. We are commanded to forgive—it is not an option for us as Christians. Don't just read God's word—apply it! Only God can change a heart!

Angie Toler, Co-chairwoman, reported on the Eastern District Youth Convention that was held on March 14 at Mt. Zion in Pamlico County. They had an attendance of 110 with 7 churches represented. The Bible Bowl Competition will be April 25 at MOC. This will be the first year the cherubs have participated in the Bible Bowl. They have 6 teams competing. May 15-17 will be the Youth Convention at MOC. Jeff Smith will be the featured speaker. The next Eastern District Youth Convention will be September 12 at St. Delight.

Lois Wetherington presented Velma Morris with a certificate of appreciation from the Executive Committee for her many years of dedicated service as Treasurer. Velma began serving in 1968 as a member of the Finance Committee and became Treasurer in 1970.

Teresa Grubbs advised that two of our early Auxiliary pioneers, Gertrude Ballard and Annie Peedin, were buried without markers for their graves. The State Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee is trying to purchase markers and would appreciate the support of each auxiliary in this endeavor. Monies should be sent to the District Treasurer and be earmarked "grave marker."

The following auxiliaries were represented by delegates: Beulaville, Deep Run, Folkstone, Friendship, Juniper Chapel, Kinston First, Lanier's Chapel, Memorial, Northeast, Oriental, Pearsall Chapel, Rock of Zion, Rooty Branch, Sandy Plain, Sarecta, Smith's New Home, Spring Hope, Warden's Grove, Westside, Whaley's Chapel, White Oak Grove, and Wintergreen.

Auxiliaries represented by letter were: Cabin, Christian Chapel, Core Creek, Macedonia, Oak Grove, Russell Creek, Saint's Delight, Warsaw, Welcome Home, and White Hill.

The fall convention will be held in September at Folkstone FWB Church.

Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Eighty-Second Annual Session

May 14, 2009

Hosted by the Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary
Robert's Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church

(2.5 miles west of Spivey's Corner just off Highway 13)

Program

Theme: "Tangible Faith—Faith Put Into Action"
Working for God with Euthusiasm

Scripture: "...I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:8).

Theme Song: *Find Us Faithful* (by Jon Mohr)

8:15 A.M.	Fellowship Time Registration, Refreshments and Denominational Displays
8:45 A.M.	Auxiliary Praise and Worship Choir
9:00 A.M.	Opening Session—Forgive Message and First Business Session Break
10:00 A.M.	Session Two—Share the Gospel Message and Offering Break
11:30 A.M.	Session Three—Serve Others Message, Business and Denominational Ministries Adjournment
1:00 P.M.	Lunch in the Fellowship Hall <i>(Lunch will be catered at a nominal fee of \$5)</i>

Directions from Newton Grove: Take Highway 13 toward Fayetteville. Cross Highway 421 at Spivey's Corner and go to the third paved road to the left, which is Roberts Grove Road. Church is one mile on left.

Directions from Fayetteville: Take Highway 13 toward Goldsboro. Pass the Grocery Barn and turn right on Roberts Grove Road. Church is one mile on left.

Directions from Dunn: Take 421 toward Clinton; take a right at Spivey's corner on Hwy 13 toward Fayetteville. Turn left on third paved road to the left, which is Roberts Grove Road. Church is one mile on left.

You may also MapQuest from your home address to 725 Roberts Grove Road.

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries



*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us. Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way For those who come after us.*

FOUNDATION ELECTS BOARD CHAIRMAN

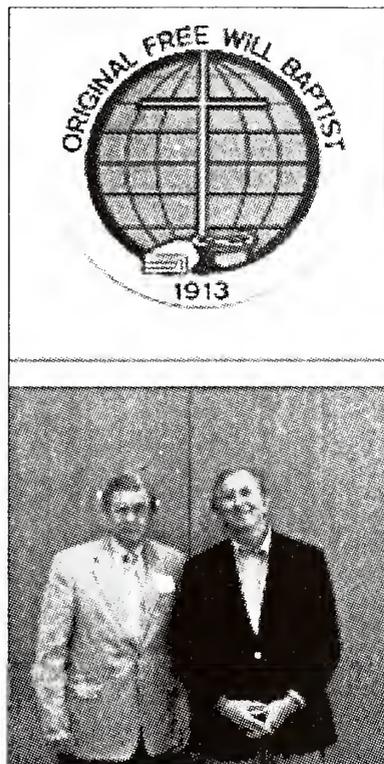
Donnie E. Lassiter (right) of Selma has been elected as the first chairperson of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries.

In announcing the election of Lassiter, Dr. W. Burkette Raper (left), president of the Foundation, describes him as “a person of extensive business experience and sound financial judgment. He has a keen understanding of the distinctive mission of The Foundation in the building of endowments for educational purposes and Christian charities.”

Lassiter is one of the seven original directors of The Foundation, which was chartered in 2005. Beginning with its first gift in January 2006, the Foundation now manages and invests twenty permanently endowed funds to which gifts approaching two million dollars have been made. During calendar years 2007 and 2008, The Foundation distributed more than \$97,000 to the named beneficiaries of its endowed funds.

In addition to its endowment program, The Foundation maintains a scholarship fund for students preparing for Christian ministry. During the past three academic years, the Foundation has provided \$48,000 in scholarships to nineteen students.

The Foundation has set a goal of \$7 million in gift support for endowments by the year 2013, which will be the 100th anniversary of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.



Biography of Donnie E. Lassiter

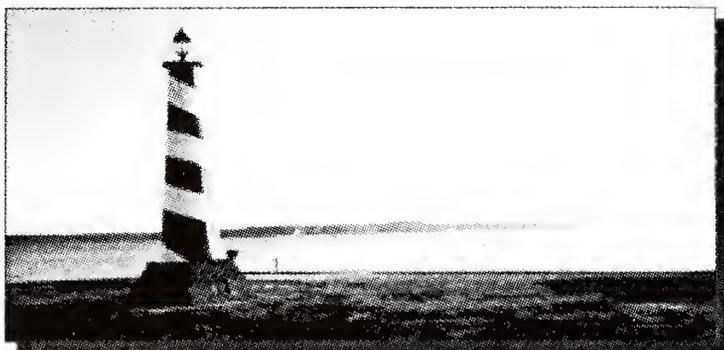
Native of Johnston County, North Carolina

Family: Linda Vann Lassiter (married 36 years)
Daughter—Sara Lynn Lassiter
Son—Trenton Vann Lassiter, student, Mount Olive College

Church: Member, Selma Original Free Will Baptist
Served as deacon, chair of deacon board
Sunday School Superintendent, teacher
Trustee and various other duties
Cub master for three years
Board of Directors of Cragmont Assembly and Mount Olive College

Business: Co-founder, Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.
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Farming

Camp Vandemere



*“O send out thy light
and thy truth”
(Psalm 43:3a)*

NEWS FROM THE CAMP

It's May and we've had several weekend retreats already! So far this year, we've had seven retreats, three work groups, and an Easter sunrise service. There have been over 300 people at the camp for those events. Our chapel services have been a blessing! We've had services for 15 Sundays with a total of 70 people having attended. Sometimes, it's just me and the Lord. There have been up to 12 people at one service. I thank God for the opportunity to serve in this ministry! If you are planning to be here at the camp on a Sunday and want to speak, please let me know! If your church is planning a Sunday morning service, that's great! I'll join in yours! I usually invite the RV and tent campers to join in!

Don't forget, our summer camp season is coming up! If you have a child that might be interested in coming to camp, please call one of the directors.

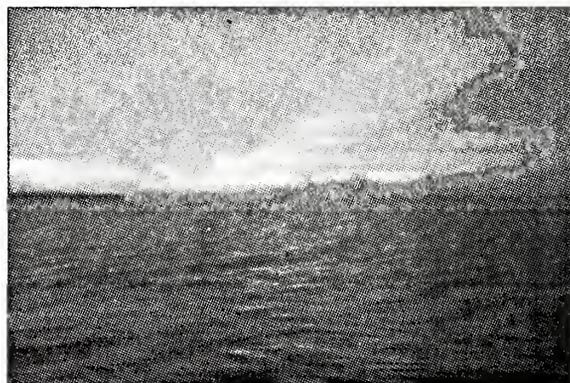
Two work groups have taken on several projects here at the camp so far this year! One group came and worked on two of the lodge rooms, and painted the dining and dorm room floors. Another group of about 10 people came from Memorial Church and painted 24 bunks in the men's side dorm room. These projects have certainly brightened up the rooms. They look great! I really appreciate the help and I know God has blessed the camp with many volunteers that come from time to time and help. I think that's what this ministry is all about—people helping people! Sharing their time, talents, and knowledge with each other to further the Kingdom of God.

God bless you and thanks for all your support!
Rick Price, Executive Director

(Top) It's amazing how God shows His glory! You can see Him everywhere, if you just take time and be still and know that He is!

(Middle) A group from Branch Chapel working on a paint project, well, at least some of them! It was a long night. They painted the dining room floor on Friday night and then the dorm floors on Saturday.

(Bottom) A young man by the name of Ricky Tyree did this chalk drawing in the chapel service during a weekend retreat. God can use your talent if you'll just be obedient.



SUMMER CAMP WEEKS FOR 2009

June 1-4	Women's Week:	Stumpy Quinn, (252) 638-6406 Judy Kennedy, (910) 298-4311
June 7-12	Open Week	
June 14-19	Daniel's Chapel:	The Reverend Walt Tyndall, (252) 753-5005
June 21-26	General Youth Camp 1:	The Reverend Tim Heath, (919) 809-0045
June 28-July 1	Lighthouse Keepers	Cristy Ramsey, (910) 358-2103 Angie Toler, (252) 244-1850
July 5-10	Spring Hope	Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346 Debbie Warren, (252) 637-4560
July 12-17	General Youth Camp 2	The Reverend Wesley Taylor, (252) 514-3222
July 19-24	New Bethlehem	Sandy Williams, (252) 745-9840
July 26-31	First Baptist Church of Wilson	The Reverend Doug Radford, (919) 734-4602
August 2-7	Son Quest Youth Camp	The Reverend Terry Dennis, (919) 284-6144
August 9-13	Jackson Heights	The Reverend Ashley Summerlin, (252) 560-8995
August 16-21	Crusaders Camp	The Reverend Ashley Trogden, (252) 322-5552

I would like to personally thank everyone for your prayers and your support since I've been here at the camp. I've been blessed far beyond my expectations. I wake up every morning to the beauty of the sun coming up over the river. It's an awesome place and the opportunities to serve God are endless! This ministry has the potential to touch so many lives. A total of 38 weekend and other retreats were scheduled for this year, along with 11 summer camp weeks. Seven of those 38 have already taken place. I am looking forward to seeing your group here this summer. If I can help in any way with your planning process, please let me know. I have talked to many of the directors already and am looking forward to helping you and making your stay here as awesome as possible.

We do still have a few projects that are needed if you would be interested in helping out. We still need fencing and a couple of mattresses for the lodge rooms. We did

receive donations for the dorm mattresses for which I am truly grateful! We need approximately 400 feet of split rail fencing. The fencing is needed to line the drive for safety concerns. We would like to keep vehicles out of the play areas and off the grass. If you would be interested in helping with either of these, please contact me. Also, if you would like for me to go to your church and speak about the camp, just let me know when! I'm ready!

As of April 9, 2009, the Board of Directors of Camp Vandemere, Inc. has appointed me as the full-time director. I am certainly looking forward to being at the camp in that capacity! As I've said many times before, it's an awesome ministry and I am blessed just to have a part in it! God is good—all the time!

Thanks,
Rick Price

Camp Vandemere

215 NW Third Street
Vandemere, NC 28587

Web page: <<http://campvandemereministries.embarqspace.com>>

Rick Price, Executive Director

Mobile: (252) 670-9775

Office: (252) 745-3171

e-mail: rickeprice@gmail.com
campvandemere@embarqmail.com

PRESERVING THE PAST—HONORING THE PRESENT

The Free Will Baptist Dola Dudley Award

by Angie Watkins

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, the Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary presented Rita Otto Jones, of Powhatan Church, the Dola Dudley Award, honoring her for her years of service. She was born on February 26, 1957. "I'm blessed," she says. "As a little girl, I remember holding my sister's hand as we walked to this church!" Rich in history, her great grandfather donated the land for Powhatan. "I've attended this church my whole life," she said.



Ms. Jones is a graduate of Smithfield Selma Senior High. She earned a journalism degree from Peace College. She has two children. Her service grew as her children grew. With each step, she exemplified faith by serving as a Sunday School teacher, church clerk, Woman's Auxiliary recording and corresponding secretary and a Bible Bowl coach. She served as Cape Fear District Youth Director from 2003–2004. Both of her children were on state championship Bible Bowl teams. "Serving is something you just do!" she says. "I feel as

though I've only done little things, not big things, but, I know little things add up!"

She has written Junior Division Sunday School literature for the Free Will Baptist Press. She also has written a lesson in *Devotion*, the Woman's Auxiliary program book. Ms. Jones retired from the State of North Carolina in 2007. She loves history.

Her father, 92 years of age, lives next door. "My parents taught me lessons of honesty, hard work, to

love your neighbor, and the value in working together." Her heart is bigger than her smile. "Love people," she says, "Love the Lord." She quotes Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Honoring Christian women in their service, Rita Otto Jones, is this Year's Dola Dudley Award recipient. She is an inspiration for all women walking with Jesus.



Pictured left to right are: Doris Chamblee, Gertrude Davis, Faye Sumner, Wallie Hargrove (Press), Fran Overton, Becky Jo Sumner, Sarah Parker, Donnie Parker, and Dixie McLawhorn (Press).

AN EASTER SURPRISE

A group from Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC traveled to the Free Will Baptist Press on Tuesday, April 14 to present Easter baskets full of goodies to all the employees "in appreciation for all the hard work you do for the denomination," said Becky Jo Sumner. The employees were called to meet in the DEVOTION Conference Room where the group was gathered with the baskets. What a wonderful surprise this show of appreciation was for all of us! Thank you, Hickory Chapel, for your thoughtfulness!

ALMA DALE COX DAY AT SPRING HILL OFWB CHURCH



Alma Dale Cox and Pastor Lewis Forsythe enjoying her special day

On Sunday, March 29, Alma Dale Cox was honored at Spring Hill Church near Goldsboro for more than 42 years of service to the church music department. Due to health reasons, she recently resigned as choir director.

Alma and her husband, the late Reverend William Dale, better known as "Preacher Bill," began pastoring Spring Hill Church on September 1, 1966. Preacher Bill remained pastor at the Church until his death on September 17, 1985.

Except for a few years, Alma continued as choir director and served in that capacity until she married the Reverend Clyde Cox on July 13, 1996. Twice Mr. Cox served as pastor and Alma again led the choir. When he retired from pastoring they returned to Spring Hill where, for a period of time, he served as pianist and she directed the choir. At the time of his death on August 28, 2004, she returned to the church once again as choir director.

The morning worship was a music service that included songs and singing groups that she had begun while she and Preacher Bill were ministering together at Spring Hill. One quartet that Alma was instrumental in forming sang and presented her with a dozen red roses. Many family members and friends were present to help honor her. The choir sang, "Nothing is Impossible" and presented her with a gift certificate. The Church honored her with a plaque that read, "Presented to Mrs. Alma Dale Cox in grateful appreciation for many years of dedicated service to the music department and choir of Spring Hill Church, March 29, 2009."

After the worship service, the church, Alma's family, and friends enjoyed a fellowship luncheon after which, a number of people expressed appreciation to her for her services.

She loves music and has found this a very enriching way to serve God. For 30 years she led the singing at the women's conferences at Cragmont.

In reflecting on the day, Alma said, "This is the best day I have ever had."

Pastor Lewis Forsythe said, "What a joy it has been to serve the Lord with Sister Alma Dale Cox. I have been her pastor for two years and I can say without a doubt that she loves the Lord and serves Him with all her heart. She has been leading the choir an amazing 42 years. Because of health reasons she has now retired. She is still faithful in attendance and serves the Lord by being an encouragement to others, reminding us all that it is a joy to serve the Lord. It's heartbreaking to see someone who loves God and has been so faithful come to a place in life where they must pass on the mantle of service to another. I pray that when that day comes for me I'll do it as graciously as Sister Alma Dale Cox. I thank God for her and what a blessing she has been and still is."

FIRST CHURCH OF TARBORO NEWS



The First Church of Tarboro, NC, finished their fourth year of the Upward Basketball Program. Awards Night was held at Keihin Auditorium at Edgecombe Community College because the church sanctuary was not large enough to host the final event. The "Juggling Gospel Show" of Jerry and Chris Fowler entertained the over 800 people who attended.

The First Church of Tarboro started their Upward Program four years ago with 77 basketball players. Cheerleading has been added and the total participants have increased each year. The 2008-2009 season was an overwhelming success with 236 children participating.

Other area churches and the community contributed by providing devotions, coaches, and officials.

PALMER MEMORIAL GROUP SHARES NEWS OF MISSION TRIP

On Sunday morning, February 15, Phyllis Dupree, Jerry Sumerlin, and Lynette Sumerlin shared news of their recent trip to Cameron, Louisiana, located on the gulf coast near the Texas border. They were part of a seven-member team sponsored by Harvest Connection. Others on the team were Mike Roberson (team leader) of Greenville, Bill Armitage of Farmville, and Rev. and Mrs. Frances Garner of Newport. They spent two weeks, including traveling time, in January helping local citizens of Cameron repair homes damaged by hurricanes Rita and Ike. Harvest Connection chose Cameron, Louisiana to offer disaster relief assistance because this was one of the areas needing a great deal of help, but getting little publicity.

One hundred percent of the population of Cameron was affected in some way by the hurricanes, many whose homes were severely damaged or completely destroyed altogether. Phyllis, Jerry, and Lynette showed pictures of the devastation of homes, businesses, schools, and churches. They also showed pictures of six homes as well as a softball field that the team helped to renovate. Some of the tasks the team completed included tearing out insulation that had been saturated with mud from



underneath a trailer, finishing gutting the home of one of the members of the Baptist Church on whose property the Harvest Connection trailers were located, putting in a subfloor, laying roofing felt on floors, priming and painting an entire house, and installing drywall.

The team was very touched by the warmth extended by the people of Cameron Parish who truly appreciated the help they received. Some of the people

had helped others but had never received any assistance themselves. So it was truly a blessing to the team to be able to offer such assistance and to see the looks of gratitude upon the faces of those who were finally on the receiving end. One woman exclaimed, "I finally have walls!" Several homeowners were so appreciative that they prepared meals for the team. Each time a job was completed, the team and the homeowners held hands and had prayer together.

Phyllis, Jerry, and Lynette expressed their sorrow in not being able to stay longer and encouraged others to participate in future Harvest Connection endeavors. This trip reinforced their belief that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

MARSH SWAMP CHURCH WOMAN'S AUXILIARY



(L-R) Auxiliary members Sheila Vick, presenter; Emogene Boyette, Life Award recipient; Patsy Vick, presenter.

During Sunday morning worship services on February 8, Mrs. Emogene Boyette was presented a Woman's Auxiliary Life Membership Award. This was the 15th Life Membership Award given throughout the history of the church.

Sheila Vick shared with the congregation the criteria required to receive this honor. Mrs. Boyette has continuously served both the auxiliary and church since 1950. She led the auxiliary as its president for a total of eight years. During these years she has been vice president, secretary, treasurer, and benevolence chairwoman of the auxiliary. She was chairwoman of the Rock Ridge American Red Cross blood drive for several years.

Patsy Vick presented Mrs. Boyette a framed Life Membership Award certificate and a Life Membership pen signifying her many years of outstanding leadership to the auxiliary, her church, and her community.

LITTLE CREEK CHURCH NEWS

The Senior Saints meet every third Wednesday at Little Creek Church at 11 A.M. On Wednesday, March 18, J. B. McLawhorn gave a devotion and Mary Dudley gave a very interesting program about how our life compares with the acorn from an oak tree. Mary and her assistant, Gail Heath, provided beautiful music. Anna Clements gave a report on her recent missionary trip to Zimbabwe and brought several items made in that area.



From left to right: J. B. McLawhorn, Mary Dudley, Gail Heath, and Anna Clements



Members of the Senior Saints who attended

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

The Piedmont Conference was held at Amazing Grace Baptist Church in Thomasville, NC on Saturday, March 28, 2009. The Executive Board and Ordaining Council meetings were held from 9–10 A.M.

At 10 A.M., the conference moderator, the Rev. David Atkins, called the meeting to order. Conference host pastor, the Rev. Hillis Burton, welcomed those attending the conference. The Rev. Anthony Hancock read devotions. The Rev. Tom Parrish called the roll of ministers present. Brother Wayne Hicks, clerk, called the roll of participating churches attending.

The church with the most present was Christ Church of Stokesdale, NC who had 13 members present. An attendance banner was presented to the Rev. David Atkins.

The Rev. Carlee Stallard, treasurer, read the treasurer's report. There were reports from these committee and denominational ministries: 1)The Children's Home, 2)Retirement Homes, 3)Mount Olive College, 4)Sunday School Ministry, 5)Foreign Missions, 6)Home Missions, 7)Cragmont, 8)Youth Ministries, 9)Executive Board, and 10)Ordaining Council

The 11 A.M. worship hour was held with the Rev. Tim Burton preaching the sermon. After worship, the conference adjourned for lunch and fellowship.

The next Piedmont Conference will be held at Christ Church on July 24–25, 2009.



Pictured left to right are: Rev. David Atkins, Conference Moderator; Janice Atkins, and Pebbles Joyce.

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

JOHN DAVIS, Licensed Minister of the Western Conference, is seeking opportunities to preach. He will be seeking ordination sometime next quarter. Anywhere—anytime—have Bible, will travel. (919) 210-0771 or <johnjdavis@earthlink.net>.



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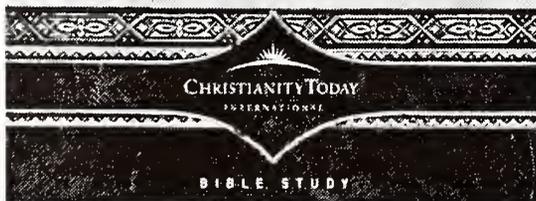
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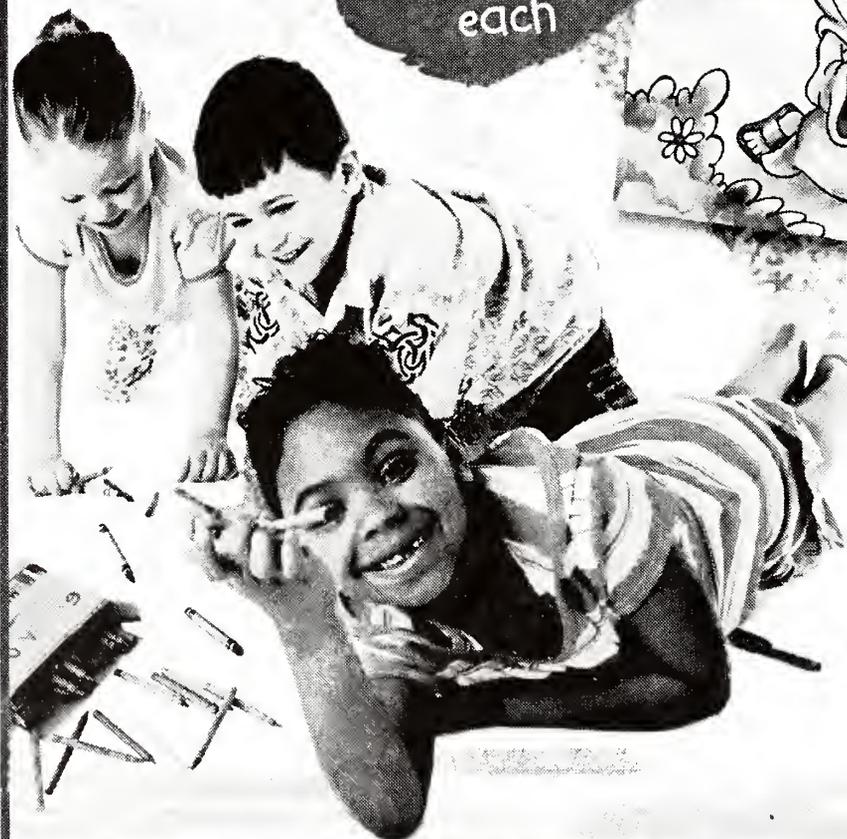
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**Please join us for the 6th Annual
Paper and Cleaning Products Drive
Friday, July 17 at 7:15 P.M.
Fireworks Night!**

Paper and cleaning products will be collected at the gates to benefit
Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC.

Our Layman's League has joined, once again, with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 17, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your Church, Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth Groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.

Campus Needs

Paper towels, toilet paper, all types of cleaning supplies (NO GLASS CLEANER), laundry detergent, bleach, dish detergent, personal hygiene items, antiperspirant (boys and girls), body lotions, bath powder, shampoo, twin size comforters, sheet sets, blankets, trash receptacles (33 gallon or larger), trash bags (33 gallon or larger) kitchen towels, dish cloths

All Church groups registered in advance will receive:

\$5 Box Seat Special (regular price—\$9)

To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 8. Discount is not available at the gate. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game. Paper Products will be dropped off at the stadium.

**Paper and Cleaning products
Drive Questions? Call Bill Doane
(252) 753-3717**

**Mudcats Questions? Call
Joshua Bridges
(919) 269-2287**

These churches keep up-to-date with the latest through group subscriptions to

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Agape Church, Raleigh, NC
Antioch Church, Pikeville, NC
Barnes Hill Church, Nashville, NC
Beaufort Church, Newport, NC
Beaverdam Church, Clarendon, NC
Bethany Church, Wadesboro, NC
Bethany Layman's League, Winterville, 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
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
Everett Chapel Church, Clayton, NC
First Church, Durham, NC
First Church, Goldsboro, NC
First Church, Kinston, NC
First Church, Plymouth, 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, Fountain, NC
Free Union Church, Spring Hope, NC
Fremont Church, Fremont, NC
Friendship Church, Farmville, NC
Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, 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

Hillsberry Church, Clinton, NC
Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC
Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
Howell Swamp Church, Walstonburg, NC
Hugo Church, Grifton, NC
Indian Springs Church, Seven Springs, NC
Jakin Church, Jakin, GA
Johnston Union Church, Smithfield, NC
Juniper Chapel Church, Vanceboro, NC
Kenly Church, Kenly, NC
Kings Cross Roads Church, Farmville, NC
La Grange Church, La Grange, NC
Lanwood Chapel Church, Smithfield, NC
Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn, NC
Little Creek Church, Ayden, NC
Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC
Living Waters Church, Pikeville, NC
Longridge Church, Mount Olive, NC
Macedonia Church, Whiteville, NC
Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC
May's Chapel Church, Dudley, NC
Micro Church, Micro, NC
Moseley's Creek Church, Dover, NC
Mt. Calvary Church, Clarkton, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Nashville, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Bayboro, NC
New Sandy Hill, Bailey, NC
Northeast Church, Mount Olive, NC
Northern Church, Bahama, NC
Oak Grove Church, Bladenboro, NC
Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, NC
Pearsall Chapel Church, Kenansville, NC
Pilgrim's Home Church, Kinston, NC
Pine Level Church, Pine Level, NC
Piney Grove (Beaufort), Greenville, NC
Piney Grove (Pitt), 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
Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly, NC
Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, NC

Robert's Grove Woman's Aux., Dunn, NC
Rock Springs Church, Bailey, NC
Rooty Branch Church, Mt. Olive, NC
Rose Hill Church, Winterville, NC
Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville, NC
Saint's Delight Church, Ayden, NC
Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
Saratoga Church, Saratoga, NC
Sarecta Church, Kenansville, NC
Selma Church, Selma, NC
Shady Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Sherron Acres Church, Durham, NC
Sidney Church, Belhaven, NC
Silver Creek Church, Swansboro, NC
Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run, NC
Smyrna Church, Benson, NC
Sneads Ferry Church, Sneads Ferry, NC
Snow Hill Church, Mount Olive, NC
Soundside Church, Columbia, NC
Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC
Spring Hill Church, Goldsboro, NC
St. Mary's Church, Kenly, NC
St. Mary's Grove Church, Benson, NC
St. Paul Church, Elizabeth City, NC
Steven's Chapel Church, Benson, NC
Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, NC
Stony Hill Church, Middlesex, NC
Sweet Gum Grove Church, Stokes, NC
Union Chapel Church, Middlesex, NC
Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC
Union Grove Church, Fremont, NC
Unity Church, Wilson, NC
Walnut Creek Church, La Grange, NC
Welcome Home, Beaufort, NC
Westside Church, Kinston, NC
Whaley's Chapel Church, Richlands, NC
White Hill Church, Aurora, NC
White Oak Church, La Grange, NC
Wildwood Church, Garner, NC
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- Baptism in the Philippines***

AND MORE!

ERAGMONT ASSEMBLY MONTH

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

June 2009

Cragmont Assembly Month

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
Trinity Sunday	Ministerial Association of OFWB at Cragmont			Day Spring Conference at Cragmont		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day	Cragmont Youth Conference					
21	22	23	24	25	26	
Father's Day Summer Begins	Christian Cadet Conference at Cragmont					
	STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) June 20-27					
28	29	30		COMING SOON: July 6-11: Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/ AFC) at Cragmont July 11-18: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) July 13-18: General Youth II Conference at Cragmont July 18-25: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) July 20-25: General Youth I Conference at Cragmont July 27-31: Young People's Bible Conference		
	Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing at Cragmont (thru July 4th)					

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Loydene Proctor, Western**

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ON THE COVER:

David Curry putting at the 2009 Convention Golf Tournament at Happy Valley Country Club in Wilson, NC.

Highlights in the History of the Free Will Baptist Press

In 1998, the Free Will Baptist Press celebrated its 125 years of service to the denomination. The celebration was highlighted in a special service on Tuesday, September 15, in College Hall, Mount Olive College, as a part of the annual Convention of OFWB. Almost 11 years have gone by since then, and this oldest of our ministries is still faithfully seeking to fulfill its ministry in service to our Lord and to our beloved denomination.

As Free Will Baptists, we can be proud of the role the Free Will Baptist Press has played in our history. The vision to begin a publication to serve our people was a noble one. The subsequent establishment of a publishing house simply broadened that vision which led to the printing of literature and other publications for our denomination, as well as a source for all other church supplies.

Since its move to Ayden in 1895, the "Press" has undergone many changes. The earlier locations in Ayden proved to be inadequate, so in 1928, it moved into a much larger building on East Avenue where it remained until moving into the new building and location on Lee Street in 1967.

When I began as assistant editor in 1957, there were

no computers. Type was set on a Linotype machine using lead type and the printing was done on what we called "flatbed presses." Small items were set up and printed on smaller job presses. A highlight in printing technology came before moving into the Lee Street location with the purchase of the first offset press. Like the old presses, it only printed one color each run, but the process of printing was entirely new—without lead type. In the ensuing years, the Press became more modernized in its printing. Ultimately, the old Harris off-set was replaced with a two-color press. Materials for printing are now prepared for printing on computers, using word processing programs. Recently, the Press has updated its computers, providing a means for improving its quality of printing. In the ensuing years, it is the hope of those involved in the ministry of the FWB Press to further improve its quality of printing with other more modern equipment. It is for this purpose that our present editor launched "The Press to \$151,000 Capital Campaign." Sizeable donations have been made to this campaign and it is our hope and prayer that greater support will follow from Free Will Baptists in the coming months and years.

Clip and mail with contribution to:

Free Will Baptist Press • ATTN: Editor • 3928 Lee Street • Ayden, NC 28513

The Press to \$151,000! Capital Campaign

(Revised Total for Latest Technology)

Donor (Church or Individual) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Name _____ Phone (include area code) _____

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| <input type="radio"/> \$100-249 Publisher's Club | <input type="radio"/> \$1,000-2,499 Editor's League |
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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 either set up a fund for the Free Will Baptist Press or already include us in their budget.

BY WAITUS HOWARD STARLING

The ordination service had ended and I was surrounded by well-wishers. Up until now, I was referred to as the "preacher boy," or "Preacher Starling." One of these I did not mind; the other I almost hated, but there was one title my youthful heart sought. "Is it alright to use 'Reverend' before my name now that I am ordained?" An old Gospel preacher called me aside and told me, "You should never refer to yourself as 'Reverend.' If you are worthy of the title, others will apply it."

I listened with deflated ego as he continued, "Howard, there is only one title worthy of your desire, and it will come only as you prove yourself to our Lord—not man." Naturally, I wanted to know; was it "Bishop," was it "Pastor," was it "Evangelist." "What is it," I asked?

The old man's eyes brightened and teared over until they glistened. He looked for a moment as if he was transported to another time and place, but then he returned to reality—"man of God," he answered. With Bible in hand, he expounded from Scripture showing that Moses, Joshua, many prophets including Elijah and Elisha, and one king named "David," were honored with this title.

Years have passed. Now, I am about the age of that old preacher. Whether I was ever worthy of the title, "Man of God," is debatable, but I have known many over the years that truly are men of God.

One encounter with such a man occurred when I was a youngster. "Happy Tom" Brooks often made statements that were not as they seemed. Of people back home in Harlan County, Kentucky, he said, "The men of Harlan County use lampposts for toothpicks." I was

amazed and doubtful.

Doubt mounted as he told one preposterous story after another, always adding, "I'm telling the truth; if you can prove I'm not, I'll give you a thousand dollars." This was followed by a request, "Y'all be here the last night of the revival and I'll prove it." On the last night, after the invitation to discipleship, this old man (73-75), explained every tale. The one mentioned above was true; the men of Harlan County whittled toothpicks from the wooden lampposts of his community.

Happy Tom's stories did not make him a "man of God." There were many factors involved in that, not the least of which was his effective use of his stories and the Holy Scripture, to win multitudes of young people to what he called, "This Christian Way."

As the years passed, I met scores of others that were worthy of the title "man of God." Some you will not know—Dr. R. B. McCoy, the Reverend J. B. Philips, Dr. C. M. O'Guinn; some of them you will know—the Reverend Noah Brown, the Reverend D. W. Hansley, the Reverend Ransom McAbee. These are some of the names that come to mind as I write.

Among our Free Will Baptists ranks there is an almost endless supply that could be listed. How many of them do you know? What do you know about them?

Does anyone remember the great "soul-winning" heart of the Reverend Noah Brown? Do you remember his great sense of humor? What do you remember about his contributions to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists?

What do you know about the Reverend Ransom McAbee? Does anyone really know this humble man of God that went to his closet everyday to pray and weep over each beloved member of his congregation—going there and tarrying until his knees were worn with scars and pain?

Some, many in fact, know the name of the Reverend D. W. Hansley. But, how many know of his passionate love for all Free Will Baptists? How many know how he sought to provide well-trained

and educated ministers for our movement? Do you know of his vision? You can see it now; it exists this very day. This man of God, and like-minded saints, exerted the power of faith that issued in Mount Olive College. Oh, that such a "man of God" as this should be remembered—and honored!

Recently, I saw an appeal to our churches; it urged each congregation to assemble and preserve historical documents—and by this, preserve the history and the heritage of our Convention. Church history is important to every Bible believer; it is second only to the written Word of God in importance. It tells us of the many great and wonderful institutions that have been built and about the millions of souls that have been saved throughout the centuries since Pentecost. Similarly, the history of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is an essential for all of us—and for those that come after us.

One weakness in most of our efforts relates to the ministers that have served us so well. These men of God are often relegated to a line in our local church history—and that line is appended with one statement—"19?? to ____"? This is not enough? The richness of their lives and work—even their failures—are also a part of our heritage.

Such Men of God have always carried the Gospel in a unique way, and there are many that still "Lift high the Royal banner." I think of my own pastor, the Reverend Roger Motsinger, a faithful servant of God, and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists,

The Reverend Motsinger is

(Continued on page 8...)

Step Up, Stand Out

This message was given by Savannah Matthews at Roberts Grove Church for Youth Sunday on February 22, 2009.

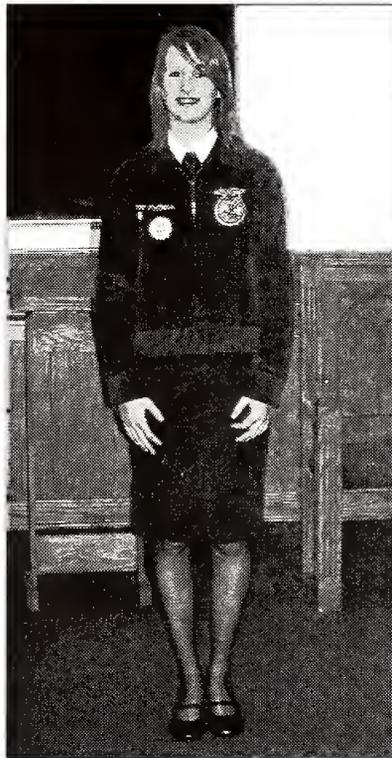
When I went to the National Convention this past year, the theme was, "Step Up, Stand Out." This is the title of my sermon this morning.

Jesus is a part of our lives every day, even though we may not realize it. As you can see, I have on my FFA (Future Farmers of America) official dress. In FFA and the Bible, symbolism is very common; meaning something in one topic is similar to another. This morning, I'm showing how we as Christians can put on our "official dress" and show others the importance of Jesus and having Him in our lives, just like the FFA official dress would show leadership and development.

I'm going to begin with the emblem on my jacket. When people see this emblem they know it's for the FFA, just as when someone sees the Bible they think of Christians.

First, I'll start off with the "sun." The rising sun is a token of a new day. This can show how God wakes us up each morning to give us a new beginning on another day. Second is the "corn" outline. The outline shows the unity of all 50 states in the U.S. This can represent how every one needs to unite and have God in our lives. The third item I would like to point out would be the "plow." The plow represents the tillage of the soil to bring about something new in life. Here, the plow represents us as Christians. The soil being tilled is the knowledge of the Lord waiting to be turned over to someone new; that new someone is a new life. Lastly, the "owl." The owl is the advisor who watches over all FFA members. God is our owl. He watches over all His children up high in the sky, with a sharp eye.

The Creed is a pledge to FFA members. We learn it, just as Christians have the Bible to follow and use as a guide. The Creed is



Savannah Matthews

broken up into five paragraphs.

The first paragraph says, "I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds. Achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in a promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years." In this paragraph, it basically says that the good things we have to enjoy today were brought about through the struggles of former years. John 3:16 (NIV) says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This can be like when Jesus died on the cross for us many years ago so we can live a better life today.

The second paragraph reads, "I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in

hours of discouragement, I cannot deny." So here we have that hard work is tough to do but can also be fun and rewarding. Matthew 3:2 (TEV) states, "Turn away from your sins... because the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Translating to Bible terms, it's hard to keep your faith strong during the week. Just know that reading your Bible and being a true Christian are rewarding enough when you get the chance to go to Heaven.

The third paragraph says, "I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil." Having knowledge, skills, and leadership in the FFA will take you far when you get older and start to expand your future. Psalm 119:105 (KJV) says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." With the knowledge of the Lord's Word, the skills of a faithful Christian, and the leadership of guiding people to the light, you can go far in life because you have the Lord on your side.

The fourth paragraph reads "I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me." Do the right thing by being fair and helping others. Don't be greedy; share your happiness with others. Proverbs 12:25 (NLT) states, "Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up." As long as you have Jesus in your heart and you give your worries over to Him, you will be happy. Come together with other

(Continued on page 8...)

A BIBLE FOR THE PLOWBOY

(This is part two of a three part series)

We believe that the Bible is “God’s revealed word to man” [Article 8 in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*]. Why, then, does the Bible come to us at such a heavy price? Why was there such strong opposition to making the Bible available to the people in their own native tongue? Why is there such strong resistance today to newer and better translations of the Bible?

In this series of articles, I do not propose to give simple answers to those hard questions. Rather, by recounting some of the trials and struggles of the past and the great sacrifices made to make the Bible available to us, hopefully, it will help us in making choices in our struggles, today.

BY H. ADRIAN GRUBBS

From his prison cell in Vitorde Castle, William Tyndale wrote a letter to the governor. He requested the return of some of his personal items that had been confiscated when he was arrested. He asked for a warm cap for the chilly, damp nights; he requested a warmer coat, should he remain incarcerated through the winter; most of all, he wanted the return of his Hebrew Bible, grammar, and dictionary; and he would like to have a candle to brighten his gloomy cell.

It is not known if any of his requests were granted; but he remained imprisoned through the summer, fall, winter, spring, summer and into the next fall. He was finally brought to trial on seven charges unsupported by witnesses, found guilty, and sentenced to die the death of a heretic to the Church and a traitor to the state. On October 6, 1536 William Tyndale was tied to the stake, mercifully strangled, and his body burned.

Officially, he was charged with seven crimes against the Church and the State. In truth, William Tyndale was executed because he dared to translate the Scriptures into the common tongue of English speaking people. Translating the Bible into the languages of the people was central to the Protestant Reformation. When Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” to the door of Castle Church of Wittenberg, Germany, on October 30, 1517, the wheels of reformation were set in motion. Throughout Europe the Bible was being translated into the vernacular—the common, everyday language of the people. Shortly after the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in Germany Martin Luther published the Bible in German, translated from the Hebrew and Greek rather than from the Latin Vulgate, the official Scriptures of the Roman Church. Luther’s German Bible was then translated into Dutch, Swedish, and Danish. In Italy, there were several translations in Italian. Even in Spain, home of the infamous Spanish Inquisition, Bibles appeared in the vernacular. In France, both Huguenots and Catholics produced multiple translations of the Holy Bible. But in England, there was a law against translating, possessing, or reading the Bible in English unless it had been authorized by the diocese. This law was enacted in

1409. The penalty was excommunication, followed by the charge of heresy, which carried the death penalty.

In 1523, William Tyndale (priest, scholar, college professor, and fluent in seven languages) sought permission from the Bishop of London to translate the Bible into English. He was rebuffed, so he packed up his meager belongings and moved to Hamburg, Germany, where he worked diligently on translating the Scriptures. By 1525, Tyndale had translated the New Testament from the original Greek and went to Cologne to have it printed. Before the printing was completed, however, Tyndale was informed by friends that the printing shop was about to be raided by the authorities. He rushed to the printing shop, collected the pages that had been printed, and escaped to Worms, Germany, where the printing was completed. Tyndale’s printed New Testament was smuggled into England where it was sold and distributed to the people. Some shipments were confiscated and burned.

However, he was not satisfied with the first edition, so he revised his translation of the New Testament and began translating the Old Testament. Through a merchant friend by the name of Augustine Pakington, Tyndale arranged to sell copies of his first English translation to the Bishop of London, Cuthbert Tonstal—the same bishop who had refused to give permission for Tyndale to translate the Scriptures in England. He used the proceeds from the sale to publish his latest revision.

For his own safety, William Tyndale found it expedient to relocate from time to time in order to elude the papal authorities and spies from England. At the time of his arrest in 1535, he was staying at Antwerp in the residence of a man and wife named Poyntz. Antwerp was a free city, but the surrounding territory was under the control of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor. An English clergyman by the name of Henry Phillips came to Antwerp and “befriended” Tyndale. In May 1536, Phillips, under the pretext of inviting Tyndale to supper, lured him away from the Poyntz residence and into the arms of the procurator-general. He was placed under arrest and transported eighteen miles to the Castle of Vitorde where he was imprisoned. In August of 1536, he was brought

(Continued on page 8...)

(PLOWBOY continued from page 7...)

to trial and on October 6 he was executed. His last words, while they were tying him to the stake, were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!"

The King of England's eyes were already being opened. Henry VIII had no sympathy for the reformers, but he was dissatisfied with his wife, Catherine of Aragon. The pope refused to annul his marriage, so he broke all ties with Roman Catholicism and made himself the head of the Church of England. Soon after, King Henry VIII was found to be tolerant of an English Bible published by Myles Coverdale in 1535, while Tyndale was in prison. After all, the preface to Coverdale's Bible contained a flattering dedication to King Henry VIII and his wife Anne. Coverdale, a friend and associate of Tyndale, made no pretence of being an original translator; the basis for his work was William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament and a major portion

of the Old Testament.

In 1537, Matthew's Bible was published by John Rogers under a pseudonym. Rogers had assisted Tyndale in translating the Old Testament from the original Hebrew. After Tyndale's death, Rogers published the entire Bible in English, translated from Hebrew and Greek by William Tyndale. The next year Archbishop Cranmer suggested to the king that it would be great if a new translation of the English Bible were to be placed on every pulpit in England. The king agreed, and Myles Coverdale was authorized to proceed with the project. So, in 1539, the Great Bible (so named because of its size as a pulpit Bible) was ordered by King Henry VIII to be placed in every church in the kingdom.

And so, we come full circle. William Tyndale left England because King Henry VIII and his bishops would not permit him to translate the Bible into English. Finally, the king authorized the Great Bible for placement in English churches, which was basically

a revision of Matthew's Bible by Myles Coverdale; in other words, the Great Bible, authorized by the King of England, was the translation of William Tyndale. Furthermore, the title page acknowledged that the work was done with the oversight of Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of Durham. He was Bishop of London when he personally refused to grant permission for Tyndale to translate, and to whom Tyndale arranged to sell copies of his first edition of the New Testament in English.

William Tyndale's life ambition was to make the Bible accessible in plain, simple English so that even the ploughboy could read it with comprehension. English speaking people are deeply indebted to William Tyndale for his dedication, persistence, and sacrifice to make the Holy Bible available to us in our own native language. It is variously estimated that about 80% of Tyndale's translation is preserved in the King James Version.

(MAN OF GOD continued from page 5...)

bi-vocational and must devote 40-50 hours each week to secular activity. In this, he is not unlike the apostle Paul, the tent-maker from Tarsus that ministered so effectively in the first century church. He has served in different capacities in our Conference and excelled in all of them, but it is as the pastor of Friendly Chapel Free Will Baptist Church of Greensboro, NC, that he qualifies to be called "Man of God."

He has served this congregation for over 17 years, and is greatly loved by every member. The bond of love between him and "his people," and the love of both for their Lord, Jesus Christ, has moved them to set and achieve goals that some congregations would write off with, "It can't be done."

This man of God never forgets his origin; that of one "saved by

grace, from sin." His memory of this humbles him as he approaches the pulpit, and opens his heart to receive, and then deliver, God's message to his people. What he says is real—real to him and real to the people that listen. He talks to me—to the others—but really just to me. It is from God's mind (the Word and the Spirit), through Pastor's mouth, to me—just me. This is one of those things that make him a real man of God.

Your man of God is as important to you as mine is to me. So, while you are gathering, assembling, and documenting the history of your congregation, be sure to include his name, tenure, and testimonials of your experience with him—and do the same for all your previous pastors. Give them more than a one line comment, they are an important part of your church's history—these men of God.

(STAND UP continued from page 6...)

Christians to spread the love of Jesus and help those in need.

The fifth paragraph says, "I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task." By standing by the traditions of national life in American agriculture, we can inspire within our communities of how hard honest work can be rewarding. Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV) says, "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." With Jesus, sharing and inspiring others how great He is—is rewarding enough.



Cragmont: Decision, Discipleship, Discovery

BY STAFF WRITER

Cragmont was established in 1945 by the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina. The property formerly housed the privately-run Cragmont Sanatorium. The initial purchase price of \$10,000 was raised within 90 days, some 116 acres on the slopes of Mount Allen, just north of Black Mountain, North Carolina. From the very beginning, Cragmont was to be a place of assembly for our people...and so it is.

Cragmont can be characterized by three words: decision, discipleship, discovery.

One of the directions Cragmont has taken is to be a place of decision. This takes on particular focus during the summer months when youth both from within and outside of our denomination come to Cragmont to learn about the Gospel, some for the first time. Seeds of salvation and commitment are planted in young hearts and minds making Cragmont a place where many have come to Christ and answered God's calling. Here in the setting of the mountains, God's creation serves as a perfect backdrop for considering God's Word and listening for the Spirit. The distractions here are few. The presence of God is abundant.



Cragmont Assembly

As a place of discipleship, Cragmont is the year-round setting for churches to come for retreats. These retreats are as different as the people within them. But there is a common thread in them all—a spirit of discernment for what God's Will is in our lives. For some groups it is summarized in the worship service before going home. For others it is the nightly devotional that pieces together

an idea or concept. And still others shape their whole visit here around some topic or theme. However it's done, the church groups and retreats that come to this place are why Cragmont means so much to the spiritual direction of our denomination.

Cragmont is truly a place of discovery. People have found revelation after revelation about themselves, their world, their God. Some come seeking

answers and others come away with questions that will shape and affect their lives. In this place, people have come to realize the need for salvation, for devotion, and for living in Christ. People have to look at their world with new eyes.

All of this is possible here because God has made it so through the work of His people.

On January 14, 2009, Arlinda and I began our 30th year at Cragmont bringing to mind the fact that Cragmont is "home" and as home, it is a place of comfort, reassurance, and nurture. These thoughts naturally lead us to consider those who might experience a life change that can make celebrating Christmas somewhat difficult or of those who might desire a new view of Christmas with extended family.

The spirit of fellowship at Cragmont can soothe and calm troubled spirits and also bring a bright newness to the traditional Christmas gathering. Consider coming to Cragmont during Christmas week 2009 and be nurtured in the special fellowship found here. Bring many or few. Stay one day or several. But do try to be with us on Christmas Eve for our worship service and Christmas Day for the good food. The only other plans are to enjoy the fellowship of one another and the fire in the fireplace.

Oh! And one more important part about this planned time at Cragmont. THE COST. In the spirit of Christmas giving, we only ask you to pay for the meals. We are now taking reservations. Think about it; a special time, a special place, special people. We might even have snow!



Name: _____

Address: _____

Dates: _____

Home/Cell 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



2009 SUMMER SCHEDULE

MORNING STAR

April 17–19, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE

July 13–18, 2009
Brad Williamson, Director—252.752.5846
Wilma Parker, Register—252.522.0967
PO Box 6423
Kinston, NC 28501

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION OF OFWB

June 8–10, 2009
John Hill
3445 NC 111 Hwy.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
252.230.1845

GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE

July 20–25, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Rd.
Robersonville, NC 27871
252.792.5745

DAY SPRING CONFERENCE

June 10–13, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 27–31, 2009
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Rd.
Pikeville, NC 27863
252.734.3320

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 14–18, 2009
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
252.637.5918

CORNERSTONE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

August 2–7, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

CHRISTIAN CADET CONFERENCE

June 22–27, 2009
Joey Williams
139 Windyfield Dr.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
919.734.9080

PEE DEE YOUTH CONFERENCE

August 10–13, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Rd.
Robersonville, NC 27871
252.792.5745

BED, BREAKFAST, & BLESSING

June 29–July 4, 2009
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Rd.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
877.669.7677

SEPTEMBER WOMEN'S MINI CONFERENCE

September 18–20, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (YFA/AFC)

July 6–11, 2009
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd.
Ayden, NC 28513
252.746.7850

Bed, Breakfast Blessings

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2009

BED: Come to Cragmont for a place of rest and relaxation.

BREAKFAST: Have a hearty meal to start your day.

BLESSINGS: Listen to inspiring words before you begin your day's adventures.

This summer offering has become very popular for vacationing families desiring to spend time in the mountains of North Carolina. You may spend the entire time or any part of it. The cost is \$25 per person/per day, which includes a night's accommodation and breakfast. A deposit of \$25 per person is required.

Cragmont Club membership benefits may be used.

For more information or details about this unique summer offering for vacationing families, call our toll free number, (877) 669-7677, email <cragmont@charter.net>, or mail to Cragmont, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. We will need your name, address, and phone number. We do accept American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Checks should be payable to Cragmont. Cancellation 30 days prior to June 29, 2009 is required for a full refund of deposit.

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Dates: _____

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Phone: (877) 669-7677 • FAX: (828) 669-1463 • Email: cragmont@charter.net



MOC Students Share Time and Talent

BY CYNTHIA BATTEN

On May 5, a group of students (Chris Allen, Katherine Cahoon, Alyssa Cummings, Chris Holloway, and Santiago Rodriguez) from Mount Olive College visited the Free Will Baptist Children's Home with a mission in mind. They were combining their talents to brighten the lives of the children at the home by brightening the campus recreation center.



Mount Olive College students visit FWB Children's Home to beautify the recreation center. Pictured above, left to right are: Santiago Rodriguez, Chris Holloway, Alyssa Cummings, Chris Allen, and Katherine Cahoon.

Katherine Cahoon, a senior majoring in Recreation and Leisure Studies, coordinated the visit. After a couple of hours sketching and planning, the group painted a series of sports murals on the walls of the recreation center. Their desire was

to enhance the recreation center through art and hopefully inspire the children who live at the home to reach for their goals and know they can be whatever they want to be, and know they are loved.

Thanks to these young adults for sharing their time and talent.

2009 Graduate



BY CYNTHIA BATTEN

We are pleased to announce that we have one high school graduate this year. Jamie L. will graduate from Southern Nash Senior High School in Bailey later this month. She plans to further her education, beginning at Wake Technical College in the fall, pursuing a degree as a dental hygienist. Her plans are to move into an apartment within the community and work a part-time job while going to school.

Smyrna Church Visits the Home



Visitors from Smyrna Church

BY CYNTHIA BATTEN

It is always a pleasure to have you visit your Free Will Baptist Children's Home. We ask that you notify us in advance so we can have the appropriate staff available to show you around. Following are

our most recent visitors: Pastor Ashley Trogdon and family, along with members of Smyrna Church, Blounts Creek came to The Home to share a meal, games, devotion, and fellowship.



- Personal hygiene items—antiperspirant, body lotions, bath powder, shampoo, body wash (boys & girls)
- Laundry and dish detergent
- Cleaning supplies—Pine-sol, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleaners
- Kitchen towels & dish cloths
- Vinyl mattress & pillow covers
- Queen size sheets (for staff bedding)
- Bed pillows
- Dryer fabric softener sheets
- Plastic coat hangers
- HD Cookware sets
- Cookie sheets, pizza pans, baking pans
- Aluminum or fiberglass ladders (4)
- Renovations to Heritage Hall

Have questions? Call the Development Office at (252) 235-2161.



A Little Boy's Dream

BY LORRAINE GARNER

As he sat on his bed, Derek was daydreaming. His thoughts went back to better times, when he had a real home, lots of toys, and a bicycle. Yes, his dream was about a bicycle. His family had lost everything they owned in a hurricane. He didn't even know what a hurricane was until that awful day in 2005, when his family had to take whatever they could get in their vehicles and evacuate. He soon learned that everyone in his community had to evacuate. All his friends, his family, and even his grandmother who was partially disabled, had to leave their homes and head away from their beloved community of Cameron. There was a hurricane named Rita on the way, with disastrous winds, high water, and storm surge.

Where were they going? His mom and dad owned a little camper that was set up on a lakeside further inland. Perhaps that is where they would go. Derek remembered as they left how he had looked out of the back window of the car wondering what was really happening. He was scared—really scared. His dad and mom tried to console him, but he knew that they were afraid, too.

And yes, things were very different now. The storm came, but he didn't remember that it was very bad where they were, safe in their little camper at the lake.

It was fun there, playing in the water. But he didn't care. He really wanted to go home. His dad had gone and when he came back, he was sad and Derek could hear his dad and mom talking in low tones which he could not understand, but he could hear that his mom was crying. He liked not having to go to school, but one day his mom told him that he was going to enter school in the town.

Why? He thought that they could go home and go back to their school in their town. That's where his friends were. He wondered if they had gone home yet and what was the holdup? He didn't know anyone here in this school, and it was very hard to get his mind on his studies.

Several times his parents had gone back to Cameron, and he wanted to go so bad. He begged them to take him home, and one day they decided that he could go. As they drove along his mom was trying to talk to him about what he would see, but he wasn't listening very carefully. Derek remembered as they crossed the high-rise bridge, he had put his hands over his eyes and said that he didn't want to go now. But his mom encouraged him to look, and he did. They were still a good distance from their community, but he could see from the bridge the destruction. There were houses, cars, and all kinds of debris floating in the marsh. Even some animals, yes, some cows, horses, and other livestock had drowned in the storm. So it must be bad—very bad.

And it was bad. When they were nearing the place where his house stood, there was nothing there. Nothing. There were just empty places where houses once stood. And his house was gone; just a little debris was left. His mom found a few pots and pans from the kitchen, but that was all. So they had stayed at the lake for a while. His dad found them a place to live, and they had come back to Cameron. Soon his friends came back, too. And they had to go to school in a neighboring town that was farther away than their school in Cameron. It was destroyed also, and he had heard that they were not going to rebuild it as so many people had left. Some were his friends, but his best friend, Jake, and his cousin,

Jalen had come back. So Derek was getting along better now.

Then it happened again this year. It had been three years but now another hurricane was heading their way. So they left again, back up to their lakeside camper. He was really afraid this time, because he knew about hurricanes now. Would his home be destroyed again? He listened to the radio and tried to watch TV, when he could, and the weatherman named this one Ike. He remembered what happened last time and sure enough, it happened again. His home was flooded and now they were living in a camper. It was a nice one and his dad had made sure it was convenient for them. It had a real bathroom and hot water heater. But he still missed his bicycle. He had not said anything about it to his parents, they had enough to think about, but he still missed his bicycle. Perhaps, though, his would be too small for him now. He had grown up so much. It was time for school to start, but even the school he had gone to last year had been flooded and now he had to travel for at least an hour to go to school. The bus came very early, and got home at almost dark, so there wouldn't be much time to ride anyway.

With all the houses pretty much washed away, he and his friends had found a stray dog, and they believed that she had puppies. They found them under a house nearby, and they had crawled underneath and counted them. They were pretty little things and he wanted to carry them home with him. His parents agreed that he could have the mother dog and one of the puppies. So they were busy taking care of them and looking for homes for all the other puppies.

(Continued on page 14...)



(BOY'S DREAM continued from page 13...)

One day there was some excitement in the town. He saw trucks, trailers, and several men drive into Cameron. He watched from a distance as they parked all the equipment next to the house where the puppies were. There was some writing on the trucks and trailers, "Harvest Connection Disaster Relief." The license plates read "North Carolina." He had never heard much about North Carolina, except that it was far from his home. He wondered, "What are they going to do?" The men were friendly and talked a lot to the people of his community.

When they had set up the trailers and everything looked okay, they left. They were parked in the backyard of a church. He had never been to church. He didn't know what people did there. Sometimes he heard singing, but he had never been. They didn't take the trailers, and a couple of the trucks, so someone must be coming back. Derek got excited. Maybe these people had come to help his neighbors and everyone in town. He sure hoped so; there was so much to be done. Everything was a mess. Homes had to be cleaned up; some of them had to be torn down. He knew that it would be a long time before his town would get back to normal. Perhaps it would never be the same.

Sure enough, one day there appeared several people, just men and women, no children. He watched from a distance, he didn't want to get in the way. He was a little shy anyway. He had never met people from so far away. One day he thought that he would get his mom to show him on the map just where North Carolina is, anyway. One day a nice lady came over where he and Jalen were taking care of the puppies. She talked with them, and he liked her. She said her name was Miss Abby.



Harvest Connection Disaster Relief delivers new bikes to children in areas affected by Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Ike.

She gave them some snacks and invited them over to talk to her. She began to tell them stories about a man named Jesus, who lived many years ago. And she told them that is what they would learn at church. He particularly liked the story of a little boy named David, who killed a giant with just a slingshot. There was a story also about a man named Noah who built a big boat, and had a lot of animals come aboard, because there was a flood coming. And everyone on Earth had been killed except Noah and his family and the animals. Derek was sure glad that this hurricane had not been like that flood.

The next week, another young lady came. Her name was Miss Cassie. She really knew a lot of Bible stories. He had never read a Bible. But the stories that she told were very interesting. He liked the one about the Baby Jesus being born in a stable in a far away town of Bethlehem. And this Jesus had grown up to be a man. He healed sick people, took special care of little children, and did many other wonderful things, but his people didn't like him and was finally crucified. But several days later, he came out of the grave and was alive again. This was very interesting. And now, Miss Cassie

said that He is in Heaven, and if people would believe in Him, that they could go to Heaven, too. And she told him about prayer. You can ask Him to take care of you, and He would answer your prayer. Derek thought about this a lot and sometimes he had tried it. He didn't tell anyone, but he had prayed to Jesus about his bicycle.

Derek didn't know how long that he had been daydreaming. It must be a long time, for now he heard his mother calling. She had said for several times,

"Derek, come here," each time just a little louder, until finally he had heard her. "Yes, Mama, I'm coming." Her voice sounded a little excited and he didn't know what this was all about. He saw two of the men from North Carolina standing outside their trailer talking to her. And it looked like they were trying to hide something behind them, but that is when he saw them. Bicycles, three of them. Yes, bicycles. He could hardly believe his eyes. And by now his mother was crying and hugging the men. They were Mr. Bill and Mr. Seth. He had seen them before. They had been at the trailers many times this year. And now they had bicycles. Were they to be his? He couldn't believe it. They were saying that there was one for him, one for Jalen, and one for Jake. WOW! He ran to the men and he hugged them. He could hardly wait to jump on one of them and ride off. He could hardly contain himself, so they said, "Go ahead, they are yours and your friends." So off he went, riding his bicycle and as he turned the corner, Derek thought, "Perhaps there is something to prayer." He would surely think about it and one Sunday, he would ask his mom if he could go to church.



Easter 2009 Celebrated in Balchik

BY WILLEM VAN DER PLAS

The day you celebrated Easter in the West, we celebrated Palm Sunday. A week later, on April 19, we meditated on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Early in the morning we heard enthusiastic young children and youth greeting one another with the words: "Christ is Risen" on which they received the answer "Truly He is Risen." These important words were spoken during the whole Easter weekend. Some people pronounced them with a sort of hesitation because they actually cannot believe the fact that a mortal person had been raised from the dead. Others answered us with a shy low voice almost fearing to be heard by others. But our Gypsy children and youth have been coming to celebrate an event that has become meaningful to them and did not hide it for anybody. Sixty-five people—children, youth and young adults—have been enjoying the program that lasted one and a half hours for each group. It was a slide program about the crucifixion, resurrection, and



Local children play games with colored eggs.

ascension of our Lord Jesus. Three years ago it was made by youth which they all know and respect, because they are older. Some of them are now married and have a child already. The story of Jesus has become alive to them as the sacrificed Lamb of God and as the risen Son of God who lives now at the right hand of the Father to guide His Church and watch over them.

They have understood the difference between the raising of Lazarus and the resurrection of Jesus.

With the celebration belongs the eating of Easter bread, which is normal at celebrations in the Middle

East and also in East Europe. Each received a colored egg. They enclose the egg in a special way in their hand, the opponent does the same, one of the two has to hit the top of the other ones egg and if it cracks or gets a small hole, the egg is for the other person whose egg remains whole. In that way they can win and gather quite a number of eggs. Some of them gave eggs away from their abundance to those who lost theirs' by the game they played. That is a matter of sharing which they learned through their teachers.

Nobody complained about their small place on the floor, which we covered with blankets to keep them a little warm.

From parents, we heard that many of them had a great day and that their kids told them that Jesus really has risen from the dead and went to God the Father to take care for His people; also for the children who believe in Him. God's care for people in the world has been heard in the Muslim families of all who have attended the Easter celebration.

Baptism in the Philippines

BY DARIO S. BASINGIL

One of the duties of the pastor is to baptize people. Baptism unites believers with Jesus Christ in their death to sin and their resurrection to new life. Baptism symbolizes submission to Christ, a willingness to live God's way, and identification with God's covenant people.

The Original Free Will Baptist International Incorporated in Villabulsita, Bulacao, Cebu City, Philippines, had a baptismal service on February 8, 2009. The service was conducted on Sunday afternoon, headed by Pastor Dexter Panares.

They had four people, who upon the confession of their faith and in

obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, were baptized by immersion. The four people were Mark D. Agustin, Jina B. Jabanés, Annabelle Y. Baisac, and Cyren A. Tubilan.

The Bible says, "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 28:19-20).



Pictured above, left to right: Pastor Dexter, Mark Agustin, Annabelle Baisac, Jina Jabanés, and Cyren Tubilan.

I thank the Lord for His guidance and preparation of a place for us to have the service.

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Jesus: Loving or Judging?

When I was in the first grade, before the strict division of church and state was ruled supreme in the public schools, my classmates and I were bade by our teacher to memorize John 3:16. I liked that verse. A little later on, in Sunday School, I remember wanting to grow up to "marry" Jesus. Protestant through and through, this was decidedly not a desire to be a nun. I just thought Jesus was the best man out there.

Then I heard severe preaching that threatened this childhood faith of mine. I heard from the pulpit about the Last Judgment. I began to be afraid of Jesus. Would he put me with the sheep or the goats? I had always tried to be a good little girl

and to do what my family said. Was this good enough for Jesus?

My view of Jesus as a fearsome judge continued far too long. I remember my visit to Italy in 1970, when I was 23. With others in my group, I visited the Baptistry in Florence. On the ceiling is a gigantic mosaic image of Jesus. I thought His eyes showed judgment, and I was afraid. Did I still not measure up?

Many years passed, and I continued along my pathway, seeking a mature faith, one that could see me through life's trials as well as triumphs. Slowly I let my heart open to the idea of Jesus as Love embodied, and I began to feel better.

In 1995, I returned to Italy and the

Baptistry with my husband Paul. As I gazed at the mosaic overhead of Jesus, I saw no reproach in his eyes. This time His eyes looked totally innocent, and I experienced a moment of recognition. In 1970, I had seen in Jesus exactly what I expected at that time to see: the Judge that I feared. By 1995, I had been blessed with a greater understanding, and I realized that, in this time as in many others, we see what we expect to see. Finally, I saw in Jesus's face the Love that I had longed for all along.

I had returned to the innocent appraisal of Jesus that I knew as a little child. As so many readings and hymns had told me, he truly is my Friend.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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To Audit, To Do, or To Be the Church

BY MARY DUDLEY

Are you on a long journey for the Lord or are you just 'taking a trip across town'? Today, more than ever, we MUST understand that the Christian life is a process, not an event. As we grow physically, mentally, psychologically, and emotionally, we should likewise grow to be adults in the Lord as we progress and grow in our spiritual closeness with Him. However, many people who call themselves Christian waver from time to time in their understanding of their responsibility and most important, their obligation in this growth process.

There are three aspects of these responsibilities that I would like to address in this short article. In focusing on Sunday School growth, we must understand that as the Sunday School goes, so goes the church. The Sunday School is the teaching, reaching, and winning arm of the church. It is in this setting that the church grows disciples. We should not only be teaching people how to live in our world today, but how to be an example for the Lord. There have been some folks who have relegated the Sunday School hour to a 'boring lesson' where nothing is learned except how to figure out ways to not listen. Some look at this time as one to just go and be a warm body because someone has told us that we have to be in the church at a certain hour on Sunday morning. This concept should never be focused just on the young. There are many adults who just come and do nothing else. Let's examine the three aspects of our responsibilities as a Christian and you determine where you fit.

First of all, there are those who just audit the Sunday School and the worship hour. If we audit a class

of any kind, we just go, sit, and listen. We receive no credit for the attendance. We have no obligation to write papers or take tests. In other words, we are not accountable to anyone except ourselves for the class we are taking. There are those in churches today who just come, sit, and listen and do nothing else to contribute to the mission of the church. We wonder why they even bother. They rarely smile or greet anyone else. When the service is over, they leave without speaking to any of their fellow members, let alone the guests in the service. Oftentimes, these auditors are the first people to speak up when things do not go their way. They contribute nothing of value to the growth of the church, but they thrive on criticism. Most of the time, the criticism is destructive rather than constructive. They have fallen prey to a debilitating illness called 'spiritual rigor mortis.' Many times, these are the people who can make or break the church's back as it tries to implement its mission or mandate from the Lord as stated in Matthew 28:19-20 where we find Jesus telling His disciples to: *"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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

This is a word from the Lord that is neither negotiable nor debatable. It demands action on our part as Christians. In telling His disciples, He is in effect telling us to work in His name.

Second of all, there are those people who just "do" church. They come, participate, and work 'inside' their church building. They seem to hold fast to the old adage, "us

four and no more." Everything they do or say indicates that they are perfectly happy with the church just as it is. Sure, they will come to all the activities of the church as long as they are held within the four walls of the building. But just ask them to do something outside the church and they resemble a cat who has just been threatened by an outside force. You can see their backs begin to bristle. Sometimes, you might even hear them say that working outside the church takes too much time or is too much work. The doors of this church are open, let them come in if they want to, but be sure to have someone at the door to let the RIGHT people come in. These people often look at the church as being a mere building where people come to meet. They do not want to participate in any activity with a fellow church even if it is in the same town. They do not participate in any activity or meeting such as a learning opportunity, seminar, church conference, or a denominational meeting. They hold no understanding of the small picture of their own church, much less the bigger picture of the Christian Church worldwide. In other words, they are apathetic about anything that happens outside their church building. I have often been asked the question about why a particular Sunday School/church is not growing. I have answered very honestly, "What are you doing to cause the Sunday School/church to grow?" Perhaps, we need to look at the reason for our existence and the extent to which we are willing to examine ourselves for our strengths and areas of improvement. If we examine the book of James, we will find much about our 'working' faith. The Word of the Lord that we hide

(Continued on page 18...)

(BE THE CHURCH continued from page 17...)

in our hearts should provide the foundation or deposit from which we draw our energy for growing in Christ.

Let's look at the third area of our responsibility as a Christian. There is a saying on a T-shirt of a young man that said, "I don't go to church." This outrages people until they see him walk away and look at the back of the T-shirt on which is written, "I AM the church." We should not be spending so much time doing or playing church, but spend a greater amount of time 'BEING' the church. After all, the church is not the building in which people meet. It is people. We, in our Sunday Schools, should be focusing on teaching people instead of just dispensing information about God. We, as teachers, should be sending the message that to know about God is one thing, but to know God is a totally different concept. Having a building in which to meet is great and there are many beautiful buildings to be seen as we travel across our land. The message of God should be transmitted into the communities in which we live and to the uttermost parts of the world. We must be about making a difference in our own families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and

our communities. As we move out from our walls into the world around us, we see so many people in NEED. In need of what you might ask? They are just in need—period. There needs may be as simple as needing someone to listen to them when they are down. There are needs of food, clothes, shelter, safety, and yes, pure survival. Many of the people today have lost their jobs, their homes, and most important, their self-respect because of the economic conditions in our world. Should the church be helping in these times of crises? I say YES, we should. We, as members of the family of God, should be making an impact in our communities by building relationships between the church and the community organizations and meet real needs of people. In order to transform our world, we must first transform ourselves and understand who we are, why we are, and how we became God's children. We need to increase our passion for the lost, no matter where they are. God had a passion and vision for the world and we can do no less? It is time that we put our faith in action. In the entire book of James, we find words concerning the servanthood of man. In James 1:22 particularly, we find these words: *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

This book speaks volumes about our responsibility for being Christian.

Do you not think it is time that we stop complaining about what is NOT being done to bring the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? If we stop complaining so much and focus our spiritual gifts and talents on looking at our strengths and considering what we as individuals, churches, and a denomination can do to grow the church, we can transform our congregations, impact our communities, and touch the entire world. Some of our churches have begun the journey of touching the world by taking a trip we call, *Life on Loan*. Those individuals and churches have already begun to be transformed. Just as when we take a trip we either need to stop at a rest stop or want to take a side trip, the Sunday School Ministry would invite you to take a short directional 'side trip' and investigate how we can "be the church" and put our faith in action. Let's reach out beyond our four walls and deepen our faith as we work together with earnestness to serve the Lord. You can either contact the Sunday School Ministry office at the OFWB Headquarters at (252) 746-4963 or by email at <director@ofwbsundayschool.org> to receive further information about this 'side trip.'

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

SEEKING PASTOR:

Saints Delight Church, 150 Saints Delight Church Road, New Bern, NC is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a rural church with regular services on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. A parsonage is available. Send resumés to Diane Peel, Chairwoman of the Pulpit Committee, by mail to 315 Branch Canal Road, New Bern, NC 28560. Phone (252) 637-6931 or Tahitia Stewart by email to <tvs2@suddenlink.net>.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

John Davis, Licensed Minister of the Western Conference, is seeking opportunities to preach. He will be seeking ordination sometime next quarter. Anywhere—anytime—have Bible, will travel. (919) 210-0771 or <johnjdavis@earthlink.net>.

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGE:

The Reverend Roney Bunn, Jr.
7655 Leonard Rd.
Kenly, NC 27542
Phone: (252) 230-6818
Email: roneybunn@aol.com

SEEKING PASTOR:

White Oak Grove Church, located at 5744 Kennedy Home Road, La Grange, NC, is seeking a pastor. A parsonage is available. Regular services are Sunday morning and Wednesday night Bible study. Send resumés to David Dawson, Chairman of the Pulpit Committee, 5376 Mays Store Rd., La Grange, NC 28551 or to <davidjdawson@embarqmail.com>.



Grand Opening Held for MOC at New Bern Facility

BY STAFF WRITER

"Everyone in this market is thrilled to see Mount Olive taking this next step," said Kevin Roberts, president of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce, in an interview about Mount Olive College at New Bern expanding. "The College has been an important piece of our economic landscape for some time now and this only intensifies the contribution they'll make in helping us prepare our workforce, and our market, for the future. Vaughn Purnell has worked tirelessly to raise public awareness of MOC and has been a great leader throughout this whole process. We couldn't be happier for Vaughn, his Board, his staff, and his students."

Mount Olive College at New Bern has been serving the educational needs of Craven and surrounding counties for more than 15 years. Since opening its doors in November of 1993, MOC at New Bern has experienced significant growth. Each year more than 400 students attend classes in New Bern that are specifically designed to accommodate the career goals and busy lifestyles of working adults. Because of this exceptional growth, the College has outgrown its old space on Glenburnie Road and Trent Road and has recently moved into a newly renovated building at 2912 Trent Road.

To commemorate this milestone, on May 4, Mount Olive College held a ribbon cutting and grand opening at its new location complete with



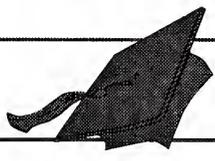
Dr. J. William Byrd (pictured above, fourth from left) cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Mount Olive College campus at Trent Road in New Bern.

refreshments and tours of the new site.

Occupying nearly 14,000 square feet, the new facility contains 8 classrooms and a teleconferencing room for remote site teaching and meetings. Additionally, there are five faculty offices, 10 staff offices, a conference room, and a large student center.

"The new quarters for Mount Olive College in New Bern will enhance our ability to serve the educational needs of people in Craven, Jones, Carteret, and surrounding counties," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College. "Our expanded presence will allow us a greater opportunity to serve the educational needs of people in this region."

The nontraditional programs at MOC at New Bern are an innovative approach to education that gives working adults the opportunity to complete their degree while continuing their employment. The College offers bachelor degree programs in Business Administration, Criminal Justice and Criminology, Early Childhood Education, Religion and Health Care Management. In addition, MOC at New Bern offers an associate's degree in the Heritage Plus program, a program of general college courses. According to Purnell, students with an associate's degree can usually finish the bachelor's degree program of their choice within two years.



Congratulations, MOC Class of 2009!



MOC Dedicates Scott Outdoor Classroom

BY STAFF WRITER

A fitting memorial to a valued colleague who was passionate about teaching and the environment describes the H. Don Scott Outdoor Classroom dedicated Sunday, April 26 at Mount Olive College. The date was selected because it would have been Don's 65th birthday.

"With their long association with Mount Olive College, the Scott Family wanted to create a lasting remembrance to Don and celebrate his passion for teaching and the soil," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of MOC. "The H. Don Scott Outdoor Classroom will provide alternate space for education and spiritual development for generations of MOC students. Each time it is utilized, this structure will celebrate a wonderful man who cherished God's earth and devoted himself to transforming lives."

The structure, conceptualized by Dr. Dan Gall, environmental science coordinator and professor of geology and archaeology at MOC, includes several symbolic features. The circular design is a prehistoric symbol of eternity because a circle has no beginning or end. When viewed from above the structure forms a Celtic cross achieved by using two different colored flag stones which is a well-known and popular Christian symbol. The exterior hedge row serves as a living curtain which is porous and permeable, providing a sense of seclusion.

"The design elements are a synthesis of prehistoric walled structures that were not meant to serve as a defensive purpose by keeping people out, but rather as a means to draw them within," Gall stated.



Pictured are the speakers at Sunday's dedication of the H. Don Scott Outdoor Classroom at Mount Olive College. L-R: Andrea Houston Sanderson; Dr. Glenn Phillips; Dr. Dan Gall; Mark Scott; Michael Scott; Janice Scott; Bob Kornegay; Howard Scott; and Dr. J. William Byrd.

The purpose of the H. Don Scott Outdoor Classroom is to provide a space for outdoor lectures, recitals, and simple reflection by its users.

Scott joined Mount Olive College in 2002 as director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center, after retiring from a career as a university professor in the Department of Agronomy at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. His charge at MOC was to develop an agribusiness curriculum and to build the Center as a new enterprise that would impact and enrich agribusiness in the region. Though his mission was cut short by his premature death in July of 2006, he successfully laid the foundation for what is now an effective program of education, research, and service in agribusiness.

Speaking on behalf of the family were Don's wife, Janice, and his sons, Michael and Mark. Michael said, "I hope that the teachers who use this classroom push their students as hard as my father pushed me. Students ultimately respect teachers

who are tough. They might not like the volume of work, but they will work hard and they will be better prepared."

Mark read from the inscription that his Dad wrote to him on the inside cover of his Dad's book, *Soil Physics Applications*. "This book represents a part of your heritage, your roots in the fundamentals of life activities, including the production of food, fiber, and the protection of the natural resources of soil, water, and the quality of the environment. It is the hope that you will never forget your heritage and always remember its significance in your life as well as in others."

In closing, Janice said, "The Scott family made it known to the College that we wanted an outdoor setting in Don's memory. But it is my greatest joy that from his friends came the idea of an outdoor classroom and the design. Can you imagine that in this outdoor classroom, educators, scientists, authors, leaders, mentors, and friends will sit here? Above all, friends will sit here."

Williams Receives Raper Ministerial Award

BY STAFF WRITER

Adam Lee Williams of Pikeville was one of two students to receive the prestigious W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Student Award at Mount Olive College's annual Awards Day.

The W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Student Award is given to the outstanding graduating ministerial student on the basis of academic excellence and evidence of commitment to the Christian ministry. This award is given by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina, because of his desire to advance the educational and spiritual quality of persons entering the Christian ministry. He has chosen to name this award in honor of Dr. W. Burkette



Adam Williams and Dr. David Hines, Chairman of the Department of Religion

Raper, president of Mount Olive College from 1954–1995.

Williams, a senior religion major, is the son of Roger and Deborah Williams. He is an Honors student

and is active in the Students Theological Fellowship. Williams is a member of the Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County, where he serves on the Youth Ministry staff.

"Adam is passionate about ministry and is especially sensitive to the needs of the poor. This concern is reflected in his Honors project, the development of a ministry to the poor, named "Know Hope." Adam has been an outstanding student, and I am confident that he will be an outstanding ambassador for Christ," says Dr. David Hines, MOC Religion Department Chairman.

William's goals are to graduate from MOC in May of 2009 and continue his theological education in seminary or divinity school.

Guy Receives Top Honors

BY STAFF WRITER

Crystal Guy of Clayton received three prestigious awards during Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Day. She received the President's Citizenship Award, the Senior Citizenship Award, and the 2009 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Psychology.

The President's Citizenship Award, first awarded in 1972, is a scholarship sponsored by President J. William Byrd and his wife, Mrs. Marcy E. Byrd. The award is presented to a returning student who has made the greatest contribution to the College during the academic year. A ballot of the student body chooses the recipient.

The Senior Citizenship Award is presented by the Student Development Office to student who has evidenced the most outstanding



Crystal Guy and Dr. J. William Byrd, president.

qualities of citizenship during his/her academic career at Mount Olive College. The recipient of the award is selected by a committee of faculty, student, and staff representatives.

The 2009 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Psychology recognizes a senior who has excelled academically and who has demonstrated outstanding service to

the psychology department. The student is named by faculty of the department.

Guy, the daughter of Mark and Jackie Guy, is a senior Psychology major, and a member of Powhatan Church, Johnston County. She is the President of the Student Government Association and a member of the following organizations: Phi Beta Lambda, Campus Activity Board, Psychology Club, College Search/QEP Committees, Psi Chi Honor Society, and Undergraduate Alumni Association. Guy was also a participant in the Presidential Inauguration Group which travelled to Washington, D.C. in January 2009, the 2007 Pickle Classic Queen, the Co-President of Campus Crusades, and Co-Chairperson for the Student Pickle Classic/Homecoming Committee.



Lewis Receives FWB Ministerial Award

BY STAFF WRITER

Nick Lewis of New Bern received the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association Award at Mount Olive College's annual Awards Day.

The Free Will Baptist Ministerial Award is a scholarship given by the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists to an outstanding returning Free Will Baptist student who has demonstrated potential for excellence in the Christian ministry. The student is selected by a committee designated by the Ministerial Association.

Lewis, a junior religion major, is the son of Ray and Terri Lewis. On campus, Nick is a Resident Advisor (RA) and plays on the JV basketball team. He is a member of Students Theological Fellowship and the

MOC Ambassadors Association. Lewis serves in the youth ministry program at May's Chapel Church, Wayne County. He is a member of Antioch Church, Craven County, and is licensed by the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists.

"Nick is an outstanding young preacher and has a pastor's heart," notes Dr. David Hines, chairman of the Department of Religion. "I am confident that he will be one of the leaders in the Free



Nick Lewis and Dr. David Hines, Chairman of the Department of Religion

Will Baptist Church in the twenty-first century."

Pierce Receives Jan Brewer Award

BY STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Grace Pierce of Ayden received the Jan Brewer Award at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Day.

The Jan Brewer Award is given to a student who is successfully overcoming adversity in pursuit of a college education and is given in memory of Janet Ruth Brewer, class of 1979.

Pierce is the daughter of Doug and Wanda Pierce and the granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Cedric Pierce. A freshman, Pierce is pursuing an associate's degree in teacher education and a bachelor's degree in social studies. Pierce is a member of Black Jack Church, Pitt County.

"Grace has been through the trials of life but has never allowed anything to stand in her way," said Dr. Greg Day, campus minister. "She is a gifted young woman and I believe that God has good things in store for her in the present and the future."



Elizabeth Grace Pierce and Dr. Greg Day, campus minister.

Rhodes Receives Hinnant Music Scholarship

BY STAFF WRITER

Allison Rhodes of Kenly recently received the Charles B. and Margenette A. Hinnant Music Scholarship at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Day.

This scholarship is given in memory of Charles B. and Margenette A. Hinnant. Mr. Hinnant was a member of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees for many years. The recipient, a music major who exhibits exceptional talent, is chosen by the music faculty.

Rhodes will enter Mount Olive College in the fall. She is the daughter of Howard and Penny Rhodes and is a member of Rains Crossroads Church, Johnston County. She currently attends Princeton High School.



Allison Rhodes and Dr. Alan Armstrong, Chairman of the Department of Music

Cahoon Receives Awards

BY STAFF WRITER

Kat Cahoon of Columbia received two prestigious awards at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Day. Cahoon received the 2009 Senior Citizenship Award and the Most Outstanding RLS Major Award.

The Senior Citizenship Award is presented by the Student Development Office to a student who has evidenced the most outstanding qualities of citizenship during his or her academic career at Mount Olive College. The recipient of the award is selected by a committee of faculty, student, and staff representatives.

The Most Outstanding RLS Major Award recognizes a student who has demonstrated scholarship and service in various activities. The student is named by faculty within the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department.

Cahoon, a senior RLS major, is the daughter of James and Kathy

Cahoon and is a member of Sound Side Church, Tyrrell County. She is captain of the MOC Softball team, involved in the MOC Ambassadors program, and is a member of the Student Athlete Committee. She also works part-time as a fitness buddy trainer.



Kat Cahoon and Julie Beck, director of Student Activities.

"Kat's enthusiasm for learning will make her an asset to the recreation field," states Jaime Kyllis-Higginbotham, Softball Coach and Instructor in Recreation and Leisure

Studies at MOC. "Kat does not know how to give less than 100% in everything she does which is why she is the most outstanding recreation major."



Grubbs Receives Miller Award

BY STAFF WRITER

Andrew Grubbs of Pine Level received the Don Miller Scholarship Award at the annual Awards Day at Mount Olive College.

The Don Miller Award is a scholarship in memory of Detective Donald A. Miller, a Criminal Justice Department graduate and New Bern Police Department officer who gave his life in the line of duty. The award is given to the criminal justice student selected by the criminal justice faculty as showing the most promise in the field.

Grubbs, a junior criminal justice major, is the son of the Reverend Paul and Teresa Grubbs. He is an Honors student and a member of the Concert Choir, and Free Spirit. He is also a leader of Route 7, a branch of campus ministries. He attends Pine

Level Church, Johnston County.

"Andrew exemplifies professional and social responsibility as depicted in the college's covenant," said Dr. Wesley Fox, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology. "He takes the time required to meet and excel in his educational pursuit. He is a respected role model and representative of Mount Olive College, the School of Professional



Andrew Grubbs and Dr. Wesley Fox, Chairman of the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology.

Studies, and the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology."

Newcomb Receives English Award

BY STAFF WRITER

John Newcomb of Lucama received the 2009 Creative Writing Award at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Day.

A senior English major, Newcomb is the son of John and Natalie Newcomb and a member of Marsh Swamp Church, Wilson County. He is vice president of Sigma Tau Delta, president of the MOC English Society and writes for the Trojan Times. He is also a member of the Commuters Club, the International club, and the Madd Hatters Society.

"John makes every class he takes interesting by his intelligence and integrity," said Dr. Sarah "Dee" Clere, chair of the Department of Language and Literature at Mount Olive College. "He completes all assignments with flair but never lets the teacher get by with academic clichés. He pushes us all to rethink our ideas."



Dr. Dee Clere, Chairwoman of the Department of Language and Literature, and John Newcomb

Parnell Receives Handy Mart Scholarship

BY STAFF WRITER

Brian Parnell of Lucama was named the 2009–2010 Handy Mart Business Scholars at Mount Olive College's annual Awards Day.

The Handy Mart Business Scholarships are sponsored by E. J. and Judson Pope who select two rising juniors majoring in business administration who best exhibit excellence in academics, college, and community service, and civic responsibility. The scholarships are valued at \$8,000 per year.

Parnell, a sophomore business administration and business management major, is the son of

Keith and Amanda Parnell and is a member of the First Church in Wilson.

"Brian is very intellectual, involved, personable, and articulate," said Dr. Doug Hood, assistant professor of management and human resources at Mount Olive College. "He exhibits the qualities that are mandated by the Pope Family."



Dr. Doug Hood, assistant professor of Management and Human Resources, and Brian Parnell

Members of Phi Beta Lambda Place in State Competition

BY STAFF WRITER

Mount Olive College students recently received top awards at the State Leadership Conference Competition of the North Carolina State Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL). Two Free Will Baptist students were among those receiving awards.

Hope McPherson of Beaverdam Church, Pee Dee Association, earned second place in Business Communications. Trent Lassiter of Selma Church, Johnston County, earned second place in Sports Management and Marketing. Brian Parnell of the First FWB Church of Wilson, has been named Eastern Region Vice President. In addition to winning an award, Jeremy May was also inducted as the NC PBL State President for 2009–2010. First and second place winners will represent the State PBL Chapter at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California in June.

At the conference, Sonya O'Brien, assistant professor of business at MOC and a member of Hugo Church, Lenoir County, was re-elected to the NC PBL Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors and served on the State Awards Program Committee which administered all



Left to Right: Front row: Sonya McCoy O'Brien, Victoria Taylor, Audrey Owens, Hope McPherson, Josh Marquez; Second Row: Kenneth Jones, Temias Gavin, Trent Lassiter, Dr. Norman Crumacker. (not pictured: Brian Parnell and Jeremy May)

testing events and competitions. O'Brien was also recognized for her 25 years of service as a local chapter adviser

"Mount Olive College's PBL chapter was chartered April 10, 1957 and has been an active chapter the past 52 years," said O'Brien. "I personally appreciate the support Phi Beta Lambda has received from the College through the years." 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.



Nunnally Visits Mount Olive College Campus

BY STAFF WRITER

Dr. Wave Nunnally, visited the Mount Olive College campus in April where he spoke to the students during a Chapel service. While on campus, Dr. Nunnally visited the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection where he is shown looking at material related to the Silverthorne family with Dr. W. Burkette Raper and Gary Barefoot, Curator of the Historical Collection. Dr. Nunnally's mother was a Silverthorne from Bethel Church in Pamlico County. Dr. Nunnally is professor of Early Judaism and Christian Origins at Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri.



Dr. Wave Nunnally, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, and Gary Barefoot

Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The Admissions Office at Mount Olive College (day program) is accepting applications for Summer School and Fall '09. Complete the free online application at www.moc.edu or call Tim Woodard, director of Admissions, at 800-653-0854 for a paper application or other information.

One night a week programs are starting at Mount Olive locations near your home. MOC's two year associate degree program, called Heritage (HP), requires completion of high school or equivalent and that the applicant be 21 years or older. The minimum admissions requirement for MOC's upper level programs in religion (MRM), early childhood (ECE), management and organizational development (MOD), criminal justice and criminology (CJC), healthcare management (HCM), and management of information systems (MIS) are 55 semester hours of transferable college credit, 12 hours of which must be general education (3 semester hours must be English Comp I or equivalent). Check the schedule below for start dates by location. All classes begin at 6 P.M. and last until 10 P.M.

Mount Olive Evening College 1-800-NEW-GOAL

ECE begins at MOC on 6/9/09

HCM begins 6/25/09

MOC at New Bern 1-800-NEW-GOAL

HP begins 7/14/09

MOC at RTP 1-800-NEW-GOAL

HCM begins 6/9/09

MOC at Wilmington 1-800-NEW-GOAL

CJC begins 6/1/09

ECE begins 6/9/09

634 HENDERSON STREET • MOUNT OLIVE, NC 28365 • WWW.MOC.EDU



Minister's Program Sunday: Dedicated to Those who Serve

BY STAFF WRITER

The Minister's Program has been a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists for 70 plus years. It was brought into existence by the Convention in an effort to fill the void for the ministers who were not allowed to participate in the "New Deal" program called Social Security. Originally known as "The Board of Superannuation," its purpose and goal was to raise funds at the local church level and distribute them to retired and disabled ministers.

While the program never fully accomplished its goal of providing substantial benefits to the retired minister, it did shine a light on a real problem. What was that problem? It was that men who had stepped out in faith to answer God's call were retiring in poverty. There are several reasons for the problem, but perhaps the most notable was that small churches were unable to provide a living wage to the pastor. It is not a matter of choice, but a matter of present day necessity that kept many pastors from preparing for their financial future.

Through the years, the Minister's Program began to sound the alarm regarding this issue and many of our churches have taken the lead in providing compensation plans and assisting their pastor in planning for his retirement. Ask yourself this question, "Is our church funding our pastor's retirement at a level that will allow him to retire with the dignity worthy of a person who has give their life to the high calling of ministry?"

One of the most important things that the Minister's Program does is administer a top flight retirement program that allows churches and ministers to work together in planning for a retirement that is

sufficient to meet his family's needs. The church/pastor relationship is a covenant. Promises made, promises kept.

Father's Day, June 21, 2009 has been set aside by the Convention as Minister's Program Sunday in the local Church. While this may not be front page news in the world, the Minister's Program does some pretty positive things for ministers within our denomination and we depend on you to help us keep these promises.

This year the Minister's Program has published *A Guide to the Church/Pastor Relationship*. The relationship between a congregation and her pastor is critical to the ministry and success of the local church. It is only by working effectively together that the church is able to meet its calling and carry out the teachings of the "Great Commission."

It is the goal of this publication to foster good communication between the pastor and the congregation by providing a starting point for understanding and addressing important issues that often arise. It is our hope that this publication will be used by ministers and laypeople as they address the issues that routinely confront the local church.

The value of this guide will be in providing the reader with a perspective on an issue that may help resolve a potential problem. This publication is intended to be a guide and should not be used in setting policy, rules, or for governance. Since the church's ministry and the pastors prospects are dependent on the decisions made at the local level the future for both depends in large part on the relationship that exists between the pastor and the pew.

It is to our churches, pastors, and Original Free Will Baptists

throughout the Convention that we dedicate this book and hope that it will prove valuable as we make our way through this spiritual journey which God has called each of us. A copy will be made available to every church and pastor and additional copies will be available at a nominal cost.

Most of the promises that the Minister's Program makes involve finances. Did you know that during this past year your church, through its support of the Minister's Program sent \$150 to every minister age 65 and older in our denomination? This was a total of over \$15,000 through an annual project called Christmas Cheer.

Your gifts fund the administrative costs of the Minister's Retirement Program, Minister's Widows Plan, and the Surviving Minister's Program. That way every dollar that they contribute is used 100% for the purpose in which it is intended. Additionally, many of our retired ministers have outlived their benefits but continue to receive their monthly and quarterly checks. This is only possible through the churches support of this program on an annual basis.

Minister's Program Sunday is a day that each of you can assist this program in keeping the promises made to our ministers.

Does your church contribute to the Minister's Program? You may find it surprising that almost 30% of our churches did not provide any gift support to the Minister's Program last year. Please consider receiving a special offering this Father's Day or sending a special gift to the Minister's Program so we can continue the program you have commissioned us to do.

Preparations for Summer Underway

BY RICK PRICE

We've been extremely busy this past month. We've had groups here at the camp every weekend except Mother's Day weekend. You can tell it is getting into the summer months. It's warmer each day. Soon it will be summer time and hot!

We've been completing some projects around the camp. We have finished the mobile home project that was started last year.

The underpinning looks good and the grass we put down last fall is doing great! We have put the new mattresses in the dorms and had enough funds to put some in a couple of lodge rooms. Also, we have new walkways from the parking lot to the walkways in front of the kitchen and dorm buildings.

We have certainly been blessed in our chapel services this year. I've held services in the chapel each

Sunday at 11:00 A.M. If your group wants to hold church services in the chapel, we will work around your schedule.

We did have an Easter sunrise service here with two of the local churches. There were approximately 100 people here. It was a great service in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Thanks for your continued support for the camp! God bless you!



Pictured above is Boy Scout Troop 816 from First Church in Tarboro. One of these guys caught the first fish of the year off the pier.



A group from Blended Fellowship worships in the camp chapel. Brother Doug (pictured standing, third from left) leads the signing choir.

2009 Camp Vandemere Schedule

June 1-4	Women's Week	Audrey (Stumpy) Quinn—252.638.6408 Judy Kennedy—919.298.4311
June 7-12	Open Week	
June 14-19	Daniel's Chapel	Walt Tyndall—252.753.5005
June 21-26	General Youth Camp I	Tim Heath—919.809.0045
June 28-July 1	Lighthouse Keepers	Cristy Ramsy—910.358.2103 Wanda Taylor—910.324.4663
July 5-10	Spring Hope	Eva Mae Clark—252.637.5346 Debbie Warren—252.637.4560
July 12-17	General Youth Camp II	Wesley Taylor—252.514.3222
July 19-24	New Bethlehem	Sandy Williams—252.745.9840
July 26-31	First Church of Wilson	Doug Radford—919.284.6144

"Send out thy light and thy truth" (Psalm 43:3a)

By the Ban

WITH RICK PRICE

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks again for the support that everyone extends the camp. Camp Vandemere is a very unique ministry. We minister to summer campers, old and young alike; to groups that come here for the weekend; to people here in the community; and others.

In planning for this year, our Board of Directors decided not to raise any of the rates that we charge for use of the facilities here at the camp. We know that the economy has affected everyone in some way or another and funds to do extra things are harder to come by this year—but God has blessed by providing all our needs. He always does and will. As I was

talking to a friend of mine today, he mentioned the fact that he was not going to slack up on giving back to God because he knows where his blessings come from—God Himself! As of now, we have received enough funds to do the projects that I had previously publicized: fertilizer, mattresses, concrete for walkways, painting the dorm and dining room floors, pool chemicals, etc. I think the only project that is not complete at this time is the split rail fencing. Isn't that awesome? I know that one will be completed before long. God is good, all the time!

God has blessed us tremendously and we should first and foremost praise Him for everything—especially our trials and tribulations.

Out of those hard times will come spiritual growth. If we learn through our trials, we will become stronger Christians. Camp Vandemere is a place where people come for training, growth, and to gain wisdom from God's Word—and a beautiful one at that! His Word says to "Be still and know that I am God."

Please keep me, as the director of Camp Vandemere, in your prayers! I want to be exactly what God would have me to be first, and then, we together, can take the camp to a higher level of service than ever before. There are so many possibilities here, and we should take every opportunity to reach as many souls for Christ as we can!

4TH *Camp Vandemere's* ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Saturday, June 6, 2009

12:00 NOON Tee-off

Fairfield Harbor Country Club

New Bern, NC

Teams will consist of four golfers—male, female, or mixed of any age. Participants will choose their partners. Format will be a 4-person superball with a shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams. Prizes will also be awarded for "closest to the pin" and "longest drive." A "Hole-in-one" on a pre-selected par three will receive \$100.

Red Tees and Mulligans will be available for \$5 each.

Entry Fees: \$50/golfer; \$200/team

Make checks payable to: Camp Vandemere

Mail entry form and fee to:

Rick Price, 215 Third Street, Vandemere, NC 28587

Church Name:

Team Members:



Morning Star Retreat 2009

BY STAFF WRITER

Another spring, another gathering of women from across the state at Cragmont for this annual weekend of spiritual enrichment. The most senior of the group was 93 year old Reba Cannon of Black Jack Church. Six of our seven districts were represented by the 123 in attendance. The Cape Fear had the most in attendance by district with 45.

Director May Pittman officially welcomed everyone at the opening services at 8 P.M. on Friday evening. Sandra Jones read opening Scripture from Psalm 121 and gave the opening prayer. 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 18 first-timers, telling them to come back next year and bring some friends.

Sharlene Howell opened Saturday morning at 8:00 in the chapel with a devotion based on Psalm 19:1-4. She said we should see each day as a gift from God—our "present" each morning.

Cathy Crumpler, an art teacher and wife of the Rev. Joe Crumpler, was introduced as the morning's speaker. Her topic for the weekend was "Women: A Work in Progress." She is a graduate of Mount Olive College and a former member of "New Creations."

Ms. Crumpler began with a session called "Rescued and Reconciled" based on John 4:5-29. A skit was performed that portrayed a woman named "Martha" who was unable to say "No" to requests to take on job after job in her church. Others were able and willing to work but no one wanted to hurt her feelings by asking her to give up a job. Once an injury caused her to have to limit



herself, others picked up the jobs—except for being a Sunday School teacher—which was Martha's first choice anyway. We should know our talents and use them in service to the Lord, always doing our best.

The story of the woman at the well shows how Jesus could look beyond someone's past and see the glorious future they could have. His meeting with her rescued her from her meaningless life and gave her the good news of Christ to share with all in her village. It did not matter that she was a female or that she was a Samaritan or that she was of low position.

In the second session, Ms. Crumpler discussed Mary Magdalene and her importance as a disciple. She referenced John 20:1-18. Mary's commitment to Jesus did not waiver after he had cast seven devils out of her. She was consistent in her presence and support of the travels of Jesus.

The third session was "Women Behind the Scenes" from Mark 12:41-44. The poor widow (not named) gave her mite showing her faith even though she was so destitute herself. She gave all she had. Ms. Crumpler pointed out that we must show our Christianity through our actions. She asked that

we each find our place to work. Even if our places change as our lives change, we need to continue to give our all as best we are able. She closed the session in prayer.

The Sunday School lesson was led by Cathy Crumpler with Scripture from Matthew 5:16, reminding us that we should reflect the love of God. We serve God by serving other people. Ms. Crumpler asked, "How do we represent our heavenly Father to the world?"

The offering that was collected for Cragmont was \$2,000.

The Rev. John Williams brought the worship message before breakfast. He referenced John 20:19, saying that Thomas questioned whether or not it had really been Jesus that appeared to the disciples after His resurrection. He referenced a quote from George Mason's book on John Adams that said, "All men (humans) are born equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights..."

He, later, thanked us for our support and prayed for safe trips for us all back to our homes. The retreat always begins the Friday after Easter so make plans now to come and be a part of the blessing waiting for you on April 9-11, 2010.

House Honored With Lifetime Membership Award

BY STAFF WRITER

Mrs. Blanche Aycock House was born into a farming family on June 7, 1921 to Tom and Lela Aycock. She has six sisters (Agnes, Pearl, Mary, Edith, Marjorie and Harlene) and one brother (Thomas). She helped with the farming chores, with housework, and assisted her mother in caring for the younger children—some have even said she was their second mother.

She grew up in the Free Will Baptist Church where she has always been very active. Cragmont is near and dear to her heart, especially the Women's Conferences. We cannot even begin to tell you the number of State and Western District Woman's Auxiliary Conventions, as well as many other Free Will Baptist denominational meetings, she has attended.

Ms. Blanche married Harold House in November of 1940, and they had two children, Darrell and Nellie. Darrell has two children and so her family has now grown to include two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Mr. Harold and Ms. Blanche farmed



Pictured left to right: Edith Pittman, sister; Nellie Pittman, daughter; and Ms. Blanche House.

until he began working with the agriculture department. Mr. Harold died in 1970 and Ms. Blanche began working at the Governor Morehead School in Raleigh as a housemother. Later, she worked at the North Carolina School for the Deaf in Wilson where she worked until she retired. On many occasions, she would bring the children home with her on the weekend so they could experience living in a real home, they could enjoy home cooked meals, and, of course, attend her beloved church.

She loves to travel and has been to the Philippines and the Holy Land with the Reverend Harold Jones, Director of Foreign Missions and his wife, Sandra.

She has the gift of hospitality having hosted many pastors and evangelists in her home through the years. Friends of her children can attest to her hospitality as they were invited to sleepovers and enjoyed the delicious meals prepared for them and they felt such a part of this unique family. She also extends her gift of hospitality with visits to the sick and shut-ins in their homes and in the hospital.

Her flower garden has always been one of her greatest pleasures. As you ride by her house, if you look real close, you may see her out there pruning and nurturing God's beautiful creation.

Ms. Blanche loves Rains Crossroads Church and her church family. She has attended the Woman's Auxiliary since a young girl as she brought her mother to the Woman's Auxiliary even before she got her driver's license. She has a servant's heart and has always been a faithful worker for her church and for the Woman's Auxiliary. She loves her Lord and has a heart of compassion for His people. She is truly a blessing to Rains Crossroads Church and we think she is a true lifetime member of the Original Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary.

Daniels Chapel Honors Pittman With Lifetime Membership

BY STAFF WRITER

Jo Pittman has been in the Woman's Auxiliary at Daniels Chapel for 63 years. During her years of membership, she has served as president, vice-president, benevolence chairwoman, program chairwoman, and social chairwoman. Some of these offices, particularly benevolence chairwoman and social chairwoman, she has held multiple times.

She does not let her service stop in the auxiliary, however. She has

also served as a teacher in the Bertha Smith Sunday School Class. She is extremely dedicated to visiting the shut-ins, not just from our church, but in the entire community. In addition, she and her husband frequently take meals to wherever they see a need.

This woman is a true example of Christian service. She has dedicated herself to the auxiliary and its work throughout her entire adult life. Congratulations Mrs. Jo!





Eastern District Presents Life Membership Award

BY STUMPY QUINN

It is my pleasure to give you a brief history of this year's recipient for the Eastern District FWB Woman's Auxiliary Life Membership Award. Pat Smith Arthur was born to Clair and Elsie Smith on December 16, 1947. She has three older brothers: Gene, Wallace, and Tony Smith.

At age 13, Pat accepted the Lord and began working in her church as the pianist. Some people may not know her by her name, but they know her for her beautiful playing! On July 22, 1967, she married the Reverend Owen Arthur. They have two children: Michael and Christy, daughter-in-law, Tracy, and grandchildren; Randy Arthur and Bethany Ramsey. Together they have served at the following churches: Vanceboro, Piney Grove (Beaufort County), White Hill, Bridgeton, Whaley's Chapel, and presently Memorial (Beaufort County).

Pat has played for several Women's Conferences at Camp Vandemere as well as directing several weeks of camp there. She has served as a Sunday School teacher at several churches during their ministry and currently serves as auxiliary program coordinator, choir director, and young teen teacher at Memorial.

To many, she is known as Mrs. Pat, to her children she is fondly referred to as mama, and her grandchildren lovingly call her "Ma Pat." I could tell you many more attributes about our current recipient, but to me she has always been "Woman of the Year." As my mom, she has consistently been there for my daughter and me, as well as for my



Pat Smith Arthur and Christy Ramsey

brother and his family (Presented by Cristy Ramsey).

The Spring Eastern District Auxiliary Convention was held at Serecta Church on March 21, 2009. During the morning sessions, Pat Arthur from Memorial Church was presented the Life Membership Award.

Wilson First Church Auxiliary News

BY STAFF WRITER

The Woman's Auxiliary of Wilson First Church was a busy group in April. On April 3, our annual chicken pastry fundraiser took place. We had a large turn out for both eat-in and take-out. All the ladies worked very hard to make this run smoothly, especially under the leadership of Janie Nichols. And the food must have been good, many came back for seconds!

On April 8, our Auxiliary's pre-Easter service was held. It was a very special and thought-provoking service. Our program-prayer chairwoman, Edith Edmondson, did a great job in planning this wonderful service. Our drama team director, Cathy Jones, organized a skit entitled "Characters of the Cross." A choral reading was also performed entitled "Praise God for His Great Love."

On April 26, the Auxiliary presented two Lifetime Achievement Awards. These were presented during the morning worship service which was also designated as Woman's Sunday. Ms. Daphne Dixon and Mrs. Denise Vester were the 2009 recipients of this prestigious award. Ms. Dixon has been a member of the Auxiliary since 1986. Mrs. Vester is president, an office she has held since 2007. She has been involved with the Auxiliary at First Church since 1981. Congratulations to these ladies upon receiving this prestigious award.

To recognize the Auxiliary of our church, a special insert was placed in the bulletin that defined the Auxiliary and its work. It was truly a special day to celebrate the ladies of the Wilson First Church Woman's Auxiliary.



Pictured (l-r) are Denise Vester and Daphne Dixon



Wilson First's Auxiliary holds annual chicken pastry fundraiser.



Endowment for Blended Fellowship Ministry Announced

The newest endowment of the Foundation was announced at the fourth annual meeting held April 28 at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Sampson County. President, W. Burkette Raper, reported that gifts totaling \$10,000 had been received from friends and churches to establish a permanent endowment to provide annual support for the work of Blended Fellowship—a Free Will Baptist ministry to the deaf.

Located in Wayne County on Big Daddy Road, Blended Fellowship has a membership of approximately 200, including both deaf and those who hear. The Reverend Doug Seymour, who is also a full-time computer specialist with Home Health and Hospice, has served as a bi-vocational pastor since Blended

Fellowship was organized 10 years ago. During this period, 100 deaf people have become Christians through the ministry of Blended Fellowship. Mr. Seymour said that 98% of deaf people in the United States do not consider themselves to be Christian and that 93% have never had the Gospel explained to them in their own language.

In addition to providing worship services and spiritual nurture to the deaf, Blended Fellowship provides a wide-range of special services, including serving as a mediator with governmental agencies like Social Services and Social Security, teaching sign language to hearing people, and assisting the deaf in finding a place to live. The vision of Blended Fellowship is a pre-school program for deaf children and to enable their

pastor to become full-time.

The main feature of the Foundation's annual meeting was an inspiring program by the "Signing Choir" of Blended Fellowship. Prior to the performance, Mrs. Mae Ellen Warwick, a member of Oak Grove Church, described her own family experience with deafness. Her grandfather, Campbell Warren and his brother Ashley, were born deaf. Their father sent them to the State deaf school in Raleigh, where they met two deaf sisters from Mount Airy. The brothers married the sisters and returned to Sampson County to live. Both couples had children, none of whom were deaf. Twelve descendants of Campbell and Ashley Warren were special guests for the Foundation and were introduced by Mrs. Warwick.



Donnie E. Lassiter (right), chairman and presiding officer, conferring with Alex Lewis of Wilson, whose family has established an endowment fund with the Foundation.



The "Signing Choir" of Blended Fellowship under the direction of pastor and director, Doug Seymour



Dr. Michael Cogdill (right), dean of Campbell University Divinity School, with interpreter Kayla Seymour.

Progress Report Given at 4th Annual Meeting

Approximately 115 people were in attendance at the annual meeting and heard reports on the work of the Foundation. Dr. Don Ribeiro, treasurer, reported that during the past three years the Foundation has provided scholarships totaling \$49,634 to 19 students preparing for pastoral services and other church-related vocations. Dr. Michael Cogdill, dean of Campbell Divinity School where 12 of the 19 scholarship recipients have enrolled, brought warm greetings and praised the

quality of Original Free Will Baptist students enrolled at Campbell.

Dr. Raper, president of the Foundation, reported that gifts totaling \$1,800,931 had been received for 18 permanently endowed funds, including funding for ministerial scholarships, churches, Free Will Baptist ministries, and other charitable and educational purposes. More than \$61,000 was distributed last year to the named beneficiaries of the Foundation endowment.

Mr. Donnie E. Lassiter, recently

appointed the first chair of the Board of Directors, presided at the meeting. A delicious home-cooked dinner was prepared and served by the Oak Grove Woman's Auxiliary under the coordination of Mrs. Willa Dean Daughtry, president. The Reverend Roger Hill gave the welcome and invocation. Upon leaving, the Reverend Francis Garner declared, "This was an inspiring evening. I feel like I have been in a worship service."

Christ Church Holds Easter Egg Hunt for Youth

BY STAFF WRITER

Christ Church had an egg hunt for the youth on Saturday, April 11. There were a variety of age groups that were divided up to hunt the eggs. There was a prize for each age group that found the most eggs, and there was money in some of the prize eggs. Refreshments were provided by the ladies auxiliary. The men's brotherhood also had a drawing for a giant Easter basket. It had candy, stuffed animals, and a Bible. The children had good Christian fellowship during the hunt.



Easter Egg Hunt prize winners

Evangelist Burton Leads Revival at Christ Church

BY STAFF WRITER

The Rev. David Atkins and Christ Church of Stokesdale, NC had revival on April 1-5. Evangelist Jeff Burton preached each service. The Rev. Burton preached on several good topics. On Wednesday, he spoke about God's House. We should love, respect, and appreciate the church. Our actions reflect the example that the unchurched see. Christians are to love one another, act Godly, and be all that God would have us to be.

The Lord led evangelist Jeff Burton to have testimony night on Thursday. Almost everyone attending had a good word for the Lord. It was a spirit-filled service. The presence and anointing of God was really strong and felt among the church.

On Friday night, the sermon was "Consider the Cost." Is willful sin in this life worth the cost of an eternity in Hell? If we decide to draw away from God and backslide, consider the cost of your life.

On Saturday, our special singer was the Reverend David Parrish from Elwood Lane in Kannapolis,



Curtis and Nancy Stevens, members of Christ Church; their daughter, Janet Stevens Burton; her husband, evangelist Jeff Burton, and the Rev. David Atkins of Christ Church.

NC. He brought several from his congregation. Other churches also visited some nights, Friendly Chapel of Greensboro and The House of Prayer in Kernersville, to name a few. There were a few singers from these and other churches that sang at

our Revival.

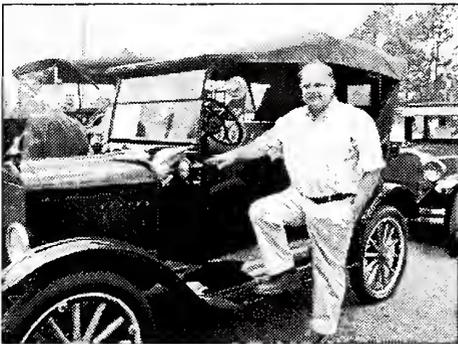
Sunday was the last day of our revival, and we had a delicious covered dish lunch for our guest evangelist. It was a memorable, spirit-filled revival that brought praise and honor to God.

Cabin Church Performs in "Watch the Lamb"



On Sunday April 12, Cabin Church presented the Easter drama, "Watch the Lamb." This awesome drama was directed by Pastor Nelson Koonce. Pastor Koonce said that all the praise and glory goes to God. He also thanks everyone who participated in the drama, worked on props, sewed costumes, and who brought the Lamb. Those who are pictured are as follows: Megan Houston, Bladen Tugwell, Travis Williams, Austin Powell, Ella Houston, Judy Houston, Betty Exum, Beverly Taylor, Jeanne Houston, Nicky Drinwater, Sherry Mercer, Joyce Lanier, Sue Hamilton, Brenda Mercer, Pastor Nelson Koonce, Ellis Lanier, Buddy Taylor, Willie Taylor, and Ruffin Mercer.

Regional Horseless Carriage Club Makes Stop at Winterville Church



BY STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, May 3, the church yard of the Winterville Church in Winterville, NC was a step back in time. Among the guests that day were 41 members of the North Carolina Regional Horseless Carriage Club. The cars represented were

Ford Model Ts, Chrysler, Franklin, Dodge, Pontiac, Buick, and Cadillac. The cars ranged in years from 1912-1927. The club was on their 2009 spring tour and the weekend was being hosted by Charles and Judy Lewis who attend the church.

Piedmont Youth Rally Held in Greensboro



Junior Purdy

BY STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, April 18, the Piedmont Youth Rally was held at Friendly Chapel in Greensboro, NC. Youth from several churches from the Piedmont Conference attended. Prizes were awarded for Bible verses recited and for fast location of Scripture in the Bible.

The guest speaker for the youth rally was Junior Purdy, a member of Christ Church. He had a wonderful testimony for the children about what God has done in his life.

Years ago, Junior was on drugs and tried to commit suicide. God let him live. Junior gave his heart to God and is a living testimony to all people he surrounds. The doctors said he would never live, but God brought him through and brought healing and deliverance.

Junior is such an inspiration to all people that have addictions. He inspires and uplifts people by God's help and is a walking miracle and testimony for God.

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**Please join us for the 6th Annual
Paper and Cleaning Products Drive
Friday, July 17 at 7:15 P.M.
Fireworks Night!**

Paper and cleaning products will be collected at the gates to benefit
Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC.

Our Layman's League has joined, once again, with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 17, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your Church, Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth Groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.

Campus Needs

Paper towels, toilet paper, all types of cleaning supplies (NO GLASS CLEANER), laundry detergent, bleach, dish detergent, personal hygiene items, antiperspirant (boys and girls), body lotions, bath powder, shampoo, twin size comforters, sheet sets, blankets, trash receptacles (33 gallon or larger), trash bags (33 gallon or larger) kitchen towels, dish cloths

All Church groups registered in advance will receive:

\$5 Box Seat Special (regular price—\$9)

To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 8. Discount is not available at the gate. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game. Paper Products will be dropped off at the stadium.

**Paper and Cleaning products
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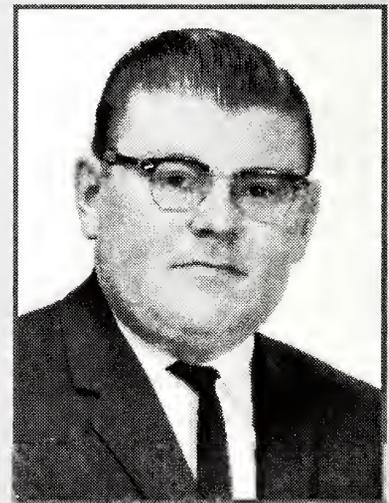
June's Picture from the Past!

Your Clue:

This year, he will celebrate 50 years
in the ministry.

May's Picture: Mary Dudley

May's Winner: Ray Wells



Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or email <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A FATHER'S AND MOTHER'S DAY ENDOWMENT



William Cecil Raper
August 20, 1907–February 13, 1936



Beulah Jones Raper
October 8, 1907–June 12, 1986

PARENTS OF

W. Burkett Raper
Mary Raper O'Donnell
James Earl Raper

Catherine Raper Davenport (deceased)

In appreciation for a Christian home and a Christian heritage, an endowment for the Benevolent Fund of Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church, with special consideration for children.

WILLIAM CECIL & BEULAH RAPER FAMILY ENDOWMENT

Father's Day, June 21, 2009
11:00 A.M. Worship service
Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church
Lucama, North Carolina

For information on the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries,
please see page 33.



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This Month's Features:

- ***Kerstetter Begins Roll as Fourth MOC President***
- ***Harold & Sandra Jones Endowment Announced***
- ***MOC Choir Director Honored for Service***

AND MORE!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MONTH

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

July 2009 Christian Education Month

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMING SOON: July 6-11: Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC) at Cragmont July 11-18: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) July 13-18: General Youth II Conference at Cragmont July 18-25: STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions) July 20-25: General Youth I Conference at Cragmont July 27-31: Young People's Bible Conference			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC) at Cragmont						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
General Youth II Conference at Cragmont STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions)						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
General Youth I Conference at Cragmont STT to Mexico (Foreign Missions)						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Parent's Day	Young People's Bible Conference					

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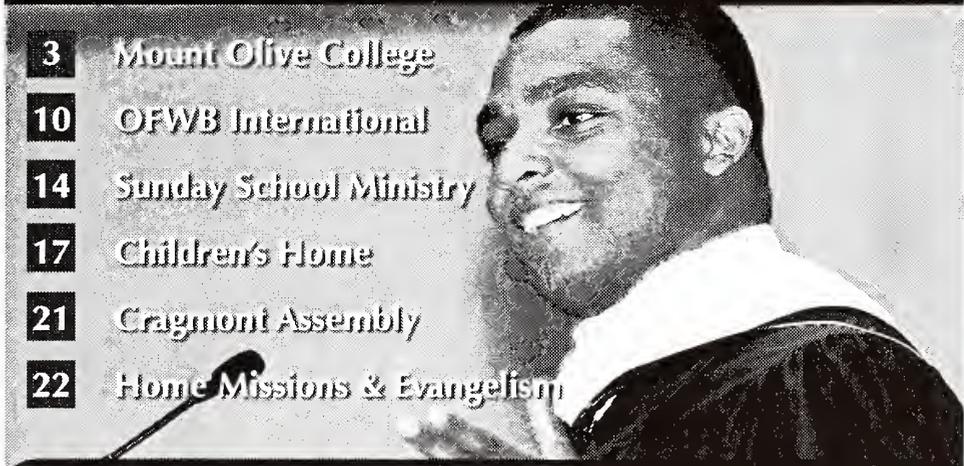
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Andrew Hill, Kyle Smith, and Saborah Hill Smith.
Article on page 4.

REFLECTIONS

with C. H. Overman

Reaffirming a Biblical Mandate

During my 57 years as an ordained OFWB minister, I have attended nearly all of our Conventions. Occasionally, during those years, our people have been asked to reaffirm our position regarding certain issues, especially as they related to moral and biblical issues. Such was the case at our 97th session held at Mount Olive College on May 21, near the end of the last day's session. It came in the form of a resolution in support of biblical marriage. I don't know who drafted the resolution, but I am very proud of that (those) person(s). It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists accepts the Bible to be our Rule of Faith and Practice: and

WHEREAS, the Bible defines marriage as between a man and woman; and

WHEREAS, marriage throughout human history has been the basic building block of society;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists express its belief that it is in the best interest of the people of the State of North Carolina to define marriage in the North Carolina Constitution as the union of one man

and one woman at one time; and, that this Convention recommends that each Conference, in their next session, affirm their position on this issue of marriage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to each individual State Representative and Senator of the North Carolina Legislature.

A strong "aye" vote resounded throughout the body of delegates and ministers in support of the resolution. Indeed, for Bible-believing Christians upholding the truths found in those sacred pages, there could be no other choice. A decade or two ago, such a resolution would not have been necessary, but things have changed in recent years in many ways, especially regarding certain moral issues. And we know the Bible warns of such a time—a falling away from the faith. It is our obligation to stand firm in the truths of His Word.

Our thanks to the Reverend Al Warrick, secretary of our Convention, for e-mailing me a copy of the Resolution.

Let us faithfully pray each day for a great spiritual awakening in our Nation.

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Kerstetter Begins Roll as Fourth President

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Dr. Philip Paul Kerstetter, former president and chief executive officer of Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kansas, began his role as the fourth president of Mount Olive College on July 1.

Dr. Kerstetter succeeds Dr. J. William Byrd, who previously announced that he would be stepping down after 14 years as president of the College.

"Phil Kerstetter embodies the ideals of learning, innovation, and service that are at the heart of Mount Olive College's mission," said Darrell Horne, chair of the MOC Board of Trustees. "We are fortunate to attract someone of Phil's experience, accomplishment, and vision to our team. He has an exemplary record not only in fund raising, but in working well with boards and other constituencies. As someone who possesses keen insight into the special qualities of the liberal arts college experience, Phil promises to be an outstanding spokesperson for Mount Olive College."

Dr. Kerstetter's selection by the College's Board of Trustees is the result of an extensive and rigorous, nation-wide search that has taken more than a year.

Dr. Kerstetter received his B.A. in religion from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; his M.Ed. in college counseling from the University of Delaware, and his Ph.D. in special education administration from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. His 35 years of higher education experience in both the public and private sec-



Pictured above are the Reverend Lyn Renfrow, President of the Convention of OFWB, and Dr. Philip Kerstetter during annual Convention of OFWBs.

tor encompasses a wide range of increasingly responsible roles in all segments of university governance including: student affairs, academic and curriculum development, initiating and completing major advancement goals, designing and implementing fiscal strategies, and his previous role as president of Kansas Wesleyan University.

In addition to his formal appointments, Dr. Kerstetter has served on numerous state and national committees. He is a recognized authority on assessment and strategic planning. He has authored grants and has published in professional journals.

Dr. Kerstetter has been active in the Salina community, where he has been a member of the University United Methodist Church and served on several local advisory groups, including the Board of Directors of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, the Salina Area United Way, and the Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Associated

Colleges of Central Kansas, and has served as vice president of the Kansas Independent College Funding Authority. In addition, Dr. Kerstetter has chaired the Board of Presidents for the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference and served as a member of the Council of Presidents of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. He previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Thiel College, including service as the head of the Board's Instruction Committee and member of the Board's Executive Committee. He was a member and the past chair of the Board of Directors of the State YMCA of Pennsylvania. Dr. Kerstetter is married to Mary Johnson Kerstetter. They have two children, David William Kerstetter and Joanne Kerstetter Rooney.



Three Generations of MOC Students

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

In May, John "Kyle" Smith of Deep Run became a third generation alumnus of Mount Olive College, following in the footsteps of his mother, Saborah Hill Smith, and his grandfather, the Reverend Andrew Hill. When MOC was a junior college, Saborah graduated in 1973 with an associate in science degree. She earned her bachelor's degree in science education from East Carolina University in 1975. She is now retired after teaching for 32 years.

"Being Free Will Baptist, I grew up hearing about MOC," she said.

Andrew Hill, Saborah's father, and Kyle's grandfather, attended MOC in 1955 before transferring to Campbell.

Having been raised in Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist Church, Lenoir County, Kyle was very familiar with Mount Olive College. He even remembers attending



Pictured above, from left to right, are: The Reverend Andrew Hill, Kyle Smith, and Saborah Hill Smith in front of the Mount Olive College Chapel.

the College dinners as a child. So when it was time to select a college,

Kyle had to look no further than MOC. However, unlike his mother and grandfather, Kyle elected to enter the nontraditional program. As a father and full-time employee at Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority in Kinston, the one-night-a-week format of the Management and Organizational Development (MOD) program fit well with his busy lifestyle.

"I have had a positive experience and I would definitely recommend MOC to anyone looking to earn a college degree," he stated.

On May 9, Kyle became an alumnus of MOC, and maybe one day his own children will follow in his footsteps. After all, his children were a big motivator for him returning to college in the first place. Kyle is married to Kimberly Sanderson Smith, and they have two children, John Brady and Kiley Danette.

"I wanted to earn my degree to show my children the importance of education," Kyle said.

Davis Receives 2009 Irene Patten Award

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Brandon Davis of Lucama received the 2009 Irene Patten Award during Mount Olive College's annual Spring Fling Concert.

The Irene Patten Award is awarded by the director of Mount Olive College Singers to a student who shows exemplary characteristics of a dedicated singer and who shows a positive attitude.

Davis, son of Jimmie and Debra Davis, recently received his B.S. in history with a minor in education at the College's May graduation. In addition to being part of the MOC Singers, Davis was a member of the MOC Concert Choir, the History

Club, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. He is a member of Daniels Chapel Church, Wilson County.

"Brandon Davis represents a perfect example of a hard-working, dedicated singer who comes to every rehearsal with energy and professionalism," said Dr. Gregg Cannady, director of the



Pictured (l-r) are: Dr. Gregg Cannady, Brandon Davis, Debra Davis, and Jimmie Davis.

MOC Singers. "Brandon is a great performer because he plans and practices for success."

2009 Commencement Services Held May 9th

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

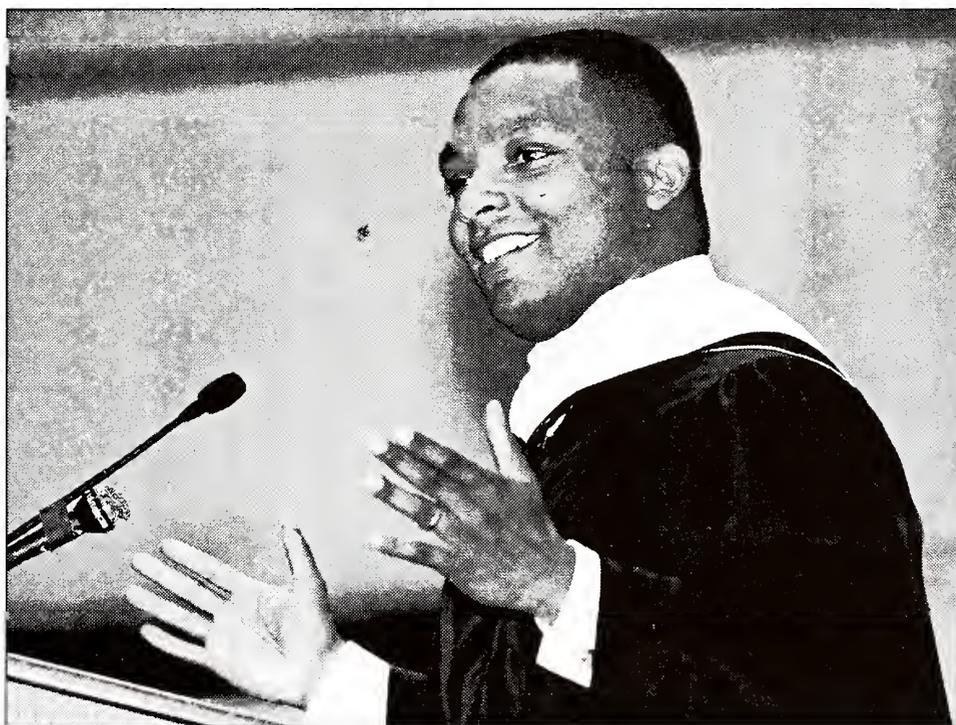
Mount Olive College held its commencement services on May 9, 2009. The day began with a 10:00 A.M. worship service held in Southern Bank Auditorium located in W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall. The message was delivered by The Reverend Dr. Tyanna Yonkers-Day. She began her message by asking a series of questions: "Who am I? Why am I here? and Where am I going?" Dr. Yonkers-Day later referenced Peter and his sometimes lack of understanding of things Jesus said. Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, where are you going?"—Quo Vadis, Domine?" Jesus responded to this question by telling Peter that he was going to be crucified thereby taking Peter's place on the cross. Dr. Yonkers-Day ended her message by asking a question to her audience, "Quo vadis, worshippers? Quo vadis, graduates?" Where are you going, worshippers? Where are you going, graduates? Certainly, a question we should all ask ourselves.

The Graduation service was held at 2:00 P.M. in Kornegay Arena with 324 graduates receiving their diplomas at MOC's 55th spring graduation. The commencement speaker was Senator Don Davis. In his commencement address he spoke of the difficult challenges facing this particular class of new graduates. Obstacles facing these new graduates would be the record high unemployment rate and economic downturn. "I'm reminded of my two young boys. As any parent, I want

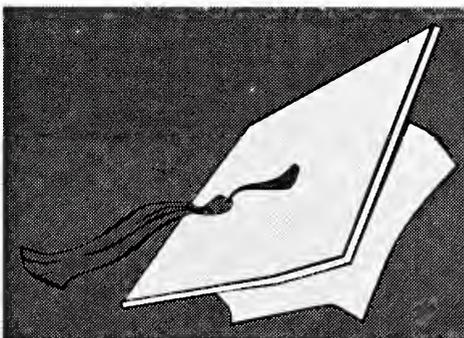
the best for them, and likewise, the best for you," Davis said. Davis went on to say that "The world needs you to embrace this deep passion. How will you contribute? What will be your imprint? Make sure it reflects who you are, and who you aspire to become." While this new group of graduates will have many challenges to face in the wake of this economic downturn they can be assured that they have been equipped with the tools needed to be successful. These graduates can also be assured that they are leaving MOC with its heritage instilled in them and a love that will follow them.



The Reverend Dr. Tyanna Yonkers-Day (pictured above) leads the commencement day worship service in Southern Bank Auditorium.



Senator Don Davis (pictured above) delivers his commencement speech to the 2009 Mount Olive College graduates.



Summer Graduation

Mount Olive College will hold its 56th commencement on Saturday, August 29, 2009. Graduation exercises are scheduled for 2:00 P.M. in the George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena.



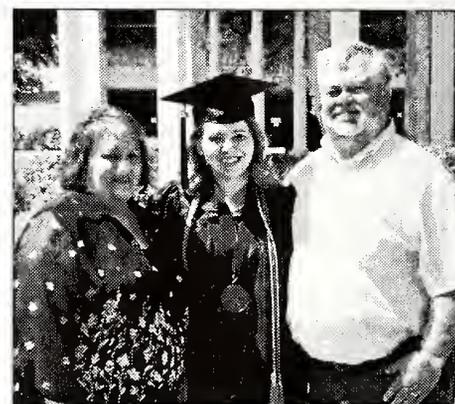
2009 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE FWB GRADUATES



*Matthew McLamb and family,
Walnut Creek Church, Wayne County*



*Trentou Lassiter and family,
Selma Church, Johnston County*



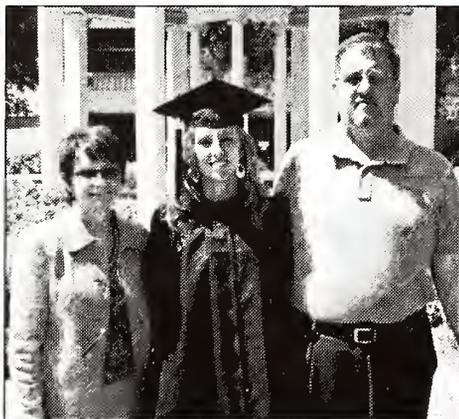
*Sara Strickland and family,
Walnut Creek Church, Wayne County*



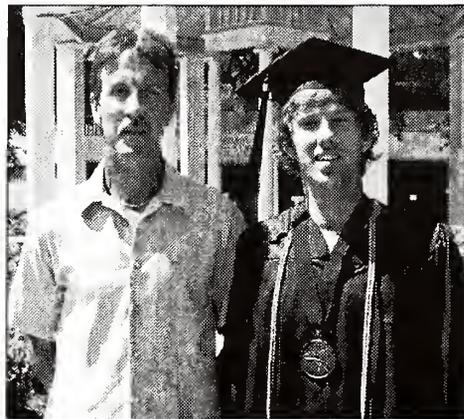
*Ashley Walston and family,
Piney Grove Church, Johnston County*



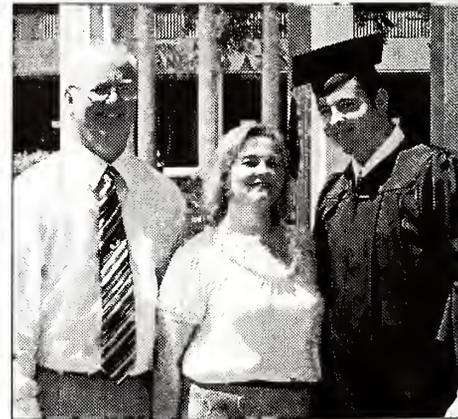
*Hope McPherson and family,
Beaverdam Church, Pee Dee Association*



*Jenna Gudac and family,
Pine Level Church, Johnston County*



*Adam Williams and his father,
Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County*



*Michael Wheeler and family,
Sandy Plain Church, Duplin County*

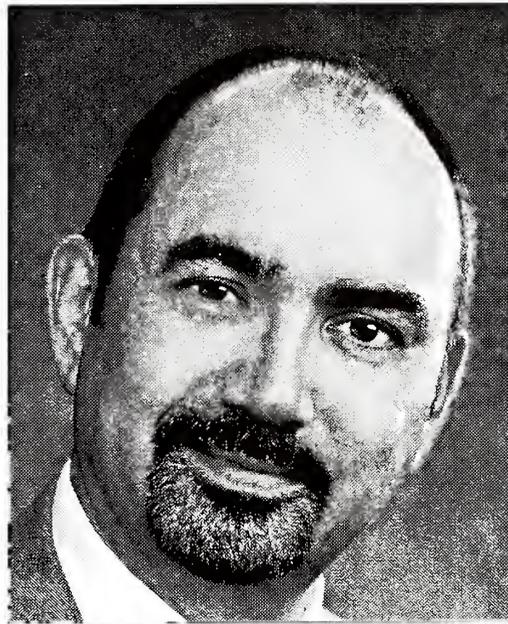
Armstrong Honored for Years of Service to MOC Choir

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Dr. Alan Armstrong began working at Mount Olive College in the fall of 1996. He was hired to lead the church music program, oversee upper-level music courses and create a Christian traveling ensemble. In addition to leading the MOC Concert Choir, Dr. Armstrong began "Free Spirit" in the spring of 1997 and began touring with the group. In 2003, he became the chair of the Music Department.

In April 2009, Dr. Armstrong directed the MOC Concert Choir's two-night production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man." The production was Dr. Armstrong's "farewell performance" as he was stepping down as choir director, although he continues to serve as chair of the Music Department.

"The production of 'The Music Man' was the most rewarding



Dr. Alan Armstrong, Chairman of the Department of Music

production I have ever directed. It was, however, incredibly demanding in terms of preparation and implementation. Yet all of that had

to be done if we were going to put on a first-rate show. I believe it was all worth it because, in the end, it WAS first rate," said Dr. Armstrong.

After the final production, Dr. Armstrong was presented with an award honoring his 13 years of choral performance service.

Under Dr. Armstrong's direction, the MOC Concert Choir performed at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. and performed numerous large-scale works with orchestra including the complete "Messiah" and Gounod's "Messe Solennelle." In addition to the most recent production, they have also presented two other full-length musicals: "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Menotti and Gilbert, and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance."

Dr. Gregg Cannady, assistant professor of music, will assume the role of choral director for MOC.

Tillman School of Business Receives ACBSP Accreditation

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) has announced that Mount Olive College has been awarded initial accreditation of its business program by the ACBSP Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners. ACBSP is the leading specialized accreditation association for business education supporting, celebrating, and rewarding teaching excellence. The Association is the only accrediting body for business schools that offers accreditation for all degree levels of business education including associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral

"Mount Olive College is honored to be included in this distinguished organization"

degrees.

For institutions that achieve ACBSP accreditation for their business schools and programs, this attainment certifies that the teaching and learning processes within that institution meet the rigorous educational standards established by the ACBSP.

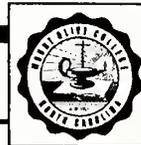
The Tillman School of Business has been a member of ACBSP since 2005, and joins other prestigious institutions receiving initial accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. ACBSP membership includes over 540 institutions and over 5,600 individuals at these institutions located in 25 different countries.

Commenting on the honor of ACBSP accreditation, Dr. William

Byrd, president of MOC said, "Mount Olive College is pleased to be a leader in education and is honored to be included in this distinguished organization. As the College is currently educating an enrollment of more than 5,000 students, we believe that MOC brings a distinctive and exciting presence to ACBSP through our focus and successful history with delivering business education."

Mount Olive College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS COC) (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate and baccalaureate degrees.

For more information about Mount Olive College visit www.moc.edu.



David and Hallie Still Endowed Scholarship Established

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The David Martin and Hallie Murkerson Still Endowed Scholarship honoring David and Hallie Still of Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church of Blakely, Georgia was announced during the Paul Palmer Conference which met at Jakin OFWB, Georgia the weekend of April 17-19. The Reverend Wayne Sheffield is moderator of the conference.

The donor's desire was to honor David and Hallie Still for their commitment to Original Free Will Baptists, the Paul Palmer Conference, and to Mount Olive College. It was also in honor of their 50th



Pictured (l-r) are: David Still, Hallie Still, and Pastor Wayne Sheffield.

wedding anniversary.

First preference will go to a student from the Paul Palmer Confer-

ence in Southwest Georgia, second preference to a Free Will Baptist student and third to a student who is planning a career in the field of music.

Many Mount Olive College FWB alumni will remember the many nights (over the past 35 years) spent in the Still home while helping with camp, representing at the Paul Palmer Conference, and touring in the Paul Palmer churches with the New Creations and the MOC Singers. The Stills have touched many lives and will live in the hearts of many Mount Olive College alumni forever.

Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College has space available for new freshmen and college transfers for Fall 2009. To learn more about admissions, scholarships, and financial aid, contact Tim Woodard, director of Admissions, at <twoard@moc.edu> or call 800-653-0854. Visit www.moc.edu to complete your free online application and to learn more about programs offered at MOC.

To make a reservation for a campus tour, contact Tim Woodard at <twoard@moc.edu> or call 800-653-0854.

Mount Olive College offers one night a week programs for working adults interested in completing their associate degree in liberal arts. This program is called the Heritage Plus program is offered at six locations, Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, Washington, Research Triangle Park (RTP), and Jacksonville.

Mount Olive College at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base offers eight different degrees in an accelerated day and evening format for military and civilian personnel. Community College of the Air Force degrees are fully transferrable toward a bachelors degree at Seymour Johnson. For more information, contact Dr. Opey D. Jeanes, Vice President for Special Services, at <ojeanes@moc.edu> or 919-734-8585 or 919-735-5052.

MOC's locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, and Washington, NC also offer programs in management, criminal justice, early childhood, and healthcare management.

Programs in religion and management of information systems are also offered at selected locations. To learn more about these programs, visit www.moc.edu or call 800-NEW-GOAL to be connected to the location nearest you.

Mount Olive College has opened a new location in Jacksonville, NC at 201 Parkwood Drive, Jacksonville, NC 28546. Georgette Prichard, admissions representative at Jacksonville, will be glad to assist working adults who are interested in attending one of MOC's one night a week programs at <gprichard@moc.edu> or 800-868-8479.

HIGHER EDUCATION AS PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY

BY DR. MICHAEL PELT

The subject of higher education as preparation for the ministry was brought to our attention about five years ago by the appointment of a Task Force on Education for the Ministry. Several things have happened as a result of Task Force initiatives, including a cooperative arrangement with Campbell Divinity School. This made possible the offering of courses from the Divinity School on the campus of Mount Olive College and the enrollment of as many as 16 students at Campbell and other theological schools. The establishment of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries has provided some financial aid for these students in graduate theological education as well as some students at Mount Olive College.

We are delighted to see this progress in recent years, but there is much more work that needs to be done if we are to raise the level of education in the ministry of our churches. When my wife and I moved to this state in 1953, I joined the Central Conference in that same year. At that time, the Conference had ruled that two years of college was required to be ordained to the ministry. There was only one minister among us who had earned a graduate theological degree—W. Burkette Raper—and very few ministers had graduated from college. The requirement of two years of college is still the rule, with some exceptions, in the Central Conference. Other conferences have adopted a similar requirement, while some have little or no requirements in higher education.

Meanwhile, Mount Olive Jr. College was chartered in 1951, and was moved to Mount Olive in 1953, and began operation as a collegiate institution in 1954. The College sought and obtained accreditation by the N.C. College Conference in 1958 and was fully accredited by the

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1960. It was upgraded to senior college status and accredited by the same accrediting agency in 1986. During this same period, other church related colleges were opened in eastern North Carolina—Methodist at Fayetteville, Wesleyan at Rocky Mount, and St. Andrews in Laurinburg. In addition, community colleges were established all across the state (56 in all). The University of N. C. system was developed out of all the 16 public colleges and universities in the state. There are a total of 35 private colleges and universities in North Carolina. Hundreds of thousands of students are currently enrolled at these colleges and universities and they are graduating in numbers that exceed many times over the numbers that were graduating 50 or more years ago.

Many more Free Will Baptists are graduating from college today than had achieved that goal 50 years ago. But how many of our ministers have earned a baccalaureate degree? Four years ago we did a survey of our ministers to determine the level of education among us. There were 103 responses out of a total of 250 who were asked to participate in the survey. Among those responding there were 14 who had earned masters (usually M. Div.) degrees from schools accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada. There were 50 who had earned baccalaureate degrees and some with masters degrees in education or counseling. There were 36 who had earned associate degrees, had completed some college work, or were graduates of Carolina Bible Institute. The results of this survey are not as complete as we might desire, but it provides a clearer picture of where we stand today with reference to the level of education of the ministers in our Convention.

With all the changes in higher

education over the last 55 years in this state and the many opportunities available to our ministers today, it does not appear that we have made as much progress as we could or should have. This is due in large measure to the low expectations we have for those who are ordained to the ministry, the lack of initiative on the part of ministerial candidates, and the lack of encouragement for these candidates on the part of pastors, congregations, and ordaining councils, whose duty it is to nurture those who are called to the ministry. Those of us who are ministers are very likely the models for those who are now entering the ministry. Maybe we should ask what we ought to expect of those who are beginning the process of preparing for the ministry today. Shouldn't we insist that they enroll in college with the goal of completing a baccalaureate degree? Only then can they ever hope to enroll in a graduate program of theological education. If we expect to see any real progress toward raising the level of education for the practice of ministry in our denomination in the twenty-first century, we are going to have to become personally involved in this effort. Today, most parents want their children to have more and better education than they received. Should not our pastors want the same thing for their younger brothers in the ministry? And if the number of Free Will Baptists attending college today far exceeds the numbers that were in enrolled in college 50 or more years ago, should not Free Will Baptist congregations expect their pastor in the years to come to be at least a college graduate.

We have a fine college at Mount Olive that provides an excellent opportunity for this to happen with financial aid available there to cover 90% of the cost of tuition for ministerial students on campus.

(Continued on page 25...)



Children's Ministry Established in Philippines

BY PASTOR JOSEPH R. MENDEZ

On March 7, 2009, I started the children's ministry in Catadman, Cuyo, Palawan, together with Brother Ruben and Sister Minda Bajar. We had 14 children who were eagerly listening to the story from the Bible. We conduct this ministry every Saturday afternoon at 3 P.M. I believe that reaching the children with the Word of God is an effective way to reach the parents and family members. In Mark 10:15

we read, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Please pray for the spiritual maturity of all the children who have been taught the Word of God. They may well be the next channel to be used in this ministry. Pray also for our expansion target. We plan to open three more outreaches in nearby barangays (villages).



Participants in the children's ministry in Cuyo, Palawan, Philippines

What is STT Ministry?

BY SANDRA JONES

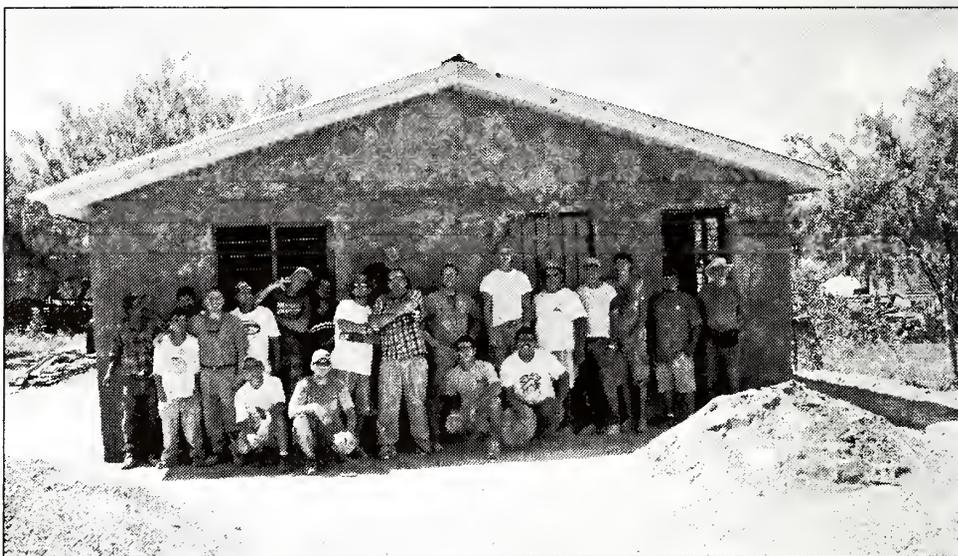
Short Term Mission Teams provide a unique opportunity to minister in a cross-cultural setting. It is satisfying work, sometimes sweaty and hot, (most of the time) often very hard and yet sometimes slow, but always rewarding. It is teaching, singing, witnessing, tract distribution, digging foundations, pouring cement, sawing lumber, nailing, painting, cleaning, and much more. It is something that you can do to help others and change your life at the same time.

We will be taking three work teams to Piedras Negras, Mexico this summer. The dates are: June 20-27, July 11-18, and July 18-25. We will also take a team to Camp Morelos, Mexico August 8-16.

Please pray for safety in travel for these teams as we go to minister and be ministered to in many different areas.

Why don't you begin now to pray about your involvement in this ministry for 2010? The dates are: June 19-26, July 10-17, July 17-24, and August 7-15.

For details, call (252) 746-4963 or email <director@ofwbi.org>.



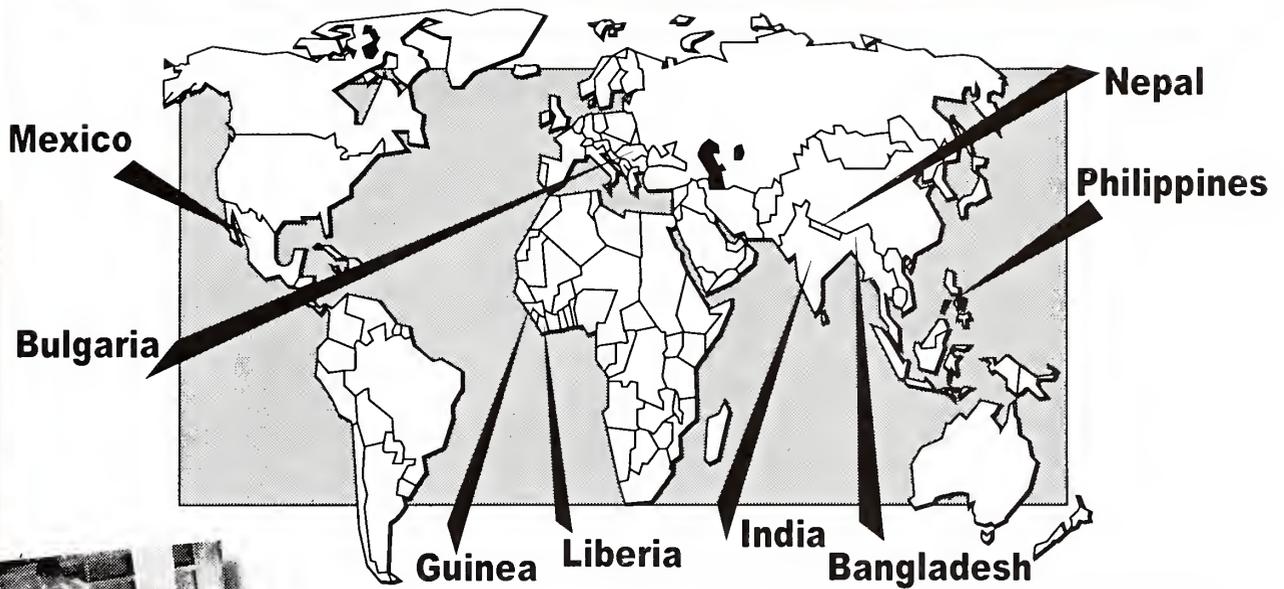
Construction project from a short-term missions trip in Mexico.



A large group of locals attend Vacation Bible School.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS



Help us take the Gospel around the world.

Gifts this year will go toward taking the "Living Water" to the lost in Mexico, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Liberia, Guinea, Bulgaria, and the Philippines.

Your gifts will also aid us in meeting many physical needs. We provide relief goods, feeding programs, homes for the orphans, schools, and many other things, on a regular basis.

Taking the "Living Water" is the most important job we have. Your special offering during VBS will help us accomplish the task before us.



For details call (252) 746-4963 or email director@ofwbi.org



Crisis in Guinea as Missionaries Lead People to Christ

BY REV. B. DARLINGTON GNININTE

The OFWB of Liberia and Guinea are grateful for all the support that comes each month. The churches and brethren have been greatly blessed as a result of your assistance.

This month, we will mostly highlight the events in Guinea. Guinea is a country on the north of Liberia. It is three and a half times the size of Liberia with a large population. But surprisingly, it is a Muslim state. Guinea has been declared as an Islamic state and a member of the Arab League. That is to say, only Islam is recognized as the religion of that country and none other is accepted. What a sorrow, that these people are missing the great pleasure and peace that is found in Jesus. But that is not all to it; the good news is there are still a small number of people who have accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior, recognizing Him as the only way to eternal life. Oh, what great news that is!

Last year in September, a seed was sown in Conakry, the Capital of Guinea, and that seed has germinated and now is growing rapidly. Pastor David Diarra Camara leads a group there that have remained faithful, even accepting segregation, exclusion, disgrace, and desertion from their loved ones because of their faith in Jesus. These brethren meet together in the home of one of the members, and there they have fellowship with Jesus. But there are a certain people who have been a help to them, ministering to them in different ways, spiritually and financially. And this has helped them a lot in their evangelism and outreach to win people to Christ. Aren't these people true disciples, meeting the needs of their brethren



Locals hold up evangelism posters.

in Guinea? Yes they are! But guess what? YOU are these people. What a great surprise. May the Lord richly bless you as you pray daily for the brethren and also meet their needs.

The Word of God has provided to many, though not enough. Worship materials such as drums, a pulpit, and posters were also purchased for them. Financial assistance was also given to some to purchase needed items such as clothes, food, etc. Thank you for your assistance.

In Guinea, Christians are regarded as pagans, and looked at as unclean people. Headlines like "A Pastor Killed" are all over the newspapers. A pastor was killed because he preached Christ in a certain village, which they said was disturbing them.

In Conakry itself, a pastor was whipped for praying for a girl. The girl was ill and could not recover, but she realized that the pastor was serving the right God, and therefore asked him to pray for her. He did, and she was healed. The parents invited the pastor to their residence to thank him for the prayers. He went, but surprisingly, he

was attacked by the family and friends in the neighborhood for praying for their daughter.

In spite of the difficulties, I have been able to visit the brethren to encourage them in the faith, and it has been a source of inspiration. Some new converts were baptized. Many have accepted Christ, but the fear is that if they go to church, their families will neglect them. What becomes of their daily needs?

Guinea has been unstable since the death of their former president, Lasana Conte. A new leader has taken over and many are in opposition to him. It was later discovered that this leader, also being a captain in the army, is a Christian—which is forbidden. A coup was attempted the very day I entered the country on Friday, April 24, but it failed. Right now as I write to you,



Baptism in Guinea

the country is not safe. The brethren in Guinea need your prayers, as they continue to live in fear that this problem might lead to a civil crisis. Your prayers are highly needed. God bless you!

A WORTHWHILE QUESTION

BY WAITUS HOWARD STARLING

A few days ago a young man appeared at my door with questions. "Are you saved?" he asked. "Yes," I replied. "When were you saved?" he persisted. I gave him an immediate response. After he determined that I had no interest in the magazine he offered, a friendly conversation ensued and concluded quickly as we both had other immediate goals to pursue.

Later, as I worked at my computer, the young man's second question became an annoyance. "When were you saved," he had asked. I began to review my history going all the way back to the first time I remembered an encounter with the Lord Jesus.

I had misbehaved during worship services and for it my father severely disciplined me. Walking home that chilly winter evening in 1939, the cold biting breeze seemed to find the exact spot where the welts still burned, soothing them somewhat, but making me painfully aware of their presence.

At a downtown corner we stopped to enjoy the refrain of, "Blessed Assurance" as sung by a Salvation Army Lass who was accompanied by five or six people playing various instruments. The song ended, she approached me with a smile and a little card. "Here," she said, "Let me wipe away those tears." As she did so, she whispered, "Do you know who Jesus is?" "Yes Ma'am." "This is his picture on the little card; take it with you and when you go to bed tonight put it under your pillow. Ask Him to come and take care of you. Look for Him and you will see Him."

My father's wrath followed me

to the bedroom where he spanked me again and then dared me to cry. For a long time after the lights were out, I whimpered. Then I remembered her words. "Jesus," I whispered. The room was quiet and dark, and my eyes were closed, but there in the darkness I saw a face. I was looking at the back of my eyelids, but the face I saw was the same as that on the card. Suddenly at ease, I drifted away to sleep.

Was this when I was saved? My reverie took me from one time in my life to another; like the time at about ten years when I went to the prayer altar at our church. There were so many already there that I thought I would not be noticed. Wrong! In the tradition of most holiness churches where Dad served as pastor, I was immediately surrounded by three or four people that chattered away with instructions as they feverishly clapped their hands close to my ear. "Praise Him! Praise Him, Praise Him," one screamed as the two others alternately commanded me to "Let go!" or "Hold on!" I tried to get up, but they pushed me back into place. As the chatter continued, first one and then another would ask, "Are you saved yet?" Totally exhausted from my labor and profusely sweating from every pore in my body, I finally said, "Yes! Yes! I'm saved."

Was this when I was saved? During those years there were many wanderings away from the fold, but just as I seemed about to slide over the precipice into the quagmire of willful sin, I had another encounter. I remember an incident during my first year in the U. S. Air Force. I was being pulled in all directions by friends that thought I was "... a real hayseed, that don't

know nothing."

One day as I tried to enter the fray of dayroom chatter I heard a voice say, "You weren't brought up that way Starling; do you think your Mama would be pleased. Even more important you're breaking the Lord's heart." I turned to see a young black man that looked to be about my age. I laughed at Airman John Edwards and he walked away, but later, on the way to the Post Exchange, I met him again. As we walked along, he ministered. When we passed the Base Chapel he simply guided me in; "There's somebody I need to see. We'll only be a minute." We saw Him. At the altar I prayed and promised that I would do better.

Was this when I was saved? Or maybe it was later, in Japan. On the down-side of that precipice, I finally succumbed to the antagonisms of my friends. "Preacher, why don't you give up on that religious stuff? Have some fun." On my nineteenth birthday I began to drink. This escapade only lasted for six months, but it quickly became a free-fall into oblivion.

On July 4, 1955, I arose early and headed for my favorite bar. By noon I was already in a stupor. Around midnight I began to hemorrhage; the result of a competitive "Chug-a-lug." I awoke on the morning of July 5, 1955, to the voice of a missionary—a friend of my parents.

After receiving a letter from mom, the Reverend Hiel decided to visit me. Why did he choose this particular day; I do not know, but there he was. He stood over my hospital bed, placed one hand on my forehead, and prayed. "Father,

(Continued on page 35...)



Sunday School Ministry Hangs Out With the Youth

BY MARY DUDLEY

The staff of the Sunday School Ministry spent the weekend of May 15–17 at the Youth Convention. The weekend was full of fun activities as well as worshipful experiences. The Ministry gave out 90 t-shirts to the young people.

There was time to speak with many of them about their experiences in their own Sunday schools and the conversation was interesting. We, as church members, need to be very aware of our witness to even the youngest of our children. They are quite aware of our presence and our lack of involvement.

Mr. Jeff Smith, the featured speaker for the weekend, kept the group going with learning through music, drama, and hands-on activities. The Woman's Auxiliary Youth Task Force and all the volunteers did quite a good job of planning and implementing a fun-filled, but learning, weekend. All

the members should be congratulated for a job well done. If your church's young people were not represented, there needs to be a concentrated

effort to get involved with the Task Force to further strengthen the efforts to teach our children about our awesome God. Were you there?



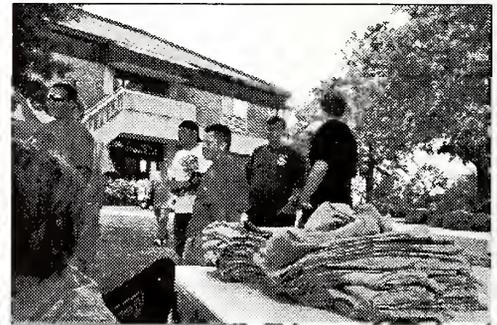
Making prayer benches.



Even the smallest enjoy cameras.



Jeff Smith teaching with sticks.



Selling t-shirts.

Life on Loan...Beginning and Beyond

BY GAIL HEATH

Johnston Union Church located on Hwy. 70 Business in Smithfield, NC, began the Life On Loan Bible Study, using it as their Sunday School Curriculum for the Winter Quarter in December 2008, and even before finishing it we began to realize that we needed to make an impact on our community.

Before school started in August, our pastor, Tim Heath was already preparing us for the journey. With his guidance, we decided to adopt a local school. Throughout the year we have supplied the students with many needed school supplies, such as filled pencil boxes, paper, etc., and classroom supplies for the teachers. Preacher Tim went out to the school's

Fall festival with the concession trailer from Home Missions and helped with serving concessions. The ladies from the church baked cakes to



help the PTO with raising money for the school. We then participated in a coat drive during the winter for kids who did not have a winter coat. We have enjoyed sharing God's Love with the people of

the community through helping West Smithfield Elementary.

On Monday night, May 4, many from the church went to help and serve the teachers for a Teacher's

Appreciation Banquet that was totally funded by the church. This is something that would not have been possible for the school to do on it's own because of budget cuts. We also held a Spring Fling for our church and community on Saturday, March 28. We served a lot of good ol' Brightleaf hotdogs, popcorn, drinks and other things. Our Woman's Auxiliary held a bake sale that day to help our youth with summer camp.

We have many more things planned as we continue our journey and reach beyond the walls of our church, and we are having a blast doing it. It's amazing how good it feels to pass along God's love to others, because He's so freely given it to us.

THE RAPTURE: TRUTH OR FICTION

BY MIKE SCOTT

Ever since Christ ascended to Heaven, His faithful followers have been anticipating His return. He Himself gave the promise, "...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). Likewise, following His ascension two angels appeared to His disciples to give them the promise, "...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you unto heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). The Apostle Paul describes an event unlike any other that has taken place in the history of the world which will occur sometime in the future. He says there will be a shout in Heaven accompanied by the voice of an archangel and the trump of God. In that precise moment "...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven... and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). This event is known as the rapture of the church, but will it really take place as we find it recorded in the pages of Scripture? In this article, we will examine the truth of the rapture in four areas.

First of all, we want to deal with the word "rapture" along with its implications. Those who scoff at the notion of a rapture in the last days are quick to point out the fact that the word never appears in the pages of the Bible. Yet, simply because the word is missing doesn't make it bad terminology. The word trinity is also omitted from Scripture, but no one seems to question the concept of God being revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Likewise, God is never mentioned in the Book of Esther, but it is evident He is present in the lives of Mordecai and Esther and is

at work behind the scenes to thwart the devious plans of Haman. Rapture may be a nonbiblical word, but it certainly isn't unbiblical. The word rapture is from the Latin and literally means "to seize, to grasp, or to snatch away with force"; therefore, it is the perfect term to describe the catching away of the saints in the latter days.

This brings us to a second consideration; namely, will there even be a rapture? Liberals, modernists, and other skeptics of the Bible tend to think many of the things conservatives and fundamentalists believe literally are in reality subject to all types of interpretation. While these individuals piously say God is sovereign and He will bring a consummation to this present age, they vehemently deny it will occur with Christ coming to rapture the church. When everything is said and done, the validity and authority of Scripture is the real issue. Does the Bible really mean what it says and say what it means? With a resounding "Amen," we believe it does! In the midst of his afflictions, Job triumphantly declared, "...I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25). When He was alive, Christ declared, "...then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30). Following His death and resurrection He said, "...behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according to his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12). The truth of the rapture is ingrained in the pages of Holy Scripture and to callously remove it is to do irreparable damage to the integrity of the Bible.

Third of all, we need to establish a biblical timeline of the events which will occur at the end of time. Many people confuse the glorious appearing of Christ in the air to rapture the

church with His actual second coming. In point of fact, these are two different events separated by seven years. When the church is raptured, Christ will not actually return to this Earth; instead, He will appear in the air as He calls the saints of God (both dead and living) unto Himself (see 1 Thessalonians 4:17). This means those left behind will be the ones who have rejected God's gracious offer of salvation through Christ. They will be forced to face a seven year period known as the tribulation in which the wrath and judgement of God will be poured out upon sinful humanity. During this time, Heaven will unleash its fury as never before in the history of the world. Plagues will rain down from the sky upon a world that has completely rejected God and will cause individuals to actually pray for death as a means of escape (see Revelation 6:15-16, 9:6). When God's wrath is eventually subsided, Christ will return to this Earth to establish His kingdom. He will come riding on a white horse (see Revelation 19:11) accompanied by the saints of God "...clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (Revelation 19:14). King of Kings and Lord of Lords will be written across His vesture (see Revelation 19:16), and all rebellion will be overcome by the power of His might (see Revelation 19:19-21).

The final area we wish to examine concerning the rapture is the actual time when it will take place. As any serious student of the Bible is aware, no one knows neither the day nor the hour when Christ will return (see Matthew 24:36). He will come as a thief in the night (see 1 Thessalonians 5:2), which means He will appear both suddenly and unexpectedly. The Bible teaches us that the day in which Christ appears will be a typical day like any other, for people will be going about their daily routines (see Matthew 24:37-41). Then, suddenly, He will burst upon the scene and

(Continued on page 16...)

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Joy in the Kitchen

I like to cook. I like to cook new dishes from old cookbooks that I've collected at a bargain price from antique stores. Oh, I try to adapt the vintage recipes to be more healthy than people used to eat. But there is nothing like an old-fashioned recipe to recall the innocence of childhood and the good food I remember from that time.

I especially recall the meals that my grandmother's cook, Mattie Hopkins, lovingly prepared. I have written about her extensively in *The Free Will Baptist*. Mattie did just about everything lovingly; she was a great inspiration to me. I cannot begin, though, to duplicate her cooking. She never used a written recipe, and, once, when she tried to give me her recipe for cornbread, it didn't work out when I tried it on my own. She knew exactly how much of each ingredient to add for the best flavor, but the recipe was all in her head, as were the measured amounts.

My mother, too, was a good cook, and she relied a good bit on recipes that came out monthly in *Good Housekeeping* and *Better Homes*

& *Gardens*. When I met my future mother-in-law and soon joined the family, I discovered that many of her recipes were the same as my mother's. Both were Southerners, and they had the same choice in magazines.

I envy people who can prepare for a big dinner party. I think along smaller lines. Mostly, I cook for my husband and me, and, occasionally, we invite another couple over. What I do can get complicated, though, and in that I differ from Mattie, my mother, and my mother-in-law. I prefer gourmet cookbooks, and I don't like to use the same recipe twice. Experimenting in my cooking, once approached hesitantly by my husband, now has his full approval as I have become better over the years.

My husband, Paul, likes my cooking. And his oft-stated appreciation means a lot to me. For 19 years, while working in Minnesota, I arrived home about 5:30, changed into casual clothes, and headed to the kitchen. I might be very tired from a day on the reference desk at my library, but a few minutes in the kitchen, and my energy was back. For

over three years now, in retirement in Mississippi, I've found the same vitality in creativity in the kitchen. I count my kitchen as one of the happiest places in our home.

Do I have lots of "Martha" in me? Possibly, but the biblical account finds Martha complaining of her lot in life. I don't complain about cooking. It's a simple thing that seems more like play to me than work. There is joy—real joy—in my kitchen.

Mary listened to Jesus, and I listen frequently to cassettes and compact discs from the public library while I work. I choose inspirational audios, and they give me a bit of Mary as well as Martha.

Joy in the simple things! Finding joy in this way is a pathway to Heaven on Earth. I count my blessings that I truly enjoy a daily chore that could be viewed as just a chore. I have the right attitude toward preparing dinner. Could anybody out there help me find the right attitude about my weekly chore of cleaning the house? That is still on my prayer list, even as I thank God for granting me the serenity to cheerfully cook dinner every night.

(THE RAPTURE continued from page 15...)

nothing will ever be the same again.

There is one predominate theme which runs throughout the New Testament concerning the Second Coming of Christ, and that is the need to be prepared (see Luke 21:34-36; 1 Peter 4:7). Being Christ will appear in an unexpected hour, people need to be ready at all times for His return (see Matthew 24:44). The Apostle Paul describes the rapture as occurring "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye..." (1 Corinthians 15:52), which means there will be

no time to prepare when it takes place. This means we need to be ready at all times. Our sins must be washed away in Calvary's cleansing flood (see Revelation 1:5), and our garments must be washed and made clean by the blood of the Lamb (see Revelation 7:14). Faith in Christ alone will save us from the judgement of God; therefore, we must look to Him for the forgiveness He freely bestows.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly affirm the truth of the rapture as we find it described in the pages of Holy Scripture, and we believe it can take

place at any moment. There are no biblical prophecies concerning the end of time which need to be fulfilled in order for the rapture to occur, for they have all been accomplished. The time is at hand, and the next great event on God's timetable is the rapture of the Church. We conclude with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:35-37).



News from the "Home" Front

BY CYNTHIA BATTEN

The response to our 2009 Change for Children has been good, and we extend to you our sincere thanks and gratitude. These funds will be used to continue providing for the children at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

The Layman's League of Sping Branch Church of Walstonburg, NC will be hosting a paper products and cleaning supplies drive. It will be held at Five County Stadium (home of the MudCats) in Zebulon, NC on July 17, 2009. It's not too late to get your tickets! Contact Bill Doane at (252) 531-3892 for more information.

The 63rd annual Homecoming will be held on the Children's Home campus on Sunday, July 12. Registration begins at 9:00 A.M. The speaker for the day is Sue Heath Dalrymple, alumna '53-'67. Lunch will be served in the Whitley Center at 12:00 NOON. Please come out for a day of reminiscing with friends.

Occasionally, we have campus visitors who stop by just to say hello, to take a tour, or to drop off supplies. You are always welcome at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. We only ask that you let us know in advance if you would like a tour, so we can have someone available to show you around.



Associate Pastor Roger Tripp, along with the Joytimers from Ormondsville Church in Ayden, came by campus to drop off supplies and take a tour before heading out to tour some local sights.



Members of Annie Hoggart Sunday School Class from Everett Chapel Church shared a picnic meal with the children and staff at the Children's Home.



Paula Strckland and Linda Core came to the home to drop off the supplies collected by the woman's auxiliary and the Young Adult Class of Pleasant Grove Church in Duum.



Brian and Margaret Schultz came by to drop off supplies collected by Soundview Church in Newport.



Pastor Lewis Forsythe and members of Spring Hill Church in Goldsboro came by the campus to drop off supplies and take a tour.

Campus Needs

- Personal hygiene items—antiperspirant, body lotions, bath powder, shampoo, body wash (boys & girls)
- Craft supplies (middle & high school)
- Cleaning supplies—Pine-sol, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleaners
- Vinyl mattress & pillow covers
- Refrigerator (call for details)
- Trash bags (33 gallon or larger)
- Kitchen towels & dish cloths
- Dryer fabric softener sheets
- DVD/VCR combo players
- Wii Game Stations (3)
- Cookware Sets (2, Heavy Duty)
- Large Cool Side Griddles
- Renovations to Heritage Hall (estimated \$150,000)

Have questions? Call the Development Office at (252) 235-2161.

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A BIBLE FOR THE PLOWBOY

(This is part three of a three part series)

We believe that the Bible is “God’s revealed word to man” [Article 8 in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*]. Why, then, does the Bible come to us at such a heavy price? Why was there such strong opposition to making the Bible available to the people in their own native tongue? Why is there such strong resistance today to newer and better translations of the Bible?

In this series of articles, I do not propose to give simple answers to those hard questions. Rather, by recounting some of the trials and struggles of the past and the great sacrifices made to make the Bible available to us, hopefully, it will help us in making choices in our struggles, today.

BY H. ADRIAN GRUBBS

A key element of the Protestant Reformation was making the Bible readily accessible to the people in a language they could read and understand. The Reformation did not come to England until a decade after it began sweeping across the continent of Europe. King Henry VIII was opposed to the movement.

Shortly after ascending the throne in 1509, Henry VIII married his deceased brother’s widow, Catherine of Aragon. Consequently, he had strong ties to Spain, which was staunchly Roman Catholic. But, alas, by 1527 Henry had tired of Catherine and appealed to Rome for an annulment. The Pope denied the request, so the king severed all ties to Roman Catholicism and set himself up as head of the Church of England. Then his appointed archbishop granted him a divorce from Catherine. His second wife, Anne Boleyn, sympathized with the Protestants and patronized Myles Coverdale, who published the first complete Bible in English. The title page in Coverdale’s Bible included a tribute to King Henry VIII and his wife Anne. So the Bible in English was finally becoming accepted, and the Protestant Reformation finally came to England -- at least for a little while.

In 1547 Edward VI, the son of Henry VIII by his third wife, Jane Seymour, became king. Edward was only ten years old when he inherited the throne; the real power was in the hands of his uncle, Edward Seymour, and John Dudley. The Protestant cause was advanced during his reign; but then he was succeeded in 1553 by Queen Mary I, the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. She restored Roman Catholicism with a vengeance and removed all English Bibles from the churches. The tide turned again in 1558 under Queen Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She reestablished the Church of England, was very tolerant of the Protestants, and brought the English Bible back to the church pulpits. The Puritans, who had fled to Geneva under Queen Mary, safely returned to England, and they brought with them their version of the Bible, printed in 1560 as the Geneva Bible. It was the first English Bible with numbered verses. It was very popular among the people; it was the Bible

used by Shakespeare in his plays; it was the Bible brought to Jamestown and Plymouth; but it was not accepted by the church officials. Queen Elizabeth I gave permission for the bishops of England to revise the Great Bible. The Bishops’ Bible was published in 1568 and placed in the churches.

After the death of Elizabeth in 1603 King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England. The kingdom was fiercely divided over religious dogma and English versions of the Bible. In 1604 King James called the Hampton Court Conference into session, summoning representatives of the different religious factions to discuss the issue of religious toleration. After much heated arguments Dr. John Reynolds, president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, proposed that a new revised translation of the Bible be made. More arguing followed, and the conference ended without resolution.

King James, though, was keen on the idea of a new translation of the Bible to bring harmony to England. Within six months he appointed about forty-eight translators and set the guidelines to be followed. The Bishops’ Bible was to be the basis for the translation, but other versions were to be consulted and used where they had better agreement with the Hebrew and Greek texts. There were to be no marginal notes except where necessary to explain Hebrew or Greek words. The translators were divided into six committees, with two each at Oxford, Cambridge, and Westminster. As each committee completed a book, they were to send it to the others for criticism and suggestions. Any differences of opinion was to be resolved by a committee of representatives from each group. Finally, another panel of six was to review the final drafts as they came from the committees.

In 1611 the King James Version was printed. It should be noted that the King James Version was never officially authorized by any church body, parliament, or king. At some point the printers in England began using the phrase, “authorized version,” and it eventually drifted to the United States. The KJV included a four page dedication “to the high and mighty Prince, James,” which

(Continued on page 25...)

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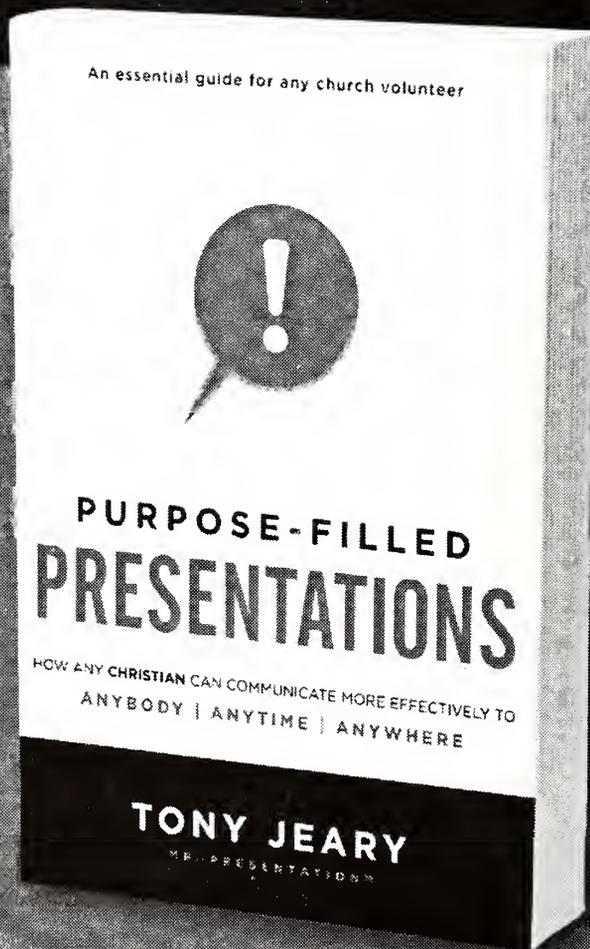
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2009 SUMMER SCHEDULE

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July 6–11, 2009
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd.
Ayden, NC 28513
252.746.7850

GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE

July 13–18, 2009
Brad Williamson, Director—252.752.5846
Wilma Parker, Register—252.522.0967
PO Box 6423
Kinston, NC 28501

GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE

July 20–25, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Rd.
Robersonville, NC 27871
252.792.5745

YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 27–31, 2009
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Rd.
Pikeville, NC 27863
252.734.3320



CORNERSTONE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

August 2–7, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

PEE DEE YOUTH CONFERENCE

August 10–13, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Rd.
Robersonville, NC 27871
252.792.5745

SEPTEMBER WOMEN'S MINI CONFERENCE

September 18–20, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

On January 14, 2009, Arlinda and I began our 30th year at Cragmont bringing to mind the fact that Cragmont is "home" and as home, it is a place of comfort, reassurance, and nurture. These thoughts naturally lead us to consider those who might experience a life change that can make celebrating Christmas somewhat difficult or of those who might desire a new view of Christmas with extended family.

The spirit of fellowship at Cragmont can soothe and calm troubled spirits and also bring a bright newness to the traditional Christmas gathering. Consider coming to Cragmont during Christmas week 2009 and be nurtured in the special fellowship found here. Bring many or few. Stay one day or several. But do try to be with us on Christmas Eve for our worship service and Christmas Day for the good food. The only other plans are to enjoy the fellowship of one another and the fire in the fireplace.

Oh! And one more important part about this planned time at Cragmont. THE COST. In the spirit of Christmas giving, we only ask you to pay for the meals. We are now taking reservations. Think about it; a special time, a special place, special people. We might even have snow!

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The Vision of American Heritage Girls

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

American Heritage Girls (AHG) is the premier national scouting organization for young women that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement.

Life Enhancement Skills

AHG helps girls acquire skills through merit badge acquisition that will assist them in all areas of their life. These experiences range in topic through AHG's six frontiers of skill: Heritage, Family Living, Arts, Outdoor Skills, Personal Well-Being, and Science & Technology. The merit badge program is age appropriate and multi-level allowing for girls of all ages to work together at a pace that is appropriate for them.

Developing Teamwork and Building Confidence

Working as a team is important to any troop. Teamwork skills are enhanced at each meeting as girls

work together to achieve common goals. The outdoor experiences intrinsic to the AHG program create an exceptional environment for girls to accept challenges, achieve goals, and build confidence and self-reliance.

Social Development

Girls love to have fun and rate "time with their friends" as the main reason they love AHG. The secure setting of an all girl environment supervised by trained, adult mentors allows for lifelong friendships to grow and develop.

Character Development

The AHG Oath and Creed provide the cornerstone of values that personify the AHG experience. Girls use these attributes as the "litmus" test to their success in fulfilling the mission of the American Heritage Girls, becoming a woman of integrity. In addition, AHG's strong service program encourages girls to put "legs on their faith" and put their values into action. AHG girls have

an outward focus towards others' needs rather than always seeking benefit to self. AHG offers experiences and opportunities for girls to have the right tools to make sound, moral decisions today and in the future.

Spiritual Development

The Lord is the reason that AHG exists! To encourage girls to know Him better, to serve Him with great love, and seek His will for their life are of primary importance to the AHG program. AHG encourages each girl to grow in her faith and relationship with God. Each AHG Troop has a special Troop Shepherd who seeks to get to know each girl and pray for each girl. AHG also emphasizes the value of the religious recognitions program offered to Protestant girls through PRAY and to Catholic girls through the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministries.

For more information about American Heritage Girls, contact Abby Rollins, Ministry Expansion Coordinator, by e-mail at <abby4ahg@yahoo.com> and by phone at (252) 526-9908 or (252) 241-5699.



July's Picture from the Past!

Your Clue:

A pastor and teacher who loved the Word of God.

June's Picture: The Reverend Walter Sutton

June's Winner: Kaye Jones



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KJV and *NIV*® versions, plus PowerPoint® lesson outlines and reproducible. For your convenience the CD-ROM is now available in special editions of the printed version – your choice *KJV* or *NIV*®.

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The Harold and Sandra Jones Endowment for Foreign Missions Established

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Beginning in 2010, the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries will make an annual distribution from the newly established Harold and Sandra Jones Endowment to the Board of Foreign Missions to be used as determined by the board. The amount of the distribution will be based on the assets of the endowment; thus, as the fund grows through gifts and investments, the income from the endowment will increase.

It is the vision and belief of the Board of Directors of the Foundation that the initial gifts to the endowment are but an acorn of what will become a mighty oak. Original Free Will

Baptists can never fully repay Harold and Sandra for the breath and depth of their work in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord to carry the Gospel to all nations. For this reason, the Endowment will remain open to receive additional gifts now and for generations to come, from those who wish to make the endowment a more adequate expression of our gratitude for the gift of their lives to a sacred mission.

Above all, we want to join Harold and Sandra in obeying the commission of Jesus Christ, and to follow the example of the Apostle Paul, in reaching the regions beyond with the Good News of God's love: "For God so loved the world, that

he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Individuals, churches, and related organizations who wish to make gifts to the Harold and Sandra Jones Endowment should make their checks payable to: North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, 616 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Please note that your gift is for The Harold and Sandra Jones Endowment.

In addition to an acknowledgement to donors for their tax-deductible gifts, the Foundation will advise Harold and Sandra of all contributions made to the endowment.

Foundation Workshops at the Convention of OFWB

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

During two workshops at the Convention on May 20, Board Chairman Don Lassiter and President W. Burkette Raper reviewed the mission and work of the Foundation since it was chartered in April of 2005.

Mission:

- To provide scholarships that will enable those called to Christian ministry to equip themselves for excellence in fulfilling their calling;
- To assist churches and ministries in establishing endowments for strengthening and expanding their work; and
- To assist individuals and families in establishing endowments that will advance the Christian faith to future generations.

For support toward fulfilling its mission, the Foundation has received \$53,950.58 in gifts and endowment income to the Shepherd's Fund (scholarships for 19 students

preparing for Christian ministry); \$1,816,165.20 in gifts and Charitable Gift Annuities for 20 permantly endowed funds for religious,

educational, and charitable purposes; and \$29,893.57 for the General Fund. Gifts for all purposes have totalled \$1,900,009.35.



First workshop (seated, left to right): Stearle Pittuan, Joshua Whitfield, Stephen Prescott, Dr. Michael R. Pelt, Andrea Cox, Neal Cox, Carroll Hawkins, Mrs. Hawkins, Margaret Carol Banks, Pam H. Braxton, Adrian Grubbs, Carla Williamson, and Aubrey Williamson. (Standing, left to right): Don Lassiter, Bertie Sanders, Rose Raper, Dr. W. Burkette Raper

Foundation Scholarship Recipients



Scholarship recipients who assisted in the Foundation workshop (left to right): Ricky Warren, Woodrow Freeze, Aubrey Williamson, and Josh Whitfield. Foundation Directors: Don Lassiter and Dr. W. Burkette Raper.

(HIGHER EDUCATION
continued from page 9...)

Thousands of Free Will Baptists have given generously of both time and treasure to see our college become what it is today. A primary reason they have done so is because they wanted to see the benefits of Christian higher education for both ministers and laypersons in our churches and for the progress that education makes possible. It is therefore important that we urge our candidates for the ministry, as well as the young people in our churches, to take full advantage of this opportunity to prepare themselves for whatever work God may be calling them to do.

(PLOWBOY continued from
page 19...)

is still included in the Bibles printed in England. This was followed by an eleven page preface from the translators. It is a shame that that preface is not still printed in Bibles, for it described the work of the translators, some of the issues they struggled with, and reasons for the translation.

For more than 250 years the King James Version continued without revision and has been a favorite among English speaking people. But it did not meet with instant success. As already noted, the Geneva Bible was the favorite among the Puritans, and many in the Church of England preferred the Bishops' Bible. But it gradually gained acceptance and remains the favorite for many.

In 1870 the Convocation of the Providence of Canterbury called for a revision of the King James Version, due to changes in the English language. Also, due to recent discoveries, a better Greek text, edited by B. F. Westcott and F. J. A. Hort, had become available. In 1885 the Revised Version was published in England, followed in 1901 by the American Standard Version in the United States.

It was the objective of both to follow in the King James tradition.

There have been many other translations since then. Among them are the Revised Standard Version in 1952, the New English Bible in 1970, the New American Standard Bible in 1971, the Good News Bible in 1976, the New International Version in 1978, and the New Revised Standard Version in 1990. And, there are many translations produced privately.

The New Testament documents were first written in koine Greek, the simple, everyday speech of the time. The Bible was intended to be heard and read by all people in their own everyday speech. The Bible is available to us in English through the determination, dedication and sacrifice of such men as John Wycliffe and William Tyndale. As the English language continues to change, as other discoveries are made, and as knowledge of the ancient languages and cultures grows, new and better translations of the Bible are called for.

It was the desire of William Tyndale to produce a translation of the Bible that "even the boy that drives the plough" could read. But if we do not read it, then we are dependent on what others say that it says.

CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

John Davis, Licensed Minister of the Western Conference, is seeking opportunities to preach. He will be seeking ordination sometime next quarter. Anywhere—anytime—have Bible, will travel. (919) 210-0771 or <johnjdavis@earthlink.net>.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

Jonathan Best, OFWB Licensed Minister is available for fill-in ministry. He is a graduate of Mount Olive College and currently attends Campbell Divinity School. He is reliable and dependable. He may be contacted by phone at (910) 514-3211 or by e-mail at <jonathanbest@hotmail.com>.

Summer Season Underway

BY RICK PRICE

It's July! Imagine, one half of the year is already gone. Time really passes by quickly!

The Ladies Conference was held the first week in June. This was the first full week of camp for the summer. The ladies came on Monday and stayed until Thursday afternoon. They had different speakers each night (Brother Owen Arthur, Brother Neal Cox, Brother Wesley Taylor, and Brother Mike Scott). They also had special music each night. We all had a great time.

The following Friday and Saturday, the Layman's League held their yearly conference here at the camp. They also had a good meeting.

We've had two family reunions and weekend retreat groups each weekend for the past two months. we are in the middle of our summer camp season now and are very busy. We are looking forward to the rest of our summer camp weeks. We had a

family reunion here at the camp recently and will be having seven more camp weeks. All of our weekends are now booked through the second week in November. The camp is open all year and we will be scheduling holiday events soon. It would be a great place to hold your Christmas party or other event. Call early to schedule. It's very affordable and we could even cater your event so all you would have to do is come and enjoy your time here with your group. No washing dishes or cleaning up! We'll do it for you!



Pictured above are the Ladies that took part in the annual Ladies Conference here at the camp. We all had a great time!



A group plays ping pong in the recreation area under the lodge rooms. There is always something to do here at the camp.

2009 Camp Vandemere Schedule

July 5-10	Spring Hope	Eva Mae Clark—252.637.5346 Debbie Warren—252.637.4560
July 12-17	General Youth Camp II	Wesley Taylor—252.514.3222
July 19-24	New Bethlehem	Sandy Williams—252.745.9840
July 26-31	First Church of Wilson	Doug Radford—919.734.4602
August 2-7	Son Quest Youth Camp	Terry Dennis—919.284.6144
August 9-13	Jackson Heights	Darlene Brock—252.527.1572 Amy Coble—252.568.4511
August 16-21	Crusaders Camp	Ashley Trogden—252.322.5552

"O send out thy light and thy truth" (Psalm 43:3a)

By the Bay

WITH RICK PRICE

A New Vision for the Camp

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has chosen to come to Camp Vandemere this year. Everyone I have met has been extremely helpful. We have made some changes here at the camp this year and most of them are working great! If you have an idea that might be beneficial to us here, we would certainly love to hear it.

In planning for the future of Camp Vandemere, our board of directors has discussed the possibility of building a new multipurpose building across the road on property owned by the camp. Hopefully, in the near future, we will have more details on this project.

The first part of this year was booked solid with weekend retreats since March. We even had two events in February. We will have more summer camps this year than

we've ever had in the past. Weekends are scheduled through the third weekend in November, and I am truly expecting some holiday events to be scheduled for this year. I am booking the camp for use into next year already. Each group is rescheduling for next year when they depart. We are also scheduling new groups for next year also. The time is quickly approaching that we will have to have more accommodations and updated facilities.

What an awesome opportunity we have as an Original Free Will Baptist camp to spread God's Word! We have been blessed with previous leaders and board members that have had a vision for this place. Now, we have the opportunity (and responsibility) to take the camp to the next level in its ministry. With the possibility of

reaching more and more people for Jesus comes the task of building new buildings.

I had the opportunity to attend the annual convention at Mount Olive College in May. While there, I was talking with Dr. Raper over lunch one day. He made the comment, "Rick, it's what goes on inside the building that's important!" That's so true! We can build all the buildings we want, and they're just buildings. To use them to reach a lost soul for Jesus Christ is awesome. We know we will have to build soon and it's our responsibility to use this facility for the glory of God. Again, first and foremost here at Camp Vandemere, our purpose as a camp is to reach the lost for Jesus. Please be much in prayer for us as we begin our quest for this new addition to the camp.

An Orientation to Christian Ministry Seminar

Looking ahead, the Commission on Education for Christian Ministry is in the process of planning a seminar for all those who feel a calling to engage in some type of Christian ministry (service) either in the local church or in one of the ministries sponsored by our Convention. This includes both licensed ministers as well as laypersons who are not seeking to become ordained clergy but whose desire is to follow Christ by serving the needs of others. There will be at least three presenters on topics intended to provide guidance and understanding for persons seeking a mature understanding of God's Will for their lives. If you are one of those persons interested in exploring the question of God's Will for your life, please put the date for this seminar on your calendar of activities in September. More information will be provided through this and other channels of communication.

—Dr. Michael Pelt, Commission Chairman

"An Orientation to Christian Ministry"

Saturday, September 19, 2009

First Free Will Baptist Church

Goldsboro, NC



82nd Annual Woman's Auxiliary Convention Held

BY TERESA GRUBBS

The sanctuary of Robert's Grove Church was packed full on May 14, 2009. No one well known had died. This group was very much alive. A well known singing group had not come to perform, though much beautiful singing was heard. Some very good messages were delivered by speakers who many in attendance did not know or had never heard speak before. The reason that over 200 people had made their way to Robert's Grove was the 82nd Annual Session of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

The theme for the program was "Tangible Faith—Faith Put Into Action" with James 2:18 "...I will show thee my faith by my works" as the theme Scripture. A choir of over thirty, directed by Cathy Strickland Malin with Janet Williamson on piano, started the convention with a medley of songs, including the theme song "Find Us Faithful."

Jane Parker, President of the Cape Fear Conference, dressed in gardening attire, welcomed everyone. She encouraged each person in attendance

to take a packet of seeds home as a reminder of "Tangible Faith." JoAnn Parrish rendered her response in an original song of appreciation for the effort put into the day. President Joan Little's remarks stated that "We are faith in action."

We were blessed by three messages in line with the threefold purpose of the Woman's Auxiliary: missions, devotion, and service. Betty Strickland brought the first message, "Jesus Says Forgive." She used several scriptures to guide us in forgiving with the right attitude, as Christ forgives us. Jennifer Gubac spoke on "Jesus Says Be a Light." We are to be Christ's light, guiding others to God. We are not to judge and criticize, but to point the direction. "Jesus Says Serve" was presented by Angela Warren. She emphasized that we should find joy and fulfillment in true service. There is a crisis in Christian service because the doers are becoming weary. We need new people to step up and serve with the heart of a servant.

Candles, representing harbor lights, surrounded a light house. These "harbor lights" were lit while Miriam

Lamm presented the memorial service. God is our lighthouse and those who have gone before us are the harbor lights. Special mention was made of Ruth Moye Clark Taylor and Ruth Lancaster Warrick, referring to them as channel markers in the work of the Woman's Auxiliary. Those who have passed leave work to be continued. Who will step up and be channel markers now?

Business for the day included constitutional changes, secretary's report, treasurer's report, reports from the denominational ministries, youth report, and others pertaining to the total workings of the Woman's Auxiliary. Fourteen A-1 Auxiliaries were recognized. Jackie Flowers was honored with the Life Membership Award. She has been very active in the Woman's Auxiliary and the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination.

Thanks to all who had a part in making this convention wonderful; those who planned, those who participated in the program, and those who attended. Let us all continue to be "Tangible Faith—Faith Put Into Action."

Pee Dee Auxiliary Awards Life Membership

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

We, as the Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary Convention, would like to honor a special lady. Our district, as well as our church, has been blessed by Mrs. Myrtle Blackmon Davis. She is always willing to do whatever she can to help out. This lady is a "behind the scenes" person because she is not outspoken but quietly gives her support wherever it is needed. She is a true servant of God and has served her district, church, and family well. Her character can be described from Romans 6:22, "But now being made

free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

Our honoree has been a devoted wife and mother. She has been the "heart" of her family and has encouraged and supported her husband and son through the years. Her love has reached beyond her family to those in her church and community. One of Mrs. Davis' most admirable attributes is her faithfulness to the church.

Her love for the church has been demonstrated by her attendance,

even when she has been in pain. She has set an example for young women as well as older women to follow. One verse that truly defines Mrs. Davis is "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven," Matthew 5:16. Her "light" has shown for almost 60 years as a Christian and as a member of Oak Grove Church.

Our 2009 Life Membership Award honoree exemplifies these traits of a virtuous woman. Congratulations, Sister Myrtle Blackmon Davis.

Flowers Receives Life Membership Award

BY TERESA GRUBBS

Jacquelyn Alice Kirby was born on May 28, 1939 in Kenly, NC to Wiley Luther Kirby and Mattie Phillips Kirby. Jackie is the youngest of six girls. Her sisters are Marcie K. Oliver, Ann K. Medlin (deceased), Edith K. Hansley, Merle K. Kirby and Bobbie K. Holland. Jackie's maternal grandfather, Lemuel Troy Phillips, was a FWB Minister.

Kenly FWB was her church home from birth through age 18. There she accepted the Lord and was baptized at an early age. She was active in Sunday School, League, youth work, youth and adult choir, Vacation Bible School, and all related church activities. She started teaching Bible School at the age of 12.

Jackie graduated from Kenly High School in 1957 and attended Pineland College. She later graduated from Miller-Motte Business College in Wilmington, NC with a Secretarial/Accounting degree. She began her career with Wachovia Bank in Wilmington.

In December of 1957, Jackie married Henry Franklin (Frank) Flowers moving to Wilmington. She and Frank attended FWB mission churches until 1961 when they relocated in Goldsboro as a result of a job transfer for Frank. In Goldsboro, Jackie worked at Southern Bell Telephone in the business office. She later worked for J. P. Taylor Tobacco Company, L. G. Balfour Company, Wayne County ASCS Office, Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation Office, Farm Bureau Insurance and Goldleaf Tobacco Warehouse as computer operator for 20 years.

A daughter, Nina Leigh, was born in April 1964. Leigh is now married to James R. Sanders and they have two children, Nathaniel (Tan) James Sanders, age 16, and Kelsey Leigh Sanders, age 10. They also reside in Goldsboro.

Frank and Jackie opened Southern



Mrs. Jackie Flowers receiving her Life Membership Award.

Communications & Electronics in March of 1968. They owned and operated the business with the help of many dedicated employees until 1999 when they sold the business.

Jackie, Frank, and Leigh were members of Stoney Creek Church for many years. It was there in 1971 that the Lord called Frank into the ministry. Jackie served along with Frank at many different churches in our denomination; the longest being Little Creek in Scuffleton for 27 years. It was at Little Creek that she was presented the Life Membership Award by her Woman's Auxiliary.

Jackie has organized and directed youth and adult choirs throughout their ministry. She has enjoyed singing in many church choirs and groups over the years. She has taught youth and adult Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School classes.

Jackie has been active in Woman's Auxiliary work for many years holding positions at the local, district, and state levels. Her work has included presenting many programs, study courses, and leading retreats. Serving as music director of the Woman's Conferences at Cragmont for many

years and writing programs for the Woman's Auxiliary Program Book, *Devotion*, have been added joys to her Christian commitment to the woman's work of our denomination. She is now serving as the Benevolent Chairwoman in the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB.

Jackie enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, family, and friends. One of her very favorite times is her Precept Bible Study class each week studying God's Word with other believers which she has been doing now for 18 years. Also, she enjoys heading up collection of Christian literature in our denomination and other surrounding churches to be shipped to over 40 foreign countries.

A dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and servant who truly cares about the life and soul of others is Jackie Flowers. The nominator for the 2009 Life Membership Award for the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists said, "Jackie is a wonderful teacher and speaker but her true calling is being an encourager to her family and friends."

Chapman Awarded Eagle Badge

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Boy Scout Troop 816 of the Tarboro First Church awarded the honor of Eagle Scout to John Henry Chapman. John Henry Chapman is the son of John and Tina Chapman.

The Tarboro First Church Boy Scout program was established in 1998 under the leadership of Dickie Meads. John Henry Chapman is the first Eagle Scout from Troop 816.

John Henry Chapman has been in Troop 816 for seven years. He joined the pack in its charter year as a Wolf. At the present time,



John Henry Chapman during the Eagle Badge Award Ceremony.

Troop 816 has 13 Boy Scouts and is under the leadership of Dean Wells, scoutmaster, and Garry Hyman, assistant scoutmaster.

The awarding of the Eagle Badge is

an important and serious occasion, the climax and the goal for which a Scout works for many years. The Eagle Award is the highest and most coveted rank in Scouting; the last major step in the advancement program. Less than 1 in 50 (or less than 2%) of scouts reach the rank of Eagle.

John Henry Chapman's Eagle Project was building a picnic area at the west end of the church. John Henry dedicated his project to the late Tommy Keel whose dedication and leadership in Troop 816 has been a continuing inspiration.

Recent News from Powhatan Church

BY RITA JONES

Powhatan had a busy May. The BBQ chicken fundraiser held the first weekend in May was a success thanks to the support from the local community.

A group of 15 travelled to Mount Olive College for the annual Youth Ministry Convention. Kyle Benson and Rita Jones took part in three workshops using rods in ministry and participated in the final Sunday morning worship service as Jeff Smith's "God Rod Squad" performing to the song, "Who Am I?" The weekend was a blessing for the young people and leaders who attended.

Congratulations to church member Nikki Jones on her graduation from North Carolina State University on May 9. A N.C. Teaching Fellow, she received her Bachelor's Degree in history and plans to teach middle or high school.

Jones graduated Magna Cum Laude and is a member of the Golden Key Society, Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Society), and Daughters of the American Revolution. She served as recording secretary for the Cape

Fear District for approximately five years as well as serving as youth secretary in 2003.

As a member of Campus Crusades for Christ at NCSU, she worked in New Orleans, Louisiana in 2006 with Katrina recovery efforts. Jones also served as the team captain for Powhatan's 2007 Relay for Life team, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

The 2009 Relay for Life team raised a little over \$1700 and had 68 luminaries around the lake at Johnston Community College on May 29 in honor or memory of cancer victims.



Pictured above is a portion of the group from Powhatan Church that attended the annual Youth Ministry Convention at Mount Olive College.



Nikki Jones (pictured above), a former state youth officer and member of Powhatan Church, recently graduated from North Carolina State University.

House of Prayer Holds Annual Homecoming

BY PEBBLES JOYCE

On Sunday, May 17, 2009, the House of Prayer in Kernersville, NC had its annual homecoming. The musical guest was the the group, Blind Faith. The Rev. Carlee Stallard, the minister of the House of Prayer, asked the Rev. David Atkins to be the guest speaker. Mr. Atkins preached a sermon titled "Going Home" and used the Scripture referencing the Prodigal Song from Luke 15.

Mr. Atkins started attending the House of Prayer in 1968, the Rev. Carlee Stallard was also the minister then. Seven years later in 1975, the Lord called Mr. Atkins into the ministry. In 1977, Mr. Atkins was ordained to be a minister. This was truly a homecoming for Mr. Atkins

who was first called to preach at the House of Prayer under Ms. Stallard's preaching.

Mr. Atkins began preaching at Christ Church in Stokesdale, NC in 1979 and will be celebrating 30 years there in October 2009. Each and every sermon the Lord gives Mr. Atkins is truly a blessing.

Lunch was served after the Homecoming service. Good times, memories, and Christian fellowship were enjoyed by everyone.



Pictured above (left to right) are: The Rev. David Atkins, guest speaker, and the Rev. Carlee Stallard, minister of the House of Prayer.

Little Creek Woman's Auxiliary



Photo by Tommy Forrest

Members of the Little Creek Church Woman's Auxiliary attended the 82nd annual session of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists which was held on May 14, 2009. The Convention was hosted by the Cape Fear district Woman's Auxiliary and convened at Robert's Grove Church in Dunn, NC. Little Creek Woman's Auxiliary was recognized as one of only two Auxiliaries in the Central District and one of only 14 in the state of North Carolina to meet all requirements for A-1 Auxiliary status. Auxiliary members shown with the A-1 certificate (left to right) are: Wanda Forrest, Bernice McLawhorn, Hagar Jackson, and Peggy Stocks.

Spring Hill Joytimers



Submitted Photo

The Joytimers of Spring Hill Church, Wayne County, recently visited the College for lunch and a tour of the campus.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have photos from your recent church event? Want to submit a story about a church member's accomplishment? Send your articles/photos to <editor@fwbpress.com>. See page 37 for submission dates.

FISHING WHEN YOU'RE NOT A FISHERMAN

COME YE AFTER ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN (MARK 1:17)

BY BECKY JO SUMNER

The Scripture above is one of the most often repeated commands of our Lord. Even though I am not, by any stretch of the imagination, a fisherman, I know clearly what Jesus was saying to His disciples. It is a concise message which is directed to me just as it was to those two sets of brothers. First and foremost, we must follow Jesus. The only way you can truly "come after" someone is to follow them. It is also important to note that this fishing accomplishment is only possible if we remember and practice the concept that Jesus does "the making." We cannot make ourselves into fishers of men. Being a fisher of men is the result of Jesus being in control of our training. Just as important, we need to realize that Jesus is in control of the results or catch in our nets. To a "real" fisherman, this command is filled with numerous messages on the how of catching men because they have a background filled with experiences in fishing. The fishing ideas will be as varied and valid as the types of fishing represented by the fishermen present. But what if you are like me and are not a fisherman of any level of expertise? Is there a message for the non-fisherman?

I believe that Christ has a message for us non-fishermen, too. I have four fishing illustrations from my non-fishing life to share with you. These stories reveal ideas we, as Christian fishermen, need to remember. In two of my stories, I actually hold a fishing pole or rod or whatever the correct terminology is. These are my four face-to-face encounters with fishing other than eating fish caught and cooked by others.

In stories one and two, I am about nine years old. My parents and extended family are at the cottage on Currituck Sound we rented for a number of years for our summer vacation. My uncle, father, and two close family friends were going

fishing. Childlike, I begged to go along, not realizing how boring fishing can be. That day I caught the most fish probably because no one else had time to fish. They spent all their time baiting my hook, helping me bring in my fish, getting my fish off my hook, and generally keeping me safe. You can readily see I was not fishing material. The only thing I liked about fishing was catching the fish. Someone else needed to do all the work involved in the adventure. Needless to say, with all this attention, I was ready to go fishing again the next day. I imagine the grown-ups were all hoping I would stay on shore so they could enjoy their outing, but in great love, they let me, the only child, go fishing with them again. That was my last fishing trip! I caught nothing that day. It was the longest, dulllest day imaginable to me.

How often do our ventures into witnessing follow my fishing pattern? We don't want to do the work necessary to catch people for Christ. We just want them to hop into the boat as we cruise by. Christian witness requires preparation, study, and prayer. Our lives should show the value of living empowered by our Lord. Witnessing is not one grand success after another like my first day of fishing. There are dry spells for which we need to be prepared. I gave up on fishing after a dry day. The excitement of the day before did not sustain me through that day in which I caught nothing. I pray that the days in which I do not see any tangible results for my Savior will not cause me to stop working for Him.

My third story is another childhood adventure. My uncle, Leslie, took sport fishermen out into the Gulf Stream to fish. On one occasion, family and friends chartered the boat and off we went for a day of deep sea fishing. I already knew fishing was not for me, but I thought going out into the ocean would be a great adventure. I made one

huge discovery. My grandmother's chocolate cake is delicious, except when you are seasick. For most of the people on the boat, this was a grand day filled with fun.

My fourth story is only for comparison. It is about my great-uncle, Ernest. He was a part-time fisherman. If his catch was good, he would share some of it and sell the rest. Fishing was serious business for both of my uncles. It was part of their livelihood. It was extremely hard work and disaster could strike quickly. My uncle Leslie left his home every fishing morning at 4:00 a.m. and, generally, did not get back home until after dark. Once, Uncle Ernest's boat motor died on him in the middle of the Currituck Sound and he had to row to shore.

The adventure of witnessing for Jesus is much the same. It can't be just a single day of fun; it must be a lifetime of commitment. It is filled with difficulties. Some of the hard things you realize from the beginning, like rising early and working late. Some come as a surprise in the middle of everything looking grand. You are chugging along out to your nets thinking you will find a good catch and suddenly you are dead in the water and there is the long row home. An important thing to remember is that we must row on and not give up. Sure we need to enjoy the fun and excitement of each new soul won into the Kingdom, but never let the dry times keep you from going fishing.

If Jesus walked by me as He did the fishermen, I really don't think He would have called out "...I will make you to become fishers of men." I believe he would have said, "...I will make you a teacher to the lost." And to my dad, the call would have been "...I will make you a builder for my Kingdom." Jesus doesn't just call fishermen. He calls to you and me, but the message is the same.

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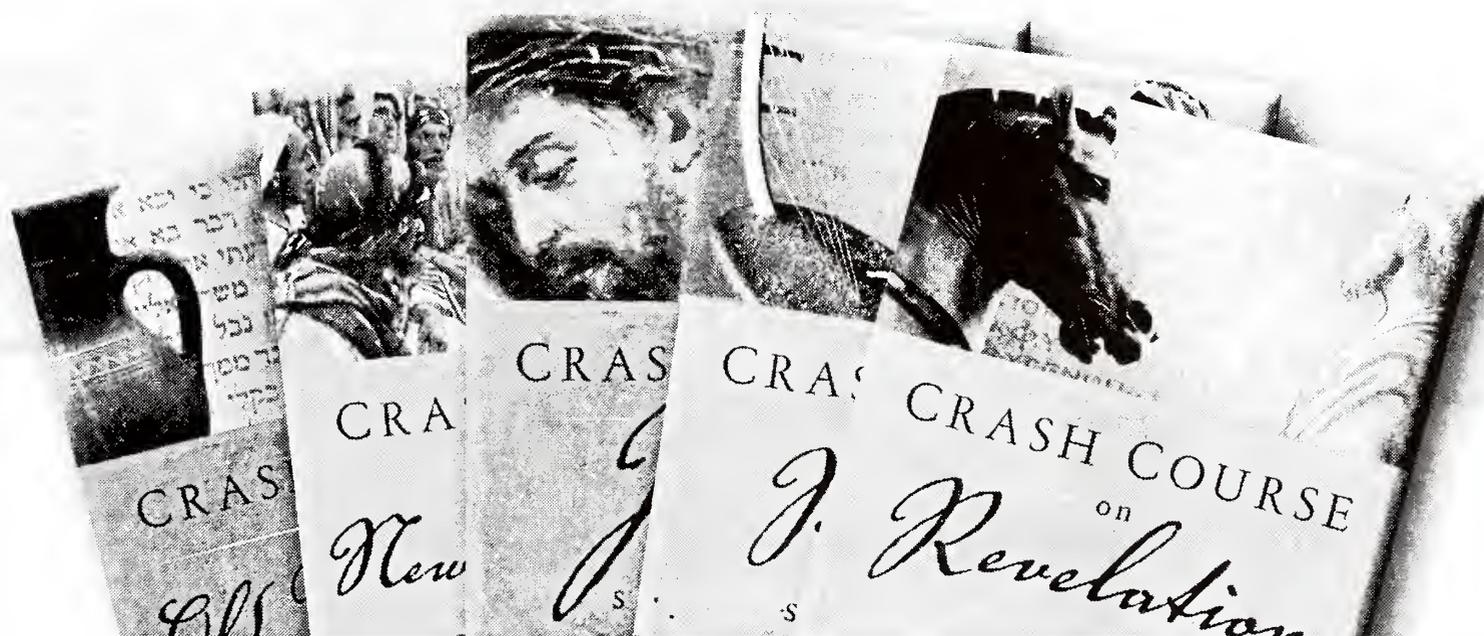
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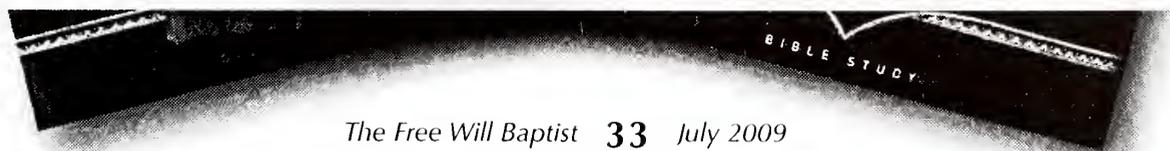
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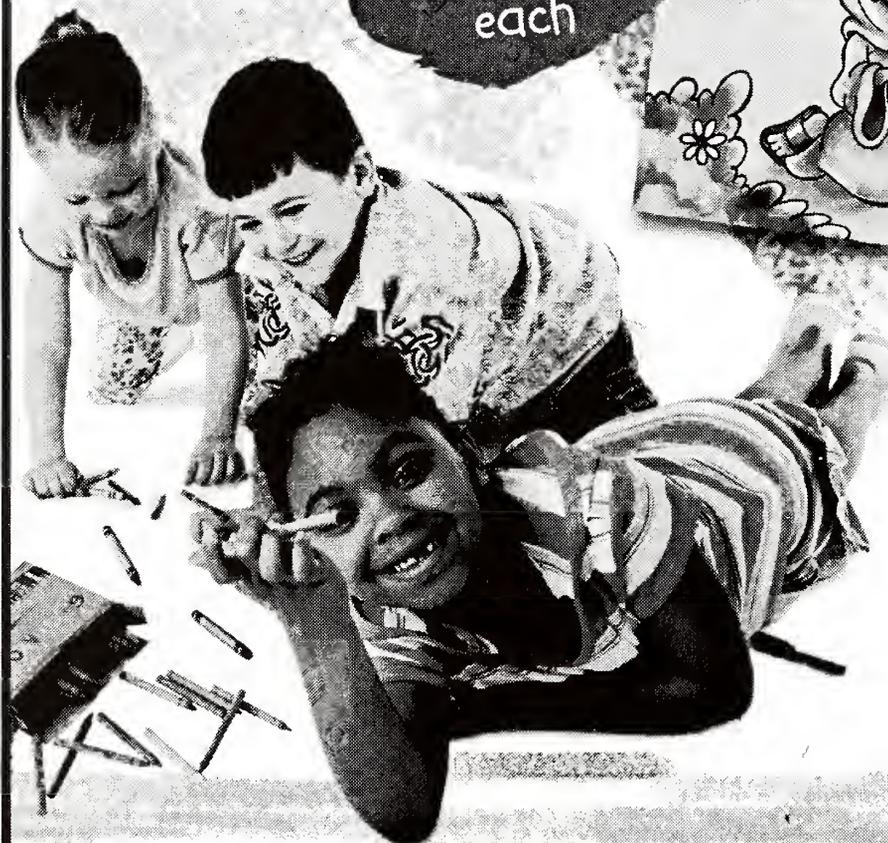
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(QUESTION continued from page 13...)

I was there when his parents gave him to you. He belongs to you, Lord. I claim him for you in Jesus name. I feigned semi-conscious; he hesitated a moment or two and then left, but from that day on I left off the drink. I repented and returned to active service as a "preacher boy."

Since age 15 I had preached except for those occasions when I teetered on the slippery slopes of unrighteousness.

Enough was enough—I made a final, once for all commitment of discipleship and obedience. No more sliding; this time it stuck.

Was this when I was saved? While in the Air Force I had attended a Baptist College. When I returned home, one brother and sister said I had sinned against "light" (knowledge of Scripture). They invited me to attend an evening worship service with them. When the service ended everyone gathered around the prayer altar. As I knelt to pray, I found myself surrounded. They fervently prayed that God would forgive me and enlighten me to the true path. Their sincerity and compassion prevented me from any rebuke. On the way home I told them the truth, "I was saved." Also, I told them I had been active in ministry for some time. It meant nothing to them. As far as they were concerned, that night was the night of my salvation. They immediately began to pray that I would receive second and third works of grace and the "gifts of the Spirit."

Was this when I was saved? The answer, of course, must be "No!" to all of the above. Holy Scripture makes wonderfully clear when I was saved.

The apostle Paul says, "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

1. This means that we are saved because of our heavenly Father's love (unmerited favor; His grace) toward us.

2. We are saved through faith (believing) but our salvation was

"By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

not provided by our efforts.

3. Our salvation is a gift of God.

Salvation is His gift to us and not because of any good thing we have done. Just as our earthly fathers continue to love us, although we fail them and rebel against them, and just as our earthly fathers provide gifts to us when we are undeserving, just so, God provided the gift of salvation.

The question is, "When did, the salvation He provided, become ours? This is an answerable question? The Bible says, "He (God) hath chosen us in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4).

Our Heavenly Father chose the Lord Jesus, before the world was made. He chose us "in Him." Think about your Father's Father. At some point in their relationship his father says, "Son, you are heir to everything that is mine. Someday children will be born into your home. I am providing a gift to them through you and I want you to deliver it." Later on, your Dad married and you were born. Your father's father made you his heir. This is what God has done for you; before the foundation of the

world, and long before you were conceived, he provided the plan of salvation for you.

Jesus came bearing this gift. God's gift of salvation was made available through His shed blood at Calvary.

So! When was I saved? It occurred a long time before any of my experiences with this issue. The

setting was Calvary. There were crosses. People were being crucified. And there "in the midst" of them was one whose lifetime goal was to die. His whole purpose in living

was to die in my place for the sins I would one day commit. He died to save me from death, and to give me eternal life.

Yes, Jesus died for me. He died for you. He died so that you and I may live—not briefly on this earth—but forever in His presence (Ephesians 1:4). The completed act of providing this gift of salvation occurred three days after His crucifixion when Jesus became the "firstborn from the dead." The gift was mine! The gift was yours!

It matters not that we had to wait two thousand years to receive it. The gift was ours; it was there for the taking. To put it to its proper use we had only to believe our Father's last will and testament. We had only to receive His gift through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

When was I saved? I was saved at Calvary when the gift was provided. When I became aware of it, I claimed my gift through faith (believing). I am not unique, millions upon millions made the same claim.

Have you claimed your gift? If not, now is a very good time to do so. After all, the gift has been yours for over two thousand years.



**Please join us for the 6th Annual
 Paper and Cleaning Products Drive
 Friday, July 17 at 7:15 P.M.
 Fireworks Night!**

Paper and cleaning products will be collected at the gates to benefit
Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC.

Our Layman's League has joined, once again, with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 17, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your Church, Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth Groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.

Campus Needs

Paper towels, toilet paper, all types of cleaning supplies (NO GLASS CLEANER), laundry detergent, bleach, dish detergent, personal hygiene items, antiperspirant (boys and girls), body lotions, bath powder, shampoo, twin size comforters, sheet sets, blankets, trash receptacles (33 gallon or larger), trash bags (33 gallon or larger) kitchen towels, dish cloths

All Church groups registered in advance will receive:

\$5 Box Seat Special (regular price—\$9)

To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 8. Discount is not available at the gate. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game. Paper Products will be dropped off at the stadium.

Paper and Cleaning products Drive Questions? Call Bill Doane (252) 753-3717
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Mudcats Questions? Call Joshua Bridges (919) 269-2287
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These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB 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 feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

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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 or handwritten information is acceptable.

However, we cannot be held responsible for errors!

*Pictures are not returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

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NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES



THE HAROLD AND SANDRA JONES ENDOWMENT FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS THE ENDOWMENT OF THE MONTH

At the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists on May 21, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of the Foundation (left), made a surprise announcement that a \$10,000 endowment had been established with the Foundation in honor of the Reverend and Mrs. Harold Jones (right).

Dr. Raper made the announcement in the absence of Dr. Don Ribeiro, treasurer of the Foundation, who could not attend the Convention due to surgery at Duke Hospital for the Reverend Roger Tripp, associate pastor of Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church, of which Dr. Ribeiro is senior pastor.

He reported that Dr. Ribeiro, an ardent and generous supporter of Foreign Missions, had provided the leadership for the initial gifts and pledges from churches and friends of Harold and Sandra in appreciation for their long and dedicated services.

For more information on The Harold and Sandra Jones Endowment, along with other work of the Foundation, please see page 24.

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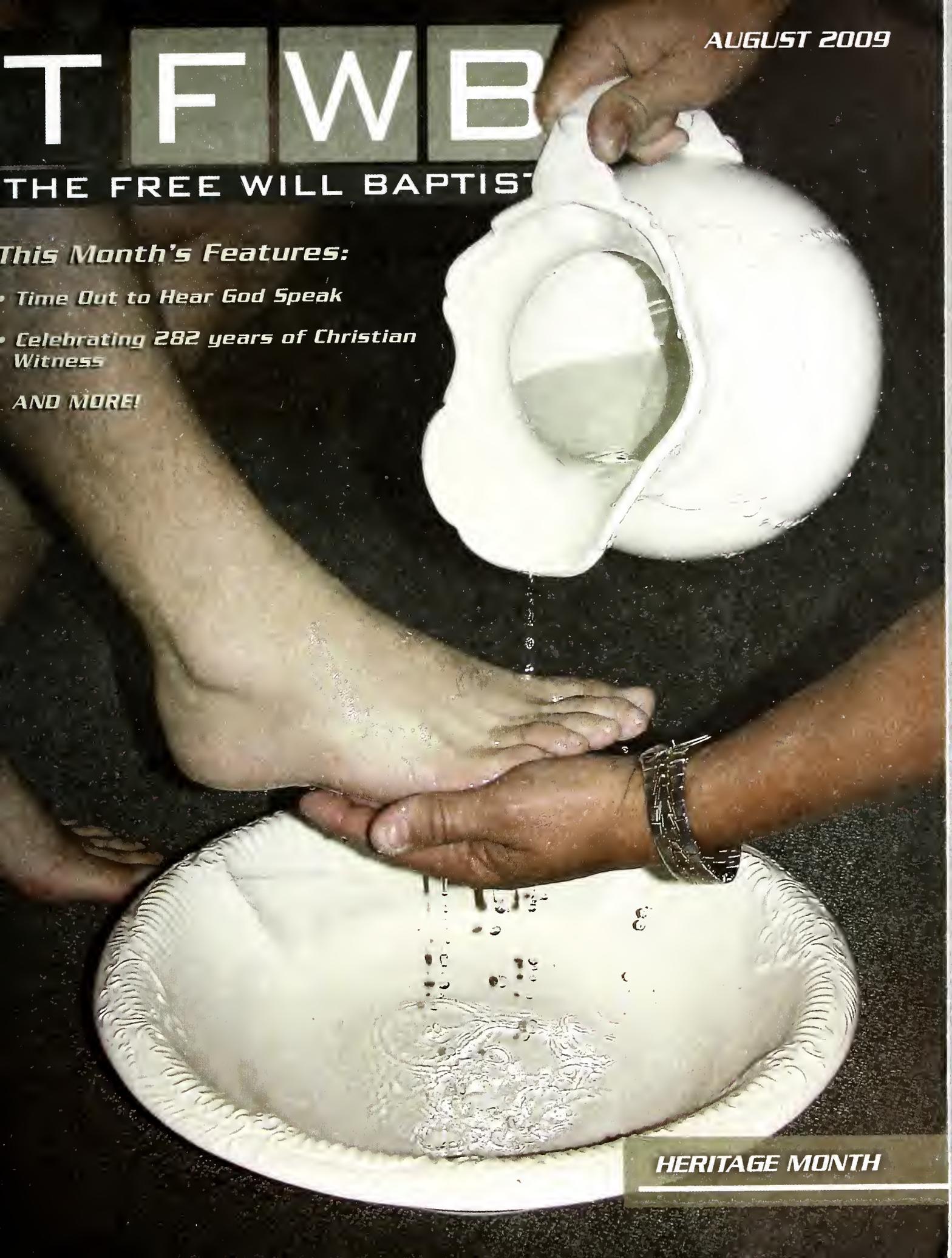
T F W B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

This Month's Features:

- Time Out to Hear God Speak*
- Celebrating 282 years of Christian Witness*

AND MORE!



HERITAGE MONTH

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

August 2009 Heritage Month

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMING SOON: September 18-20: September Women's Mini Conference at Cragmont September 19: Seminar on Orientation into Christian Ministry at First Church in Goldsboro						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Friendship Day					Transfiguration Day	
Cornerstone Women's Conference at Cragmont						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Pee Dee Youth Conference at Cragmont						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	NOTES:				

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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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FEATURES & COLUMNS

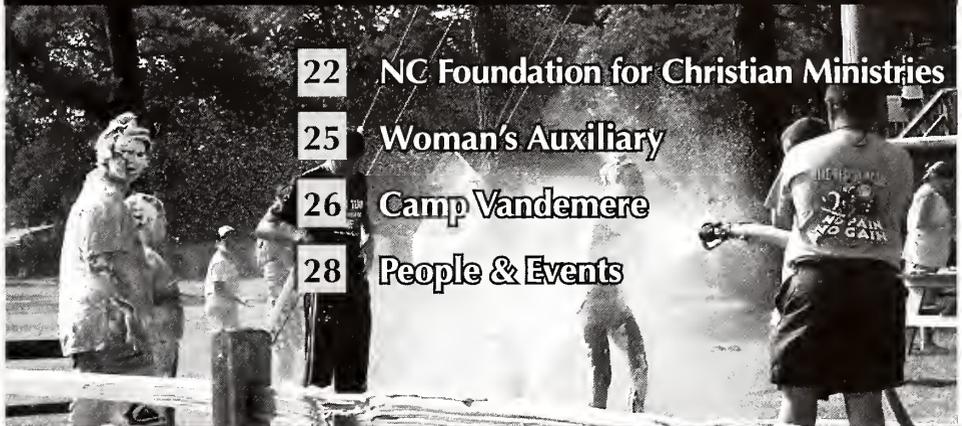
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- 9** Death Makes Us All Equal
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- 19** Pondering the Past with Celia Hales
- 23** Seminar on Orientation to Christian Ministry

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2009

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Kevin Poplin and Neal Cox practicing the ordinance of Washing the Saints Feet.

REFLECTIONS

with C. H. Overman

In Times of Distress

In these days, we are bombarded with news—and most of it is bad news: the economic situation, higher unemployment, the continuing wars in the Middle East, the threats from hostile nations, crime and violence in our cities and communities, moral and spiritual decadence, and so on it goes. At times, we wonder if there is no end to these troublesome times.

The truth is that distress is nothing new. Famous personalities of the Bible often found themselves in distress. Consider, for example, David's words as found in Psalm 18:4-6: *The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of the temple, and my cry came before him, even unto his ears.* In the verses that follow, David describes how God delivered him and declares, *Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name (v. 49).*

The great Apostle Paul knew about distresses: *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are*

perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body (2 Corinthians 4:8-10). Paul knew the secret of overcoming distress (for he faced many). He knew there would come a day of victory, a day when *...he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us also by Jesus... (2 Corinthians 4:8).*

In our present day distress, we must continue in the faith. We must continue to serve God and pray to Him often, asking for His blessings and continual mercy and grace. We must keep our hearts attuned to His Word and divine will. We must pray for a great moving of His Spirit among His people, that the tides of evil will be overcome by His might and power because we have trusted Him.

The prescription is found in 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.*

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AUGUST IS
Heritage Month

CELEBRATING 282 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS

1727



2009

CONVENTION OF
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the people of God called Original Free Will Baptists is to glorify God, therefore, we strive to know Christ, build His Church, and make Him known to all people as we continue to seek His will. We believe this mission can be fulfilled through...

WORSHIPPING

"...Worship the Father in spirit and truth..." John 4:23

We commit ourselves to glorifying God by Worship, which is the adoration of God. Worship is duly required of all His children through praise, prayer, the reading and preaching of His Word, and should inspire witness leading to discipleship. Every Christian may worship God privately; however, this should never replace the corporate worship of the church.

GROWING

"But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." 2 Peter 3:18

We commit ourselves to glorifying God by moving toward maturity through learning, fellowshiping, and doing the work of ministry.

CARING

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, Especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

We commit ourselves to glorifying God by making Christ known to the world, by caring for those of the flock of God, and by demonstrating the love of God to all peoples.

SHARING

"...Freely ye have received, freely give" Matthew 10:8b (7-10)

We commit ourselves to glorifying God by sharing what we know, what we have, and what we are, with all peoples.

EQUIPPING

"For the equipping (perfecting) of the saints is for the work of the ministry..." Ephesians 4:12a

We commit ourselves to glorifying God by equipping all believers for the work of ministry. The church, through its leadership, is to see that the people of God are educated, guided, and cared for that they might become spiritually mature as they do the work of ministry.



Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs, and to “provide things honest in the sight of all men.”

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and public worship and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to “grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to give according to our ability for the support of the church and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to “keep the unity of the Spirit” in the bonds of peace; to be careful of one another’s happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles and obligations supreme, esteem it our chief business to make Christ known to the world, and constantly pray and toil that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to co-operate in the promotion of demoninational institutions and enterprises, the support of the work of the local church, and the evangelization of the world.

May the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS

Providing Information, Communication, Promotion, Training, and Support Services.

INFORMATION

- Annual Convention Report Book
- Directory of Churches and Ministers
- Churches Needing Pastors
- Pastors Seeking Churches
- Convention Website: www.ofwb.org
- Meeting Dates of Conferences.

COMMUNICATION

- More than 1,000 E-mail Contacts
- Church News and Events
- Deaths, Sickness, and Prayer Requests
- TFWB Magazine Articles
- Liason Between Churches and Ministries
- Conference Meetings

PROMOTION

- OFWB Convention and Programs
- Minister's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet
- Annual Convention Golf Tournament
- Churches Helping Churches
- Denominational Awards Programs
- Wall of Honor

TRAINING

- Workshops and Study Courses
- Deacon Training
- Usher Training
- Practical Ministry for New Ministers
- Mentoring
- Summer Youth Camps

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2009 SUMMER SCHEDULE

YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 27-31, 2009
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Rd.
Pikeville, NC 27863
252.734.3320

PEE DEE YOUTH CONFERENCE

August 10-13, 2009
Bryant Hines
7946 Bear Grass Rd.
Robersonville, NC 27871
252.792.5745

CORNERSTONE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

August 2-7, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

SEPTEMBER WOMEN'S MINI CONFERENCE

September 18-20, 2009
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
252.753.3217

On January 14, 2009, Arlinda and I began our 30th year at Cragmont bringing to mind the fact that Cragmont is "home" and as home, it is a place of comfort, reassurance, and nurture. These thoughts naturally lead us to consider those who might experience a life change that can make celebrating Christmas somewhat difficult or of those who might desire a new view of Christmas with extended family.

The spirit of fellowship at Cragmont can soothe and calm troubled spirits and also bring a bright newness to the traditional Christmas gathering. Consider coming to Cragmont during Christmas week 2009 and be nurtured in the special fellowship found here. Bring many or few. Stay one day or several. But do try to be with us on Christmas Eve for our worship service and Christmas Day for the good food. The only other plans are to enjoy the fellowship of one another and the fire in the fireplace.

Oh! And one more important part about this planned time at Cragmont. THE COST. In the spirit of Christmas giving, we only ask you to pay for the meals. We are now taking reservations. Think about it; a special time, a special place, special people. We might even have snow!



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Time Out to Hear God Speak

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

There are numerous times in Scripture when God's people went into the wilderness or on the top of a mountain away from the world with its maddening effect to hear God speak. Moses received from God the plan for his life upon a mountain in the desert. King David honed the skills he would need as King while in retreat. Paul spent time in retreat to figure how he might turn his life around and live for Christ and not against Him. Jesus on many occasions took His disciples up into the mountains just so he would have their undivided attention.

Picture smoke rising from a campfire centered in the midst of a horseshoe shaped seating area filled with young people of all ages listening to a counselor as orange

flames flicker in the cool night air. Through the voice of the counselor, the Holy Spirit speaks the words that Jesus would have us hear. There is nothing to distract the minds of the young people. No TV, no facebook on computer, nor text

message on the cell phone, just a warm fire, and the stars sparkling overhead, and the presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Our youth need this time, "Time Out for Renewal."



Cragmont Youth Conference, June 14-18, 2009.

Harrell's Chapel Layman's League Installs New Windows in Boys Dorm

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

"Excellence is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution..." (Unknown). These words certainly represent the men from Harrell's Chapel Church Layman's League.

The group, headed by Vance Head, purchased the windows and came up and installed them in the boys dorm.

The building looks much nicer and the windows function much better than the previous old thin metal framed ones. Many thanks!



Harrell's Chapel Layman's League



Being the Church vs. Doing Church

BY MARY DUDLEY

This article represents a compilation of thoughts from readings, attending conferences, listening to various speakers, and just simple observation of people.

As the director of the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board and its ministries, I would like to address our church in today's society. If you read the newspapers, look at television, or read e-mail, you will find that our country is in a state of near panic. We feel dissolutioned, betrayed, and shut out of the decision-making process that seemingly controls our lives. It would seem that there is an addiction to mediocrity in our world and we are drowning in it. We allow our egos to take the upper hand in our thinking. When we do this, we become very self-centered. However, we DO read and occasionally study the Bible, but the truths are hardly ever inwardly actualized. We have to understand who we are, what we are, why we are, how we are, and where we are if we are to focus our attention to people outside the church. In other words, we need to understand ourselves and our relationship with God first before we can present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who possibly have never heard the truth before. If you read Nehemiah 8:1-16, you will find a message of the restoration of spiritual vitality. This could apply to the church today.

A question I would ask is, "Are we as Christians ready to become agents of revival in our churches?" If we are ready, then we need to be committed to growth in the Lord, individually, and then we can commit to growth in the communities. It seems that we are full of all kinds of activities, but they become mundane and not life-like. To use the language of our teens

today, do you think God is saying to us, "Let's go outside and get it on." If we do not succeed in our first attempt to take the message to those outside the walls of our sanctuaries, we should try another avenue rather than become infected with "quittitis." All too often, we lose our mission, biblical priority, generosity, and praise and just let things happen. Life

does not just happen. Are we actively involved in the effort of spreading the Gospel, or just sitting on the curb and watching the world interfere with the church's mission as found in Matthew 28:18-20? If the church is to have any impact at all there are a few "ups" we need to follow. I will mention six, but I am sure there are others.

WAKE UP!

If the horse dies, dismount.

LISTEN UP!

Be still and listen to learn and know God.

FIRE UP!

Get energetic. Get happy about your relationship with God.

FESS UP!

Repent of your wrong doings (sins).

STAND UP!

Know what you believe and be ready to stand on it.

TEAM UP!

Get to work and do it together. If we all would use our spiritual gifts, so much more could be accomplished

Let's all get on the same page with the message of Christ and be unified.

Serving Together Achieves Results.

DEATH

Makes US ALL

EQUAL

BY BRAD WILLIAMSON

The news has been filled the last several weeks about celebrity after celebrity dying. The coverage began with Ed McMahon, which was dwarfed by Farrah Fawcett, whose coverage was eclipsed by Michael Jackson, then there was semi-celebrity Billy Mays, and now over the weekend Steve "Air" McNair. And, if you have tried to watch any TV in the last few days, everything has been focused on MJ's memorial.

If anything has been proven, it is that our society is OBSESSED with celebrities. Why else does our society fawn over every detail, every magazine, every "news" show that talks about them? So much is made of their deaths, particularly the so-called "untimely" ones. In the midst of the "news" of their deaths, I have been struck by one thing: we ALL will face death as well. In the end, death makes us all equal; no matter how we try, it is something all humans will have to face. Why is that?

As a Christian who studies the Bible, I find that the reason is because of sin. I believe that God created the universe and placed a man and woman on this earth; and this was done in complete perfection. I also believe that when God created the human race He endowed us with the freedom of choice.

Exercising that freedom, man and woman chose to disobey God's one "thou shalt not," and through that decision, sin entered and a curse fell upon creation and humans. That curse includes death, and ever since that decision, the human race has had to deal with death.

The Bible further reveals that by our sin (our disobedience of God's decrees) we have EARNED death. It is not something that God punishes us with because He is cruel, but it is something that we have brought upon ourselves. As a good parent, I try to instill good virtues in my children. Part of that process involves disciplining them when they have disobeyed me. If I were to ignore their disobedience—or worse—allow them to do whatever they so desire, then my children would be ruined. I rather choose to set limits for them and when they are outside the limits by their own choice then there are consequences for those decisions. It is the same with humans and God; when we choose to live outside the limits God has placed then there are consequences; death is one of those.

It does not matter if I am completely unknown or the entire world knows me, because I live under the curse of death and one day death will be a reality for me, and the same

is true for you. As sobering a thought as that is, there is hope. The Bible tells me that though the wages of sin is death, the GIFT of God is eternal life through His Son Jesus. Those who place their trust in Him and His death on the cross as payment for their sins have the hope that though they die they will be given a new life. Now this may sound a little strange or hard to understand, and if you contact me I'll be glad to explain more. But let me simply state here that because God is loving, though we choose to rebel against Him, He does not want us to experience death without a chance at life. So Jesus, God the Son, was born that He may take our place by dying on a cross. So while death makes us sinners all equal, Jesus gives us the opportunity to be equally forgiven.

My question for you is, "In light of these recent deaths, have you contemplated your own mortality?" Have you thought about the day that you will breath your last breath? Are you prepared to face what awaits you when you die? Are you prepared to face the consequences of your choices? Have you sought the forgiveness God provides to us sinners condemned to death?

If not, why not today?



Board of Directors Welcomes Two New Members

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home's Board of Directors consists of 12 voting members with at least two women, and one alumnus of the Children's Home, with a cross representation of the State. The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists elects the members. Each member is elected to a four-year term, and can serve no more than three consecutive full terms.

We welcome two new members to the board: Teresa Foster and Dr. Edward Croom.

Foster is employed by the Johnston County Department of Social Services. She is an active member of Selma FWB Church located in the Western Conference, where she serves as a Sunday School teacher, deacon, assistant clerk, and woman's auxiliary secretary. She is very active in her community. Foster

resides in Selma, NC.

Dr. Croom resides in Smithfield with his wife Phyllis, where he is superintendent of Johnston County Schools. He is an active member of Pleasant Hill FWB Church located in Pikeville, where he serves as a Sunday School teacher and as a deacon. Dr. Croom was a volunteer firefighter for 20 years.

Back to School

It's just a few more days until school is back in session. With the start of school comes the need for school supplies. Listed below are a few of the items we will need to have our children prepared to begin school later this month.

- One and Two Inch Three Ring Binders
- Mechanical Pencils
- Back Pack/Book Sacks (age appropriate for middle and high school)
- Markers and Highlighters
- Colored Pencils
- Three and Five subject composition books
- Hand Sanitizer
- Kleenex Tissue
- Subject Dividers
- Zippered Pencil Holders
- Sheet Protectors
- Book Covers

Have questions? Call the Development Office at (252) 235-2161.

Change for Children 2009

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

We wish to extend our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to all who participated in our 13th annual Change For Children Campaign. Even in the midst of a sluggish economy, we have surpassed our goal for this campaign. This was the greatest campaign ever.

The outpouring of love shown toward the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, your Christian childcare agency, was a true testimony to our Lord and Savior. We will continue to press forward as we fulfill our mission to take care of children and families in need.



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

The Reverend Jonathan Best is available for fill-in ministry. He is a graduate of Mount Olive College and currently attends Campbell Divinity School. He is reliable and dependable. He may be contacted by phone at (910) 514-3211 or by e-mail at <jonathanbest@hotmail.com>.

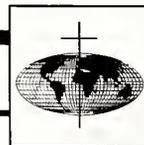
Residents Participate in Summer Recreation Program

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Our summer recreation director, Katherine Cahoon, prepared an action packed schedule for the residents at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. These activities have kept the children and staff busy. The day were spent with activities such as swimming, bowling, skating, making crafts, sharing with local rest homes, and outings off campus,

as well as a resident versus staff softball game, just to name a few. These events not only provided recreation for our residents, but it also helped them to realize the importance of sharing with others, and the importance of teamwork.





Prayer for New Church Answered

BY REV. JIMMY OMBANG

Greetings in the almighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We would like to thank and praise the Lord on how He works in our lives....and ministry. Our hearts were full of joy when the Lord answered our prayers to rebuild the church, not only us, but all the believers that worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, for we prayed for it every time we have a gathering because we have seen how desperate our situation is. We trust the Lord in His leading to us. That as we pray for it, God has done something in our lives personally that is to wait. Our patience has been tried...diligence...in prayer has been tried. Yet, indeed God is awesome, we cannot fathom how He works to work all things for His praise and glory that amaze us greatly. Indeed, God has His own perfect time it was never late...never advance... but just on time.

Now we can testify to the people around us how the Lord works mightily to accomplish His purpose here on earth. All we have to do is to avail ourselves for His praise and glory. The group of believers in this place greatly rejoice and as a result of it, we became more prayerful, our trust in God increased, and our patience was stretched.

Shown are pictures



on how the building of God has been done step by step as we recall Nehemiah's experience in rebuilding the Jerusalem temple. It may not be very beautiful but is a pleasant place to worship the Lord corporately and bring more souls to Christ in fulfillment of the Great Commission. Like our lives, the building still has finishing touches to be done.

It needs more beautification to see its beauty. Nevertheless, it has been changed for the better. The construction of the building is still going on. We are working for its beauty to unveil the greatness of the Lord in our lives, the believers in the whole world that prognosticates that God is good and great all the time.

Once again, we would like to reiterate our heartfelt expression of saying "thank you" to God for having you as our partners in the ministry that the Lord has entrusted to us and most of all to all the sponsors who gave generously to bring our dreams to reality. We pray that God will strengthen you more firmly as we labor for the Lord and wait for His glorious return.

Prayer Wish for the Needy in Philippines

BY LETECIA J. SEGAY

I traveled with the team to the island of Cuyo for the installation service for Pastor Joseph R. Mendez. My husband wanted me to accompany him because this is my home town and he felt like I would be a big help. Upon reaching this place, I found out that there had been many great improvements since my last visit. One of the saddest things I saw was the Badjao people who seem to have such a hopeless life. These people belong to the Muslim race and live on the sea on small boats. They have never lived in a house. They are extremely poor and miserable. The children are always begging for food or money. As a mother, I felt compassion for them.



They are like lost sheep, without a shepherd. These people are in groups of about 30, including their children. After observing their condition, physically and spiritually, I whispered a prayer that they need to know Jesus as their Savior. That prayer was

answered. Pastor Joseph was used by God to share God's Word with them and they were saved. They now have a regular Bible study. We truly saw the results of prayer. Please join us in praying for them, that they may grow strong in the Lord.

A Unique Way of Ministry

BY LETECIA J. SEGAY

The First Free Will Baptist Children School was blessed to have a great number of enrollees this year. For the nursery, we have 15 students and was handled by Mrs. Analiza Erandi, Kinder 1 also has 15 students taught by Ms. Adelia Cuba. The Preparatory Level consists of 18 students and their advisor is Mrs. Loida Samones.

It is the first time for the school to offer an Elementary level. Grade one to Grade three teachers were all Licensure Examination for Teachers (L.E.T.) passers. I handled the Grade 1 level which has nine students. Ms. Alma Atanoso was the Grade 2 advisor which consists of 11 students. The Grade 3 advisor was Mr. Jay-Ar L. Garcia who handled six students. We're looking forward to a higher enrollment next year.

The school wants to mold the personalities and talents of its students, that's why every month we have different activities. In June 2007, we held an induction party for the parents and students where a number of students presented their talents. It was July when we had a Nutrition Month where we prepared fun-filled games

for the parents and their kids. In August of that year, we celebrated the "Linggo ng Wika" (National Language Week). One of the most unforgettable activities that we had was Foundation Day in October. For almost one week, there were different competitions such as the quiz bee, the tambourine and folk dances, and a search for Mr. and Mrs. Foundation Day. I've been blessed to witness how the parents support their children in such activities.

The school strives to give the best quality education/instructions for we know that we are not only doing this for our students and parents, but for the Glory of God for this is one way of fulfilling our ministries not only as teachers, but as disciples of God.



Students participate in the Nutrition Month activity.



The children wave flags that they each created in celebration of Independence Day in 2007.



Phi Beta Lambda attends National Conference

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Seven business students from Mount Olive College attended the Phi Beta Lambda national conference in Anaheim, California in June.

The conference included workshops on résumé writing, how to dress for success, networking, and financing. In addition to the workshops, business competitions were conducted. All students who competed at the national conference had placed first or second at the state level competition. The top 10 in each competition were recognized. Among the Mount Olive College students who attended, Trent Lassiter was recognized for receiving ninth place in his competition of Sports Management and Marketing. Lassiter stated, "The National PBL Conference in Anaheim was an amazing experience. It was quite an honor to be able to stand on stage with the other top 10 participants in the nation, looking at a crowd of 1,500+ people. I want to thank



Front left to right: Hope McPherson (Beaverdam Church, Columbus County), Brian Parnell (NCPBL Eastern Region Vice President, First Church of Wilson, Wilson County), Victoria Taylor, Josh Marquez, Back left to right: Trent Lassiter (Selma Church, Johnston County), Jeremy May (NCPBL State President), Kenneth Jones, Sonya O'Brien (MOC PBL Advisor).

the College and the entire Free Will Baptist denomination for making that experience possible."

Aside from conference activities,

the MOC students were found talking business with Mickey Mouse and his friends at Disneyland.

Construction of New Residential Housing Facilities Continue

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Progress has been steady in the construction of the new residential housing facilities. Once completed, the two three-story structures will feature single occupancy rooms with semi-private bathrooms and a living room and kitchenette for each four-person grouping. The enclosed courtyard will contain a common room for use by all residents. It is expected that the entire project will be completed in time for students to move in for the fall 2009 semester. The residential housing project is being made possible by a \$3.5 million gift from Otha Herring.



Endowment Established to Honor Grandparents

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Emmett and Samantha Stroud of Albertson, alumni of Mount Olive College, have established an endowment at MOC to honor Samantha's grandparents, the Reverend and Mrs. Francis Garner. They attend Silver Creek Church in Cape Carteret and are strong supporters of MOC.

Samantha Stroud gives her grandparents credit for her attending MOC. Mr. Garner is a FWB minister who spoke favorably of the College, and Mrs. Garner brought Samantha an application after attending a convention.

"They were the reason I ended up at MOC," Samantha recalled. "This is our way of honoring them for all of their help."

Samantha and Emmett were both student leaders while attending MOC. Among their activities Emmett served as a resident advisor and was a College Ambassador. Samantha served on the Student Government Association council and worked in the Office of Church Support. It is her work in that office that gave Samantha an understanding for and appreciation



Left to right: Emmett Stroud, Lorraine Garner, Francis Garner, Samantha Benson Stroud holding son, Tripp.

of donor support. Currently, Samantha is teaching 11th and 12th grade English at East Duplin High School. Emmett is employed with Probation and Parole in Kenansville. They attend Deep Run Church. Strongly believing in the mission and vision of MOC, the young couple wanted to give back to the institution which has had such a profound influence in their lives, and at the same time honor

the people that mean so much to them—the Reverend and Mrs. Francis Garner.

The endowment will be used to supply financial assistance to traditional students attending the Mount Olive campus. For more information about how to establish a scholarship, contact Jeff Daughtry, director of Planned Giving, at (919) 658-7831.

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Position Available

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mount Olive College has a position available for a Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Reporting to the president and serving as a member of the College's executive council, the new Vice President will oversee a staff of 16 professionals in the areas of alumni relations, annual fund, church support, development, development services, planned giving, public affairs, and sponsored programs. Serving as the College's chief fundraising officer, the Vice President also serves as the President of the

Mount Olive College Foundation. Working closely with the President, the Board of Trustees, and the Foundation Board, the Vice President identifies and implements strategies to communicate the message and the fundraising needs of the College.

The College is seeking an experienced fundraising professional with a bachelor's degree, though an advanced degree is preferred. A successful track record with progressively responsible experience in leading a development staff, planning effective public relations, strategic

planning and budget management, as well as successful cultivation of major and planned giving prospects is required. Strong written and verbal communication skills are necessary. The candidate should demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the Christian mission of the College.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and résumé to Joanne Soliday, Executive Vice President, Performa Higher Education, at: <jsoliday@PerformaHE.com>. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.



Mount Olive College Alumni & Church Friends

The MOC Alumni Board is seeking nominations for the 2009 Alumni of the Year Awards. Descriptions and criteria for these awards are located on the MOC website at www.moc.edu and click on alumni and friends or contact Dianne B. Riley before August 20 at driley@moc.edu or (919) 658-7761.

Space Available!

Mount Olive College has space available for recent high school graduates and college transfer students in classes and residence halls. To apply, complete the free online form at www.moc.edu and have transcripts sent to Mount Olive College Admissions, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. To arrange a campus tour and admissions/financial aid interview, contact Meredith Keipper, Admissions Office Manager, at mkeipper@moc.edu or by calling 1-800-653-0854.

Incoming new freshmen who have not yet attended summer orientation can contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, at twoodard@moc.edu or by calling 1-800-653-0854 for admissions and orientation registration.

Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College offers one night a week programs for working adults in Mount Olive, New Bern, Jacksonville, Wilmington, Research Triangle Park, and Washington, NC. Upper level programs in management and organizational development (MOD), healthcare management (HCM), criminal justice and criminology (CJC), religion (MRM), management of information systems (MIS), and early childhood education (ECE) start at various times throughout the year. To start these three-semester programs, students need to transfer in 55 semester hours of college credit. Most students in these programs need at least one semester of online or seated classes to complete their BS degrees.

MOC also offers the Heritage program (HP) for students who have little or no college credit. This 4-semester program leads to the associate degree.

Federal and state financial aid is available. All classes are from 6-10 P.M. one night a week. To contact the nearest location, call **1-800-NEW-GOAL** to be directed to an admissions counselor, or visit www.moc.edu and click on the most convenient location.

Management & Organizational Development (MOD)

MOD at Wilmington 8/13/09
MOD at Johnston CC (JCC) 8/18/09
MOD at RTP 8/18/09
MOD at Washington 8/24/09
MOD at Evening College 9/14/09

Heritage Program (HP)

HP at RTP 8/6/09
HP at Evening College 8/24/09
HP at Wilmington 8/24/09
HP at Washington 9/14/09

Healthcare Management (HCM)

HCM at Washington 9/1/09
HCM at Wilmington 9/9/09
HCM at Evening College 9/10/09
HCM at RTP 9/16/09

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

ECE at Jacksonville 9/10/09
ECE at Evening College 9/14/09
ECE at Wilmington 9/16/09

Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC)

CJC at Washington 8/12/09

2009 Planning Sessions for MOC Dinners

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Planning sessions have been scheduled and are listed below for the 2009 annual dinners for Mount Olive College. Each church is encouraged to have a representative and its pastor attend the planning session where up to date information will be provided

and plans made for the annual College dinner. For addition information, please contact Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, at (919) 658-7744 or 1-800-653-0854 or <jfackiss@moc.edu>.

Mount Olive College was brought into being to provide educational services for the Free

Will Baptist Church. The annual dinners provide an opportunity for the church to maintain a close relationship with the College, see the product it supports, and provide annual support to help the College fulfill its mission.

GREENE COUNTY

Thursday, August 13, 7:30 P.M.

Hull Road Church near Snow Hill

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Friday, August 14, 7:30 P.M.

Memorial Church near Chocowinity

NASH COUNTY

Sunday, August 16, 3:00 P.M.

Free Union Church near Spring Hope

LENOIR COUNTY

Monday, August 17, 7:30 P.M.

First Church of Kinston (651 Sussex St.)

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

Tuesday, August 18, 7:00 P.M.

Otter's Creek Church near Fountain

WAYNE COUNTY

Thursday, August 20, 7:30 P.M.

First Church of Goldsboro

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION

Friday, August 21, 7:30 P.M.

Beaverdam Church near Chadbourn

JONES COUNTY

Sunday, August 23, 3:00 P.M.

Whaley's Chapel Church near Richlands

PITT COUNTY

Monday, August 24, 7:30 P.M.

Reedy Branch Church near Winterville

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES

Thursday, August 27, 7:00 P.M.

Mount Tabor Church near Creswell

ONslow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES

Friday, August 28, 7:00 P.M.

Folkstone Church, Folkstone

PAMLICO COUNTY

Sunday, August 30, 3:00 P.M.

Mt. Zion Church, Vandemere

WILSON COUNTY

Monday, August 31, 7:30 P.M.

Daniels Chapel Church near Wilson

DUPLIN COUNTY

Tuesday, September 1, 7:30 P.M.

Cabin Church near Beulaville

CRAVEN COUNTY

Thursday, September 3, 7:00 P.M.

Saint Mary's Church, Ruby Hancock SS Classroom, New Bern

CARTERET COUNTY

Friday, September 4, 7:00 P.M.

Crab Point Church, Morehead City

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES

Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 P.M.

First Church of Smithfield

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES

Thursday, September 10, 7:30 P.M. Oak Grove Church near Newton Grove



Those FWB Students who recently attended Freshman Orientation on June 19 and June 27 were: (Picture 1) Back left to right: Jason Vesper (Holly Springs Church), Seth Hines (Rose of Sharon Church), Cassidy Waters (Soundside Church), Adam Combs (Stoney Creek Church) Front left to right: Caitlyn Head (First Church of Wilson), April Denning (Shady Grove Church).



Those FWB Students who recently attended Freshman Orientation on June 19 and June 27 were: (Picture 2) Front l-r: Amanda Holland (Stoney Creek Church), Hannah Pate (Lee's Chapel Church), Elizabeth Twigg (Pine Level Church). Back l-r: Stephanie Summerlin (Oak Grove Church), Charlie Young (Micro Church), Victoria Sutton (St. Paul Church), Not pictured: Georgia Pucket (First Church of Smithfield).

Thank You:

CHRISTIAN PARENTS

BY KITTY BARNES

On Father's Day, June 21, 2009, during the morning worship service at Little Rock Church in Lucama, Dr. W. Burkette Raper announced the establishment of the "William Cecil and Beulah Davis Raper Family Endowment." In memory of their parents, Dr. Raper, along with his brother James Earl, his sister Mary Raper O'Donnell, and his brother-in-law, Fred A. Davenport for Catherine Raper Davenport (December 26, 1934–July 2, 2005), established this fund "in appreciation for Christian parents and the special ministry of Little Rock Church." To the Raper family, Little Rock represents the "spiritual heritage that has made a difference in our lives,...a difference that has set the course of our lives." Present with Dr. Raper for this announcement were his wife, Rose, two of their six children, Kristie and Elizabeth, and three grandsons, Matthew, Michael, and Justin.

The Endowment is designed to provide perpetual support for the benevolent work of the church in helping needy families, with

special consideration for children. Funds may be used for educational purposes, clothing, food, medical services, or other needs. Assets of the Endowment will be managed and invested by the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries and will make disbursements to Little Rock beginning in 2010.

In his address, Dr. Raper reminded the congregation of his family's lifelong ties to Little Rock where their father made a profession of faith and was baptized in 1923 and to which their mother transferred her membership following their marriage. He stated: "our father went about doing for others." In 1936, with a family of four children, ages eight, four, two, and one, their father died at the age of 28. Facing formidable decisions, their mother told her children, "It's not that I don't love you. I just want you to be brought up right and have the opportunity for a good education." With the persistent help of the Rev. Simon Styron, Little Rock pastor and their uncle Barney Raper, a long-time deacon, the oldest three children were admitted to the Free Will Baptist Orphanage in Middle-

sex on the provision that their mother buy their beds, since all available beds were full, evidence that many other families faced similar plights during the difficult times. By selling her husband's farm equipment, Mrs. Raper was able to buy the beds, and on July 17, 1936, the three oldest children were admitted to the Orphanage. Catherine, the youngest, went to live with their grandmother.

With this Endowment, stated Dr. Raper, "our parents will be a part of helping others, helping to do what was done for them." Specifically, he continued, "there are children who may have no father to love them, to provide support for them, or to offer hope and encouragement for the future, no one to teach them the Christian principles of life." This gift provides additional funds and allows extended opportunities for the church to reach these children and their families. Our family wishes to "do for others what was done for us." This perpetual Endowment is their way of saying "thank you."

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Be Ye Lights of the World

What does Jesus mean to us as we go about the many tasks demanded of us in a workaday world? His ministry was one of almost constant busyness, but he was enough of a free spirit to stop when he wanted, and to take time for brief encounters with ordinary people. He was the Light of our Christian world. He revealed his Light as being the One whom all of us are meant to emulate. Our little lights will then complement His.

When I was 25, I experienced a series of nighttime hallucinations or visions over a period of a month and a half. It was from mid-February through March of 1972, when the ground in Danville, Virginia, was thawing from the winter cold and daffodils were beginning to bloom. It was a time of promise. Night after night, I would awaken to an image of a light. These images varied from stained glass windows in brilliant color to outlines of ordinary table lamps without color. But "light" was always the theme.

At the time, I interpreted these visions to be a command to let my light shine before the world, not to hide it under a bushel, as Jesus' injunction makes clear to us. Over 35 years have passed since that time of miracles of

light, and my interpretation is still the same.

Have I lived up to the command that I viewed as coming from Jesus and illustrated in his famous words? I hope so. But my profession was secular rather than religious, and I worked as a librarian in secular institutions, though for 10 years of that time I was a religion librarian. Yet I have been ever mindful of the interactions that I have had during all these years. My motto for reference library work was, in fact, "The interactions are everything."

Most people with whom I worked did not attend church. Knowing their hesitancy about religious matters made me particularly keen not to try to influence where no influence was desired. Two of my friends went through terminal illnesses during my 19-year tenure at the same institution. One expressed interest in hearing my religious views toward the end, but the other did not. The first concluded that she had been a selfish person, a view that I did not share; in my opinion, she had been a most caring individual, despite her lack of spiritual interest. The other never asked me for any particular insight. Yet it was clear that, before she died, she had come

to terms with mortality. She said, "I don't want to die. But if I do, it will be alright." Given that conclusion, I did not intrude.

I think that reticence is especially important if one is dealing with an agnostic or atheistic individual. Christian writer Catherine Marshall recommends that in such times we put a "golden zipper" upon our lips, and only answer the person's questions about our faith when asked by that person. Otherwise, our best intentions may only alienate.

I have never been one to proselytize. I have shared my religious understandings upon occasion, but I think most people want to determine their beliefs on their own. Not having the mantle of a church official, I have been reticent in influencing others in their growing faith.

Yet I do believe that Jesus was the Light of the Christian world, and I do believe that he meant for us to be lights as well. Yet I have concluded that we must be careful how we let our lights shine. I believe that reaching out must be very prayerfully considered. I wonder, sometimes, if this is an incomplete answer. But surely we must follow our guidance as we see it, and reticence is not always a cop-out.

August's
Picture from the Past!

Your Clue: The OFWB pastor with the longest current ministry in a single church. Only two others have served a single pastorate longer.

July's Picture: The Rev. Roy Clifton

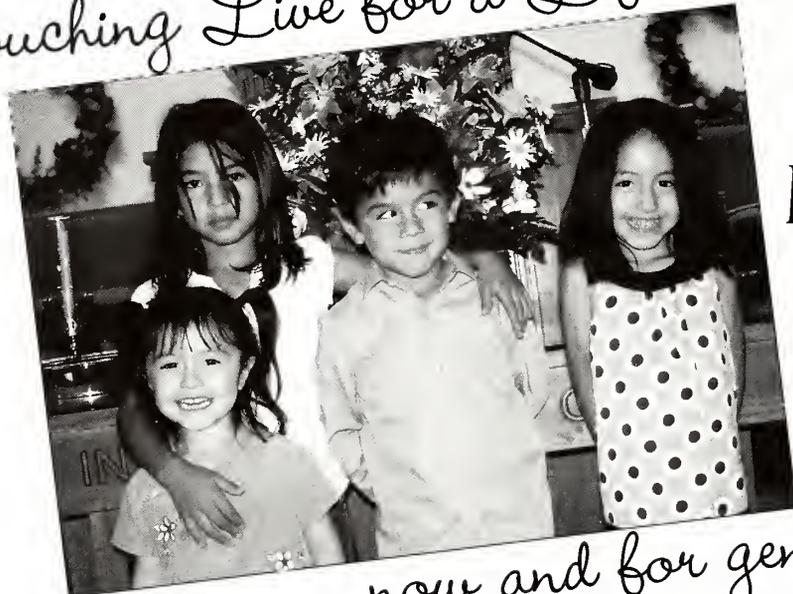
July's Winner: Sue Eason



Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or email <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.



Touching Lives for a Lifetime...

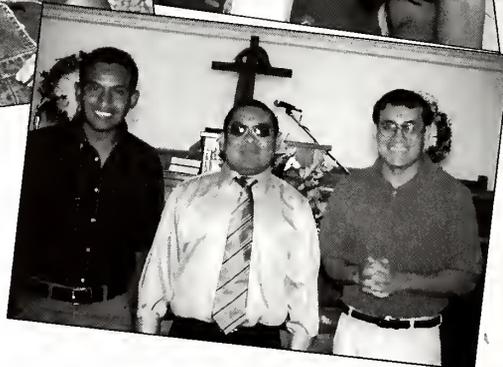


Faith Hispanic Mission/Church

Morehead City, NC

...now and for generations to come.

Faith (Hispanic) Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church of Morehead City, North Carolina, began its first worship service on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 11:00 A.M. with 16 people present. This new work is under Ethnic Missions of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists. Dr. Graham Lane, Coordinator of Ethnic Missions and Mr. Jose Perez, Director of the Faith congregation have worked for several months, planning and promoting this new endeavor and were pleased to have 16 present at the first service. As stated by Mr. Perez, "Without the generous support and prayers of the OFWB people, the beginning of the work could not happen." He also stated that he "thanks all who had a part in making this possible and to continue to pray for God's church to grow."



THE FIELD IS READY: *The Time to Sow is Now!*



To receive your wood grain plaque with gold lettering and seal depicting the Sower, send in your registration today.

The Sowers Club Your Opportunity to Plant

In April 1988, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism introduced to Free Will Baptists the opportunity to become personally involved in planting churches. A plan called "The Sowers Club" was started. The idea for this is not a new one. The idea of the Sower goes back to a brochure used by Free Will Baptist Home Missions in 1959. The idea may not be a new one, but the opportunities are. You, as an individual, can now become a supporter of Home Missions and Evangelism on a one-to-one basis. This plan enables you to give as much as you can to support our efforts of planting churches. You may give from \$1 to \$10 per week—or more—if the Lord leads you to do so.

The Sowers Club is your opportunity, as a Christian, to become involved in carrying out the Great Commission.

HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

2600 W. Vernon Ave. • Kinston, NC 28504 • (252) 526-9908
Email: assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org • Fax: (252) 526-9918

As Christians, we do well to remember that all of life is a planting time. Our sowing, both good and bad, will eventually bear fruit. When we scatter the good seed with earnestness and prayer, we can expect a joyous and abundant harvest (Psalm 126:6).

The Sowers Club

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Zip: _____
 Date: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Church: _____
 Conference: _____
 Give correct name(s) to appear on plaque:

Check one block:
 Other (specify): _____
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____
 _____ Monthly
 _____ Quarterly
 _____ Annually

- Per week:
- \$200
 - \$100
 - \$50
 - \$30
 - \$25
 - \$20
 - \$15
 - \$10
 - \$5
 - \$2
 - \$1

The covenant may be cancelled or altered at any time.



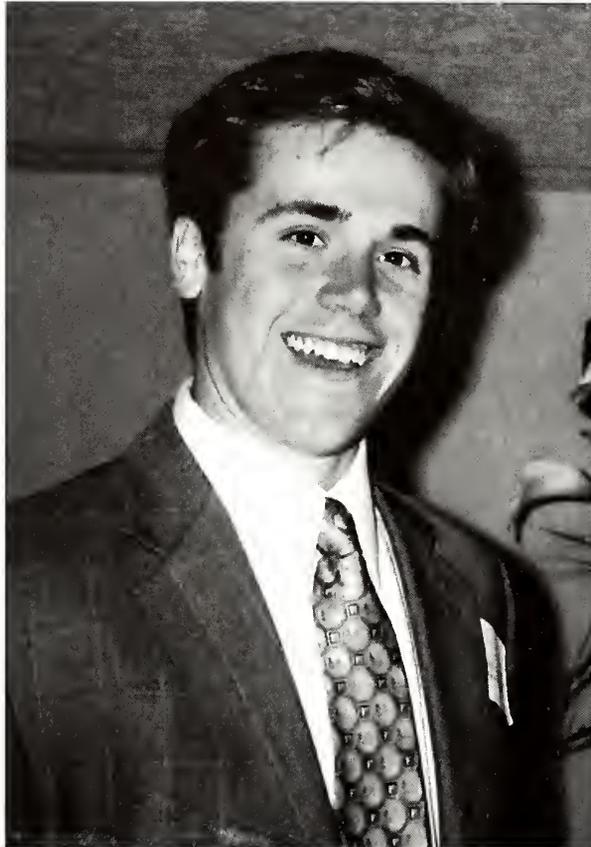
The William Widmire and Sarah Tart Lewis Family Endowment Announced

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Lewis Family Endowment had its beginning with a phone call from grandson Alex who said: "I have been talking with my dad, and I want to start a fund in memory of my granddad." The phone call was followed up with a meeting of the family at the Lewis's home in Wilson: Mrs. Sarah Tart Lewis, with whom Mr. Lewis had shared 55 years of a happy marriage; their two sons Clay and Jim; and grandson Alex.

The basic decisions were made: (1) the memorial would be a permanently endowed family fund to which members of the family and friends could make gifts at the time and in the amount of their choosing; (2) the initial beneficiary would be Gideons International, a Christian ministry which distributes the Bible world-wide with the provision that, as the Endowment grows, additional Christian ministries could be added; and (3) that the Endowment would be with the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries which will manage and invest the assets and make annual distribution to the beneficiary(ies).

Gideons International was the recommended beneficiary by the family because of the active membership of both Mr. Lewis and his sons, Jim and Clay.



Pictured above is Alex Lewis, grandson and initiator of the William Widmire and Sarah Tart Lewis Family Endowment, is a rising senior business major at East Carolina University.

Last year the 176,000 Gideons distributed nearly 7.9 million copies of the Scriptures in more than 80 languages in 187 countries. Gideons International, now celebrating its 100th anniversary, is primarily a ministry of laypersons who volunteer their time in distributing the Scriptures to hotels, motels, business and professional offices, schools, and colleges.

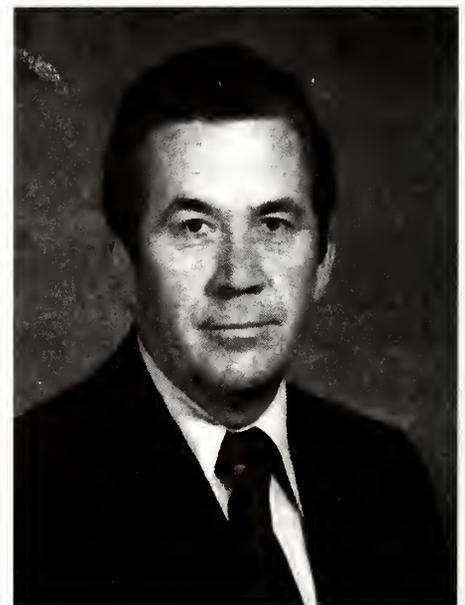
Mr. Lewis, a native of Eureka, earned degrees in education at Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) and East Carolina University. His career in education included teaching, coaching, and serving as principal at different times at Eureka School in Wayne

County, Lee Woodard School and first principal of Beddingfield School, both in Wilson County.

Following his retirement from Beddingfield, Mr. Lewis was appointed as Special Assistant to the Wilson County Superintendent of Public Schools. In addition to his career in education, he served a term in the House of Representatives of the North Carolina General Assembly. For his country, he served in the Army during the Korean Conflict.

A long-time member of Daniel's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Mr. Lewis was a trustee and was active in the building program of the church.

For more information on the Foundation, interested persons are invited to contact North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries at 619 W. Main St., Mount Olive, NC 28365, by telephone at (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250, or by email at <wraper@moc.edu>.



William W. Lewis

Seminar on Orientation to Christian Ministry

BY DR. MICHAEL PELT

The Commission on Education for Christian Ministry, in its meeting on June 1, 2009, approved a proposal to conduct a seminar for licensed ministers and those persons interested in other Christian vocations. The seminar is scheduled to be held on September 19 at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro, beginning at 10:00 A.M. The title of the seminar will be "An Orientation to Christian Ministry." The topics to be addressed at the seminar are as follows: 1) What is Christian Ministry? 2) The Calling to Christian Ministry, and 3) The Scope of Christian Ministry. A committee was appointed to plan the program, including the choice of competent speakers, whose names will have been announced by the time you read this article.

In this seminar, the subject of Christian ministry will be dealt with in a broader sense than is usually the case. In the popular mind, a minister is a member of the clergy, one who is ordained and is likely serving as a pastor or as a chaplain (military, hospital, prison). Such persons are rightly understood to be engaged in Christian ministry. But we are suggesting that there are other types of ministry, both in local

churches and in church-related programs and institutions. In many local churches there are persons who are performing important services beyond those that are assumed by the pastor. There are ministers of children and youth, ministers of music, ministers of education, ministers to the elderly, deacons, and other church officers who perform various functions that are essential to the life and mission of the local churches. There are likewise persons who are serving as directors or as employees of our denominational ministries who are doing the work of Christian ministry. In addition, there are volunteers who devote a significant portion of their time and talents either to some kind of work in their local church or in one of the denominational ministries, such as the disaster relief program.

Those who respond to the need for such services as we have mentioned above either in the local church or beyond the local church do so because of their awareness that Christ calls his disciples to serve Him by serving others. This service, in the name of Christ for the sake of others, is a form of Christian ministry.

In his letter to the church at Corinth and in other letters, the apostle Paul

makes it clear that all believers are gifted by the Spirit to render service for the common good. (Read 1 Corinthians 12) In that sense, we can say that every believer is a minister who is called to exercise his or her gifts to build up the church and to bless their fellow believers by being the presence of Christ to them. As members of the church, we are not mere observers but participants in the life and mission of the church, for we all contribute to the proper function and growth of the body of Christ so that it can fulfill its mission in the world. Therefore, we must all be open to the call to minister to our fellow believers and to bear witness to and serve those who are outside the body of Christ.

This seminar, planned for September 19 at First Church of Goldsboro, will enable us to explore more fully the meaning of Christian ministry as it applies to the needs in our churches and beyond our churches today. We hope that you will plan to attend this event which could have a profound effect on many lives and upon the future of our denomination. Please remember to pray that people will respond to God's call for their lives to be given in service to His kingdom.

A RICH CHRISTIANO FILM

Jansen Panettiere

Gavin MacLeod

Robert Guillaume



THE SECRETS OF
**JONATHAN
SPERRY**

WHAT HE TEACHES THEM... WILL LAST FOREVER

Best buddies Dustin (Jansen Panettiere), Albert (Frankie Ryan Manriquez), and Mark (Allen Isaacson) are twelve year old boys looking forward to a summer of fun in 1970. When Dustin mows the lawn of seventy-five year old Jonathan Sperry (Gavin MacLeod), a man he has seen at church, a unique friendship develops. What happens the rest of this summer is something Dustin and his friends will never forget.

What Viewers Are Saying

"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry moved me with its message of the difference one faithful man can make in the lives of many. I recommend this inspiring movie for any family to watch together."

Kirk Cameron/Actor (Fireproof movie)

"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry will literally impact both the young and old! This is a powerful film that is refreshing and loaded with incredible truths from God's Word!"

Josh McDowell, Author/Speaker, Josh McDowell Ministries

Coming September 18th to a theater near you!
View scenes from the movie at www.SperryMovie.com



2009 Dayspring Retreat a Success

BY BRENDA BEST

June in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains is an awesome setting for the worship experience named the Dayspring Retreat. This is an annual event planned for men and women from across the state. It is a time to richly encounter God through His Word, His Spirit, and His people. Whether you desire to spend your time in study, or to quietly listen for His voice, you are away from the distractions of everyday life. The 2009 retreat topic for in-depth study was "So You Want to be Like Jesus Christ." There were five districts represented and 25 in attendance. Though the group was small, the spiritual blessings were abundant! Director May Pittman opened the meeting officially on Wednesday evening at 6:00 P.M. with a welcome and blessing for our dinner meal. The staff at Cragmont, as always, provided delicious meals and great service to us.

The Wednesday evening praise and worship began with group singing led by May Pittman with JoAnn Parrish sharing her talent on piano. Brenda Best read Psalm 121 and led in prayer. The Reverend Harold Jones, Executive Director of Foreign Missions, was the evening speaker. He enlightened and reminded us of the four things that set Jesus apart. Christ's church must be marked by love, service, sacrifice, and salvation. To strive to be like Jesus, we must love intensely. We must care enough to do the uncomfortable and inconvenient for others. We must lift others up with love, service, sacrifice, and salvation. The evening offering was for Foreign Missions.

Each day, our morning devotion and Bible lesson were taught by Linda Herring of White Oak Grove Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda's enthusiasm and love for our Lord



Group from the 2009 Dayspring Retreat gathers on the front steps of Cragmont's main building to pose for a photo.

are evident from the first encounter. She challenged us, taught us, and encouraged us. We will never flip to the book of Philippians again without remembering the joy we all shared studying together. She instills a passion in one to dig deeper for the life-giving nuggets God has given us in His Word. Joy gives three things: victory over Satan, joy releases the power of the Holy Spirit, and joy is contagious. Joy is determined by what one believes!

She gave us the secret formula for overcoming discouragement that can be found in Psalm 62. She reminded us that the difficulties we encounter in life happen to us to further the gospel. A purpose in life will keep our priorities straight and motivate us, and help us to evaluate our progress. Our purpose is to enjoy God! Daily, Christians should strive to make Jesus look good to the world. We must come to Him empty so He can fill our cup to overflowing.

Thursday evening, John Williams,

Co-Director of Cragmont, brought our message. He further encouraged us in Christlikeness and the evening offering was designated for Cragmont. John also provided a Q & A time. The group was apprised of future plans for Cragmont.

Friday evening, Becky Jo Sumner provided a thought provoking Bible Study. The title summed up the essence of the study, "On Jordan's Banks We Stand." We were challenged to name events which occurred on the banks of the Jordan. We were asked what stones are we setting up as we cross the Jordans of our lives. We studied about "Lot's Choice" from Genesis 13:1-18. At the Cornerstone Retreat, she will dig deeper into this study. Make plans now to attend Cornerstone on August 2-7, 2009.

The group dispersed Saturday morning after devotion led by Linda Herring using scripture from Philippians 4:23. Then we ate breakfast and hugged our goodbyes. We left more like Jesus!

Summer Season Booming

BY RICK PRICE

We have been extremely busy here at the camp. We started out the summer with the Ladies Conference. Since then, we have hosted some of our summer camp groups and retreats such as the State Layman's Group, Watson Grove weekend retreat, Core Creek's Sunday afternoon cookout, the Daniel's Chapel camp week, Post Oak weekend youth retreat, Lighthouse Keepers camp week, and the Stilley Family Reunion. In July, we had several more retreats and summer camps. We here at the camp are looking forward to each and every group. Every group, without exception, has been awesome. Everyone has helped keep our camp in top shape while they were here. The staff here at Camp Vandemere is truly grateful for the cooperation we get from each group in the transition from weekend retreats to summer camps each Friday and Sunday afternoon. On Friday's, somewhere between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. we clean the kitchen, dining room, dorm rooms, bathrooms, lodge rooms, and the bath house. Most

of the time, we make this transition with five people in those five hours. The only way we can accomplish this is that each individual group has helped keep the camp in order while they are here. It certainly makes our job easier. Thanks again, groups, for your help! I think everyone that has been with us so far this summer has rescheduled for

next year. If you haven't, please do so as early as possible. I will make every effort possible to accommodate everyone that wants to come to Camp Vandemere. Please visit our website at <http://campvandemereministries.embarqspace.com> for more information. God bless you and thanks for all your support.



Pictured above is the 2009 Lighthouse Keepers group. The Lighthouse Keepers camp week was a great success. The weather was great and everyone had a wonderful time!

2009 Camp Vandemere Schedule

August 2-7	Son Quest Youth Camp	Terry Dennis—919.284.6144
August 9-13	Jackson Heights	Darlene Brock—252.527.1572 Amy Coble—252.568.4511
August 16-21	Crusaders Camp	Ashley Trogden—252.322.5552

"O send out thy light and thy truth" (Psalm 43:3a)

By the Bay

WITH RICK PRICE

Youth Having a Great Time During Camps

As you can see in these pictures, everyone is surely having a great time here at the camp this year. All the camps and retreats are having Bible studies, worship time in the chapel, and a lot of fun on the grounds. At this time, there have been 11 young people saved at camp this year. What a blessing! I personally want to thank all the directors I've met already this year. If it wasn't for a lot of sacrifice and hard work on you and your staff's part, our camps would not be

successful and many souls would not be reached for Christ. That is what this camp is all about!

Our largest fundraisers for the year are coming up: in October, Singing by the River (3rd weekend), and in November, the Speckled Trout Fishing Tournament (2nd weekend). Please make plans now to attend these events. As many already know, we are in the planning stages of a new facility (multi-purpose building) here at Camp Vandemere. Attending these

events will certainly help us to fund this upcoming major project. We'll have more information on this at a later date. I'm just excited that our camp is having growing pains and I'm sure all who are involved are excited too! I hope that you will be a part of this new endeavor to make our camp all it can be to reach as many people as possible! Thank you for all of your support!



Daniel's Chapel group leaders gather in the dining hall.



Ms. Cristy Ramsey gets caught in the middle of the shaving cream fight during the 2009 Lighthouse Keepers camp week.



Concession stand operators Molly, Vic, and Jennifer wait for the crowd!



Members of Daniel's Chapel wash off after the shaving cream fight.

Cabin Church Honors Graduates

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

On Sunday, June 28, Cabin Church honored its recent graduates: Joshua Blake Baker (Champion Educational Center), Ivie Caroline Brinson (Richlands High School) and Margie Ellen Houston, DVM (North Carolina State University). Pastor Nelson Koonce stated he was really proud of the six graduates, though three could not attend. Those who could not attend were: Jonathan Hinkle (North Carolina State University), Matthew Hinkle (Sante Fe Junior College), and Jason Norris (James Sprunt Community College).

Joshua is the son of Chris and Gwen Baker of Chinquapin. Ivie is the daughter of Ronnie Carr and Mikki Brinson of Beulaville. Margie is the daughter of Gregg and Debbie



Pictured above (left to right) are: Ivie Brinson, Joshua Baker, and Margie Houston.

Houston of Pink Hill. Jonathan and Matthew Hinkle are the sons of Disel and Sherry Hinkle of Pink Hill. Jason Norris is the son of Glenda Norris of Beulaville and the late George Norris.

Congratulations to the Class of 2009.

Deacon Celebrates 60 Years of Service to the Lord

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Recently, Warden's Grove Church of Lowland, NC set aside time to celebrate and honor Mr. Roscoe Rice for serving the Lord for 60 years.

According to old church documents, Brother Roscoe dedicated his life to the Lord and was baptized 60 years ago in May of 1949 by the Rev. J.R. Forest. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed as a Ruling Elder of the church, which later was referred to as "deacon."

Brother Roscoe has been fulfilling his position of deacon by continuing to serve the Lord, the church, and the community even now at the age of 92. His servant attitude is to be admired and respected. He has never asked for, expected, or wanted anything in return for his many acts of kindness or duties



Pictured above is Roscoe Rice (center) joined by his daughter, Myrna Fulford (left) and his great-granddaughter, Kassi Aultman

fulfilled.

We as a church believe his Christian and spiritual values can be described by words like: faithful, humble, wise, obedient, compassionate, honest, thankful, kind, unselfish, and loving. He has fashioned his life around God and set an example for us to follow. We truly believe God would say today, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

Tarboro Church Hires First Youth Minister



The Tarboro First Church has their first youth minister. Dale Allen Belvin, originally from Greensboro, accepted the call in April 2009. Dale is a 2004 graduate of Mount Olive College with a BA in Religion. In 2009, he received a Masters of Divinity degree from Campbell Divinity School. Before coming to Tarboro, Dale served as youth pastor at Kenly Church in Kenly, NC and pastor at Antioch Church in Pikeville, NC. The Tarboro First Church welcomes Dale and his wife, Elizabeth to our congregation.

Warden's Grove Church Ladies Retreat Held



London Williamson of Oak Island hosted a Ladies' Retreat for seven Circle members of Warden's Grove Church. The group enjoyed devotions, prayed on the pier, and toured Southport as well as Oak Island. The women enjoyed bocce ball and collected sea shells on the beach. They were joined by Ashley and Autumn Leary of Wilmington for a "low country boil," on Thursday evening. Friday's events included a day at the spa, lunch at the famous "Trolley Stop" in Wrightsville Beach, and topped off with a chocolate fondue at the "Melting Pot" in Mayfaire. London presented each lady with a lovely gift and renamed them the J.O.Y. Group (Just Older Youth Group). A great time of fellowship was had by all. From left to right: Betty Stephenson, Linda Carawan, Pattie Leary, Myrna Fulford, Vicki Williamson, Dina Lewis, and Nancy Leary.

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These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB 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 feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

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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 or handwritten information is acceptable.

However, we cannot be held responsible for errors!

*Pictures are not returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

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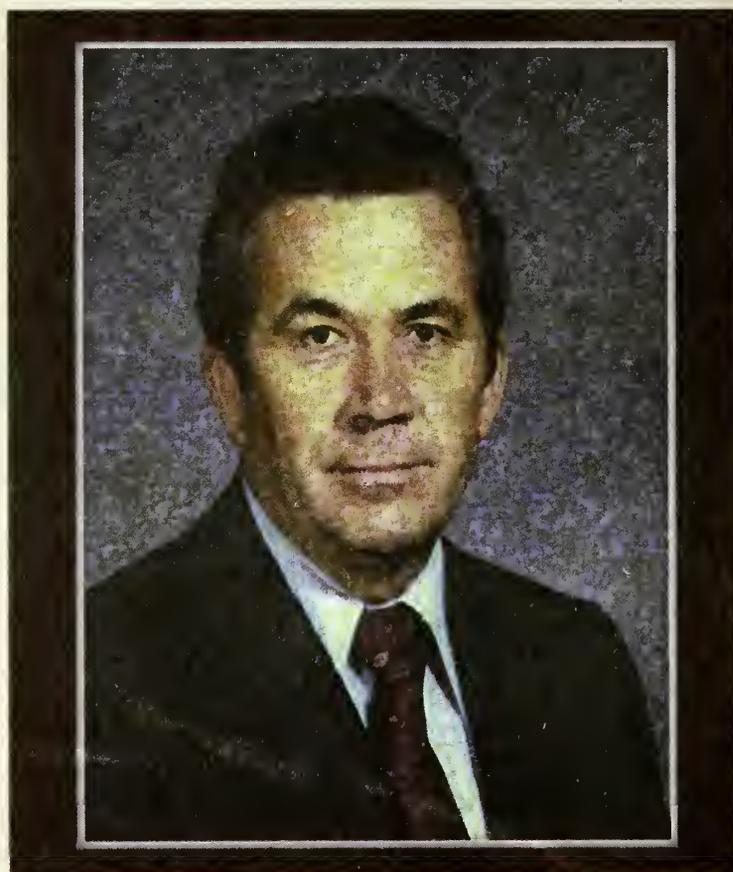
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THE ENDOWMENT OF THE MONTH



In Memory of William W. Lewis
(July 31, 1929–July 21, 2008)



*Footprints from the past—
Footprints for the future.*

For more information on the Lewis Endowment, please see page 22.

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SEPTEMBER 2009

This Month's Features:

- *Watch, Plan, Prepare*
- *See You at the Pole: 9.23.09*
- *Talley Trio to Perform at MOC*
- *In Christ's Service*

AND MORE!

DISASTER RELIEF MONTH

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

September 2009

Disaster Relief Month

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMING SOON: October 11: Pastor Appreciation Day		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13 Grandparents Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 Seminar on Orientation into Christian Ministry at First Church in Goldsboro
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Women's Mini Conference at Cragmont
			See You at the Pole			
27	28	29	30 Board of Directors Meeting NC Foundation for Christian Ministries 11:45 A.M. McLawhom & Assoc. 501 SE Greenville Blvd.	1	2	3

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ON THE COVER:

Digital painting of a photo depicting the formation of a tornado during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry responded quickly to the hurricane's havoc in Mississippi.

REFLECTIONS

with C. H. Overman

He is Slow to Anger

The Psalms contain many expressions and utterances of God's mercy and grace. Our hymn books contain many hymns that refer to His mercy. Sinners, when under conviction, call upon God, pleading for His mercy. The publican, in contrast to the Pharisee, prayed, "...God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

In the first verse of Psalm 101, David declared: "I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing." Mercy is a part of God's very nature. Coupled with grace (God's unmerited favor), mercy offers forgiveness and pardon to the sinner. Because of His mercy, He strives with sinners, forgives them, and shows compassion.

In Psalm 103, David offers special praise to God: "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (vv. 1-2). He then cites the benefits: He forgives iniquities, heals disease, redeems from destruction, crowns with loving kindness and tender mercies, satifies with good things, executes righteousness and judgement for all that are oppressed,

is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, is plenteous in mercy, does not chide, and "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (v. 12).

David alludes to God's anger only twice in this Psalm, verses 8 and 9, reminding us that, although slow to anger, He will not "...keep his anger for ever." These words come from a King who had experienced God's disfavor, but in his inward misery he cried out to God, confessed his sin, and because God is a merciful God, David found mercy and forgiveness.

Although blessed in many ways, the Children of Isreal failed God on several occasions and the Bible declares that His wrath was kindled against them (see Number 11:33.) It's wonderful to sing of His mercy, goodness, and blessings, and to speak of his love and many attributes; however, it may be simply a matter of time before his anger, or wrath, falls upon a wicked world. How thankful we are that He is "...long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

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SEPTEMBER

Disaster Relief Month
for Original Free Will Baptists

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009
Good Samaritan Sunday

DON'T MISS THE
OPPORTUNITY on this special
Sunday to pray for The Harvest
Connection Disaster Relief
Ministry and to give a love
offering for financial assistance.



Watch, Plan, Prepare

BY LORRAINE GARNER

“And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13:37). Watch, have a plan, be prepared. It is hurricane season again. We are well aware of the danger of hurricanes in eastern North Carolina. Names like Floyd, Bertha, Fran, Dennis, Isabel, Hazel as well as Katrina and Ike bring back memories in our minds and often fear and awe at the power of God. Each one of us can remember how these hurricanes affected our lives as well as the lives of others. We have been reminded to be prepared for these disasters. A disaster is any emergency that affects the economy of an area, nation, or family. So plan now and be prepared.

There are steps to make to keep you and your family safe in the event of a hurricane disaster. According to the area you live in will determine what kind of plan to make. Only you can make that decision.

- Decide now if you will evacuate. If you live on the immediate coast or a flood prone area, plan far ahead if you should evacuate.
- Where would you go? To a shelter or some distance from your home. It is a good idea to be far enough away to be safe, but close enough that you could get back home as soon as it is safe.
- **If you decide to evacuate**, leave as early as possible. Have an alternate route planned. Storms can change direction quickly and without warning. They can also increase in strength in a matter of hours.
- Listen to the weather forecasts and heed their warnings.
- Don't panic if an evacuation order is given. Make sure you give yourself enough time to leave before the weather turns bad.
- **DO NOT TAKE CHANCES WITH YOUR LIFE.**
- Take your must-have supplies and important papers, such as proof of ownership of your property, home, car, insurance policies, and driver's license.
- Take irreplaceable items such as photos and keepsakes.
- Let friends and relatives know where you are going.
- Turn off your electricity, water, and gas if officials tell you to do so.
- If you are in a flood prone zone, move all items that you can, off the floor.
- Lock windows and doors.
- Remove all outside items that would become a danger to property if blown around by hurricane force winds.

- Check on your neighbors, especially the elderly and those who may not have someone to help them.
- Fill your car's gas tank and check oil, water, and tires.
- Get cash. Banks and ATM's may be out of operation if the power is out.
- Check your must have kit. Obtain any needed items, especially water and food.
- Have on hand at least a two-week supply of all medications.
- Remain calm, drive safely, do not take chances and be aware of everyone on the highways that are evacuating also. They may not be as careful as you are, so drive defensively.



An evacuation shelter should be your last resort. Keep in mind, different shelters may open at different times, depending on size and intensity of a storm. Do not go until an official announces a specific shelter has opened. Expect shelters to be crowded and uncomfortable. Be sure to bring:

- Pillows and blankets or sleeping bag. Special dietary foods, water, and prescription medicines
- A change of clothes and personal hygiene items
- Flashlight, radio, and extra batteries
- Infant necessities and quiet toys for children
- Important papers
- Don't panic, this will help the shelter to remain calm. Help others as you have opportunity.

If you choose to remain at home there are some guidelines that you need to observe during the storm.

- Stay indoors, and stay away from windows
- Listen to the radio, especially a weather radio called a NOA radio.
- Do not use candles or kerosene lamps.

- Have a flashlight ready with an ample supply of batteries.
- Use your phone only for urgent calls.
- If your house begins to break apart, cover yourself with a mattress, blankets and find a safe room away from windows, perhaps a bathtub.
- Remain calm at all costs, it will help you to help others to remain calm as well

After the storm:

- Be patient. It may take a while for emergency crews to reach you.
- Restoring utilities may take several days or even weeks.
- Stay away from all dangerous situations, including downed power lines, broken gas lines, and water mains.
- If your house is damaged, do not go inside until you are satisfied that it is safe
- Supervise everyone, especially children.
- Let your out-of-town emergency contact know that you are safe.
- Use common sense when examining your supplies,



including frozen food, water supply, and all perishable foods.

Have a plan for your pets. They can be traumatized by storms as well. If at all possible, keep them with you. Check with your destination, if pets are welcomed. They are your friends and are depending on you for their safety and well being.

Helpful websites:

- Ready North Carolina: <www.ReadyNC.org>
- Family Preparedness: <www.ready.gov>
- The National Weather Service: <www.weather.gov>
- North Carolina Road Conditions: <www.ncdot.org/traffictravel>
- NC Department of Insurance: <www.ncdoi.com>
- NC Crime Control & Public Safety: <www.nccrimecontrol.org>

CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

The Rev. Ernest Jones is available for supply ministry. He is experienced, traditional, and dedicated. He may be reached at (252) 646-0595 or by mail at 235 Tom Mann Rd., Newport NC 28570.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

The Rev. Jonathan Best is available for fill in and interim ministry. He is a graduate of Mount Olive College and currently attends Campbell Divinity School. He is reliable and dependable. He may be contacted by phone at (910) 514-3211 or by email at <jonathanlbest@hotmail.com>.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

Saints Delight OFWB Church, 150 Saints Delight Church Rd., New Bern, NC is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a rural church with regular services on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. A parsonage is available. Send résumés to Diane Peele, chairman of the pulpit committee, 315 Branch Canal Road, New Bern, NC 28560, phone (252) 637-6931 or e-mail to Tahitia Stewart at <tvs2@suddenlink.net>.

SEEKING PASTOR

Lanier's Chapel Church, Eastern Conference, is seeking a part-time pastor. Send résumé to Lanier's Chapel Church at 746 Ludie Brown Rd., Chinquapin, NC 28521 or contact J. E. Dail at (910) 298-3695 or (910) 375-0914.

INFORMATION CHANGES:

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the **harvest** *connection*
DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY



The Four In Christ Quartet



The Second Edition Quartet

IN CONCERT!

Antioch FWB Church—New Bern, NC
Saturday, September 19, 2009

BBQ Chicken Plates (\$6)

Lunch 11:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M. & Dinner 4:00—5:30 P.M.

Concert at 6:00 P.M.

Free Admission! A love offering will be received.

All Proceeds to Benefit the FWB Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry
For more information, 252-637-3859 or 252-229-3859



Joshua's Call Men's Conference

BY TIM HEATH

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua took a stand. He looked and saw that God's people had once again reverted back to idols and the worship of false gods. In doing so, they were severing their relationship with the one true God of Israel, and Joshua was burdened with what he saw happening. Joshua did what God had commissioned him to do—lead. Leadership comes in many forms, and although I do not claim to be an authority of any, I know Joshua stood and led.

Joshua led in the public arena when he proclaimed, "choose you this day whom ye will serve." The need to stand for God caused Joshua to use the credibility he had earned, and call their attention to the one true God that they were rebelling against, even considering it "evil unto you to serve the LORD." His stand was bold, public, and loud. Loud in the sense that everyone had to notice—not by volume—by practice. A practice that merged right into his family. Joshua's leadership was not just on display for the public's viewing pleasure, but it was for God's glory. He was not just a leader in public but also in private. When he declared "but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," it was for those backstage—his family! Many times we are quick to

go on the public stage but fail to lead at home where no one is looking, no one but your wife, children, moms, dads, brothers, or sisters who knows you best.

Today, we are facing many of the same attitudes that caused Joshua to stand and lead. We need Godly men in the public arena to take a stand and be a leader, to be a leader in deeds, not just words, and in heart, not just in thought. Godly men that will take their families serious and lead them TO GOD. Being there for them, being involved, not just existing or surviving.

That is what Joshua's Call Men's Conference is about. Equipping, encouraging, and directing men to be leaders at work, at play, and at home. Men that will be willing to stand up and proclaim "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Come and be a part of a new generation of men that can affect

a change for God upon the public mainstream and the families that are being torn apart because of the lack of Godly leadership.

This event is sponsored by Key Life Ministries, an outreach of Johnston Union Original Free Will Baptist Church. Joshua's Call will be held at Everett's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, in Clayton on Saturday, October 24, 9:00 A.M. through 3:00 P.M. This event is also endorsed by the OFWB Layman's League Convention, Home Missions and Evangelism, and OFWB Sunday School Ministry. For more information, you may either e-mail us at <keylifeministries@yahoo.com> or call (919) 809-0045.

Joshua's MEN'S CONFERENCE
Call

Saturday, October 24, 2009
Calling all men to be godly men, HUSBANDS and fathers

Morning Session:
Called to be LEADERS

Afternoon Sessions:
Called to be HUSBANDS
Called to be FATHERS

Held at Everett's Chapel OFWB Church

Register early, limited seating. For more information contact email below.

Tel: 919-809-0045
keylifeministries@yahoo.com

Scheduled to appear: Dr. David Rendall, Jess MacCallum, Driven Quartet
A KEY LIFE MINISTRY EVENT

REGISTRATION

There is a \$10 per person registration fee, please submit your registration with the appropriate fees. The fee covers the conference and lunch served at the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Reverend Tim Heath at (919) 809-0045 or email at <keylifeministries@yahoo.com>. You can mail in your registration at: 154 Christina Avenue, Smithfield, NC 27577

Seats are limited—first come, first serve. If you register before September 24, your seat will be reserved.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Church: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number registering: _____



After High School/College: Then What?

BY MARY DUDLEY

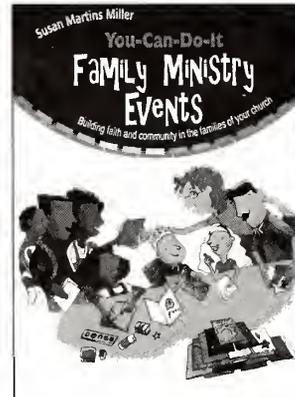
For several months and years, the church has wondered what to do for the people who range in age from 18 to about 40 years, especially those with very young children. In essence, the church is struggling with the issue of family ministry. How do we recruit and maintain folks of this age range? The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board is spending a great deal of time dealing with this very issue.

We would like to begin by suggesting a book called, *Family Ministry Events: Building Faith and Community in the Families of Your Church* by Susan Martins Miller. This book serves as a practical application for churches that simply need a resource.

In this selection, you will find discussions on such topics as 1) An explanation of family ministry, 2) How to bring families together in

a community of other families, 3) How to weave in authentic faith-building experiences for families, 4) The kinds of faith-based experiences that can help families be the best they can be.

Throughout the book, you will find many hands-on activities that can be used. Many of the pages are reproducible. You will find specific plans for church-organized events that will minister to the family. There are clear instructions that will remove much of the guess work from the facilitators. Age-level tips are provided so that the participants can cross over the various age levels so that everyone can participate. The content is biblically sound. We would recommend this resource to any church that is



attempting to bring in the younger families and provide for their needs. Sometimes, we in the church who have been there for an extended period of time get a little 'set' in our ways and are reluctant to make any changes, but in today's society, we need to think outside the box when trying to meet the needs

of a younger generation. Times have changed, methods MUST change, but the Word of God will never change.

This book can be purchased from the Free Will Baptist Press in any of its bookstores located in Ayden, Kinston, or New Bern, North Carolina. The cost is \$15.99. For further information, contact the Sunday School office at (252) 746-4963 or at <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>.

The Free Will Baptist Press Celebrates Years of Service

35+ Years

Faye Avery (35)

30+ Years

Joyce Brock (30)

Polly Eubanks (30)

Ronnie Jones (30)

25+ Years

Jerry Goff (29)

Wallie Hargrove (27)

Nell Jernigan (26)

Cliff Gray (26)

15+ Years

Russell McDaniel (18)

Darren Davenport (15)

Joyce Toler (15)

10+ Years

Sharon Early (13)

Joan Miller (12)

5+ Years

Eva Clark (9)

Shirley Rouse (9)

Dixie McLawhorn (7)

Peggy Tripp (6)



Pastor Appreciation Month— Expressing Our Love to Those Who Lead

BY BUDDY SASSER

“Thank you, pastor. We love you so much!” No matter how sincere these words may be, they are seldom adequate expressions of gratitude for the many hours of support given to us as church members, and to the general community, by our pastors. They deserve the very best of our prayers, encouraging words, and physical expressions of thanks for our often unnoticed and never-ending labor for the Lord and His congregation.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Here are 21 ways you can say thank you to our ministerial staff and others.

- Treat your pastoral couple to a weekend at their favorite bed and breakfast.
- Shower them with cards. Have each person in the congregation sign up for one day in October to send a card. Your pastoral staff will then receive a different card each day.
- Pay for a seminar that your pastor has been longing to attend.
- Supply a gift card to your pastor’s favorite store or restaurant (Lowe’s, Wal-Mart, Staples, Books-a-Million, Chili’s, Applebee’s, Shoney’s).
- Satisfy their sweet tooth by baking

the staff their favorite cookies or desserts.

- Offer tickets to your staff’s favorite venue (theater, stadium, concert).
- Have the congregation sign up to deliver supper each night for a week.
- Give the staff a break! Have the congregation be fully responsible for a worship service.
- Volunteer to do house chores for the month.
- Create a coupon booklet representing congregants volunteering their abilities—babysitter, yard worker, cook, chauffer, etc.
- Offer your pastor a round of golf, a day of fishing, or a box seat at a ball game.
- Purchase a winter gym membership for the pastor’s family
- Offer to wash the pastor’s car once a month for a year.
- Cover groceries for the week.
- Extend babysitting services for the nights in October and November when the pastor and spouse want an evening out.
- Fill your pastor’s car with gas; get the oil changed and tires rotated.
- Check out and purchase some of the latest sermon prep computer software to aid your staff with

fresh ideas and insights into their weekly study.

- Plan a surprise appreciation meal after church where individuals share their gifts and gratitude with the pastoral staff.
- Give a donation to an OFWB Ministry in your pastor’s honor.
- Place your pastor’s name on the Headquarters’ Wall of Honor. Call Andrea or Buddy for details.
- Create a memory book of all the times your pastor has supported the congregation. Fill it with photos, personal stories, and words of sincere appreciation.

And there are hundreds of other ways to say “Thank You!” No matter what you decide to do, let your pastoral staff know that their hard work and dedication to God’s calling has not gone unnoticed!

P.S. To Boards of Directors and Trustees of Original Free Will Baptist Ministries: Your directors and staff should also be on the receiving end of gratitude for their exhaustive work in supplying spiritual, educational, recreational, financial, motivational, and informational nourishment to our denomination.

September's Picture from the Past!

Your Clue: One person in this picture is an OFWB minister:

1. Who is he?, 2. Where in the picture is he located?
3. Name the group.

August’s Picture: The Rev. Dr. De Wayne Eakes

August’s Winner: Inez Etheridge



Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or email <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.



63rd Annual Alumni Homecoming

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The 63rd annual alumni homecoming was held on Sunday, July 12, 2009. Sue Heath Dalrymple (alumnus 8/53-9/67) from Anderson, South Carolina was the guest speaker. Mrs. Dalrymple spoke of her life at the children's home and how it had helped her become the person she is. Following are some excerpts from her message.

"It was right here in this church that God laid down the foundation of my relationship with Him. It was here I learned to pray, how to read the Bible, learned Bible stories, and how to find scripture. I remember the sword drills. This is when whoever wanted to participate on a Wednesday night would line up with their Bible at their side. One person would call out a scripture, such as John 3:16, repeat it one more time, and then we would see who was the first person to find the scripture and step forward and read it. I was very competitive and I didn't like to be second! It was also right here in this church that I accepted Christ as my Savior and was baptized when I was 12 years old, and again when my brother Marshall got saved. He wouldn't go into the water unless I went in with him, so I got baptized twice."

"Now I am so grateful that this was my home for 14 years, but when I was growing up I didn't think about this! I didn't realize what God was doing in my life until now. As I stand here today, I feel a bond of love and oneness that is so strong, it's as we have never been apart."

"Now I see that God did answer that question that I started asking when I was five years old, 'Why can't I have a normal family like everyone else?' I did! I just had a lot more sisters and brothers—84 of them!

I love you all. God bless you."

Recognition was given to all alumni, present and past. Ms. Fannie Holland Garris (alumnus 7/25-6/35), who recently celebrated her 92nd birthday, was the oldest alumni in attendance. Time was taken for alumni to stand and mention a memorable event from their years at the home, followed by former staff and members of former concert choir groups assembling together to sing "Mansion Over the Hilltop."

Kathy Campbell, the memorial chairperson gave the memorial service. Phil Mercer, who lit a candle in memory of those alumni who had passed away since the last homecoming gathered, assisted her.

Following lunch, the alumni gathered around for the annual door prize drawing and other contests.

There was a lot of reminiscing throughout the day, and plans were already in the making for homecoming next year.



The 63rd Annual Alumni Homecoming brought back former residents and staff to fellowship and worship together.



Former staff and members of former concert choir groups sing "Mansion Over the Hilltop."



Mrs. Sue Heath Dalrymple talks about her life at the Children's Home.

Take Us Out to the Ballgame

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The excitement around campus was mounting as it drew near to the day of the Paper Products and Cleaning Supply drive at the Mudcats ballgame.

This was the sixth annual drive, sponsored by the Layman's League of Walstonburg Free Will Baptist Church and the Carolina Mudcats, Zebulon. This event becomes larger each year. The Children's Home received many donations of paper products, cleaning supplies, and toiletries, due to the efforts of many. More than 1500 tickets were sold for the ballgame that night, representing 50 churches, just from the Free Will Baptist denomination.

Due to rain, we were unable to see the ballgame, but it did clear up enough for us to see the fireworks display.

We extend to all who participated to make the Paper Products/Cleaning Supply drive successful and give our heartfelt thanks and gratitude. It took a lot of hard work to organize, collect, and deliver all of the donations, and we say thanks to the special men who helped with that. To everyone who donated supplies, we also say thanks. This generous donation goes a long way in providing the yearly needs of paper products and cleaning supplies required to operate five campus cottages.

Again, we say thanks!



Thanks to everyone who donated and helped collect supplies.



Donations from the recent Paper Products/Cleaning Supply Drive.

Back to School

It's just a few more days until school is back in session. With the start of school comes the need for school supplies. Listed below are a few of the items we will need to have our children prepared to begin school later this month.

- One and Two Inch Three Ring Binders
- Mechanical Pencils
- Back Pack/Book Sacks (age appropriate for middle and high school)
- Markers and Highlighters
- Colored Pencils
- Three and Five subject Composition Books
- Hand Sanitizer
- Kleenex Tissue
- Subject Dividers
- Zippered Pencil Holders
- Sheet Protectors
- Book Covers
- Scientific Calculators

Have questions? Call the Development Office at (252) 235-2161.



Summertime Fun and Fellowship

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

We are always happy to have you visit with us. Just recently, the Cape Fear Youth District held a fun day on campus. More than 150 attended. Pizza was served and games were played. The Rev. Doug Seymour, pastor of Blended Fellowship gave the devotion and members of his congregation presented a program. It was a good day of fun and fellowship.

When the wather is hot and you need some refreshment...can you think of anything better than a slice of good, cold watermelon? The residents and staff were recently treated with watermelons. Mr. John Elmore, alumnus of the home, dropped off 25 watermelons. They were placed under the

shade tree in the park in the center of campus, but they didn't stay there long. The children eagerly took them into their cottages and

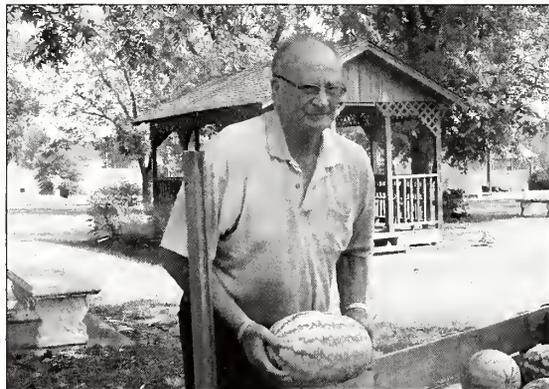
got them ready for slicing. Thanks to Mr. Elmore for making the summer a little sweeter.



Cape Fear Youth District participates in games.



The congregation watches Blended Fellowship perform.



Mr. John Elmore drops off 25 watermelons for residents.



Blended Fellowship performs.

Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church Layman's League
1863 Craft Road
Walstonburg, North Carolina 27888
August 3, 2009

The rain this year may have dampened the spirits of those who came to this year's Mudcats game on July 17th, but it certainly did not dampen the giving spirit. The 6th annual paper and cleaning product's drive for the Middlesex Children's Home was again a real success. Over 50 churches participated in the drive and over 1,500 tickets were purchased for the game.

A large trailer, a van, a pick-up truck, and a church bus were used to deliver all the supplies to the home. In addition, we received \$1,738 in financial contributions which will be used for additional supplies as needed. Though we spear-headed the drive, it goes without saying, that this level of success could not, and would not, have been reached without the caring help, participation, and prayers of many people.

On behalf of our League, the Carolina Mudcats, and that of the Children's Home, we extend our most sincere thanks and grateful appreciation for your participation this year and for your continued support in the future.

Sincerely Yours,
Bill Doane, President

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Responding to Pain

In my last column, I wrote about letting our lights shine. Some times are more important than others, and when we see someone in pain, perhaps this is the most important time of all to reach out. Even at such times, though, we need, I think, to be very sensitive to the plight of the other person and to question to ourselves whether or not that person really wants our help. As strange as it may seem, maybe he or she does not. Many people want to solve their own problems with only a minimum of sensitively placed help. That minimum, though, may be extremely important.

I belong to a prayer e-mail list. I have noticed that people acknowledge pain most often only when they have a physical illness. Repeatedly I see requests for prayers for physical illness, but never for any other reason. I think that our world has not matured enough to all kinds of pain for us to feel comfortable in asking for help consistently. If our illness is emotional, or we are simply going through a rough patch in our lives, we will frequently not ask for help or share our misery. This is a pity, for the emotional and the rough patches may be far more numerous and perhaps worse than the physical pain. Physical

illness seems to be outside of us, and coming through no fault of our own. But we tend to blame ourselves if we are struggling emotionally. And we want to keep it quiet.

The exception to sharing emotional pain and pain in the rough patches of our lives is frequently when we are with someone to whom we are very close. Sharing with a spouse, a daughter or son, a parent, a brother or sister, or a close friend, tends to draw us closer together, especially if the listener is open and receptive, but not trying to “fix” us. As much as we might think we want advice, frequently we only want to be heard—really listened to. When we are heard until we reach the end of our story, sometimes the answer comes to us spontaneously. And it is the best answer, often, because it is the one that we ourselves know from the innermost self. Solutions that appear forced on us simply don’t work.

I remember the love that my grandmother, Anna Garris Hill of Ayden, showered on me when I was feeling down. She didn’t try to fix me. She just made it clear that she was there for me when I needed her. She was a natural at counseling.

I have noticed, in trying to let my light shine, that I have to be extremely

reticent about offering support when I have noticed pain, but I have not been verbally asked for help. People frequently don’t want to acknowledge pain by sharing unless they ask. Could this be the reason that Jesus repeatedly asked people specifically what they wanted, when they simply said “Help me”? Even he could not move to help, perhaps, unless they were willing to articulate their exact need.

There can be no starkly correct answers to such musings, because we are all very much individuals in this world. It is a challenge in our modern world for us to show our light without intruding. I believe that Jesus would rarely have us intrude. Mostly, if we are not asked for help, specific help in time of need, then I think that our role is to wait quietly, in compassion, for the need to be expressed, the help to be requested. Asking is the way of the New Testament. If we are not asked, then normally we are not bade to try to help. This behooves all of us not to keep to ourselves our problems, but to reach out with heartfelt desire. Then we will find a response from others.

Perhaps that response can be the best way to let our lights shine.

Fall Eastern District Woman’s Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church

September 19, 2009

Theme: “Hope for a Changing World”

Registration at 9:30

Meeting Called to Order at 10:00

see you at the pole
engage
9.23.09 www.syatp.com
GO AND PRAY...
2KINGS22:13a



A Memorable Time in Mexico

BY TABATHA KENNEDY

On June 20th our short term mission team traveled to Piedras Negras, Mexico to spend a week teaching Bible school, leading a women's Bible study and building a house for a needy family. Some of the team were seasoned missionaries, having been on short term trips to Mexico and abroad. For others this was a first time trip, a once in a lifetime blessing. For each of us it was an opportunity to see firsthand the work that God was doing in the lives of other brothers and sisters in Christ in another country. A chance to live in a different culture and experience how free God is to work in so many different places, cultures, even with the language barrier that a majority of the mission team felt they faced.

Each day started as the men traveled to the work site to continue construction on the new house in the 100+ degree heat. The blistering sun gave no relief as the team members collaborated with the native brothers to build a new home for the family of the pastor's daughter from the church that we were visiting. The women, not too much later in the morning, headed to that church, named "Ebenezer," to hold a women's Bible study. The women eagerly listened as God's Word was being shared and they learned how to grow in their personal relationship with God. As they studied, other members of the mission team took the women's children to color, play games, paint faces, and enjoy bubbles, even though it was incredibly HOT!

Around noontime the men would join the women as we all shared lunch together. We learned to really appreciate cool refreshing juice flavored water as well as enjoy authentic Mexican food prepared daily by the women of the church. After lunch there was usually a siesta. I learned the truest and most appreciative meaning of



Sharing morning devotion



Music time

the word siesta: a much needed break from work, a time to nap or at least rest during the hottest part of the day and a time to spend in fellowship with the members of the team and fellow native Christians.

During the remainder of the afternoon the women of the team held VBS for the children of the neighborhood and surrounding area. We began with prayer and an introduction to the Bible lesson along with the Bible point (a biblical principal that the lesson highlighted). Next, it was time for singing. The children loved following along in song and doing the motions that gave extra meaning to the songs. Then one of the women taught the Bible lesson, illustrated it, or told the story as other team members assisted in acting it out

in costume. Raquel, our native sister and translator, patiently worked with us. She was so helpful with translating what we were saying as well as explaining and reinforcing the lesson and principals. She made sure the children understood everything they were being taught so they would be able to share it with their friends. Finally the team worked on crafts with the children.

In the evenings the women would usually return to their rooms from Bible school sooner than the men would return from the work site. Our day was not over

yet, however. There was always something to do. Whether it was preparing to teach the Bible study or VBS for the next day, partially preassembling crafts, or putting small goodie bags together, there was never a moment of opportunity lost for serving and using the gifts God has given each of us.

The first memorable part of the trip for me was our initial full step into the Mexican culture: a worship service on Sunday evening. We sang and read scripture (all in Spanish of course) for nearly an hour, and then one of the pastors from our mission team gave the message for the night. It was a truly awe inspiring moment to have been in the midst of such pure worship and in another language!

(Continued on page 15...)

Preparation for National Youth Camp

BY PASTOR KOSTA

Last year our church organized a national summer camp for the youth of different churches in Bulgaria. This year, our church is preparing the second summer youth camp to be held in August. In the beginning of July we, pastor Kosta, Mr. Nicolai, and some youth leaders of the church, traveled to some cities where we shared our vision about the youth camp with pastors and leaders of local churches. During the visits to Sliven, Stara Zagora, and Skutare we experienced the love and care of our brothers. After planning the camp with the different churches we continued with evangelistic services in these cities. There were over 300 in attendance. The people from young to old responded well. Their reactions are encouraging and promising for the youth camp.

In the year 2008, 120 young people attended the camp. This year we expect more than 150 participants. The purpose of the summer camp for the youth is sharing joyful experiences

and disappointments; sharing life events. By means of praise, Bible School, drama, and devotions they plan to encourage each other towards better Christian living and more action. After attending the Youth Camp of last summer, some youth organized Bible clubs in their local churches, some visited the sick, while others offered help to the elderly and to their pastors.

We wish to thank our brothers and sisters in North Carolina for the equipment which we received from you. All are useful to gather people into our meetings, even the bus is in full use every day. From the depths of our hearts we praise the Lord for the means we have received enabling us to gather people in the Name of Jesus Christ so that many will be saved. We thank our Lord for your faithfulness and for your love to Him through which you share with us. We have developed the habit to pray for the people and the churches in America during our meeting hours. Please pray also for all of us in Bulgaria.



Pastor Kosta (center) with youth leaders.



Evangelistic Service



Pastor Kosta

(MEXICO continued from page 14...)

Near the end of the service, one young lady gave her heart to the Lord and committed to live her life for Jesus. Our hearts were touched and our lives forever changed as we watched God as he worked in our midst, in spite of the barriers we might have perceived. Thankfully there were no such boundaries that God had to work around.

The second most memorable part of the trip for me was singing and crafts during VBS. To see the emotion and expressions on the children's faces as they praised and worshiped our Lord nearly brought tears to my eyes. I was so excited to have the privilege to assist Raquel in leading them in singing and teaching the Bible lesson on two of the days. The best part was during crafts. That was a great opportunity to take a moment with just a few kids at a time to chat with them (as much as my



Worship Service at Ebenezer

small knowledge of Spanish allowed me) about the day's lesson and what the craft represented. On Thursday in particular, they constructed a key chain with various beads which colors represented and reminded them about salvation through Christ and how to share God's love with their friends. It amazed me how quickly they learned what we were teaching them and how well they remembered it.

We may not have understood what our native brothers and sisters were

saying, but we were never limited in communication. God's love is universal and it supersedes the limitations of language! There also was never a doubt about the unity that bound us together that week to work as a team for Christ. Our perspectives were unique, but our hearts were in sync. And nothing can replace the great opportunity we were given to grow together as we shared God's love on this mission trip.

*(*This Short Term Mission trip was through the Original Free Will Baptist International; the Foreign Mission Department of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination, the founding denomination of Mount Olive College. Our team members were from various Free Will Baptist churches, including members from Sandy Plain, Everett's Chapel, Greenville First, and Goldsboro First. Two team members were MOC students: Michael Wheeler, a 2009 graduate with a BA in Religion from Beulaville and me, Tabatha Kennedy, a rising junior Religion major from Pink Hill.)*



Meeting of Special Children

BY TEZDJAN

Under the Communist Regime, people with special needs were being brought together in institutions; homes hidden from the 'eyes' of the society. Handicapped children and adults like the blind and deaf, all people with psychical and mental deficiencies had the right to exist, but not to live. They were the 'DIFFERENT ONES' who should be kept behind locked doors. After 1990 the situation did not change much.

Two years ago, a BBC reporter showed the miserable existence of handicapped people in one of these institutions. Older people were not given proper meals. They were left undressed in bathrooms during the day and in the evenings some were tied to their beds. Within the European Union people have been alarmed about such attitude in a country that is a member of the European Union in the 21st century. Some people said: "This sort of discrimination reminds of the Dark Middle Ages." The Government authorities took immediate actions to improve the conditions in this 'home.' The attention of the press vanished soon and with it the sensation among



Tezdjan (front left) with the special children.

viewers, listeners, and readers of the media.

The handicapped persons, children and adults, we are dealing with were never taken into these special homes or institutions. They remained at home under the care of parents, often single parents, and relatives. Yet most of them faced a negative attitude of the community, because of certain 'abnormalities' of the young children. On July 7, 2009 we invited 10 special children with different handicaps together with their educators. We drank a cup of coffee, parents shared the real sorrows about their children, spoke about problems they have to encounter, and the children with different conditions played together enjoying such a large

company without fear. We have seen tears of emotion and happiness of the educators and broad smiles and accompanied by laughter among the kids and the youth. For them there were no handicaps but they enjoyed the company of each other and were very occupied together.

During this meeting, parents spoke about the possibility of room in a center where, also, handicapped people can meet and share together. In the whole city there is no building where wheelchairs can enter, because it has no ramps to roll them inside.

We need a center for persons with special needs. Four of the 10 parents agreed to work as volunteers and offered their help to other parents with special children.

Our "Prayer Home" is not yet built, but by caring for those 'shut-ins' we are building relationships that will serve others in need. We pray that the Lord may bless our prayers and plea for the center in Balchik, through which the Church will provide a warm atmosphere where people can have fellowship with each other and experience the love and care of God.

We thank you for your prayers and support and praise our Lord who makes it possible serving Him within your denomination.

SPECIAL NOTICE

STT MEXICO 2010

- We will have three work teams next year, if the numbers are sufficient for all teams.
- We need approximately 20 people per team, consisting of 10 males and 10 females with no more than eight per church.
 - The weeks will be June 19–26, July 10–17, and July 17–24.
 - The deadline to apply for 2010 is October 26, 2009.
- Your application, a signed copy of the Covenant, and a non-refundable deposit of \$50 must be in our office by October 26, 2009.

For more information contact us at (252) 746-4963 or email director@ofwbi.org



IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

BY KITTY BARNES

The Fourth of July Sunday Service at Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church offered its traditional patriotic tone. Following the usual greetings, opening remarks, and announcements, Wayne Evans, Trustee Co-Chair, came to the pulpit to make a special presentation to Senior Pastor, the Reverend Dr. De Eakes and his wife, Carolyn, in honor of their forty years serving the Little Rock congregation. Mary Katherine Rowe, Woman's Auxiliary President, pinned flowers on the couple.

As one way of expressing appreciation for their time with the congregation, Carolyn and De were presented a weekend trip to the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC, and also, the congregation made a contribution to the De and Carolyn Eakes Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College. At that point in the service, Wayne asked De to give him the sermon for the day and invited the couple to sit on the front pew and the celebratory worship service continued, led by Marci Rollins-Smart, children and youth minister of Little Rock, and the Reverend Buddy Sasser, son of the church, who is presently serving as Director of Convention Services for the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. Joining the congregation for this special service were De and Carolyn's son, Kevin, numerous family members, close friends, visiting former members, professional colleagues, and De's professor at MOC, Dr. Michael Pelt and his wife, Betty. All were delighted to share in such a morning.

The Little Rock Chancel Choir and the Christeens presented special music. Formed shortly after De and Carolyn arrived in Lucama, the Christeens were directed by Linda Pittman and her late husband, David. The group offered several songs reminiscent of their signature performances in the early '70's. The Minister of Music, Cynthia K. Harris, selected hymns for the day to reflect the pastor's favorites and the congregation enjoyed several verses of each one.

The Reverend Sasser brought the morning message entitled "The Marks of a Great Pastor." He opened his remarks by noting events in the world, in Lucama, and in the church in 1969. He shared that, according to the information available to him, only four men in the entire OFWB denominational history had achieved the status of remaining with the same congregation for forty years. He shared the contributions of both De and Carolyn in the local congregation and throughout the denomination. Specifically, he offered the personal characteristics of a good pastor. He highlighted the use of the figure 40 throughout the scriptures and certain meaningful events relating to 40. Further, he addressed the strengths and gifts possessed by pastors as they minister, teach, counsel, guide, and lead others to a life of grace and mercy, love, and salvation. The service was closed with a favorite invitational hymn, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

Following the worship service, De and Carolyn, along with their families, were escorted to Heritage Hall, where the pastor and his wife

were able to greet guests as they entered for a delicious covered dish lunch featuring roast beef, ham, fried chicken, meat loaf, quantities of fresh vegetables, casseroles, a sheet cake prepared by Charlene Parris, and numerous chocolate pies—De's favorite.

With lunch underway, the festivities were still not over. A DVD pictorial presentation of 40 years, compiled by Don Flowers, scrolled continuously on the screen, giving guests the opportunity to view the changes in our church, our congregation, and the young couple through the years. Members and guests were invited to view and sign a special scrapbook compiled by Lynn Parrish. In addition, a mike was set up and emcee, Don Flowers, kept the day moving by inviting everyone to have an opportunity to share stories, experiences, anecdotes, and personal comments. Needless to say, this segment of the celebration brought much laughter and some tears of joy as one after another shared. Many of the couple's friends outside the congregation also serve as pastors and could not be present for the worship service; however, they arrived for lunch and later for the "praise and roast" time. It was wonderful.

As a congregation, Little Rock members are blessed to have had De and Carolyn as their pastoral family. Both have contributed in so many ways as God has led them. When De was interviewed in 1969, he commented to Elwood Turner, "I'm not perfect." Mr. Turner replied, "That's ok. We're not a perfect church." Forty years have allowed the members and their pastor to grow and share together. In his closing comments, De thanked everyone for being a part of this surprise event. As he looked over the gathering, he said: "I look around this room and I love you all. We each have a story and I am humbled to serve you." What a fitting close to a very special event in the history of Little Rock Church.



A Mayberry/Cragmont Christmas

WHAT: Fellowship and Fun
Sightseeing and Shopping
Eats and Entertainment

HOW MUCH: \$300 per person

COVERS:

- Lodging at Cragmont
- Meals at Cragmont
- All Transportation
- Entertainment

WHO: We want YOU to fill our the registration form and return along with \$100.00 per person deposit.

* The deposit is non-refundable nor transferable after November 1.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Dates: _____

Home/Cell Phone: _____

Roommate: _____

Ground level: _____ yes _____ no

Number in party (\$100 per person deposit): _____

Check ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ Discover ___ AE ___

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

(A deposit of \$20 per person is required payable to Cragmont)

Return to: Cragmont
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
Toll Free: 1-877-669-7677
Email: Cragmont@charter.net

Available Dates for Individuals or Churches

September 3-6 Main Building (22 rooms), Motel
September 14-16 Everything
September 17-20 North Main
September 21-23 Motel (7 rooms), North Main
September 28-30 Everything
October 5-8 North Main
October 12-14 Lodge, Main, Motel
October 19-22 Motel

October 26-29 Lodge (6 rooms), Motel
November 1-5 Everything
November 9-11 South Main, Motel, Lodge
November 14-18 Everything
November 23-25 Everything
November 26-29 Call for Availability
December 7-31 Everything¹

General Youth Conference I



General Youth Conference II



General Youth II Conference
July 13 - 18, 2009



Stoney Creek Church Honors Pastor With Naming of Conference Room

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mount Olive College recently dedicated the Gary M. Bailey Conference Room at MOC in a special service held in honor of Bailey at Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro. In honor of Bailey's 30 year pastoral anniversary, the Church made a \$100,000 gift to Mount Olive College with the naming rights to the large, first floor conference room in W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall. The conference room will be a lasting legacy to Bailey's service to Stoney Creek Church and his strong ties to his alma mater, Mount Olive College.

During the dedication service, members of the church and representatives from the College shared fond memories of Bailey as a pastor, friend, and servant.

"Gary has been with us through marriages, divorces, births, deaths, financial struggles, times of celebration, times of great sadness, and many other things that we can only imagine," said Del Daniels, a 20 year member of the church. "One thing that he has never claimed to be is... perfect. But, his love for Jesus and his love for this congregation is always evident. He serves not only Stoney Creek Church but also the Free Will Baptist Denomination at large."

Associate Pastor at Stoney Creek Church, the Reverend Barry Williamson, had this to say about Bailey when asked how he had affected his



Pictured left to right: Danny Daniels, Del Daniels, Dr. J. William Byrd (Mount Olive College Chancellor), Jan Glenn Benton, the Reverend Gary M. Bailey (Pastor of Stoney Creek OFWB Church), Kristie Bailey, Dr. W. Burkette Raper (Mount Olive College President Emeritus), the Reverend Barry Williamson (Associate Pastor of Stoney Creek OFWB Church), and Darrell Horne (Chairman of the MOC Board of Trustees)

ministry: "It was about 35 years ago that Pastor Gary preached a sermon the Lord used to draw me into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Shortly after this decision for Christ, I was privileged to be one of the first new Christians Pastor Gary baptized. It was in a large part due to the way Pastor Gary conducted himself and his ministry at Elm Grove when I was a child that caused me to admire the man of God. Pastor Gary had a big impact in my accepting the call into the ministry and it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve alongside him at Stoney Creek."

When Bailey was hired at Stoney Creek Church in May of 1979 the average weekly attendance was around 220, and the annual budget was just over \$53,000. Today, the thriving congregation averages nearly 600 members each week, with an annual

budget exceeding \$1 million. In his job as pastor, Bailey provides pastoral care to more than 1,000 people and 400 families. He has performed more than 180 weddings and 230 funerals.

"I have had 30 years of joy and laughter and tears at Stoney Creek Church," said Bailey. The people of Stoney Creek Church have been selfless in caring for people other than themselves and have been willing to adapt to change when the change was designed to reach more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They have given me the opportunity and challenge of preaching the love of Jesus for all of these years and have been attentive and compassionate...first when I was very young and had so much to learn, and more recently when I have begun

(Continued on page 24...)

New Residential Housing Facilities to be Dedicated

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mount Olive College will dedicate the first two buildings in its new residential housing complex in a ceremony at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 12, in the courtyard of the complex.

Construction on the \$5.7 million, 37,331 square foot facilities began in late December of 2008 and will be completed on schedule, under budget, and in time for the start of the school year. The town-house-style complexes feature 23 apartments with single occupancy bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a shared living room, kitchenette and laundry area with a washer and dryer. Housekeeping service will be provided on a weekly basis for the common living areas.

Designed to incorporate the latest styles in residential housing, the apartments have wireless internet access and multiple hook-ups for computers, telephones and cable television. Each unit also is fully furnished including stainless steel kitchen appliances.

Located between the two buildings is a clubhouse that includes a recreational area and lounge, where students can meet, study, or socialize. As an added safety measure, the entire complex will require keycard access. Together the two complexes will provide living space for 92 additional students, mostly upperclassmen. The facilities were designed by Little Diversified Architectural Consultants of Durham, NC and constructed by Daniels and Daniels Construction, Inc. of Goldsboro, NC.

The late Otha E. Herring provided the lead gift of \$3.5 million to help fund construction of the two new residential housing components. Born on July 25, 1925 Otha



Herring grew up East of Mount Olive in Duplin County. Growing up during the depression, Mr. Herring knew about hard times and appreciated the value of higher education. Having been blessed to have good people in his life along with wonderful opportunities, Mr. Herring wanted to provide similar opportunities for others. As a result, in 2006, he pledged \$5 million to the Herring Opportunity Fund at Mount Olive College. The fund provides scholarship support to students from Duplin County and Mount Olive. Mr. Herring took great joy knowing that he was helping students and ultimately the economy of Eastern North Carolina.

Mary Herring Drummond, daughter of Mr. Herring, will be on hand to dedicate the buildings. Dr. Philip Kerstetter, president of



its students," said Dr. Kerstetter. "It was Otha Herring's desire to make sure Mount Olive College offered a quality education in a comfortable environment, and his gracious and generous spirit has enabled us to provide state-of-the-art amenities for our students. We are truly inspired by Mr. Herring's vision to transform students' lives, and we are honored to be able to dedicate these wonderful facilities in memory of his loved ones."

The names given to the new buildings are Everett Edwin Herring Residence Hall and Annie Mae Whitfield Residence Hall, named after Mr. Herring's parents. The structures are located at the southeast side of campus near the existing College Apartments.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony which will be followed by tours of the facilities. For more information, call (919) 658-7822.



Talley Trio to Perform on September 24th

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

It is a couple of months away, but the upcoming Talley Trio Concert at Mount Olive College is expected to be such a hit that College officials are trying to get the word out in advance. Talley Trio, one of Southern Gospel music's most well known family groups, will perform at MOC on Thursday, September 24, at 7:30 P.M. in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.



The Talley Trio: (from left to right), Debra, Lauren, and Roger Talley.

Roger, Debra, and Lauren Talley have developed a unique, progressive sound that combines southern gospel with praise and worship, hymns, and other styles. The group is well known for presenting the gospel to the listener through song and testimony. The hallmarks of their sound are their musical arrangements, close-knit harmonies and powerful vocals.

Roger and Debra Talley have enjoyed many years at the forefront of gospel music. They began their

individual careers with other groups in the 1970's, and from 1984 to 1993, The Talleys, consisting of Roger, Debra, and Roger's brother, Kirk, were one of Christian music's most acclaimed and beloved trios, receiving a 1992 Dove Award. During this time, their daughter Lauren grew up traveling with her family beginning at age one, and often played a small part in their concerts. In 1993, Roger and Debra felt the need to disband the group and spend time at home with ten-year-old Lauren as a

normal family. During the three years at home, Lauren's love of singing and desire to share what God placed in her heart grew. Roger, Debra, and Lauren began performing together on a limited basis in 1996 as the Talley Trio. While they never intended to form a new group, their success was overwhelming, and the Talley Trio now carries on the family tradition.

"The Talleys are genuine people who are singing for one reason—to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ," said Dr. Alan Armstrong, chair of the Mount Olive

College Music Department. "Songs they have recorded, like "Orphans of God," "Hallelujah, Praise the Lamb," and "His Life For Mine" are chart-topping mega-hits, and worthy to be so honored. We are truly blessed to have them here, and hope that Wayne County will make them welcome."

For more information about the concert, or to reserve group seating, contact Dr. Armstrong at (919) 658-2502 or email <a1armstrong@moc.edu>.

MOC Opens Jacksonville Location

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Ranked by the NC Independent Colleges and Universities as one of the fastest growing private colleges in North Carolina, Mount Olive College is growing in all directions... new buildings, new programs, new majors, new faculty and staff, new students, even a new location. Mount Olive College, which has existing locations in Mount Olive, Goldsboro (on SJAFB), New Bern, Wilmington, Washington, and RTP has opened a new location in Jacksonville at 201 Parkwood Drive.

According to Vaughn Purnell, director of the College's location in New Bern and now also Jacksonville, the added location just made sense.

"The recent increase of active duty military personnel, their families, and others expected to move into the area prompted Mount Olive College to act in order to help meet the need for post-secondary education," Purnell stated. "MOC is one of dozens of organizations in the area surrounding Camp LeJeune and the Cherry Point Air Station gearing up to welcome and serve the estimated 60,000 new people expected in the area. This welcome increase in military personnel and families nevertheless presents a challenge to the entire infrastructure but certainly in education, birth through grad school. Mount Olive College's unique format will be the right programs for hundreds of stu-

dents returning to earn degrees. This is the case in all our locations and we think this will certainly be the case in Jacksonville."

The Mount Olive College at Jacksonville location will serve students in Onslow and parts of Jones and Carteret Counties. Course offerings will cater to working adults with classes being offered one night a week. Courses for students with some prior college experience will be offered in Management and Organizational Development, Early Childhood Education, Health Care Management and Criminal Justice and Criminology. Also included will be courses that will provide working adults, with little or

(Continued on page 23...)

Carden Plays an Important Role Behind the Scenes

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Some people just can't get enough of Mount Olive College. Phillip "Phil" Carden, assistant director of Buildings and Grounds at MOC, is one of these people. Not only does he work at the College, Carden met Jill, his wife of 15 years, when they were both students at the institution.

Carden began his working career while he was a student at the College, taking on the role of College Hall (now Kornegay Arena) supervisor. He was also part of the residence life staff and a member of the FWB fellowship.

"I chose MOC because of its small environment, friendly people, and because it was close to home," said Carden. "The classes were small and the faculty seemed to really care about my success."

One of Carden's fondest memories of MOC is the day he met his wife, Jill. "We met at a FWB Fellowship gathering in the old modular building," he recalled. "Our first date was at McDonalds." After three years, the couple married in 1994 and worked as apartment directors at the College. Carden graduated from MOC in 1996 with his bachelor's degree in human resource management.

After several years working in industry Carden came back to Mount Olive College in 2005 as the assistant director of Buildings and Grounds. It's a job that keeps him on his toes.



Carden (far right) is pictured with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Bobby Carden.

He is responsible for the logistics for set ups and events, supervising housekeeping, and managing the College's Best Lock System.

"I have made MOC my career because everything fits for me as a person," Carden said. "I have enjoyed seeing the College grow and am excited about future growth. All of the people on the maintenance team are good, hard working folks and I am very proud to call them my friends and coworkers."

No two days are ever the same for Carden, and that is one of the things he enjoys about his job. No mat-

ter what the job requires, Carden is always up to the task.

"Phil manages a multitude of responsibilities and always pays attention to detail," stated Jeff Brogden, superintendent for Buildings and Grounds at MOC. "He is flexible, has a positive attitude and great character. We are fortunate to have someone of his caliber on our team."

Carden resides in Goldsboro with his wife, Jill, and his two children, Rebecca, 13, and Noah, 8. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Bobby Carden. Dr. Carden pastors White Oak FWB Church in Bladenboro.

(JACKSONVILLE continued from page 22...)

no college experience, the ability to earn college credit leading to a degree by attending class just one night a week and completing out of class assignments.

Enrollment for students has already begun. According to Purnell the Early Childhood Education program is being particularly well received. "We know from prior collaborations with Onslow Smart Start that there is

major need for child care services and consequently for child care workers."

To celebrate the opening of the Jacksonville MOC location a ribbon cutting and open house has been scheduled for August 12 from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the location. For more information about the educational opportunities at Mount Olive College at Jacksonville, call 1-866-316-1757 or email Georgette Prichard at <gprichard@moc.edu>. Mount Olive College is a private institution rooted in the

liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The College is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Mount Olive College is accredited by the commission on colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS COC) (1866 Southern Land, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. For more information, visit <www.moc.edu>.



MOC Engagement on the Eiffel Tower

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Matthew and I both entered MOC right after high school. I had struggled with deciding on whether to go to ECU or MOC and God showed me that MOC would be the best choice—and it was. Matthew soon followed at MOC and we continued our courtship here at the College. Matthew knew he wanted to major in computers and instantly claimed his Computer Information Systems major. I struggled with my decision, but decided to major in English Education. I immersed myself in PTA and all of its goings on. Matthew and I both became actively involved in student-led ministries on campus. We both helped with Thursday Night Worship which eventually became Route 7 Ministries.

We both held our head high and claimed our Free Will Baptist Roots whenever possible! Matthew fulfilled scholarship hours by assisting Mrs. Jean Ackiss with FWB dinners. I fulfilled my work study hours helping in the Admissions Office.

(STONEY CREEK continued from page 20...)

to forget that I have told the same story several times. My life has been blessed beyond measure and I can say with the old apostle, John . . . 3 John 1:4 (NIV) 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.'"

Bailey grew up in Martin County in the town of Bear Grass and attended the Rose of Sharon FWB Church. He is a 1972 graduate of Mount Olive College and a 1974 graduate of NC State University. Throughout his career he has received many awards and honors including the Elder P. T. Lucas Award which recognizes a minister for

Our love continued to grow and we were able to constantly see God working in our lives. Our love took a drastic step when we had the



Sara and Matthew took this picture while on an Honors trip with Mount Olive College in Assisi, Italy.

opportunity to travel abroad and go to France with the school. During this trip Matthew truly surprised me. (Now, when I say surprised---I mean surprised!) He proposed to me on the Eiffel Tower. The perfect proposal! It of course did contain some humor. Those that know us well, know that humor sums up a good portion of

excellence in pastoral service. Bailey has served the FWB denomination in almost every capacity possible including president and secretary of the Convention, membership on the Board of Foreign Missions, Cragmont Assembly Board, Ordaining Council of the Central Conference and Board of Home Missions of the Central Conference, among others.

Bailey has been married to the former Kristie Raper since May 27, 1973. They have two children, Justin Bailey and Suzanne Bailey Wise, and four grandchildren Alexis Wise, Morgan Wise, Miranda Blizzard, and Shannon Wise.

"I have known Gary Bailey for nearly 40 years and I have seen him

our relationship. Matthew proposed and I thought he was joking. I told to "get up and quit messing around." I didn't believe him until he pulled out the ring and exclaimed, "Listen to me Sara---I'm being serious---will you marry me?" So, we have had a long engagement while we finished school.

We just graduated this May. Matthew is working at Geographic Technologies Group in Goldsboro and I am job-hunting for a teacher position. We are getting married October 17th and can't wait. Mount Olive College had played a huge role in each of our lives but also in the joint life we are beginning. MOC has left its imprint on us and has allowed us so many opportunities and wonderful memories. We cherish all of these and hold them dear to our hearts. Thank you MOC!

Matthew is the son of the Reverend and Mrs. Tony McLamb. Reverend McLamb has been the pastor at Walnut Creek OFWB Church in Wayne County for the past 22 years. Sara is the daughter of Becky Strickland.

grow and develop into a servant of God who genuinely loves and cares about God's people," said Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support at MOC. "He has great compassion for others. He has proved to be a Godly leader for Stoney Creek Church and for the Free Will Baptist denomination. The College is very pleased that Stoney Creek Church chose this method to honor their pastor in a way that will perpetually honor the service of one who has played such an integral role in the lives of entire families over the past 30 years."

Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College has openings for new freshmen and college transfers into the daytime traditional program starting fall 2009 and spring 2010. On campus residence is still available. Apply online at <www.moc.edu>. Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, will be glad to assist new students with admissions at <twoodard@moc.edu>. (800) 653-0854.

Scholarships are still available for new students at MOC, including Leaders, Merit, and Honors for students with high school GPA of 2.8 or better, and SAT scores (math and verbal) of 920 or higher (\$3,000 to \$5,000/year depending on eligibility). Need based funds are also available through the U.S. Department of Education, the State of North Carolina and from MOC. Students can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at <www.fafsa.ed.gov> for federal aid consideration. Free Will Baptist Tuition grants of \$2,500/year are also available. Contact Tim Woodard for details.

Mount Olive College has recently opened a location at Jacksonville, NC, at 201 Parkwood Drive where the one night a week programs are being offered. Contact Georgette Prichard at <gprichard@moc.edu> or call (910) 455-1677 to learn more. Programs in management and organizational development, health care management, religion, early childhood education, and criminal justice are planned. Heritage Plus, the MOC associate degree program, is also available for students with little or no college credit.

New program starts are occurring at all locations. All classes 6–10 P.M. one night a week.

Contact the Evening College at Mount Olive College at (800) 653-0854.

Management and Organizational Development (MOD): 1/19/2010 at JCC; Starts 9/14/09 at Mount Olive

Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP): 10/25/09 at Mount Olive

Healthcare Management (HCM): 9/10/09 at JCC and 3/9/2010 and 6/10/2010 at Mount Olive.

Early Childhood Education (ECE): 9/14/09 and 2/8/2010 at Mount Olive

Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC): 1/16/2010 blended online and seated; seated only starts 5/11/2010 at Mount Olive.

Modular Religion Major (MRM): 4/29/2010 at Mount Olive

Management of Information Systems (MIS): 5/11/2010 at Mount Olive

Mount Olive College at Jacksonville 910-455-1677

ECE begins 9/10/09

CJC begins 10/5/09

HCM begins 9/16/09 and 6/8/10

MOD begins 10/21/09

HP begins 11/17/09

Mount Olive College at New Bern 800-NEW-GOAL

HCM begins 10/7/09

MOD begins 10/8/09 and 1/13/10

ECE begins 10/20/09

CJC begins 11/9/09

HP begins 11/19/09

Mount Olive College at RTP 800-NEW-GOAL

HP begins 1/7/10

MOD begins 11/15/09 and 2/9/10

CJC begins 9/10/09

HCM begins 9/16/09 and 1/13/10

ECE begins 10/15/09

Mount Olive College at Washington 800-NEW-GOAL

HCM begins 9/1/09 and 1/19/10

HP begins 9/14/09

ECE begins 10/15/09

MRM begins 11/17/09

Mount Olive College at Wilmington 800-NEW-GOAL

MOD begins 10/27/09

HP begins 11/10/09, 1/21/10, and 4/12/10

HCM begins 9/9/09

ECE begins 9/16/09

CJC begins 10/12/09



A rare photo was taken on the campus of Mount Olive College on Tuesday, June 30. Three of the College's four presidents spent a few moments discussing the College and their work or upcoming work at the institution. Pictured (L-R): Dr. W. Burkette Raper became president of Mount Olive College on August 2, 1954 and served in that role for more than 40 years; Dr. J. William Byrd became the third president of MOC on January 31, 1995, and on June 30, 2009, he transitioned into the role of chancellor; Dr. Philip Kerstetter begins his first day as the fourth president of Mount Olive College on July 1, 2009. In the background is the Alumni Crosswalk, a symbolic reminder of the founder's vision for MOC; a manifestation of pride in the accomplishments of the College's alumni; and a symbol of the institution's hopes, dreams, and prayers for the future.

Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College
Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 6 p.m.



Mount Olive College Concert Choir

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, will provide a program of sacred selections.

This event honors the Bridge Builders from the 2008 dinners; however, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders are those who make unrestricted gifts of \$100 or more at their county dinners. They have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

Reply Form

(Please return by Tuesday, September 22, 2009)

___ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, September 26, 2009.
There will be ___ in my party attending.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number:(_____) _____

Church: _____

Please mail to:
Hope McPherson
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-7714 or (800) 653-0854
hmpherson@moc.edu

All friends of Mount Olive College are invited.

The Free Will Baptist 26 August 2009



The Blended Fellowship Endowment

BY W. BURKETTE RAPER

Initiated at the Cape Fear Minister's Conference on August 2008, the endowed fund has now become a named endowment with the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries. Gifts through July 31, 2009 have totaled \$11,147.15 from the following donors:

Individuals

- The Reverend and Mrs. Fred Baker
- Mr. and Mrs. Lehman Barbour
- Mr. and Mrs. Glen Griffin
- The Reverend and Mrs. Frank R. Harrison
- Ms. Willa Dean Hetherly
- Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hicks
- Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hobbs, Jr.
- The Reverend and Mrs. Emmitt Jones
- Mr. and Mrs. Donnie E. Lassiter
- Ms. Frances W. Lewis
- Mrs. Sarah C. McCormack
- Ms. Geraldine Norton
- Dr. and Mrs. W. Burkette Raper
- The Reverend Walter Reynolds
- Dr. and Mrs. Don Ribeiro
- The Reverend and Mrs. Doug Seymour
- The Reverend Roger Tripp
- Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Warren
- Mrs. Mae Ellen Warwick
- The Reverend and Mrs. Sam Weeks

Gifts by Individuals \$ 9,139.00

Cape Fear Conference Churches and Organizations

- Bethel Free Will Baptist Men's Fellowship \$ 250.00
 - Bethel Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary 100.00
 - Bethel Free Will Baptist Church 500.00
 - Haymount Free Will Baptist Church 500.00
 - Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church 200.00
 - Smyrna Free Will Baptist Church 225.15
 - Steven's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church 133.00
 - Wooten's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church 100.00
- Gifts by Church \$ 2,008.15
Grand Total Gifts \$ 11,147.15

Goals for the Endowment

An Endowment Steering Committee under the chairmanship of The Reverend Sam Weeks, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church of Smithfield, has set endowment goals of \$25,000 by the meeting of the Cape Fear Conference on November 10, 2009 and \$100,000 by the 100th session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in May 2013.

The endowment will provide perpetual support to the Blended Fellowship in its services to approximately 100 members and its outreach to hundreds of deaf people in eastern North Carolina. Located near Pikeville in Wayne County, goals of the mission/ministry included being a resource

and hearing center for the deaf and establishing a Christian school for the deaf.

In emphasizing the need for a ministry to the deaf, Pastor Doug Seymour, founder of Blended Fellowship, reports that: "The Deaf in the United States are a mission field, virtually unreached. Only 7% of Deaf adults have ever had the Gospel presented to them in their own language. Fewer than 2% call themselves Christians."

Those who wish additional information on the work of Blended Fellowship are encouraged to contact: The Reverend Doug Seymour, Pastor, 2091 Big Daddy's Road, Pikeville, NC 27863, <www.blendedfellowship.com>, Phone: (919) 735-7676 (Voice or TTY), Fax: (919) 736-9048.

The North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries has adopted Blended Fellowship as one of its special projects, and an open invitation is extended to individuals, churches, Sunday Schools, Woman's Auxiliaries, and others to help build an endowment for the support and advancement of this vital ministry. After all, would you be in church Sunday if you could not hear and the church could not communicate to you in a language you could understand?

September Calendar for the Foundation

September 22

Meeting of the Scholarship Committee to review and make recommendations for fall semester awards to students preparing for Christian ministry. With an increase in the number of applicants, projections are that approximately \$25,000 will be needed to meet the needs of qualified applicants for the 2009-2010 academic year. During the past three years, the Foundation has provided a total of \$50,000 for 20 Original Free Will Baptist students attending Mount Olive College and five Divinity Schools/

Theological Seminaries.

September 28

Meeting of the Foundation Advancement Committee to formulate plans for gift support to the "Shepherd's Fund"—scholarships for pastors and others preparing for church-related vocations. The Committee will also continue the development of plans for building Foundation endowments to a goal of \$7 million by May 2013, the 100th anniversary of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

September 30

Meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors to consider the recommendations of the Scholarship and Advancement Committees; to authorize distributions to the designated beneficiaries of endowed funds; and to finalize a "Donor's Guide" of policies and procedures for the work of the Foundation.

By the Bay

WITH RICK PRICE

I would like to thank every one for the contributions designated to the mattress fund, the concrete fund, the microwave, washers and dryers fund. These projects are complete, thanks to you! One of the projects left to this fund is the split rail fencing. We are still in need of approximately \$1200 to finish this project. This month, we will be replacing the metal roof systems on our dorm building and our kitchen/dining hall. Your support for these projects would be greatly appreciated. We are planning to do all the work with volunteers. Hopefully, we can keep the project cost at a minimum. The project cost is estimated at approximately \$15,000.

Again, I would remind everyone that our yearly fundraisers are coming up! The singing by the

river, which is the third weekend in October, and our trout fishing tournament the second weekend in November. We look forward to seeing you here for these events!

Most of the information for these events are posted on our web page, including applications for the fishing tournament.

Please continue to pray for Camp Vandemere and the leaders here. We are also in the process of planning

a new facility on our property across the road. This will be a major undertaking for the camp as we continue to expand to reach people for Jesus Christ!



Pictured above is Mr. Kenneth practicing for the 2009 Trout Fishing Tournament. Come join us in November.

Summer Season Comes to an End

BY RICK PRICE

September is here! Oh, what an awesome summer this has been! The weather has been great outside of a few thunderstorms here and there! At the time of this writing, there had been a total of 60 first time professions of faith this summer at Camp Vandemere. Many had never been to summer camp; some had been many times. It has been evident all summer that God has had his hand on this place. God is good all the time. He has truly blessed us here this summer. Everything has worked great! Our efforts to reach the lost are continually reflected in results that occur when God's people are obedient to Him. I am amazed at the cooperation and support we continue to receive from



Pictured above is the group from General Youth Camp II. Brother Wesley Taylor served as director.

all of our churches and individuals. we have been blessed to receive a new commercial microwave, a mixer, two new washing machines, two new dryers, and monies to replace old mattresses and cover some that are worn. Many ladies' auxiliaries, layman's leagues, and

other individuals have made all these items possible for our camp. We here at the camp cannot thank you enough for the continued financial support. Thanks again!

All of the summer camps are over and the children are back at school. It's sort of quiet here at the camp during the week now. Our weekend retreats are scheduled to continue through November this year. We still have a few weekends open the first part of December. maybe you or your church group would like to have a Christmas party here! I would be glad to cater to your Christmas party needs! The camp will be available for use during the Christmas season. Come and let us serve you. We'll cook and clean up! Think about it. Call and plan well in advance.

The Luau of Faith

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Christ Church had Vacation Bible School on Saturday, July 11 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The scripture for this title was taken from Hebrews 11, know as the "faith" chapter. The children enjoyed bible stories and crafts, based on faith. The teachers wore the Hawaiian grass skirts and all the children were given a Hawaiian lai necklace to wear. There was a lot of participation from children and adults. We also had a great volume of children to visit our bible school. Pizza and dessert lunch was served following the bible school



Pictured are children who attended Vacation Bible School at Christ Church in Stokesdale, NC. All the children and had a great time. enjoyed good Christian fellowship

Little Creek Church Senior Saints News

BY LON SMITH

The Senior Saints of Little Creek Church meet every third Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. The following are pictures and information on invited guests.

On May 20, Mrs. Ann Grimes, owner of Harvest Time in Ayden, shared information on her life and how the business started and progressed through the years—very interesting.

Mrs. Barbara Manning, Director of SAF at Immanuel FWB Church in Winterville accompanied Mrs. Grimes.

On June 15, the Rev. Rick and Mrs. Jane Vernon of the Southwood Memorial Christian Church in Kinston, NC visited with us. They shared devotion and sang many beautiful songs. All members thoroughly enjoyed their program. Refreshments are served at the end of each meeting.

On July 15, Mrs. Judy Lewis and Mrs.

Debbie Gray of the Winterville Church entertained us with their beautiful music. Mrs. Sheryll Wood, our pastor's wife shared words of encouragement at this meeting.

Lunch was provided for all members who attended.

We invite seniors to join us for these meetings of music, devotion, and fellowship.



Mrs. Ann Grimes and Mrs. Barbara Manning



Mrs. Jane Vernon



The Rev. Rick Vernon

Powhatan Church

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

June 7 was Graduate Sunday at Powhatan with Julie Cox and Nikki Jones being honored for their college graduations. There were no high school seniors this year at the church. Another group of “seniors” were honored on June 14—senior members age 80 and over. Our oldest member, Inez Jones West (93), has attended Powhatan all her life and was able to be present for the service and the meal that followed. Many of the older members shared good memories of the church and community. Sister Ada Jones Kittle shared some names of members long gone who had greatly influenced her Christian walk.

The Rev. Rayford Byrd laughed over memories of Sister Ada and her sisters being “corrected” by their father during services when they were all kids. They said there were no children’s services in the old days, and that kids were expected to sit and be quiet during the worship services.

Vacation Bible School ran from



Pictured are some of the 67 luminary bags purchased by Powhatan’s team #27 at the Johnston County Relay for Life which raises funds for the American Cancer Society, including one in honor of Annivee Jones who just lost her battle with cancer.

June 15–19 with the theme of “Paul and the Underground Church of Rome.” The average attendance was over 85 and everyone enjoyed the lessons, activities, and meals.

In Memoriam: Annivee Benson Jones, age 75, went to be with the Lord on June 30, 2009. A former member at Powhatan, she moved to Raleigh with her husband

many years ago and moved her membership to a local church there. She was the sister-in-law of the Rev. Rayford Byrd, the step-grandmother of the Rev. John Robert Harris, and the cousin of the Rev. Swade Benson. She still has many family members at Powhatan who appreciate your prayers during this time of loss.

Piedmont Youth Rally

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Timothy Webber, coordinator for the Bible Prison Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists. This is an outreach ministry for youth detention centers, prisons, and motorcycle events to spread God’s word. After Dr. Webber spoke at Christ Church, a young soul got saved. This year, 469 children have been saved and last year 755 children were saved through the Biker Prison Ministry.

Three churches from the Piedmont Conference attended and participated



Pictured Back (L-R) Nancy Hopper, Harold Hopper, Sheryl Hopper, and Nellie Hopper. Front (L-R) Seth Woodlieff, Lily Hopper, and Jacob Woodlieff. All children and youth leaders from Christ Church.



Pictured above is Dr. Timothy Webber, coordinator for the Bible Prison Ministry of the Original Free Will Baptists.

in the Youth Rally. Friendly Chapel of Greensboro, Northside of Asheboro, and Christ Church of Stokesdale. The Youth Rally was held at Christ Church in Stokesdale on July 24 at 7:00 P.M. All

the children that attended had good times and good fellowship with one another. A pizza and dessert supper was served after the Youth Rally event.

66th Annual Piedmont Conference

BY PEBBLES JOYCE

The 66th Annual Piedmont Conference was held at Christ Church in Stokesdale, NC. Rev. David Atkins, conference moderator, was the host pastor.

Tim Burton, assistant moderator helped open the meeting. Devotions were read by the Rev. Cathy Vernon. The Rev. Tom Parrish called the roll of ministers, Wayne Hicks called the roll of churches. Christ Church had the most present. The Rev. Carlee Stallard read the treasurer's report and Charles Renfrow talked about foreign missions.

Mary Dudley and Gail Heath introduced a new program for the Sunday School Ministry called the "Mobile Ministry." It is Christian education on wheels. Mary, Gail, and The Free Will Baptist Press will be working hard together on this for future Sunday School ministries.

Conference host and moderator, the Rev. David Atkins preached the worship hour sermon. The title of this sermon was "When Jesus is Not in the House." The following things happen to a person who lets Jesus out of their house and opens the door to the Devil. No joy, a Christian should be happy and not let the Devil rule their mind. People loose their ear of tune to God and



Pictured above are (L-R) the Rev. Carlee Stallard, pastor of The House of Prayer in Kernersville, NC and Piedmont Conference Treasurer and Brother Wayne Hicks Piedmont Conference Clerk.



Pictured above are (L-R) the Rev. Roger Motsinger and his wife, Debbie Motsinger. Motsinger is the pastor of Friendly Chapel in Greensboro.

don't want to hear what God has to say. Never satisfied. You have got to make up your mind to serve God or the Devil. You can't serve two masters. When people get unfaithful they tend to backslide. They let Jesus out and leave the door wide open to let Satan inside. Slothfulness, sloppy on God. We become unfruitful. We sit as lambs and let the wolves devour

us. We sit on a "stool of do nothing."

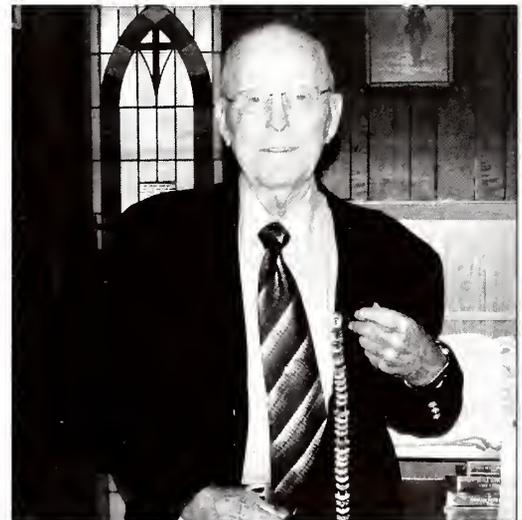
Don't build on the wrong foundation, like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. Be like the wise man and build on the rock, get rooted and grounded. If we're not assured in God alone, we won't stand—but God's foundation will stand.

Rice Receives 30 Year Perfect Attendance Pin

BY PEBBLES JOYCE

July 23, 2009, Brother Roscoe Rice received his 30 year pin. On May 11, 1949, he gave his life to the Lord, but working on the water didn't allow him to attend Sunday school and church every Sunday, and serve the Lord the way his heart desired. So upon retiring from his tugboat job in July 1979, Rice promised the Lord he would be more faithful to Him and the church, and he has held true to his word and commitment and continues to be a dedicated and loyal servant for

the Master. He was the adult Sunday school teacher, Chair of the Deacon board, and building and grounds keeper until just a few years ago. He has been serving on the Board of Deacons for 60 years. At 93, Brother Roscoe remains faithful and active in the church today. He not only is a pillar of inspiration in his church, but also in the Lowland community. His desire to serve our Lord is admired and respected by all who know him.



Mr. Roscoe Rice displays his Perfect Attendance pins.

A RICH CHRISTIANO FILM

Jansen Panettiere

Gavin MacLeod

Robert Guillaume



THE SECRETS OF
**JONATHAN
SPERRY**

WHAT HE TEACHES THEM... WILL LAST FOREVER

Best buddies Dustin (Jansen Panettiere), Albert (Frankie Ryan Manriquez), and Mark (Allen Isaacson) are twelve year old boys looking forward to a summer of fun in 1970.

When Dustin mows the lawn of seventy-five year old Jonathan Sperry (Gavin MacLeod), a man he has seen at church, a unique friendship develops. What happens the rest of this summer is something Dustin and his friends will never forget.

What Viewers Are Saying

"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry moved me with its message of the difference one faithful man can make in the lives of many. I recommend this inspiring movie for any family to watch together."

Kirk Cameron/Actor (Fireproof movie)

"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry will literally impact both the young and old! This is a powerful film that is refreshing and loaded with incredible truths from God's Word!"

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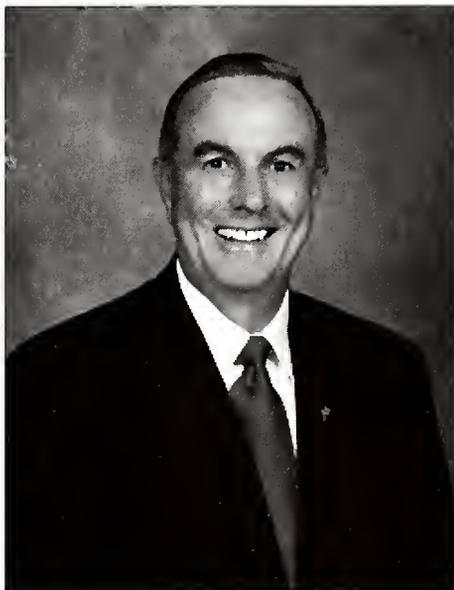
View scenes from the movie at www.SperryMovie.com

More About the Seminar on Christian Ministry

BY DR. MICHAEL PELT

The Commission on Education for Christian Ministry has announced plans to conduct a seminar at First FWB Church of Goldsboro on September 19 at 10:00 A.M. for the benefit of licensed ministers and all those persons who feel a calling to engage in some type of Christian ministry either in a local church or in one of the ministries sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Such a calling is not limited to those who seek to become pastors. Any active church member who believes that his/her life belongs to God will sooner or later begin to ask how they can best serve God in the life and mission of the church. They may or may not choose some other kind of work as a means of earning a living, but they will realize that involvement in the life and mission of the church leads them to follow Christ's example of service to others. "For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

This seminar on "Orientation to Christian Ministry" is intended to offer guidance to those who feel that God is leading them to use their special gifts in service to others. The program will include a message by Dr. Michael Cogdill, Dean of



Dean Michael G. Cogdill is the Founding Dean and Professor of Pastoral Leadership at Campbell University Divinity School. Dr. Cogdill was chosen as the first dean of Campbell's new Divinity School upon its beginning in 1996. Prior to being called to this position, Dr. Cogdill served as Chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Campbell.

A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Dean Cogdill is a graduate of Mars Hill College, Southeastern Seminary, and North Carolina State University. He has served two churches in North Carolina as pastor and 15 churches as interim pastor. Dr. Cogdill views his call as a minister and his work as dean as an extension of one calling—to serve God faithfully in church-related ministry.

Campbell University Divinity School, on "Hearing God's Call to Christian Ministry" This will be followed by two experienced pastors, the Rev. Ashley Summerlin and the Rev. Gary

Bailey, both of whom will address the topic "A Vision of Christian Ministry." After a luncheon served at the Goldsboro Church there will be a panel presentation by five persons who will describe five different types of church ministry and how one prepares for effective service in these ministries. These include teaching—Mrs. Mary Dudley, Counseling—Dr. De Wayne Eakes, Music—Mrs. Cathy Malin, Youth—Mrs. Marci Rollins-Smart, and Missions—Rev. Harold Jones.

This will be our last opportunity to encourage pastors and other church leaders to reach out to those in your church who ought to attend this seminar. Is there anyone among us who does not understand the importance of enlisting and engaging the services of the younger generation in our churches, who need to be aroused to meet the challenges of Christian ministry in our time. The lack of a sufficient number of qualified persons to do the work of ministry and to provide the leadership and support needed by every church and every program in our Convention should be obvious to all of us. We are trying to make this seminar an experience that will encourage people to respond to God's call for their lives to be given in service to His kingdom.

MOUNT ZION ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1912 Lynche's Beach Loop Road
(Near Vandemere, NC)

A Note Burning Celebration

All former pastors, members, families, and friends are invited to attend

September 20, 2009—3:00 P.M.

Featured Speaker: Dr. W. Burkette Raper

Special music and Refreshments following the service

We would be pleased to have you share God's grace and blessings and our gratitude and joy.

For more information, call the Rev. Francis Garner (252) 223-5887
or Judy Thaanum: (252) 745-3687

Cape Fear Youth Visit the Children's Home

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Cape Fear Youth Fellowship held a fun day and rally at the Children's Home on August 1. There were around 170 in attendance from about 12 churches. President Nathan Slaughter of Bethel welcomed the group and vice-president Dean Hardy of Powhatan gave a short devotion. He pointed out that all sin should be repented for, even any that we would like to keep hidden.

Secretary Hayley Benson of Powhatan called the roll of churches present. Two pastors were present—the Rev. Tim Heath of Johnston Union and the Rev. Doug Seymour with Blended Fellowship. An offering was collected by Kyle Benson, Shane Hardy, Garrett Watkins, and Dominic Hardy. A donation of \$151.50 went to the Children's Home with \$51.50 going to the youth fellowship (total of \$203 collected). Blended Fellowship then presented a musical program of skits and "Blended Hands" worship.

Following the blessing on the food, pizza was shared along with cookies, donuts, and other snacks. The young people then enjoyed a variety of games, face painting, bingo, etc., while some of the leaders held a brief meeting in Heritage Hall. Co-leaders Wanda Benson, Martha Parsons, and Kim Canady discussed future plans and dates of upcoming events. The next rally will be at Hopewell on October 3 at 6 P.M. President and state officer Nathan Slaughter challenged more churches to submit nominations for next year's officers to keep the youth involved in the district. Jane Parker and Carolyn Jernigan said it is good leadership experience and is a good item for a résumé or college application. Nathan and Dean both said it is a fun and rewarding way to stay involved and serve on a larger scale.

The group discussed Bible Bowl procedures and the Elizabeth Hansley Award program. Other upcoming dates announced are the Youth Summit at MOC on October 24 and the November rally at Powhatan on Nov. 14.

A special thanks to all who donated items, ran games, or just came in support of the youth. Other Woman's Auxiliary officers present from the



Blended Fellowship gave a great program of worship through song.



Games were played inside the gym and outside in the sunshine.

Cape Fear besides the Youth directors included Jane Parker (Hopewell), Betty Strickland (Palmer Memorial), and Carolyn Jernigan (Shady Grove). Thanks to them as well as Gail and Tim Heath (Johnston Union) who helped run games and make the day a success.

Rock Springs VBS Raises \$1200 for Church Construction in Bulgaria

BY SANDRA STALLINGS

Rock Springs Church in Bailey recently held its annual week-long Vacation Bible School. The theme for the week was Game Show Go. Directors Tangi Bass and Wendy Taylor asked participants and staff members to share in a love offering to assist the Ladies' Auxiliary's fundraising effort to raise \$10,000 to benefit a church in Bulgaria that is in need of a permanent worship building. Mrs. Bass and Mrs. Taylor "sweetened" the challenge



by dividing the VBS participants and staff members into two groups. The winning group would be allowed to "tar and feather" Pastor Blake Stallings or Youth Leader Danny

Taylor at the end of VBS.

With fun, competitive, and spirit-filled giving during the week and a little extra giving from a certain VBS participant, the competition ended in a tie. Yes, both Pastor Stallings and Mr. Taylor were "tarred and feathered" with lots of sticky chocolate and caramel syrup and soft, fluffy marshmallows.

The culminating event of Rock Springs VBS was blessed with a total offering for the week of over \$1,200. The sweet act of giving to the Lord's service has brought the Ladies' Auxiliary Bulgaria Building Fund Mission to over \$6,000.

2009 Woman's Conference at Camp Vandemere

BY STUMPY QUINN & JUDITH KENNEDY

We were blessed with another week at Camp Vandemere for our 2009 Woman's Conference. We were happy to see some new faces, but saddened at the loss of others.

On Monday, after everyone arrived and registered, we had the opening session. After lunch, Donna Whitfield gave an inspiring speech and the evening worship service was brought by the Rev. Owen Arthur.



2009 Woman's Conference attendees

On Tuesday morning, we went on a shopping spree. The afternoon speaker for Tuesday was Sondra Powell, and the evening message was provided by the Rev. Neal Cox.

After lunch on Wednesday, we honored the members who were voted "Woman of the Year" in their respective auxiliaries. The speaker for Wednesday afternoon was Linda Herring, and for the evening service the Rev. Wesley Taylor brought the message. Special music was provided

by The Juniper Five.

On Thursday, we took a field trip to Aurora to the Fossil Museum and came back by the Rev. Wesley Taylor's new home. Our Thursday afternoon

speaker was Judith Kennedy, and the Rev. Mike Scott brought the evening message.

Pat Arthur served as pianist for our evening services. Amy Scott brought the devotion each morning and Lois Wetherington provided our bedtime devotion.

We thank God for the many blessings we received during our week of fellowship, and are looking forward to our 2010 Woman's Auxiliary Conference.

Cabin Church Honors Koonce With Special Dinner



After worship service on Sunday, July 19, Cabin Church honored Pastor Nelson Koonce with a special dinner. The dinner was in honor of his great accomplishment, he received his Master of Divinity in Church Ministries. The church family prepared a large variety of food and placed a money tree in the fellowship hall to show their love and support for their pastor. Pastor Nelson has been a great asset to the church and we really appreciate everything he does to help do God's work.

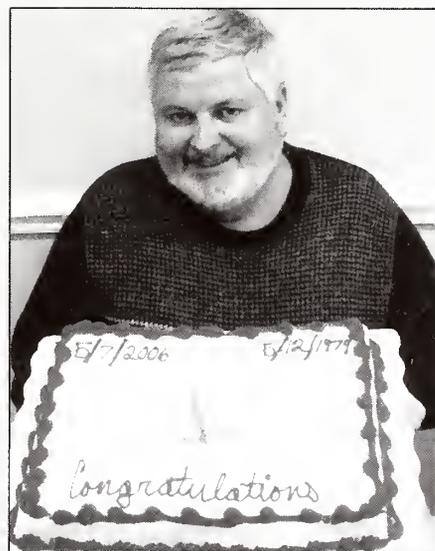
The Free Will Baptist 35 August 2009

Layman's League Honors Stokes



The Layman's League of Little Creek Church conducted a Mother's Day service to honor the women of the church. Charlie Aman, League president, presented a monetary gift to Amy Stokes, Woman's Auxiliary president. The league actively serves the Lord in every way that it can.

Little Creek Celebrates Wood's Service



Little Creek Church surprised its pastor, the Rev. Philip Wood on the occasion of his third year of service to the church on May 7, 2009. The church also recognized Rev. Wood's 30th year in the ministry. He was ordained on May 12, 1979 at Bethlehem Church, Duplin County, Chinquapin, NC in the Eastern Conference.

HORTON ROAD ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
"CELEBRATING 28 YEARS"

You are invited to attend our upcoming

*Camp Meeting
and Homecoming*

October 2-4, 2009

Friday, October 2—7:00 P.M.

Rev. James Pittman (Wendell, NC)
Rev. Mike Ledbetter (Swansboro, NC)

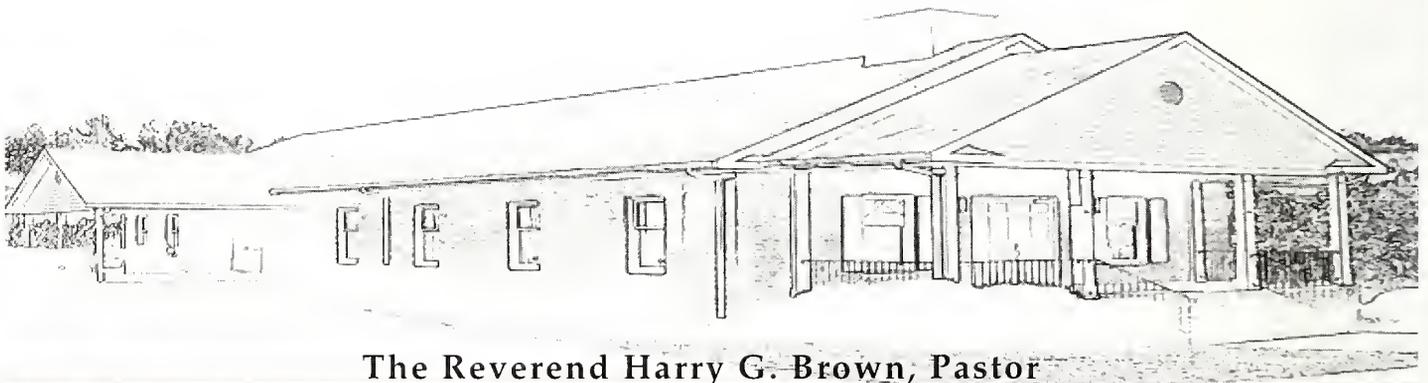
Saturday, October 3—9:00 A.M.

Rev. Dale Burden (Virginia Beach, VA)
Rev. Karl Sexton (Virginia Beach, VA)
Rev. A.B. Brown (Crewe, VA)
Lunch prepared by Ole NC Barbeque
Rev. Jimi Marcum (Hookerton, NC)
Rev. Mike Scott (Vanceboro, NC)

Sunday, October 4—9:00 A.M.

Rev. Virgil Nolen (Durham, NC)
Rev. David Lee (Rockingham, NC)
Rev. A.B. Brown (Crewe, VA)
Lunch prepared by ladies/men of the church

Special Music by Horton OFWB Church Choir and "Southland Harmony"



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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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Ayden, NC 28513.

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THE ENDOWMENT OF THE MONTH



A Mission of Original Free Will Baptists to the Deaf



*Footprints from the past—
Footprints for the future.*

For more information on Blended Fellowship and the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, please see page 27.

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- *A Service of Celebration Honoring The Reverend Walter Sutton*
- *Fulfilling the Great Commission—Military Style*
- *Children's Home Establishes Endowment*

AND MORE!

MINISTER'S PROGRAM MONTH

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

October 2009 Minister's Program Month

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMING SOON: Saturday, May 22, 2010—Free Will Baptist Children's Home will celebrate 90 years of Christian child care. More details will be announced as they become available.		29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 National Children's Day	9	10
11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Reformation Day	26	27	28	29	30	31

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Faye and Walter Sutton

REFLECTIONS

with C. H. Overman

A Righteous Man Vexed

Lot was Abraham's nephew. He journeyed with Abraham from Mesopotamia to Canaan. Unlike his uncle, Lot was inclined toward worldly matters, as evidenced by some of his decisions. When strife arose between Abram's herdsmen and his, Abram suggested that they separate on a friendly basis. Lot beheld the fertile plains of Jordan with its bounty and moved east. "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD" (Genesis 13:12-13). Lot's next move was into Sodom where he evidently held a position of authority.

Because of its wickedness, God pronounced judgment upon Sodom. Abraham interceded on behalf of the city: "...Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with wicked?" (Genesis 18:23). God would have spared the city if 10 righteous people could have been found, but such was not the case. Only Lot, his wife, and two daughters were spared. "Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground" (Genesis 19:24-25). Lot's wife, however, in disobedience to God, looked back upon the destructive scene and was turned into a pillar of salt. (Read Genesis 19 for the entire story of Lot's feeble efforts to appease the

men of Sodom.)

Those who would discount the story of Sodom's destruction as recorded in Genesis, would also have to discount the inspiration of Peter's writing in 2 Peter 2:1-8 in which he warns of false prophets and reminds his readers that God did not spare the angels that sinned, or the old world in Noah's day, or Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day. In spite of Lot's failures, however, He was spared: "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds" (vv. 7-8).

To be vexed is to be troubled deeply. As with Lot concerning the sodomy of his day, should there not be great vexation today concerning the gross immorality in our society?

The false assumption that whatever lifestyle one chooses is acceptable is an assumption of fallacy. Yet, we are bombarded with it in this present day. Those who discount the truth of His Word can justify immorality in their own minds, but God's Word remains the same. Just as God spared not in the past, He will ultimately deal with the sins of our day unless there is confession and a turning back to God. As with Lot, are not our righteous souls vexed, or deeply troubled?

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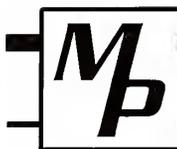
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Our Total Gift of \$ _____ is enclosed.

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 either set up a fund for the Free Will Baptist Press or already include us in their budget.



October is Minister's Program Month

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

October has been designated Minister's Program Month by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists during the 2009 session. The last 12 months have been a difficult year for our ministries, churches, and our membership. The Minister's Program is no exception and our support from the local churches is down considerably. Every standard used to measure financial well being has been devastated by what is being referred to as "The Great Recession." Ministries are being forced to reduce programs and churches are cutting their budgets in an effort to remain in the black.

Families all over the country are being forced to slash discretionary spending in the face of reduced hours in the workplace and unemployment. Unfortunately, many people consider their offerings as discretionary spending so our churches are suffering. As of August 11, the North Carolina unemployment rate stood at 11%. While this figure is devastating for those who have lost jobs it means that 89% of our workforce is still employed.

It is to those who are in this number that we make this appeal. During these times those who are unaffected should rise up and demonstrate their faith by giving more today than they did one year ago. They should avoid the temptation to cling desperately to what they have and follow the advice of Jesus when he urged each of us to "cast our bread upon the waters." This is a command with promise and that promise is that the return would be tenfold. We can never say that our household is financially secure as long as the House of God struggles to meet its obligations.

In spite of the downturn in giving 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 you giving to support the work that we do on behalf of all the ministers in the Convention.

Financially speaking, October is the most important time for the Minister's Program. Gifts received during this 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 ministers 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 has been completed on the Guide for Church/Pastor Relationships and if your church or pastor would like to request a copy we will be sending request forms out this month. Several churches are using portions of the Guide as a study for midweek services and additional copies are available for purchase at the Press Bookstores.

Most of you are aware that the Minister's Program sponsors a retirement program for our ministers. 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 enjoys 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

(Continued on page 4...)



(OCTOBER continued from page 4...)

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 2009 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 were 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 \$15 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?

Do not expect your pastor to take the lead in promoting support for the Minister's Program. Some ministers are hesitant to raise the issue in the local church because they may be perceived as being self-serving. A treasurer said 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.

This year continues to be difficult in terms of the financial challenge the economy creates. However, be assured that the Board will do what is required to make this program efficient, effective, and well-managed. 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.

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 11 years. We ask that you consider the following challenge:

- For churches with less than 100 members \$150
- 100-149 \$300
- 150-199 \$400
- Over 200 \$500

For additional information or questions, please write or call:

Donald Fader

Box 39

Ayden, NC 28513

252-523-5800

Rev. Sherman Dilley, Chairman

Randall Smith, Vice Chairman

Rev. Ricky Warren

Rev. Richard Glosson

Rev. Phillip Boykin

Winterville FWB Church Revival

October 19-21, 2009

7:00 P.M.

The Reverend Mike Ledbetter is the guest speaker.

There will be special music each night.



Major Building Project in the Works

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Board of Directors of Free Will Baptist Children's Home is pleased to announce plans for a major building project to include a new bell tower and renovation of Heritage Hall. The project will include significant renovations and upgrades through the existing building. These plans will improve the campus for our children, provide opportunities to our churches, and restore historical significance of the dinner bell and building. Key components of the proposed project will include:

- New bell tower (for our dinner bell)
- New Patio area
- Larger restrooms
- Larger updated kitchen
- Replacement of roof
- Replacement of windows
- All new electrical and plumbing
- Handicap accessibility

Please be much in prayer for this project as the Children's Home strives to improve our facilities for our children, as well as preserve our history.



Heritage Hall

Heritage Hall was built in 1940 and served as the central dining hall for many years. In the early years, the children and staff gathered for all meals in the building, usually signaled by the ringing of the dinner bell. During the 1960s the home converted to family-style living, offering meal preparation and dining in the individual cottages. Since that time Heritage Hall has served as a multi-purpose

building hosting campus events. It has been our tradition for many years to serve Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners in Heritage Hall for our children and staff. We will continue to use the building as a multi-purpose building with dining facilities. Other opportunities will include the availability for staff training, and the ability to host events and church visits with adequate kitchen facilities.

Board of Directors

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Guidelines for the Children's Home Board of Directors include: the board must consist of 12 voting members, with at least two women, and one alumni of the Children's Home, with a cross representation of the state. They meet four times each year.

Our current board consists of James Cahoon, Albemarle Conference, the Rev. Douglas Skinner, Central Conference, Teresa Foster, Western Conference, Judy W. Roberson, Alumni of Children's Home, Dr. Ken Benton, Cape Fear Conference, the Rev. Sherman Dilley, Eastern Conference, Sherry



Pictured, L to R, front row: Dr. Ken Benton, Sherry Askew, Teresa Foster, Wanda Crocker, Judy Roberson, the Rev. Johnny Sullivan. L to R, back row: Dr. Thomas Parrish, the Rev. Sherman Dilley, James Cahoon, the Rev. Doug Skimmer, Ila Penny, Dr. Edward Croom.

Askew, Central Conference, the Rev. Johnny Sullivan, Central Conference, Wanda Crocker, Cape Fear Conference, Ila Penny, Pee Dee Conference,

Dr. Edward Croom, Western Conference, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Parrish, Piedmont Conference.



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN APPRECIATION DAY

In February 1985, 24 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. The funds generated from this program help ensure the futures of the children we serve by giving them a chance to succeed in their personal endeavors and participate in special events. The Friends of Children program is still an active part of the Children's Home Ministry today. Please consider becoming a member. Membership provides you with a monthly Newsnote containing current information on day-to-day activities enjoyed by the children you are supporting, and the satisfaction of knowing you are part of a team who is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children in need.

Every year we set aside a day to express our thanks to our friends and supporters. This year our Friends of Children Appreciation Day will be held on November 21, 2009. Below you will find an invitation. Preparations are well under way, and we hope to see you there.

INVITATION

The Board of Directors invite you and your guests to our annual luncheon for Friends of Children Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 21, 2009, 12 NOON, in Whitley Center on campus. The speaker will be the Reverend Sherman Dilley, pastor at Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC. We encourage you to come and be a part of this special occasion.

Please RSVP by October 30, 2009

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 or e-mail: cbatten@fwbch.org

Campus Needs

- Cleaning Supplies (Pine-sol, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleaner)
- Cleaning brushes (toilet brushes, scrub brushes, brooms)
- Kitchen Towels and Dish Cloths
- Craft Supplies (age appropriate for middle & high school)
- (3) Wii Game Stations and Wii Games
- Vacuum Cleaners—Upright (call for details)
- (5) Scientific Calculators (Texas Instruments Model 84 or Texas Instruments Model 85)
- Fabric Table Coths (2 to match per cottage, rectangular shape) & Placemats (8 per cottage)
- Park Bench (Call for details)
- Dryer Sheets (Fabric softener sheets)
- Trash Bags (33 gal or larger)
- Large (cool side) griddles
- (4) Aluminum or fiberglass "A" step ladders for cottage
- Renovation to Heritage Hall (estimated \$150,000)
- Board Games (Trouble, Mexican Train)
- Baking dishes (glass 13x9)

Have questions? Call the Development Office at (252) 235-2161.



Programs and Personnel Available for Church Ministry Resources

1. Offers a Teacher and Superintendent Certification Program.
2. Provides a Sunday School Handbook covering qualifications and responsibilities of Sunday School teachers and superintendents as well as recruitment plus a listing of Sunday School class divisions, ages, minimum space per person, and equipment and material needs for the class.
3. Publishes an email newsletter, eTEACH, which covers tips for all class divisions, book reviews, listings of available training opportunities, etc.
4. Provides “troubleshooting” advice to pastors, superintendents, teachers, parents, and youth workers.
5. Sponsors annual Institutes for all ages in Christian Education theory and practical implementation.
6. Establishes regional sites for learning opportunities.
7. Sponsors a Leadership Banquet on the Wednesday night of the annual Convention.
8. Provides financial aid Camp Scholarships to campers ages 9–18 who wish to attend either Cragmont or Camp Vandemere.
9. Provides Teacher/Superintendent of the Year awards, with funding by Dr. Thomas Morris that are awarded annually at the SS Institute.
10. Assists churches in breaking the barriers that exist for people of all ages who are challenged either by physical or other special problems (Establishing a Disability Ministry).
11. Actively participates as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association which serves a 7-state area.
12. Co-sponsors the Coastal MACEA, which is the NC coastal satellite for the Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association.
13. Provides over 60 workshops/seminars to assist churches in the following categories:
 - Leadership Skills for pastors, teachers, superintendents
 - Growing healthy Sunday Schools
 - Understanding the Role of Sunday School in Evangelism
 - Theory, practice, and demonstration of effective teaching techniques
 - Laws of teaching and administration
 - Effective communication theory and practice
 - Time management
 - Studies in understanding and using learning styles and brain hemisphericity
 - Studies in active learning and participation
 - Studies in effective questioning techniques by understanding Benjamin Bloom’s Taxonomy of the Cognitive Domain
 - Studies in understanding Howard Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences as it relates to writing and teaching
 - Studies in active listening skills
 - Studies in the developmental characteristics and stages of faith of people of all ages
 - Understanding theories of effective discipline
 - Studies in understanding different special education areas and techniques for implementation
 - Learning disabilities and social skills
 - Learning disabilities and discipline
 - Learning disabilities and teaching/learning
 - Where to look for help
 - How to implement literature from a variety of companies
 - Assist churches with Vacation Bible School
 - Teaching standards and values to people of all ages
 - Studies in techniques of teaching for all ages
 - Nursery



- Toddlers/2
 - Preschool
 - Early Elementary
 - Elementary
 - Upper Elementary
 - Middle School
 - High School
 - Young Adults
 - Middle Adults
 - Older Adults
- Workshops on prayer
 - Workshops on Scripture memorization
 - Understanding the role of play in Christian Education
 - Using parents as partners in teaching
 - Understanding intergenerational learning
 - Understanding the use and implementation of learning stations in teaching
 - Workshops on relieving stress
 - Studies in the History of Original Free Will Baptists
 - Studies in the Doctrine of Original Free Will Baptists
 - Marketing strategies for the church
 - Job descriptions for various church workers both paid and volunteer
 - Bible studies on various topics
 - Seminars on using technology in the church
 - Seminars on establishing community in the church through small groups
 - Provides studies in marriage and family relationships
 - Provides studies in parenting skills
 - Provides studies in men's and women's ministries
14. Sponsors an annual retreat for the minister's wife or widow.
 15. Maintains a resource center, Library, at the Headquarters for use by various church workers covering a variety of topics that undergird the workshops, seminars, and retreats sponsored by the Ministry.
 16. Provides an audio tape library, DVD library, and video tape library for use by church workers.
 17. Provides assessment/evaluation tools that can be used by church workers.
 18. Provides generic and customized Christian Education help for churches, individuals, and other small groups.
 19. Maintains a variety of puppets for use by teachers and others.
 20. Provides assistance in location of various workshop/seminar leaders with expertise in different areas (Original Free Will Baptists and other denominations)
 21. The Sunday School Board members with expertise in leading seminars:
 - Ms. Nancy Cale—Technology, Sunday School leadership, Bible Study
 - Ms. Brenda Best—Creation and maintaining Sunday School classes, Women's Ministry, Bible Study
 - Ms. Kitty Barnes—Any subject area assigned to her, Bible Study
 - The Reverend Terry Ellis—Technology, Pastoral Care, Leadership, Church Planting, Bible Study
 - The Reverend Mike Williams—Pastoral Care, Bible Study
 - The Reverend Roger Hill—Assessing insurance needs of churches, Pastoral Care, Bible Study
 - The Reverend Wayne Hicks—Financial Management, Bible Study
 - The Reverend Bruce Jones—Pastoral Care, Bible Study
 - Mr. Heath Conner—Youth Work, Bible Study
 22. Maintains a file on special campaigns to focus on attendance.
 23. Provides one quarter's literature for church/mission points beginning or reactivating a Sunday School.
 24. Provides assistance in preparing installation/dedication/promotion activities for the Sunday School.
 25. Provides speakers for special occasions.

FULLFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION MILITARY STYLE



BY RICHARD HOLMES

In Matthew 28:19-20 the Lord says, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

In this scripture God calls us to reach out to others with the life-changing message. How are we to go about accomplishing this important mission? We as Free Will Baptists do it many different ways. Our local churches reach out to their communities. International Missions evangelize in our various mission fields across the world. The Children's Home ministers by providing for the children's physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs, while trying to help children return to loving families. Mount Olive College provides a Christian education to transform people's lives. These and many of our other ministries have the goal of changing lives and empowering people to make a difference in our world.

Your Free Will Baptist Chaplain's Commission is seeking to fulfill the Great Commission by endorsing ministers to serve in hospitals, prisons, and in the military as Chaplains. This article will provide readers with a brief overview of how your military chaplains are enabled through your prayers and endorsement to make a difference in lives daily.

As I write this article, I am con-

cluding my tour at Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan. During our four month deployment, our goal has been to make a positive impact in at least one person's life daily. The Lord opened several doors for us to do great ministry.

One way we chose to meet our goal was by sharing the love of Christ in a practical way with young maintainers on the flight-line. When we arrived in-country the ground was covered in snow, which meant those who work on planes would be outside in the cold and windy weather for hours. In order to demonstrate our care for them,

the Chaplain Corp shared the love of Christ by meeting practical needs, such as delivering hot cocoa and soup. One young airman shared that seeing me and my chaplain assistant out on cold windy days was one of the things that led her to come and talk with me and eventually to come to know Christ. We also visited armed forces members in the hospital. Our chapel team dedicated more than 1312 hours of visitation during our deployment. And yes, sometimes we even helped shovel snow. The Word says,

"When we have done for the least of these we have done it unto God."

Another way we tried to meet people's needs at deployed locations and home stations is by providing seminars and Bible study classes to help families grow closer to Christ while growing closer to each other. We regularly offered parenting classes, preparation for marriage classes, and marriage enrichment seminars. While deployed, our chapel team offered



three classes to help people prepare themselves for stronger relationships when they returned home.

The chaplains help military members practice their religion through worship services and Bible studies. Although our chapel was involved in the chapel services run by the Army Chaplains, we had the opportunity to lead 45 worship services touching approximately 1882 service members and civilians. We provided Bible study meetings for 438 people

(Continued on page 10...)

(MILITARY continued from page 9...)

throughout our deployment.

Another important part of a military chaplain's ministry is counseling. Our team of three chaplains conducted 325 counseling sessions in the four months we were on the scene. Air Force Chaplains have complete privileged communication. When military members come to talk to us about various life issues they face, such as marital problems, stress on the job, combat stress and spiritual issues, they have confidence that these meetings will be treated with total confidentiality. Our chapel team intervened thirteen times with individuals thinking of suicide. To God be the glory that all of these are alive today.

When chaplains are deployed, we often have the opportunity to reach out to the residents of the country through humanitarian outreach. I was part of a team that helped open two Iraqi schools and ministered to families who were visiting one of our coalition partner's hospitals. We provided families with clothes, shoes, Ensure, and stuffed animals or various types of balls. One of our own churches, Milbournie, was responsible for putting smiles on many children's faces with their generous donations of soccer balls and stuffed animals. One day while I was riding along the perimeter of the base, I saw three little

boys playing with one of the soccer balls the church had given. Milbournie Free Will Baptist truly shared the love of Christ in a practical way by sending these most appreciated gifts.

The Military Chaplaincy is just one of the many ways the Free Will Baptist is doing ministry around the world. I want to thank the Chaplain's Commission for giving me this incredible opportunity to do ministry in the United States Air Force on behalf of Free Will Baptists. I also want to thank the following churches in the Free Will Baptist denomination who have helped me grow into the person I am now: Northeast, Sarecta, Sidney, Milbournie, and Cabin, thanks for allowing me to serve as pastor or youth pastor; Silver Creek and Stoney Creek, I thank you so much for helping me to form my spiritual roots; Mount Olive College, thanks for providing me the opportunity to receive a high quality Christian education; thanks to Cragmont for providing me a place to retreat and the place where



I would accept my call to the ministry; thanks to the Children's Home for allowing me to serve as an intern one summer; Thanks also to our international missions for giving me my first experience of ministry abroad. I am in deep gratitude to the Original Free Will Baptist Convention and many of its members, pastors and church members for all the support and prayers you provide for me each day.

Daily I am given the honor to serve in the Air Force Chaplaincy while serving the Free Will Baptist church. It is my goal to be a light and to make a positive impact in at least one person's life each day. Lastly, I would ask you to pray for our military and all chaplains as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior all over the world.



October's Picture from the Past!

Your Clue: He followed in his father's footsteps and is now the chief cook and bottle washer.

September's Picture: The Reverend Phil Wood (far left) & the Vanguard Brothers

September's Winner: Thomas Forrest

Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or email <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.



Doing the Expected—A Look at OFWB Relational Government

BY BUDDY SASSER

We are Original Free Will Baptists. The word "Original", given to distinguish the southern group from their northern counterpart, can also define the unique qualities found within the relationship of each member church to its conference and to the denomination. Following a distinctive form of congregational/connectional government, each church and conference becomes a privileged voting member when represented by delegation at annual meetings of the organization. Using as our guide the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* (hereafter called the *AOF*)*, let's try to determine what is expected from each link in this chain of church government.

We should first understand that each church and each individual church member makes the choice to become Original Free Will Baptist. Along with that choice comes the understanding that the rules and practices of the body will be followed. Teaching these rules and practices is the responsibility of the organizational leadership; however, learning them prior to requesting membership is the responsibility of the prospective member. Should there be areas of irresolvable disagreement, a second look at potential membership must be taken. A professional athlete cannot excel in his sport of choice without knowing the rules and procedures and even the possible penalties for violations. Any reputable civic organization has guidelines and regulations that must be followed in order to maintain membership. And whether membership is obtained by solicitation, physical ability, personal desire, collective choice or Divine calling, a prescribed set of standards and disciplines must be followed to uphold the quality, purpose and integrity of the organization one is joining.

Duties, Objectives and Responsibilities of the Local Church.

This heading is sufficiently described in the *AOF** beginning on page 73. Since our topic is the relationship of the local church with the conference and denomination, we refer you to the last three paragraphs of page 74.

1. The church is to support not only its own local ministry, but also that of the entire denomination. Our 10 ministries expect, require, and deserve your church's prayerful and financial support. After all, they were brought into existence by action taken during the annual convention and ratified by the annual conference. The amount of financial support will be different with each church, but each church should provide some degree of monetary support to each ministry. Failure to do so says two things:

a. My church chooses to not abide by this area of responsibility.

b. My church is not concerned with the success or failure of this ministry. In these tough economic times, your support is more important than ever before. Make sure your 2010 budget includes every area of OFWB ministry. You should also contact the Directors of each ministry to schedule a visit to your church so your congregation can learn more about the work of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination.

2. The local OFWB church is a member of one of the eight conferences within the denomination. This conference is the highest governing body in relation to the local church. Neither exists apart from the other (*AOF* 82). It is the duty of the local church to represent by delegation and to participate in and abide by the rules and regulations of its conference (*AOF*, p. 74, paragraph 4). The local church does have a voice in the work of its conference, but only if it is represented at the annual conference meeting.** While the local church has full authority to manage its own internal affairs (congregational government), it may also call in the conference executive committee to assist in solving factional,

doctrinal, or disciplinary disputes, with the understanding that the decision of this committee is final (connectional government).

3. The local church's relationship to the annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is very similar to that of the conference. Representation by delegation (1 delegate for every 100 members or fraction thereof) is one of the duties of the local church in its connection to the Convention. While the Convention has no direct governmental authority over the local church, it does deserve the same considerations given to the conference and the other 10 ministries. The very least the local church should do for the Convention is to complete the annual church letter received around March 1 of each year and return it along with the applicable funding.

The purpose of these articles is to inform and educate our congregations in the hope that they will commit to performing those duties that are expected of them. If every church will simply do what it has covenanted to do for its community, its conference, and its convention, our ministries will become much more effective, the gospel will be spread farther, and more souls will be won to Jesus. In our next article we will discuss the relationship of the Annual Conference and the Annual Convention, plus we will highlight the work of the Convention Headquarters Office. We will describe also how the Headquarters and Convention Services Office benefit your church. We will list a portion of the services that are available to the local congregation and how your church can help other congregations.

* Pages listed refer to the 2001 printing of the *Articles of Faith*. Copies are available at the FWB Bookstores in Ayden, Kinston and New Bern.

** Most annual conferences meet in the fall (October, November) while some meet in July. Meeting dates and places for 2009 are located on the inside rear cover of the 2009 Reports Book.



Jacksonville Campus Has Grand Opening

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mount Olive College held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for its newest location in Jacksonville, North Carolina on Wednesday, August 12.

Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, new president of Mount Olive College, stated, "We are delighted to be here in Jacksonville. We look forward to working with students, the Chamber, the community and area businesses to expand educational opportunities for this part of eastern North Carolina. Mount Olive College is innovative and willing to do things a little different than other institutions; that is one of the things that attracted me to become president of the College. The idea of a college being in one location is long gone. To meet the needs of our diverse student body we need to be accessible. That is why we are here in Jacksonville."

Ranked by the NC Independent Colleges and Universities as one of the fastest growing private colleges

in North Carolina, Mount Olive College has locations in Mount Olive, Goldsboro (on SJAFB), New Bern, Wilmington, Washington, Research Triangle Park and now Jacksonville.

Free Will Baptists from Onslow, Duplin, Jones and Carteret Counties are especially encouraged to take advantage of the Jacksonville location. Course offerings are for working adults with classes being offered one night a week. Courses for students with some prior college experience will be offered in Management and Organizational Development, Early Childhood Education, Health Care Management and Criminal Justice



Pictured (L-R): Vaughn Purnell, Director of Mount Olive College at Jacksonville; Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, President of MOC; Dr. J. William Byrd, Chancellor of MOC; Dr. T. J. Arant, Provost of MOC; Kristen Parker, Miss Shrimp Queen of the Sueds Ferry Seafood Festival and Naomi Thompson, Chamber Ambassador.

and Criminology. Also included will be courses that will provide working adults, with little or no college experience, the ability to earn college credit leading to a degree by attending class just one night a week and completing out of class assignments.

Lassiter Endowed Scholarships

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Donnie E. Lassiter (left), Chair of the Board of Directors of the N.C. Foundation for Christian Ministries, is shown presenting a Foundation Check in the amount of \$5,000 to Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter (center), President of Mount Olive College. At the right is Dr. W. Burkette Raper, President of the Foundation.



assist student preparing for Christian ministry at any location of Mount Olive College (both traditional and modular locations), or graduate students enrolled in any divinity school, seminary, or graduate school of religion accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

Selection of "Shepherd's Fund" scholarships is by the recommendation of the Foundation Scholarship Committee, with final approval by

the Board of Directors. Priority is given to students with financial need who hold membership in churches affiliated with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Application deadlines are June 30 for fall semester and October 31 for spring semester. Interested persons may obtain information and application forms by addressing: N.C. Foundation for Christian Ministries, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, N.C. 28365.

"The Lassiter Scholarships represent a significant investment not only in the work of Mount Olive College but also in the future of Original Free Will Baptists," declared Dr. Raper. "Through these scholarships, both laypersons and ordained ministers have an opportunity to equip themselves."

Drummond and Tillman Appointed to Board

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mary Herring Drummond of High Point and Sandra "Sandy" Beppard Tillman of Wrightsville Beach were recently appointed to the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees for a six-year term. The role of the 30-member Board is to keep the mission of the College in trust while being charged with the oversight and governance of the College.

Drummond is a retired educator who spent numerous years as an elementary school teacher and as the director of Christian Education for Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in High Point. She is the daughter of the late Otha Herring who established a \$5 million scholarship trust fund for Mount Olive College to provide scholarships for students from Duplin County and the Mount Olive area. Mr. Herring also made a major gift for the two new resident housing facilities (apartments) which opened this



Sandra "Sandy" Tillman and Mary Herring Drummond

fall. These apartments are named in memory of Mr. Herring's parents, Everett Edwin Herring and Annie Mae Whitfield.

She is president of Oherring Properties and is CEO for Packrite LLC. In addition to serving on the Mount Olive College Board, Drummond serves as a trustee for the Herring Scholarship funds at both Mount Olive College and James Sprunt Community College. In the fall, she plans to pursue the certification needed to become a lay pastor. Drummond and her husband, Michael, have two children.

Tillman grew up in Ayden, NC

where she was a member of Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Pitt County. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Beppard, Jr. She graduated from Mount Olive College in 1962 where she served on the Olive Leaves staff, was elected to the May Day Court and was an officer in the Future Business Leaders of America. While a student at Mount Olive she met her husband, Bob Tillman, former CEO of Lowe's Companies, Inc. The couple has one daughter and one granddaughter.

Tillman is retired from New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington where she worked as a financial counselor for over 17 years. She is a member of Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church.

When asked why she felt it was important to serve on the MOC board Tillman stated, "I chose to serve on the Board of Trustees in memory of my parents, who would be very pleased. I hope Mount Olive College remains the great College that I remember from being a student at the institution."

Pike Estate Gift Announced

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Mount Olive College Board of Trustees, at their fall meeting, approved the naming of the only classroom in the College's new proposed instrumental music suite in the Fine Arts Village. The room will be named for Wilbur A. and Bertie Hare Pike in appreciation of their estate gift that the College received on July 27.

The College's Board of Trustees approved that \$50,000 of the more than \$83,000 estate gift would be directed to the naming opportunity, with the remainder being used to establish The Wilbur A. and Bertie Hare Pike Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Pike was a pillar of the Pikeville community and known by many as Mr. Lion, as he was a charter member of the Pikeville Lions Club. Mr. Pike was born in Wayne County to the late

William Moody Pike and Nancy Jane Thompson Pike. He was married to the late Bertie Hare Pike. In 1972 Mr. Pike retired as the Pikeville postmaster after 30 years of service. Following his retirement Mr. Pike was actively involved with the National Association of Postmasters and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees Wayne County Chapter. He served on the board of directors of Fremont/Pikeville Branch Bank and Trust Co. He was a member of St. Joseph United Methodist Church and served on its official Board and on the Board of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church. In 2002 Mr. Pike was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian award.

"Mount Olive College is fortunate to have friends like Mr. and Mrs. Pike who chose to help others achieve a col-



Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur A. Pike

lege education as their legacy," stated Jeff Daughtry, director of Planned Giving at Mount Olive College. "Students will learn in the new and modern Pike Classroom and the Pike Scholarship will be awarded each year perpetually. That is a great way to be remembered."



Largest Number of First Time Students in History

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mount Olive College has the largest number of first-time students that it has ever had in its 58-year history.

"We are delighted to see the increase in the number of new and returning students this fall," said President Philip Kerstetter. "We all realize that these are difficult economic times, but these students and their families also understand the importance of furthering their education so that they will be prepared with needed skills for the years to come. I particularly am pleased that they are putting their faith in education at Mount Olive College. It is a testimony to their recognition of the quality of our programs, our faith-affiliated, values-centered environment, and our overall affordability."

Dr. Barbara Kornegay, vice president for Enrollment, indicated that Mount Olive College will have about 775 traditional students this

fall, of which 215 will be new freshmen.

"That is a school record for us," Dr. Kornegay stated. "We attribute this partly to the fact that we have added two new residence halls to the campus. These new facilities will accommodate 90 additional students. It may also be a result of the declining economy as students look to increase their desirability in the workforce," she added.

All together the College is anticipates 380 resident students on the Mount Olive College campus.

Mount Olive College is documented as being one of the most affordable private colleges in the North Carolina Private Colleges and Universities system, and according to Dr. Kornegay about 90 percent of students receive some type of financial aid.

Last year the Financial Aid Office processed more than \$33 million in financial aid for MOC students.



Keith Woodard (Rains Crossroads, Johnston County)



Chris Stroud (Piney Grove Church, Duplin County)



Audrey Owens (far left; First Church of Wilson, Wilson County) with parents and new roommate, Anna Munizza

296 Students Graduate from MOC

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

On Saturday, August 29 Mount Olive College graduated 296 students at its 56th commencement exercises. Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter presided over the event. It was his first graduation ceremony as the new president of Mount Olive College. J. Keith Crisco, NC secretary of Commerce, delivered the keynote address. He challenged graduates to be proud of their success, but to take life's disappointments and learn from them.

"How you manage disappointment will make all the difference in your overall success," he said.

Crisco went on to note the famous

mistakes of people like Henry Ford who forgot to put a reverse gear on his first automobile; Michael Jordan, who was cut from his high school basketball team and John Grishman, whose first novel was rejected by 16 agents and a dozen publishers.

"Think what would have happened, if any of these people had allowed disappointment or disapproval to end their careers," he added. "Disappointments will test your faith...in yourself, in your family, and in God, but I can assure you that you have what it takes to manage any disappointments and to be even more successful than you thought possible."



Katherine Cahoon (Sound Side Church, Tyrrell County), the daughter of James and Kathy Cahoon)

2009 Mount Olive College Dinners

The 2009 annual dinners for Mount Olive College have been scheduled as follows. Mount Olive College is a ministry established by the Free Will Baptist Church, and Free Will Baptists are encouraged to attend the dinner held in their county where they can learn more about this ministry of Christian higher education. Students from the College music department will present a program of music at each of the dinners. Persons interested in attending a dinner should make reservations through their local church chairperson.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY, Thursday, October 1, 7:00 P.M., First FWB Church, Tarboro, Ray Williamson, Chair. Goal: \$12,375

LENOIR COUNTY, Saturday, October 3, 6:30 P.M., Westside FWB Church, Kinston, Cleo S. Hinson, Chair. Goal: \$31,350

ONSLOW-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, Sunday, October 4, 6:00 P.M., Folkstone FWB Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chair. Goal: \$4,675

JONES COUNTY, Monday, October 5, 7:00 P.M., Whaley's Chapel FWB Church near Richlands, Gene Burkett, Chair. Goal: \$8,550

GREENE COUNTY, Monday, October 12, 7:00 P.M., Hull Road FWB Church near Snow Hill, Genevieve M. Taylor and Randy Beaman, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$57,425

BEAUFORT COUNTY, Saturday, October 17, 6:30 P.M., Southside High School, Chocowinity, Billy Gurkin, Chair. Goal: \$12,750

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION, Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 P.M., Beaverdam FWB Church near Chadbourn, Danny McPherson, Chair. (Gave \$11,525 at 2008 dinner)

PAMLICO COUNTY, Saturday, October 24, 6:00 P.M., Mount Zion FWB Church, Vandemere, Paul Grubbs, Chair. Goal: \$6,900

WAYNE COUNTY, Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 P.M., Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Barbara Lancaster, Chair. Goal: \$87,500

NASH COUNTY, Thursday, October 29, 7:00 P.M., Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chair. Goal: \$6,625

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES, Monday, November 2, 7:00 P.M., Everett Chapel FWB Church, Spiritual Life Building, Howard F. Scott, Chair. Goal: \$62,875

DUPLIN COUNTY, Saturday, November 7, 6:00 P.M., Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, Tommy Benson, Chair. Goal: \$21,575

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 P.M., Rose of Sharon FWB Church, Bear Grass, Lloyd W. Jones, Jr., Chair. Goal: \$17,175

CRAVEN COUNTY, Thursday, November 12, 7:00 P.M., Juniper Chapel FWB Church near Vanceboro, Susan Broggi, Chair. Goal: \$24,775

CARTERET COUNTY, Saturday, November 14, 6:00 P.M., West Cartetet High School, Morehead City, Ricky Benson and Edgar Pake, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$12,225

PITT COUNTY, Monday, November 16, 7:00 P.M., Elm Grove FWB Church near Ayden, Jean M. Averette, Chair. Goal: \$49,100

WILSON COUNTY, Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 P.M., Daniels Chapel FWB Church near Wilson, Johnny Sullivan, Chair. Goal: \$63,200

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, Thursday, November 19, 7:00 P.M., Robert's Grove FWB Church near Dunn, Ricky Warren, Chair. Goal: \$52,975

TOTAL DINNER GOAL: \$543,575



Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

College Fairs

MOC Admissions representatives will be at College Fairs in your neighborhood during the Fall of 2009. To find out when your high school's college fair is scheduled, contact your guidance counselor, or call 800-653-0854 and ask for admissions.

Visitation days at Mount Olive College

High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend one of the MOC visitation days scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2009, or Monday, January 18, 2010. These days are designed to help prospective college students and their families learn more about how to prepare for college life. To learn more and to make a reservation, send a message to admissions@moc.edu or call 800-653-0854 and ask for the admissions office manager. Private campus visits can also be scheduled for students who cannot attend one of the scheduled dates.

SAT/ACT Test Planning

High school seniors and juniors should be making plans to take or re-take the SAT or ACT right away. MOC accepts the highest combination of scores, so taking the test more than once is recommended. To learn more about test dates and locations, students can talk with their guidance counselors or visit Collegeboard.com and ACTstudent.org.

CFNC College Application Week: November 16-19, 2009.

College Foundation of NC sponsors college application week every fall to help prospective college students prepare for the transition from high school to college. High school seniors can sign up with their guidance counselors to be able to participate in this very important week. Students who wish to apply to MOC can use the CFNC option or they can use the free application at www.moc.edu.

One night a week programs for working adults

MOC has 7 locations where working adults can enroll in one night a week programs. All programs meet from 6-10 PM on the same night every week. To make contact with an admissions representative at one of our locations, call 800-NEW GOAL.

Evening College at Mount Olive

Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 10/5/09

Mount Olive College at Jacksonville 910-455-1677

Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) begins 10/5/09

Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 10/21/09

Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 11/17/09

Health Care Management begins 12/1/09

Mount Olive College at New Bern 800-NEW-GOAL

Health Care Management begins 10/7/09

Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 10/8/09

Early Childhood Education (ECE) begins 10/20/09

Criminal Justice and Criminology begins 11/9/09

Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 11/19/09

Mount Olive College at RTP 800-NEW-GOAL

Early Childhood Education (ECE) begins 1/7/10

Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 11/5/09

Mount Olive College at Washington 800-NEW-GOAL

Early Childhood Education (ECE) begins 10/15/09

Religion (MRM) begins 11/17/09

Mount Olive College at Wilmington 800-NEW-GOAL

Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) begins 10/12/09

Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 10/27/09

Heritage Associate Degree program begins 11/10/09

2009 Annual Youth Worker's Summit

Saturday, October 24, 2009
At Mount Olive College

1:00pm~6:00pm Workshops

6:00pm Dinner

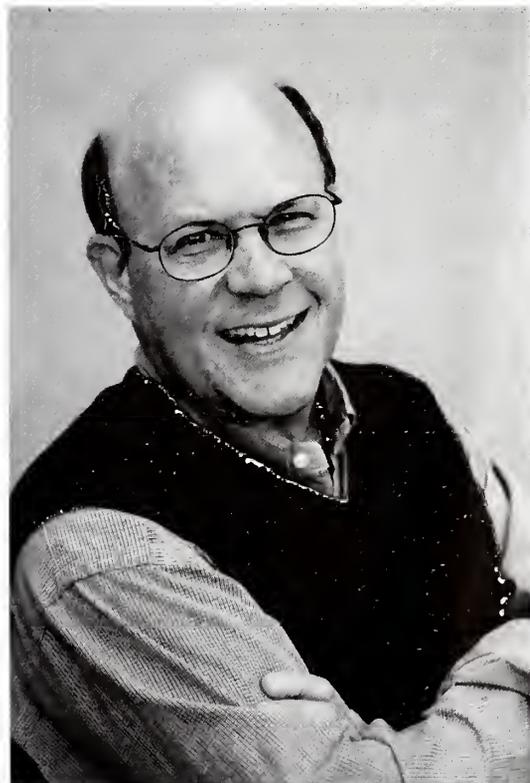
7:30~9:00pm Evening Worship

Cost: \$30.00 (*All Day with Meal & Resources*)

\$20.00 (*Evening Worship & Resources Only*)

Special Guest:

DUFFY ROBBINS



Duffy is the author of numerous books including:

- Youth Ministry That Works
- Ministry of Nurture
- Youth Ministry Nuts and Bolts
- Option Plays
- Going the Distance
- Spontaneous Melodramas I and II
- Memory Makers
- Everyday Object Lessons
- This Way to Youth Ministry: An Introduction to the Adventure
- Enjoy the Silence: A Thirty Day Experiment in Listening to God
- Speaking to Teenagers

As an Associate Staff member of Youth Specialties, Duffy works throughout the year in training events for youth workers, appearing each spring in about fifteen cities coast to coast as a part of *the CORE* and at the National Youthworkers Conventions each fall.

2009 Annual Youth Worker's Summit

Saturday, October 24, 2009
At Mount Olive College

Register Online (Pay via PayPal) at:
<http://youthworkerssummit.eventbrite.com/>

Cut Here and Mail

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Church: _____

Ticket Options (Fill out one per participant)

\$30.00 All Day Pass *(Workshops, Meal & Resources)*

\$20.00 Evening Worship *(Worship Only & Resources)*

Make Checks Payable & Mail To:

Youth Ministries of OFWB

264 Kirby-Thigpen Road

Pink Hill, NC 28572

Or Email

Palmerpartnership@gmail.com

** Profits from this event will help sponsor the 2010 Youth Convention
at Mount Olive College on Friday, May 14-16, 2010*



A Good Year for Retirement Homes Ministry

BY RONNIE TAYLOR

I can hardly believe that it is already the fall of the year. This year has seemed to really fly by. It is the time of the year when most of our conferences have their annual conference. I always look forward to attending as many of these conferences that I possibly can.

I cannot always attend all the conferences, but I do look forward to meeting with the pastors and delegates and just talking. I hope that I will get the opportunity to meet many of you this year.

This has been a good year for your Retirement Homes Ministry, and God continues to bless. We have added new

clients to the family and continue to seek ways to help others.

If you know of someone who may need some assistance, please let me know. I will be glad to make contact and ascertain the needs. Many of our older members are very independent people and hesitate to ask for help when needed.

We have recently replaced the carpet in one unit of our duplexes and have had to replace the refrigerator in the other. We are now waiting for the carpenter to come and complete some other repairs that are needed on both of the units. We try to make sure these

units are in as good a shape as possible so our clients will be proud to call them home.

We send out a special thank you to the Reverend Harold Swinson for his assistance with our disability equipment. He has been able to store some equipment and when an item is needed in Kenly or the surrounding area, he can fill that need and save some time, miles, and money.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and support. Without you and our churches, this would not be a ministry and many of our people would go without needed help.

Community Choir Concert

Members of several Free Will Baptist Churches are presenting a community choir concert

Saturday, October 10

7:00 P.M.

Sunday, October 11

3:00 P.M.

First FWB Church

604 East Ash Street
Goldsboro, NC

*Everyone is welcome to come. There will be no charge for admission.
A free will offering will be taken to benefit Cragmont Assembly, Inc.*



God Will Make a Way

BY ALMA B. ATANOSA

After many years of prayer and trusting the Lord, the Free Will Baptist Christian School in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines opened its elementary level in 2008, which included preschool through grade 3, with a total of 72 students. We were blessed by having board certified teachers who taught these grades.

In the year 2009, we reached a total of 100 pupils in all grade levels. This year we added grade 4. It is our joy to be able to nurture the children's minds and hearts, both mentally and physically as we share with them through regular classes and spiritual teaching.

Yes! God will make a way in order to bless His people.



Preschool students and teachers



Elementary students and teachers

Baptism Service in Palawan, Philippines

BY REV. MARCOS P. TALADRO

Praise the Lord for He continues to add souls to His church. It is evident through this significant occasion when we baptized them by immersion. The five persons who accepted Jesus Christ

as their personal Savior and followed in Christian baptism were Jenel P. Sagayno, Ryan P. Repaso, Michael O. Taguan, Rhea J. Padrigo, and Krissin Mae P. Siose.

The baptismal service was con-

ducted on Sunday afternoon at Irawan River Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines on May 24, 2009. We ask everyone to pray for our congregation in Irawan First Free Will Baptist Church. To God be the glory.



The Rev. Marcos Taladro giving a baptismal instruction.



Baptism ceremonies lead by the Rev. Marcos Taladro.

The Uskudar Church

BY WILLEM VAN DER PLAS

Tezdjan and Medji visited Turkey from July 11-12, 2009. For about four years, we have maintained a fellow relationship with Pastor Metin and the small Uskudar congregation. The Reverend Metin Mintaz could not receive a visa from the Bulgarian Embassy, and he asked us to visit them for encouragement and fellowship.

The membership pattern of this church does not differ from all evangelical churches in Turkey. These churches have a growth potential from 10 to 20 members and when they grow larger people stop attending the worship, meditation, and prayer meetings. Apparently it seems that members don't feel safe in churches with an attendance of more than 20 members. New people may come to spy during the meetings and write reports to government authorities and to their Muslim leaders; from both sides they face many problems. Landlords no longer rent their houses to them and employers are forced to fire their Christian employees, the community reacts against them, their wives, and their children.

The pastor wrote some facts which recently happened: "One man showed high interest in the Gospel message, unexpectedly he stopped attending the meetings. We failed to reach him by phone, and he never left a message, not even an address; he just disappeared. The question remains: 'Is he a friend or a foe?' How much does he know about the members of the church?"

An old man who received the Lord and has been touched by the Gospel message of salvation got terribly harassed by his neighbors. When he received some Christian books the community punished him again. Some members of the church visited him and afterwards he was attacked by the members of the civil community for the third time. But he does not give up attending our worship meetings."



Tezdjan (front)

A young student is saving money to buy a machine to produce 'slushies' or ice-drinks to be sold on the beaches. He asks for prayer that he may obtain a permit from the authorities. The pastor wrote in the News Letter: "We are sad, because two families of our church lost their visa; one South Korean business man and a Rumanian family. Both families were always generously contributing to our church. The rent for our worship room is \$1,000 per month, the house-rent for the pastor is the same amount; renting room in Istanbul is very costly. The Lord brought us a solution, and we share our meeting place with another denomination and each of us pays now 50% of the rent."

The Reverend Metin and his family had to leave their home within 24 hours, the landlord received various threats and was afraid to rent his house longer to them, but our Lord provided another home where they can live now; praises be brought to His name.

Together we received a good time of sharing, prayers and praise. Instead

of our needs we counted our blessings and laid them with thanksgiving before the Lord. We praised the Lord for His blessings in our work and for His continuous care. Just at that time the church in Uskudar received a generous gift which made it possible to pay the rent of the worship room.

The Reverend Mintaz received an invitation to come to Pendik for follow-up lectures to a small church in that location. Please pray for him and his partner. Their leader was once an active member of a very nationalistic political party which strongly opposed the Christians in Turkey. He certainly seems to be a faithful believer who seeks to serve Our Lord to his utmost.

After Tezdjan and Medji returned, they shared the many blessings they received from the brothers and sisters in Istanbul. We know that the politics have much influence on the evangelical Christian Churches. The believers ask for our prayer that they may receive strength to persevere in faith against the growing Muslim opposition.



BLENDED FELLOWSHIP



is praising the Lord for their new roof!



Thank you to EVERYONE who, through Christ, has made this possible!

We appreciate your continued support!

Matt. 19:26

A Service of Celebration Honoring The Reverend Walter Sutton

BY SUBMITTED ARTICLE

On August 26, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist Church, Deep Run, NC, hosted a special service of celebration honoring the Reverend Walter J. Sutton's 50 years in the ministry (exactly 50 years ago on August 26, 2009). The service was dedicated in memory of Faye Sutton, whose death occurred two years ago.

Participants included: Giles Stroud, piano prelude; special music, Saborah Smith and Susan Humphrey; welcome and call to worship, the Reverend C. H. Overman, followed by the responsive reading of Psalm 100; prayer of invocation, the Reverend Ronnie Hobgood; recognition of service to OFWB, the Reverend Dr. David C. Hansley; Smith's New Home spokesperson, Dr. Lonnie Blizzard; the pastor's wife, Geraldine Hill; special music, Jenny Smith; Wall of Honor presentation, the Reverend Buddy Sasser; response from the family, Steve Sutton; special music, the Marlboro Boys; final remarks and special recognitions, the Reverend Walter Sutton; benediction, the Reverend Andrew Hill. Also appearing on the program were Hyman Stadium and Dr. W. Burkette Raper.

It was indeed a wonderful service. Those appearing on the program commented on Walter's faithfulness as a minister of the gospel, particularly in the area of Biblical and theological studies. Mr. Stadium, owner of H. Stadium's Men's Clothing, Kinston, NC, who served as Walter's clothier for many years, spoke of how he always presented himself as befitting to the ministry. Several humorous stories were shared during the service and were enjoyed by all. Brother Sutton had the final words and some interesting stories pertaining to his wife, Faye. he expressed with deep regret that she was not present for his service of celebration, a sentiment that was shared by all. The service was led by Brother Overman.

The celebration concluded with a

reception in the Fellowship Hall, with bountiful refreshments provided by Strickland and Dail and Smith's New Home.

The planning committee consisted of C. H. Overman, Happy Taylor, and Betty Blizzard. Flowers were given by Smith's New Home in honor of Brother Sutton and in memory of Faye Sutton. Ushers were Danny Davis, Muriel Tyndall, Doug Smith, and Rick Stroud. The guest register was attended by Chris and Dalene Combs.

Walter J. Sutton, the second son of Walter and Sudie Mae Tripp Sutton, was born on May 22, 1932, in Lenoir County, N.C. On July 21, 1954, he married Amanda Faye Dildy. The wedding took place near Farmville at the Ballard's Community Center with the Reverend Rober Lee Norville officiating. To this union was born three children: Walter Steve Sutton, Joseph Kenton Sutton, and Janice Faye Sutton. Grandchildren are: Jonathan Steve Sutton, Jennifer Carol Sutton, Lauren Michael Sutton, Stacey Lynn Sutton, Amanda K. Hinson, and Jamie Hinson; one great grandson, Jamison Sutton.

Walter attended the first five grades at the Hookerton Elementary School in Greene County, and sixth through twelfth grades at Walstonburg School. He attended Mount Olive College from 1957 until 1959, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Ten-



Faye and Walter Sutton

nessee in the summer of 1959, and East Carolina University 1960-1961.

He accepted Christ in the summer of 1952 during a revival in Farmville, N.C. He was baptized and granted membership with Friendship Original Free Will Baptist Church, Greene County, the latter part of 1952.

He was granted ministerial license by Friendship Church after examination and approval by the Board of Ordination of the Central Conference. While completing his ordination requirements, his license was renewed in 1957 and 1958. In 1959, he was ordained by the Central Conference Board of Ordination on July 26 at the Ayden Original Free Will Baptist Church. His conference membership has included the Central Conference, 1957-1962, and the Eastern Conference since 1962 until the present.

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Following God's Guidance

Does God speak to us in daily life? Or does He speak only through Scripture, or designated prophets, or from the pulpit? If we believe that He only speaks through greater authorities, then I feel that we are missing a great deal.

I believe that God does speak with all of us in daily life. He also speaks through Scripture and prophets and from the pulpit—greater authorities than are we. I believe that in fact there is no limit to how God speaks to us, for our God is not a limited God in any way. He will find a way to get through to us. He asks only that we try to discern. If we miss the first glimmering of guidance, God will bring the same message to us in yet other ways until we get the message.

In my twenties I heard a very dynamic preacher of the gospel speak in Raleigh on the topic of guidance. He stressed, "I have known people at the end of their lives who said, 'I knew that God was telling me to do that. But I didn't do it, and I regret

it.'" He went on, vehemently, "I have never known anyone to say, 'I knew that God was trying to get me to do that, and I did it, and I regret it.'" "

This was a significant sermon to me. I was wrestling with God's will. I thought He was signaling to me a certain pathway that, on the surface, did not seem very rational. Yet I could not get what I perceived to be guidance out of my mind. I stayed on this particular pathway, all told, for 14 years. A long time, but God's time is not ours; eternity measures things differently. Once that pathway ended, I was then free to walk a new and different pathway—one which was actually more to my liking. But I do believe now, another 27 years later on, that the guidance I followed in those 14 years was true.

I have been fascinated with the concept of God's guidance all of my adult life because my 14-year pathway began when I was 21. I have sought earnestly to do God's will as I walked ahead, not always

sure that I have "heard" correctly. I believe that God only asks that we listen and try to follow to the extent of which we are capable.

Don't think that God last spoke more than 2,000 years ago and has remained apart from His creation in all the time since. Instead, surrender yourself and your dealings into His hands always, and then wait patiently for the miracles to happen. We have invited a closer communion. God will not delay in bestowing miracles.

I once read, "Why beseech heaven for a miracle one would not recognize at high noon?" After actively seeking guidance, we are perhaps in the right frame of mind, for the first time, to recognize miracles when they occur.

We may, in many ways, know God more intimately and therefore be more likely to hear His voice speak to us, guiding us. Close walks with God are their own reward. Surely there can be no happier way to spend a lifetime.

Friendship Original Free Will Baptist Church
Middlesex, NC 27557

HOMECOMING

Sunday, October 25, 2009

Sunday School at 9:45 A.M.

Worship Service at 11:00 A.M.

Reverend Rudy Owens—Speaker

Come join us on this day as we fellowship, worship, and praise God.



2009 Cornerstone Retreat



Group from the 2009 Cornerstone Retreat gathers on the front steps of Cragmont's main building to pose for a photo.

BY GAIL HEATH

On Sunday August 2, over 60 women headed for Black Mountain NC for a week of Bible Study and lots of fun and fellowship. We would come home to Cragmont once again. Our week began Sunday evening with everyone gathering in the chapel for devotion and instructions from our director, Mrs. May Pittman. She introduced the staff for the week which included registrar Joan Little, pianist JoAnn Parrish, and our song leader Kristy Bailey. Our Bible Teachers for the week would be, Mrs. Mary Dudley and Gail Heath, and our devotions each morning would be led by Brenda Hood.

Monday morning came early and began as did every day with a meaningful devotion from Brenda and then a wonderful breakfast by our devoted Cragmont staff. They were there all week to serve faithfully in doing whatever was needed to make all of us feel special,

along with our very trusted bus driver Dorman. He not only drove our bus, but he made a lot of trips up and down the hill on the golf cart to make sure our ladies were safe. His hand was outstretched a lot helping everyone on and off the bus and the cart.

Soon after breakfast, our fellowship time began in song led by Kristy and JoAnn on the piano. Soon thereafter we began our study for the week which was entitled "Walking in the Truth". This was based on the book "The Lies Women Believe and The Truth That Sets Them Free" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. Throughout the week we were led in study and meaningful discussions on things that often hold us in bondage, and how Satan uses lies to keep us in bondage, but for each lie Satan uses, we have the truth in Jesus Christ that can set us free.

In the afternoons during our free time, you could find some of

the ladies headed off to shop and sightsee, or there were some who took that time for a little R&R. However it was chosen to be spent you knew for sure that there would be lots of fellowship. One memorable time of fellowship was our trip to The Cove. Everyone enjoyed the movie "Road to Redemption" and the wonderful lunch buffet. We were also able to take a little time to visit their bookstore and wonder the halls to look at the memorabilia.

Our night services were just as great. The Rev. John Williams and the Rev. Harold Jones inspired us with great messages and teaching as did Becky Jo Sumner.

The week was over before we knew it and Friday morning found us loading up to return to our respective places called home, but for that week, "Cornerstone Week," Jesus was (and still is) our Cornerstone and Cragmont meant "home to me." Hope to see all of you next year.

By the Bay

WITH RICK PRICE

Here we are and it's October. I love fall weather! It does seem to make the fish bite better. A couple of things that I mentioned in last month's article have changed. At the time, there had been a total of 60 that had accepted Jesus here at the summer camps. That number grew to 70 before we finished. Isn't that awesome: 70 new souls added to Christ's kingdom because they came here to summer camp. This is an awesome ministry, and a lot of people still do not know about it or have never been here before. As you can see in one of our pictures this month, there have been several churches that have come together for weekend retreats. We are scheduling smaller groups together because we simply don't have enough weeks in the year to meet the demand of groups that want to come to camp. I



This seems to be one of the favorite pastimes, rocking in the rocking chairs on the front porch of the kitchen/dining room.

have a waiting list for new spots and even could do two more summer camps if we had the facility to do it with. It's a good problem to have! Camp Vandemere is here because of a vision someone had years ago. The vision was to have a Free Will Baptist camp that would minister to any and all who would set aside time

to come here and be drawn closer. This vision was actually started in the early 1960's. Now, we have outgrown the existing facilities and need to go forward with a new building so we can reach more and more for the cause of Christ. It's an awesome opportunity for us to be a part of this ministry and the possibility of bringing about the rest of the original vision of building a new facility across the road in front of the kitchen/dining building. I also mentioned last month that we were going to replace the tops of the two main buildings in September. We have scheduled this for October 30 & 31. Please keep us in your prayers as we go forward. You can also get an application for our Singing by the River Fundraiser and an application for the fishing tournament online at our website.

Summer Season Comes to an End

BY RICK PRICE

Don't forget our upcoming fundraiser events. Our Singing by the River takes place on October 17 and the speckled trout fishing tournament on November 13 and 14. Please consider coming out and supporting these fundraisers this year. As you know, we are in the first stages of building a new facility and also replacing the metal roofs of the two existing buildings. Replacing the tops will cost about \$15,000. I have had to turn many people down because we just don't have enough weeks in the year to add new groups. Each group that



Mr. Owen baptizes a young girl in the Bay River. He also baptized her parents. There have been several baptisms held here at the camp this summer.

comes reschedules for the same week the next year. We really need to go forward with our building

program as soon as possible and that will take the financial support and the prayers of everyone. But we know that God is good, all the time, and His people will be moved to supply the finances to do these projects. Buy an ad for the Singing by the River or enter the fishing tournament, or just let God lead you in a donation for His cause. We will praise Him in all we do here at Camp Vandemere. Thank you again for all donations to the camp. Please send any and all future donations to: Camp

Vandemere, Inc., 215 NW 3rd Street, Vandemere, NC 28587.



Children's Home Establishes Endowment

BY W. BURKETTE RAPER

By authorization of its Board of Trustees, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home has established the "Alumni Endowment" with the Foundation. The Endowment consists of the principal of five funds endowed by individuals and families as well as the alumni general endowed fund, which is composed of gifts not assigned to a specific fund. The five individual and family funds are the Martha Williford Smith, Stephen Lee Raper, Faye Watson Harrell, Doris Lancaster Hudson, and Fannie Holland Garris endowed funds.

The services of the Foundation will include the management and investment of the assets of the funds and making an annual distribution to the Home for use as determined by its Board of Trustees. In addition, the Foundation will maintain records of each fund and acknowledge gifts to the various funds. The Foundation will also make an annual report to the Children's Home and the Alumni Association.

The origin of the Endowment reaches back to the 1992 annual meeting of the Alumni Association on July 12. During the business session, Ralph E. Pate, a former resident of the Home (1933-1941), made a motion "That something should be done to thank the Free Will Baptists for their support while we were in the Home." The minutes read, "Burkette Raper was asked to give thought to this project."

The 1992 meeting of the Alumni Association would be the last Ralph would ever attend. He died in April of the following year, and I was asked by his family to speak at his funeral, and it was while preparing for this service that the concept of an endowment by the alumni of the Children's Home came to mind.

The endowment concept was received favorably at a meeting of the outgoing and new officers of the Alumni Association held June 6, 1992 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling

Skinner. The concept was also approved in principle in a meeting on June 11 in Wilson attended by Judy Aycok, President, and Billy Mills, Vice President of the Association, and Dr. Bobby Taylor, Executive Director of the Children's Home. In addition, this concept was discussed with various individuals who made helpful suggestions.

The proposal to initiate the endowment was officially approved by the Alumni Association at its annual meeting at the Children's Home on July 11, 1993. Below is the emended text which created the endowment:

1. What is an endowment?

It is a permanent fund. The principal is not spent but is invested. The earnings of the fund are used as determined by the purpose of the Endowment.

2. How is an endowment funded?

By gifts or bequests in any amount by any donor. It is suggested that the Alumni Endowment include gifts or bequests in honor and/or in memory of persons who have lived or worked at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home or served on its Board of Trustees. There could be two kinds of funds:

- General Alumni Endowment. This fund would consist of general gifts to the Endowment. A "Book of Memory" should be kept by the Children's Home that would record the dates, amount and names of all donors and the names of persons in whose honor or memory gifts are made.

- Individual or Family Endowment. If an individual or family wished to have a named fund, the principal could be co-mingled with the General Alumni Endowment for investment purposes but separate records would be kept of the Individual or Family Endowment to record the assets of the fund and the names of donors, dates of gifts and the amount. It would be left to the Children's Home to determine the size fund that would be required for individual or family identification.

3. How would the income from the Alumni Endowment be used?

It is recommended that the administration of the Children's Home be authorized to use the income for special purposes to enrich the life of children under the care of the Home and that a report be made annually to the Alumni Association that would include the following information:

- Total assets of the Alumni Endowment.

- Amount added to principal during the fiscal year.

- Amount of income received from the Endowment and how it was used. (End of Text)

The vision which led to the beginning of the Alumni Endowment was seed that fell on good soil. Charles Harrell of Mount Olive, an alumnus of the Home (1938-1951), was appointed chair of a committee to encourage support of the endowment. Below is an excerpt of his July 20, 1994 letter to alumni:

"During the Alumni Association meeting in July of 1993, the Association members discussed the establishment of an Alumni Endowment. ... The purpose of this fund is to render financial aid to the child care ministry of Original Free Will Baptists, through the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc. and its various programs.

"The Association is inviting all Alumni to participate in gifts of any amount for this endowment. ... This is a special way you can show your devotion toward a loved one or just to show your appreciation to the Children's Home for what it meant to you as a child. The Alumni Endowment will be open for ongoing contributions and will hopefully grow in order to reach its goal and even beyond."

Through June 30, 2009, contributions to the Alumni Endowment have totaled \$36,129. Although the initial goal of \$50,000.00 has not yet been reached, the Foundation will work with the alumni of the Home to achieve this goal at an early date—hopefully by 2010, which will mark the 90th anniversary of the admission of the first children!

Smith's New Home Honors Riggs

BY AMANDA CLEVE

The Woman's Auxiliary of Smith's New Home Church held a special service during the morning worship on Sunday, August 16, 2009 honoring Mildred Tyndall Riggs.

Mrs. Mildred was born on April 1, 1924 to Pinkney and Margaret Tyndall in the Deep Run Community. Being one of 10 siblings and living on a farm allowed her to face life to the fullest. In 1941, she married Lloyd R. Riggs, and they were blessed with two children, Michael and Kay, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, three step-great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Michael and his wife, Dorothy, live in the Grifton area. Kay died in 2007. Lloyd served in World War II under General Patton and received the bronze star and many other medals and decorations for his



Mildred Tyndall Riggs

bravery. After 57 years of marriage, Lloyd died in 1998. Mrs. Mildred is a cancer survivor and thankful that she is able to live alone, cook, and keep

house.

She has been a member of Smith's New Home Church since 1956. Teaching in Sunday school and Vacation Bible School has been a joy in her life, as well as serving in any capacity that she was needed. She is now the only survivor of the Tyndall siblings, but is happy that she has a family in her church. She has three nieces, Judy Davis Grady, Margaret Tyndall, and Happy Riggs Taylor, and one nephew, Muriel Tyndall who attend. When the church doors are open, she is there. Mrs. Mildred is ready to help with all church functions and fundraisers. She quietly gives her support wherever it is needed. At the times when she cannot physically work, she is there to promote.

She truly loves her church and church family and is an encourager to all.

El Meson Celebrates First Anniversary at Westside



Some of the Mexican men checking out *Oyo Mi Clamor!*



The Reverend Chris Singleton accepts a copy of the devotional *Oyo Mi Clamor!* from the Reverend Aniceto Mirles Cristobal.

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

On Sunday, August 16, El Meson, the Hispanic church meeting at Westside in Kinston, celebrated their first anniversary at Westside. To show their gratitude, they invited the Westside congregation to join them for a delicious Sunday dinner after the morning service.

For their afternoon service, several congregations joined them for a joyful program with some great music and preaching.

As part of the day's festivities, the Hispanic pastor, the Reverend Aniceto Mircles Cristobal, presented the Reverend Chris Singleton with one hundred copies of a devotional

book that he had recently written, published, and printed. The book is entitled, *Oyo Mi Clamor!* and is the personal testimony of brother Cristobal. The devotionals were distributed at Camp Morelos during the recent encampment sponsored by the OFWBI.

Sidney Church Builds New Facility

BY DAVID POOSER

On Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 2:30 PM the family members of Sidney Free Will Baptist Church and friends dedicated the new Sanctuary and educational facilities to the Lord for worship of Him, and in quoting King Solomon as recorded in 1 Kings 8:60 "that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God, there is no other" (NKJV).

The process that brought about this new place of worship began during earlier pastorates and found a focus during the pastorate of Rev. Bob Harbour. He had challenged the church to consistently have an attendance goal for worship over a set period of time. His wise leadership transformed into a vision of enlarging the church sanctuary out to the sides to give room for growth.

This vision of enlargement was changed to new construction when a member of the church, Mrs. Elizabeth Ohearn gave a gift of over \$90,000 to the church as a part of her will. This was an unexpected gift to the church and in 1999 led the body of believers to a vote to build a new sanctuary. Plans were drawn, redrawn, considered, and reconsidered, but it was not until 2006 that the Lord brought so many details together to carry forward the 1999 vote of the church.

The breaking of ground for the new building was on September 24, 2007 as a part of the Homecoming service. We saw our contractor, Mr. Patrick Tetterton, begin work the next day. We were very blessed to have a contractor like Mr. Tetterton who was so gracious in our being able to construct a place of worship that is unique to us with ideas from many in the church family incorporated into the new building. Mr. Steve Paschal did all of our design work as a gift to the church and was a great source of counsel to us, heavily involved in helping us move forward. The construction proceeded quickly seeing the walls and roof up by Christ-



Demolition begins on the old Sidney Church building.



The new sanctuary and educational facilities of Sidney Church.

mas. We began to see brickwork and interior walls, air conditioners, plumbing and an almost unbelievable amount of wire run as the work progressed. The time of construction, from breaking ground to our first worship service, was exactly seven months.

While we would have been very happy to have seen this project be completed without any need to borrow money, we were not quite there at the time of construction. We were very blessed by Rev. Don Fader of the Church Finance Association and their board in securing a loan to cover what we did not have when construction began. Rev. Fader was quick to give us all the needed paperwork and the board considered our request within a very short amount of time after we made our submission request. The terms of the loan through the Church Finance Association were more to our advantage than anywhere else we considered. We were blessed to have come to within approximately

\$100,000 of having the building paid for by the date of the dedication service. The burden of a large debt had been a concern near the beginning, but the giving towards the construction had been an ongoing event in praise to God seeing over \$470,000 given before we had to borrow any money. We eventually borrowed \$101,000 for the building, and through very generous and anonymous giving the debt was retired before the end of 2008. We still are somewhat in awe to realize the great blessing of a Sanctuary and then to realize that it is now paid for in full brings us even more into an attitude of praise and thanksgiving.

One of the many things that helped us in lowering the cost of the building was the volunteer labor from members of the church, and also members of the community in helping to tear down and remove the old facilities. We saw savings of around \$50,000 by being able to accomplish this ourselves through the sacrifice of time and labor of those who helped.

We were also able to save a great amount of money through the donation of dirt to fill in the foundation, rock to help solidify the parking areas, discounts in the bills of the subcontractors to the church, and the use of trucks, tractors, equipment of all types, and a generosity of time and spirit from those involved.

There can be no doubt in the minds of those involved that God was responsible for the success of the construction. He led us so many times to wise choices, safer paths, better timing, and excellent methods, the right people, and has brought the church through the largest step of faith in its history perhaps since it was first started. We say, to everyone who asks us about our new building and how we were able to do it these few simple words, "The Lord has been so good to us!" We would like to invite you to stop by and visit us to see this work of God here in the Sidney community and in the people who worship Him at Sidney Free Will Baptist Church.

Faith in Action at Little Creek Church

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Tangible Faith—The title of our Woman's Auxiliary Devotion 2009. What exactly does that mean? Becky Jo Sumner states in the foreword that "a person's faith can be seen and handled." And "your faith, to be a living faith, must be viewed and felt by those around you."

On Sunday, August 9th at Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church in Scuffleton, three women who are examples of this Tangible Faith were honored in a Woman's Auxiliary Life Membership service. These three women honor God with their daily lives and each received a well deserved award for their service to God and others.

In total these three women have lived almost two hundred and forty years. Their service not only to our church but to their families and communities has impacted many lives. They have shown their faith by their works. Let me introduce you to three women who have inspired me to stay involved in the work of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Loede McLawhorn Cahoon served our auxiliary as President and as Program Chairwoman. She was born October 8, 1925 to Beulah Beddard and John W. "Jack" McLawhorn in Greene County. She was the only girl of four children; she has three brothers, Earl, Gene, Edsel "Pete" and J.B. Loede attended Maury School where she graduated in 1942. She began college at East Carolina

Teachers College but didn't complete the degree because she fell in love and married Ernest Cahoon. They shared twenty years of marriage and had three daughters: Janet Morton, Nancy Shirley and Kay Cahoon.

Loede worked at Federal Pacific Electric as a timekeeper and production supervisor from 1964-1970. She also worked at J.P. Steven in Quality Control. After leaving that job, she took a nursing course and began to work as a caregiver until she retired at age seventy-eight. Loede loves her church and enjoys reading and cooking for her family, especially her grandchildren: Brian Morton, Eric and Evan Shirley, and Amber and her husband, David Lloyd. She also has two great-grandchildren, Alexis Lauren Lloyd and Brian Ray Morton.

Another remarkable lady served our Woman's Auxiliary as benevolence chairwoman for more than fifteen years. Mildred Wooten Cox was one of eleven children born to Ida and Arthur Wooten of Farmville. She was born on November 10, 1926 and answered her call to go home to be with our Lord on March 26, 2009. She was married to Elbert "Bruce" Cox for sixty-two years. They have one daughter Lorrie Ann, who is married to Phil Berkhoff, and four precious grandchildren, Nikki, Nathan, Zackary and Asa. Mildred enjoyed cooking, gardening, and working for her church, family, and others.

When her grandchildren were born, she began to set aside one day each week to visit and help in any way she could. She worked in retail sales as a clerk for more than twenty years.

Lou Ellen Mooring Smith has served Little Creek Woman's Auxiliary in many offices. She served as president for two years, treasurer for fifteen years, and continues to serve as assistant treasurer. Lou was born to Alma Wood and Robert L. Mooring on September 4, 1932 in Greene County. She had one sister Kay Mooring Stocks. She graduated from Maury School in 1951. Lou worked in Administration at Caswell Center for thirty-five years. She has been married to Harry Lee Smith for fifty-five years and they have two children, Pamela S. Barrett and Jeffrey Lee Smith. Lou enjoys doing and going. She plans and organizes our Senior Saints monthly gatherings. She enjoys Gospel sings, shopping, eating out with family and friends. She meets her former co-workers and other friends at Abbots in Kinston every Friday for lunch.

Thank you Mrs. Loede, Mrs. Mildred, and Mrs. Lou for being shining lights. Your faith speaks volumes to those of us around you who are blessed to have you in our lives. You are truly deserving of the awards you have received, and I believe you have crowns awaiting you in Heaven as well.

CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SEEKING PASTOR:

Saints Delight Church, 150 Saints Delight Church Road, New Bern, NC is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a rural church with regular services on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. A parsonage is available. Send résumés to Diane Peel, Chairwoman of the Pulpit Committee, by mail to 315 Branch Canal Road, New Bern, NC 28560. Phone (252) 637-6931 or Tahitia Stewart by email to <tv2@suddenlink.net>.

Busy Summer for Wilson First Church Woman's Auxiliary

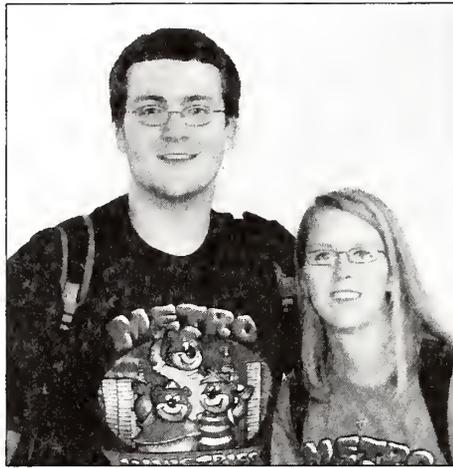
BY DENISE VESTER

The ladies of this A-1 Woman's Auxiliary have been busy this summer with various activities. We realize there is always something to do when you are willing to help others in need and it's always more fun when you do it as a group. We have had three good meetings with fellowship, fun, and honoring God in many ways.

In June, we had our regular WA meeting at the church. We had two special guests—Emily Carlton and Blake Johnson. They presented a video of their recent Metro Mission trip to New York. They described how the Word of Jesus was carried to such a large number of children all over the city using buses and well trained people. They spoke of ways that this could be implemented in our own cities. This was a perfect example of our devotion program—"Jesus says: Be a Builder." These young people truly are builders working to spread the gospel—to help people to build their lives on the Jesus Christ—the strong and solid rock.

The ladies also showed their "building" talents by voting to financially assist with our church short-term missions program to Mexico. We helped with the purchase of craft materials to be used with the women and children in the daily Bible school. What a perfect example of "builders" for Christ in ways we may never know.

July—What a fun time! Our annual prayer brunch was held on Saturday, July 18. This year we made it a little more special and fun by combining a "garden party" as part of the brunch. We sent out printed invitations to non-WA members as a membership drive. The activity building of the church was decorated in a festive, pastel color theme. Decorations of ferns, flowers, plants, and wicker were all around for everyone to enjoy. Our speaker was Mrs. Judy Pearson (a former member of Wilson First Church) from Reidsville, NC. Judy did a magnificent presentation of "Jesus says: Be a Sheep." She is the coordinator of the children's church in the church she now attends. She enhanced her program by using



Blake Johnson & Emily Carlton



Judy Pearson



Pictured above (l-r) are: Cheryl Parker (grandmother), Karen Batten, Jaxson Batten, Maggie Taylor, Caleb Taylor, and Teri Raynor (grandmother).

an extremely colorful "flannel board" to help tell the story of how we can be sheep with Jesus Christ as our Shepherd.

We had lots of delicious food prepared by our ladies. Some lucky ladies took home beautiful flowers and plants that they won as door prizes. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time of fellowship with each other. We were blessed by six visitors who also came and participated in all of the festivities.

The ladies also continued their "building" of lives for Christ by financially assisting with sending some young "sheep" from our church to Camp Vandemere this summer.

August—a time for babies. At our regular meeting on August 25, we recognized the new babies of two of our special ladies in the WA—Caleb Taylor and mom, Maggie, and Jaxson Batten and mom, Karen. The grandmothers of the boys were also present, smiling proudly. We had a baby shower theme,

with food and gifts for the little ones. The sweet baby boys made for a fun time. Everyone loves a baby. This meeting will most likely be the only WA meeting these boys ever attend. And we have pictures to prove they were there!

Edith Edmondson presented our program from the devotion: "Jesus says: It's a Secret." She used the illustration of expressive and giving hands. She asked four WA members to put on gloves and they performed hand actions as she spoke. She stressed how important our hands are in all the tasks we perform, especially our giving. She ended the program with a very touching story a lady wrote concerning her grandmother's special hands.

The ladies showed their "giving hands" by financially helping a person of our church who is in desperate need of help. The hearts and hands of this special group of ladies were open and "giving" once again along with "building" lives and "being a sheep" for Christ.

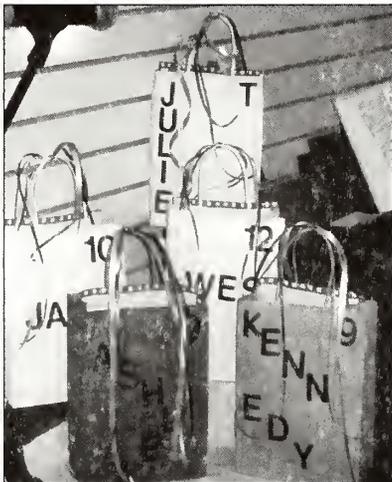
Busy Summer for Kinston First Church Youth

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Six young people washed cars (and each other) on a very hot July Saturday to earn money to go to Camp Vandemere. They raised \$500 toward their trip. There was no lack of dirty cars! Luckily they had the help of their pastor, Terry Coates, and several mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers. The covered shelter

offered a cool respite on a hot day where patrons could enjoy an ice cold drink, hot dog with all the trimmings, or a donut while their cars were being washed and dried.

The day to leave for camp finally arrived, and six excited young people formed a caravan of luggage, snacks, etc. as they made their way down to Vandemere. Parents left camp feeling a little sadder than when they left home, but their precious angels rushed off to meet new people whom they would claim as friends by the



Bags of school supplies



Pictured above (l-r) are: Pastor Terry Coates, Jake Monroe, Kennedy Rouse, Monroe Adrianna Arnette, C. B. Wade, and Ashley Moore.

end of the week. It was an exciting week; some had never been away from home before. They shared fun, fellowship, and the love of Jesus Christ. They are ready to go again!!

Summer had to come to an end and school begins, but not before their book bags were blessed on August 23 in a special morning worship service. The youngest child held the Bible for the pledge, which older children held the Christian and American flags. The service was directed toward our young people. Pastor Terry

Coates spoke to them about setting an example using scripture from I Timothy 4:12-16. After the sermon, he blessed the book bags that had been placed on the altar earlier by the children. He called each child to the front to receive a special bag of school supplies from the church. The church wanted to let each child know they were supporting them this school year. We pray they have a blessed year and know how much they are loved by their church family.

Little Creek OFWB Church

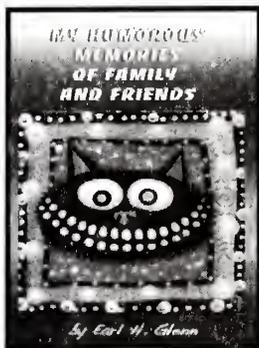
Homecoming Service

Sunday, October 5, 2009

Sunday School—10:00 A.M. (nursery provided)

Worship service—11:00 A.M. with the Rev. Philip Wood

Lunch will be served at 12:00 NOON. Everyone is invited.



**Earl H. Glenn, *My Humorous Memories Of Family And Friends*.
Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 2008.**

Pastor Earl H. Glenn has served seven Original Free Will Baptist churches as well as directing the Young People's Bible Conference at Cragmont. He has also served on the first Board of Trustees at Mount Olive College as well as both the Board of Foreign Missions and the Board of Home Missions.

His new book, *My Humorous Memories Of Family And Friends*, is his attempt to bring laughter to the reader, because his series of anecdotes which he has collected from his memories through his years of services to Free Will Baptists are his method of outreach. He insists, "Take time to laugh, for it is the music of the soul" (p. 5).

More than 120 stories cut across the pages of Earl Glenn's memories, many of them rooted in church experiences, family events, childhood tales, stories other ministers have told him, experiences he had at the Free Will Baptist College in Nashville, revival situations, choir situations, and neighbor stories.

Earl Glenn's humor may be illustrated in his following story:

S.B. THE TIE THAT BINDS

S.B. McLamb was a young boy about nine years old when we were serving the Smithfield Church. He had a brand new bicycle which was the envy of all the kids in the neighborhood. Often, S.B. would ride his bike over to the Smithfield parsonage and take our three-year-old daughter, Linda, for a ride. To her, S.B. was the sweetheart of them all. The Church often sang, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds." Linda mistook the words to say, "S.B. the tie that binds." Today, S.B. (Sam) McLamb is an outstanding medical doctor in Goldsboro.

Numerous Free Will Baptists have responded to Earl Glenn's humor. Dianne Brown Riley said, "This heartwarming book with his humor and personal insight into certain situations is a treasure to us who have listened and laughed with him over the years."

Dr. Michael Pelt, Professor Emeritus of Religion from Mount Olive College notes: "I am glad that Earl Glenn, who has been a personal friend of mine for many years, decided to write and publish this little book with the help of his dear wife, Marie. Earl has had a long and fruitful ministry in the churches of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and has earned the respect and appreciation of the people whom he has served as pastor as well as many others who have benefited from his role as a guest preacher in other churches. This collection of mostly humorous stories that are drawn from his experiences as a pastor and friend to his parishioners will delight any reader, especially anyone who has lived in eastern North Carolina in a setting that values the churchly traditions of this region of our state."

For more information about Earl Glenn's new book, contact Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, at Mount Olive College (919) 658-2502 or Sheila Benson, MOC Press Administrative Assistant at (252) 286-6851 or e-mail: sbenson@moc.edu.

WESTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Pleasant Grove OFWB Church, Pikeville, NC

Registration: 9:00 A.M.—Starts 9:30 A.M.

Theme: Let God Direct Your Life

Guest Speaker: Jean Ackiss

Special Offering for Mount Olive College

I Am the Way: Metaphysical or Existential (Is This About Tomorrow or Today?)

BY DR. K. DAVID HINES

The following is the graduation worship service sermon given at Mount Olive College on August 29, 2009.

It was my second semester, freshman year. I signed up for "Introduction to Philosophy" being taught by Dr. Wayne Wiley, then Academic Dean of Mount Olive College. One day I spoke up in class. (Yes, imagine that...) "I've heard about the 'sweet by and by' all my life. I'm interested in what it means to be a Christian in the 'nasty now and now.'" Without even blinking, Dr. Wiley said, "Ah, I see we have a young existentialist in our midst."

In my 19 years at that time, I had been called a number of things, most of which I'd rather not repeat from a pulpit, but I had never been called an "existentialist." And worse, I had no idea what he meant. I had no idea if he was complementing me or if he was telling me to go the place of perdition where I could burn forever and ever.

Fortunately, curiosity compelled me—to READ. I was determined to find out what Dr. Wiley meant. So I made a feeble attempt to read the works of two existentialist philosophers: Soren Kierkegaard and Paul Tillich—not exactly a walk in the park! But after a few weeks of plodding, I discovered that I did, in fact, embrace some existentialist ideas.

Now YOU may be thinking, "What in the world is this guy talking about?" Well, here is the conclusion to my sermon: Jesus actually calls for his disciples to live in a distinctive way right now! There is an "existential" dimension to our faith.

Listen for the Word of God as found in John 14:1-7 (author's translation):

Don't let your hearts be troubled.

You believe in God, you also believe in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive all of you to myself so that where I am you might also be. Where I am going, you know the way. Then Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How are we to know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one is able to come to the Father except through me. If you had known and still know me, you will know the Father also. From now on you are knowing him and have known him."

How should this text be read and understood? Metaphysically or existentially? Oh no, I've just introduced another big word: metaphysics. This word was applied to a collection of Aristotle's works at least 100 years after his death by an editor of his work (See van Inwagen). If one defines the word by simply breaking it down to its constituent parts "metaphysics" looks like this:

Meta: Greek preposition meaning "beyond"

Physics: the actual physical world
Therefore, metaphysics means dealing with notions and ideas that are beyond the physical world. David Stewart puts it a bit more eloquently: "The philosophical inquiry into the nature of ultimate reality" (480).

Now existentialism: this is a philosophical movement that has its origins in the 1800's in the work Kierkegaard, but emerged as a major movement after World War II. Stewart offers this definition: "A philosophical movement that takes the central question of philosophy to be that of the meaning of human existence" (478). What are the big issues of life now? What does it mean to live authentically in this world?

With these terms now defined, let us return to the text, "I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one is able to come to the Father except through me." Should this be read metaphysically or existentially? Is this text talking about our lives beyond this world? OR is this text trying to tell

us something about how life should be lived right now? Is this text about today or tomorrow? Enough philosophy for now. Let's dig into the text and attend to what Scripture has to say.

Consider the background of the text: Jesus is meeting with His disciples for the last time before his crucifixion. John dedicates five of his 21 chapters to Jesus' last meeting with His disciples before His arrest, mockery of a trial, and Crucifixion. Might this not suggest something to us about the importance of this event? In a word, YES! It's also worth noting the context of the times when this Gospel was written: the 90's. Domitian was the emperor. Christians were being persecuted on a large scale. It could mean risking one's life to follow in the "way" of Jesus.

What way was Jesus going? Thomas evidently wanted to know. Or maybe he did know, but he could not accept it. Jesus was on a way that led Him to a Jewish court, then to a Roman governor. Then after the sentence was pronounced He was mocked as He made his way on the Via Delorosa—the Way of Suffering. Then upon arrival on Golgotha's hill, Jesus was nailed to a cross. There He died.

A Metaphysical Reading...

For most of my life, I have heard this text read metaphysically and often in discussions of the relationship between Christianity and the other religious traditions in our world. Christians often quote this verse and follow it by saying something like this: "Case closed: Jesus is the only way to heaven." When I was in high school, I had a button that I often wore: "One Way" it announced along with a picture of Jesus. I wore it as a way of witnessing. (Side bar: I actually think there are more effective

ways of witnessing to the Lordship of Christ than lapel buttons and bumper stickers, but that is a conversation for another day.)

There is a metaphysical/cosmic dimension to this text. In John's Gospel, Jesus dies as the Passover lambs are being slaughtered at the Temple. At the beginning of the Gospel, when John the Baptist sees Jesus he declares: "Behold the Lamb of God who is taking away the sins of the world" (1:29b, author's translation). John is clear. Jesus is the pure Lamb of God who was sacrificed for all sin. The last thing Jesus utters before he dies is "It is finished" (19:30) which can be translated "paid in full." This is Good News! The sin debt has been canceled. As the old hymn of the church states, "Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left its crimson stain. He washes white as snow."

BUT, is this the only way that this text should be read? I think not. In fact, this might not even be the primary focus of this text in its historical context. Let's consider an existential reading...

Return with me to the end of the first century (when John was written). What were the issues and questions facing the early Christian community? Survival. Persecution. To claim to be a follower of Jesus involved great risk. Yes, it meant something to be a follower of Jesus. Do you know the earliest name for the followers of Jesus? Not "Christians." That term came later at a place called Antioch in Syria. These people of faith were called "people of the way."

Then Jesus begins this phrase with one of those powerful phrases in John's Gospel, "I AM." Powerfully emphasized in the Greek text, I tell my students that they should pound the pulpit whenever reading one of the "I AM" passages. "I AM the light of the world." "I AM the good shepherd." "I AM the resurrection and the life." So here we have the Great I AM declaring "I AM the way." The Greek word here is *hodos* which can be used

literally to refer to a path or road. But clearly in this text *hodos* is being used metaphorically to describe a way of living (See Michaelis, 669-670).

Here's the point: Being a disciple of Jesus means that we are being



Dr. K. David Hines

called to live in a particular way—to live in the way that Jesus lived and now calls us to live. Following Jesus means much more than having a ticket to the "sweet by and by." It means serving the one who has taught us to live fully, abundantly. The gift of eternal life is not just about tomorrow; it is about today! The rest of the sentence provides elucidation: to follow in the way means to embrace the truth and the life.

Living this way means to live truthfully and to seek the truth. Each year I try to choose a motto to provide some guidance for me. For example one year it was, "I choose not to become angry about that which I cannot control." Much easier said than done! Here's another motto I offer to you as a challenge: "I will seek to live in such a way so that I never have to fear the truth being told about me." Ouch! That's hard! It's easier to adopt the attitude of Colonel Jessup in the movie *A*

Few Good Men: "You can't handle the truth!" Our calling, however, is higher. Not only must we handle the truth, we must live it, speak it, and seek it with every fiber of being. Just because you are graduating doesn't mean your quest for truth is over. If we have done our job as your professors, we have equipped you with the skills to help you in your search for truth. And by the way, this is the way to life.

So here you are, the first group of Mount Olive College graduates for the 2009-2010 academic year. You're probably thinking, "What does all this have to do with us on the day of our commencement?" Well, your commencement is a beginning, not an ending. So on this day of your beginning, I invite you to join me on a journey, a journey that is committed to the way of Jesus...

The way of cheek turning
The way of enemy loving
The way of truth telling
The way of neighbor helping
The way of peace-making
The way of serving
The way of forgiving
The way of feeding the hungry
The way of clothing the naked
The way of light shining, compassion giving
This is the way of Jesus, the way to life.

So we go back to our beginning. "I AM the way, the truth, and the life." Is this existential or metaphysical? If we embrace this way existentially and live it today, we can know with confidence that Jesus has already resolved the metaphysics.

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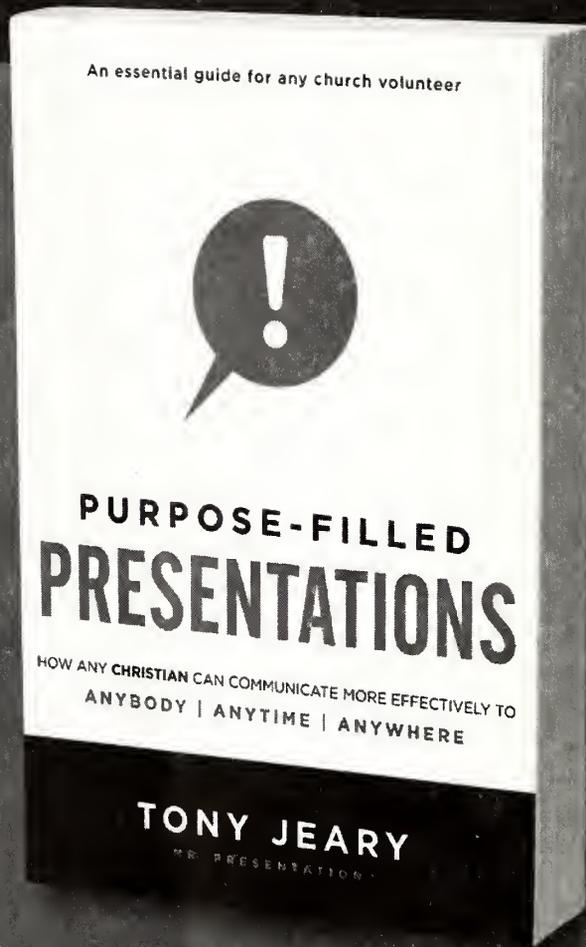
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THE ALUMNI ENDOWMENT FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME
THE ENDOWMENT OF THE MONTH



Gary W. Lee (left), president and CEO of the Children's Home presents to Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, a check in the amount of \$36,127, representing the principal of an endowment initiated in 1993 by the Alumni Association. The Foundation, an affiliated ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, will manage and invest the assets of the Endowment and make annual distributions to the Home for use as determined by its Board of Trustees.



*Footprints from the past—
Footprints for the future.*

For more information on the Alumni Endowment and the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, please see page 27.

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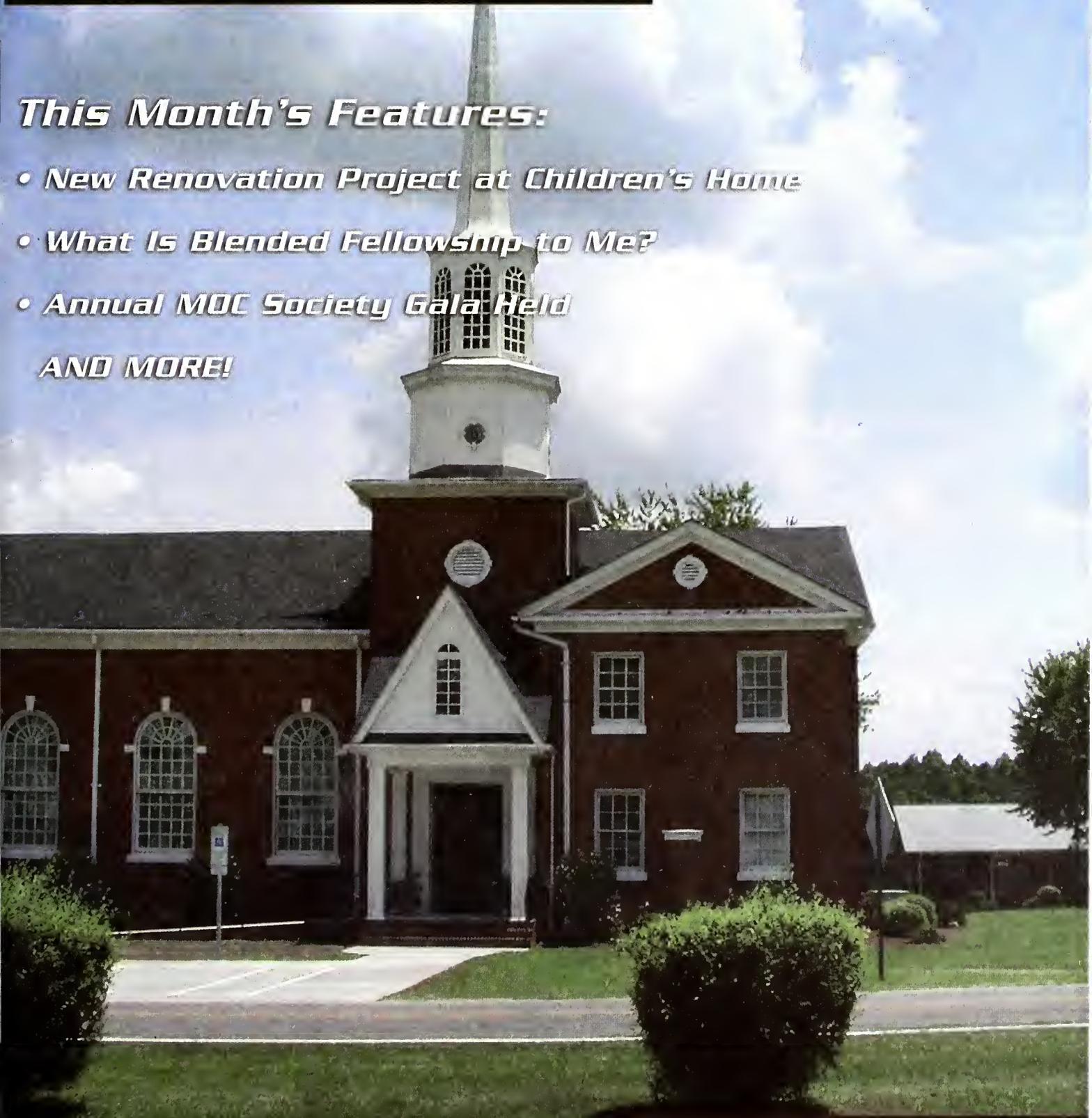
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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

This Month's Features:

- *New Renovation Project at Children's Home*
- *What Is Blended Fellowship to Me?*
- *Annual MOC Society Gala Held*

AND MORE!



CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

November 2009 Children's Home Month

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Veteran's Day MOC Campus Visitation Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Columbus Day						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		MOC Founder's Day—11:00 A.M.		Thanksgiving Day		
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
1 st Day of Advent						

COMING SOON:

Saturday, May 22, 2010—Free Will Baptist Children's Home will celebrate 90 years of Christian child care. More details will be announced as they become available.

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ON THE COVER:

Memorial Chapel OFWB Church on the campus of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

REFLECTIONS

with C. H. Overman

Our Family Reunion

Just a few weeks ago, on October 3, our Bass family reunion met for its 71st time. I'm not sure who first came up with the idea of having a family reunion, but it was a great idea and so far as I know, it has not missed a year. It may have been my mother, Fannie Bass Overman, who suggested it, or one of her siblings, all who were older than she. There were six other brothers and sisters, as follows: Uncle John, Uncle Fred, Uncle Murrey, Uncle Ed, Aunt Ida, and Aunt Pearl. The last one to pass away was our mother in 1976. Since her death, the children of the seven Basses have sought to continue the reunion. As the years passed, all but eight of the 22 children have passed away. It is our hope that the third and fourth generations will continue this traditional gathering.

The last reunion was held at my home church, Union Grove OFWB, near Fremont, NC, and was primarily hosted by my sister, Athelene Pittman and her children. A total of 45 were present, an improvement over past years. My older sister, Athelene, and a cousin, Jean Marlowe, have not missed a year, and there may be others.

A lot of things have changed during these 71 years and many historical events have occurred. Just think,

the reunion began in the latter years of the Great Depression. In those days, with fewer relatives, the reunions were held at a different home each year, and sometimes on an improvised picnic table outside. The basic staple, barbeque, was cooked in a pit the old-fashioned way with oak wood and the hog (or pig) placed on fence wire supported by rods placed across the pit. I'm sure there were some others who did the barbeque, but our Uncle Ed was the one I remember doing it more often. Nowadays, we meet in an air conditioned facility such as a church fellowship hall. The basic staple, along with slaw and corn sticks, is purchased locally. All the other food comes from the families who attend. Like all such gatherings, there's always an abundance of food.

A lot could be said about our family reunion. I am grateful that it is still going strong, and year after year it gives us the opportunity to see relatives that we would not see otherwise. In the words of the psalmist, "...I have a goodly heritage" (Psalm 16:6). I pray that it will continue on and on.

I'm wondering if there are family reunions that have existed continuously for more than 71 years. If so, let us hear from you.

Check out the new FWB press Website!



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- Links to FWB Ministries
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- Personnel Profiles
- Sunday School Curriculum Information
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Mama's Pocketbook

BY ELAINE SWINSON

Mama's pocketbook is sitting on her bed, waiting for her to come and carry it away. What adventures they have had during the years, forming a relationship that could not be broken with harsh words or unkind deeds.

Mama never attended church without her pocketbook and her Bible sitting close beside her. A small army of widow ladies commanded the whole pew announcing their ability to survive in spite of their losses and lonely nights. Each one of them had pocketbooks as varied in size, shape, and personality as the ones who held them close, making sure their possessions were protected at all times.

There was that time at the beach when me, mama, and her pocketbook sat on the sand dunes, wind playfully whirling our hair into fuzzy frilliness. She couldn't part with it, even on the mountain of sand because it had her miniature snuff box zipped into hiding. Shh! That was supposed to be a secret.

It sat right beside her during the weddings of her children and

grandchildren, with a handful of tissues carefully folded inside to catch the rain of her happy tears. There would be times the tissues would have to accommodate the drizzle of sadness as daddy and her precious family members passed away quietly into eternity. She gripped the handles of her pocketbook for strength leaving cross marks across her palms.

Juicy Fruit® chewing gum was a treasure all of us hunted for in the side pocket. The sweet sticks of ecstasy calmed the most unruly grandchild and moistened our dry mouths in seconds. The foil wrapped around the treasure became a drinking cup, a hat, or a boat made by mama's crafty hands which became wrinkled and rough as the years passed by.

It is a thought that mama's pocketbook must have been magic. Like a "rabbit in the hat," mama could provide almost anything we needed from inside the shadows of her faithful sidekick. The sound of our voices still resonates in our memory as we asked her for a pen, a fingernail clipper, a pocket knife, a headache powder, a piece of paper, a tissue, chapstick, chewing gum, breathe mints, a little money, safety pins, sewing kits, a mirror, a rain bonnet, a collapsible cup, and all the other essential things we thought we needed.

As the years slowly passed by mama occasionally had an urgency of wanting

to be "in style" and went about changing her pocketbook to match the color of her outfits. Try as she might, she could never fit into that mold no matter how hard she tried. In looking back, it was obvious that mama was always perfect no matter the color of her pocketbook. Eventually, she became very happy with her choices of a good serviceable summer and winter one, changing only when the weather got very hot or very cold.

There came a day that their relationship was tested as mama often left her pocketbook safely locked up in the car, taking out only what little bit of money she needed to buy her meal. Shopping trips and excursions to the beach were replaced by doctor's visits. Her pocketbook had the important job of holding her Medicare and Social Security cards.

Mama will not come and pick up her pocketbook anymore from its resting place on the bed. The magic we thought was so wonderful disappeared when she left us. Now all it holds are memories...what now should we do with the lonely pocketbook?



November is Free Will Baptist Children's Home Month

New Renovation Project



We are excited about our upcoming renovation project for Heritage Hall, the former dining hall, and we wanted to share a glimpse of the plans with you. We expect construction to begin this month. We will keep you up-to-date on project status by sharing progress reports through the Free Will Baptist Paper, and through our web site.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN APPRECIATION DAY

It's not too late to respond. Please complete the reservation form and forward it to the Children's Home.

Every year we set aside a day to express our thanks to our friends and supporters. This year our Friends of Children Appreciation Day will be held on November 21, 2009. Below you will find an invitation. Preparations are well under way, and we hope to see you here.

INVITATION

The Board of Directors invite you and your guests to our annual luncheon for Friends of Children Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 21, 2009, 12 NOON, in the Whitley Center on campus. The speaker will be the Reverend Sherman Dilley, pastor at Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Pikeville, NC. We encourage you to come and be a part of this special occasion.

Please RSVP by November 9, 2009

Number in Party _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return above form to:

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2625 or e-mail: cbatten@fwbch.org

Christmas Sponsorship 2009

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is quickly approaching. Preparations are already underway to make this Christmas a memorable experience for the children we serve.

Many of the children we serve have never experienced the true meaning of Christmas, or the joy of receiving gifts. One of the biggest challenges we encounter at The Home is convincing the children here they are loved, are special, and that people really do care. Throughout the year and at Christmas, we not only provide the physical needs of the children in our care, but we also share the good news, according to the gospel of Jesus Christ, with them—the greatest gift of all. Your acts of sharing demonstrate love and unselfish giving, as well as enforce the Christian attributes we are attempting to instill, and bring a smile to the faces and joy into the hearts of the children in our care.

I invite you to be a part of our Christmas sponsorship program this year, and help us make this a special time of sharing for the children at The Home. You can do this by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form and return it to us by December 1, 2009.

May you and your family be blessed this Christmas in knowing you have helped us share the joy of this holy season and His precious children. Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,
Gary Lee
President/CEO

Campus Needs

- Cleaning Supplies (Pine-sol, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleaner)
- Cleaning brushes (toilet brushes, scrub brushes, brooms)
- Kitchen Towels and Dish Cloths
- Craft Supplies (age appropriate for middle & high school)
- (3) Wii Game Stations and Wii Games
- Vacuum Cleaners—Upright (call for details)
- (5) Scientific Calculators (Texas Instruments Model 84 or Texas Instruments Model 85)
- Fabric Table Coths (2 to match per cottage, rectangular shape) & Placemats (8 per cottage)
- Park Bench (Call for details)
- Dryer Sheets (Fabric softener sheets)
- Trash Bags (33 gal or larger)
- Large (cool side) griddles
- Refrigerator (please call for details)
- Cooking Utensils—Long Handle
- Framed Pictures/Posters for cottages
- Renovation to Heritage Hall (estimated \$150,000)
- Board Games (Trouble, Mexican Train)
- Baking dishes (glass 13x9)

Have questions? Call the Development Office at (252) 235-2161.

Free Will Baptist Children's Home Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Children we would like to sponsor: _____

Comments: _____

CS09



Great Summer in Mexico

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Short-Term Teams to Mexico this summer were a great blessing to the Mexican people. Three houses were constructed for needy families. It is exciting to see the progress made each day on the construction site. When we arrive on Monday morning, it looks like an impossible task to construct a house in four and one-half days. Everyone is eager to work and this joint effort between our team members and our Mexican brothers makes it possible to complete this monumental task. When

the construction is complete, it is a great joy to be able to give the keys to these families and see their excitement and thankfulness. Each day, one of our churches provides delicious Mexican food for our teams. We also work with children through Vacation Bible School and women through Bible studies. This year, 30 children trusted Christ as their Saviour.

Camp Morelos was a time of fellowship with our Mexican brothers and sisters. There were five of us from North Carolina who attended

this year, Harold and Sandra Jones, Chris Singleton, John Hill, and Pam Gatlin. We had a total of 221 campers. This is a family camp and the ages range from babies to senior citizens. The days are filled with Bible studies, crafts, games, mountain climbing, and camp meeting services in the late afternoon. Of course, we have to eat, so there is a lot of food preparation and dish washing.

This was a great summer. We praise the Lord for keeping us safe from the swine flu and violence.



Founders' Day Celebration in Cebu City, Philippines

BY FAITH G. PEROCILLO

Risen Lord Christian School of Cebu City and Naga City celebrated its 10th year of founding. The September 2-6, 2009 activities started with a parade from the commercial center of the south up to the school campus. The celebration lasted for five days holding the intramurals and festivities, culminating in the Family Day which was participated in by the parents and their families. God has been so gracious for giving us good weather and everyone cooperated in their part. It was the Lord working mightily for us Christians to show us a healthy way of celebrating His goodness in this school. Being a school with a personality, Risen Lord Christian School is different from

other schools in such a way that for those students having difficulties in finishing elementary or high school in other schools, can now really be able to reach their potential while enrolled in this school because the very root of their personal problems are met by introducing the Lord Jesus Christ into their very lives and making Him part of themselves. Aside from gaining worldly knowledge, the school sees to it that they have found a personal relationship with the risen Lord.

Envisioned by Rev. Zacarias I. Perocillo and family, the school, through the approval and support of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Original Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina, U.S.A., has a regular enrollment of

more than a hundred students from pre-elementary to grade school to high school. The rest of the branches have more than 30 students and is open in the preschool level only. It now has four branches particularly in Naga City, Camotes Island, Cagayan de Oro City, and Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte. The vision is to establish a Risen Lord Christian School all over the Original Free Will Baptist Churches in the Visayas and Mindanao Regions in the Philippines and to be a blessing to the local churches. This institutionalized form of evangelism has been one of the most effective way of evangelizing and accomplishing the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be all glory and honor!

BY REV. B. DARLINGTON GNININTE

Again we are very much grateful to the Almighty God for keeping us alive through His amazing grace.

And we are also thankful to our fellow Original Free Will Baptists in the US, fellow pastors, ministers, church leaders, and churches that have been supportive of this Mission in Africa. We must give you the credit for the wonderful things that have happened in our churches. All of the Beautiful testimonies that have been given and are still coming are the result of your effort. The Lord is doing great things in the midst of the brethren here in Africa. **Agriculture Project in Grand Gedeh County, Liberia**

When I visited Grand Gedeh County, while in route to one of the other mission fields, I saw that the farm is doing fine. We are praying and expecting a great harvest. Thank you for your faithful support.

Medical Assistance—Drugs to Gboe

We want to say thank you for the provision of the drugs. They came right in time, when the people needed them most. Drugs like anti-malaria which is very essential; headache, stomach ache, pain killers, etc. were purchased and distributed to the brethren in Gboe area.

The road leading to Gboe is very

bad at this time, we had to travel 12 hours from Monrovia to one of the regional cities-Zwedru where we spent the night. The next morning we continue our journey for another nine hours on bike before we got to the next town. We slept, the next morning we continue our journey by foot, eight hours walk in the jungle. We ran out of water and food, we were blessed by a little village we met where the people offer us some raw cassava pieces and a little stream we met to recharge our water bottles.

We usually had services in the night due to the farming season. We had a warm reception. The brethren were happy to see us again. This trip was a bad one for me, because I hit my toes against rocks and even up to present still have a little problem with walking. But I thank God that I am back home safely.

Please pray along with us:

1. Revival services are being held up to present and will continue up to the

next months ahead across our churches. Please pray that the Lord will revive the lives of our people

2. Please Pray for Rev. Gnininte who has a problem with his toe that the Lord will heal his toe and increase his strength to do his work.



3. Also please pray for Pastor Moses Targblor, one of our pastors whose mother went to rest with the Lord last week. That her soul and those of the faithful departed rest in perfect peace. And that

the Lord will comfort him in this time of bereavement.

4. We want to also bless God for his healing hand and your continuous prayer for all the pastors and members of our churches. Specially for one of our pastors, Pastor Steven Bryant who was sick for almost three months now, but God had lifted him up.

May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to abide with us as we move to do His work in His vineyard. Amen!

What Is

BLENDED FELLOWSHIP

to Me?

BY TIM WILSON

Blended Fellowship is the place where there was acceptance for me "just as I was." But, thank God, it is also the place that was not content to leave me that way. It is a place where I am encouraged and challenged to have a stronger daily walk with God and to grow in my faith. It is a place where I am loved and comforted through my growing pains. It's a place where the Deaf have taught me that together we can praise and worship God, while in our pain, for the victory that is on the way. It is a place where a young lady, who is deaf and blind, taught me to praise the Lord in spite of my circumstance. It is a place where I have seen countless gallons of water pouring into the sanctuary from literally every corner, from a leaky roof, and not a single pew get wet. Through prayer and faith, I have seen cancer turned to stone to the bewilderment of doctors. I have seen a well loved and respected man humble himself to protect the dignity of another, that most would consider unworthy. I have seen children that have been labeled "slow" or "different," take pride and ownership of responsibilities that most adults hide from. I get to see children dance, and sing, and play instruments to God

in praise. Again through prayers of faith, I have seen stage four ovarian cancer wiped out. I have seen countless people give countless hours unselfishly by driving the bus, or cooking, or faithfully cleaning the bathrooms, cutting grass, mopping up water, taking out the trash, painting, emptying the water buckets and so much more. I have seen a Pastor and his family that give all of that and so much more without being paid. In short, I have seen the God of love, alive and well, working through his children.

So for me, Blended Fellowship is so much more than a Church; or a Mission, or a Ministry. For me...it is my family. My blood kin that, for far too long, I have neglected. Not out of spite, or prejudice, but out of ignorance. You see, I never knew that the Deaf are truly an entire different culture. They "speak" and understand a completely different language than me. But what threw me is they don't look any different than me. Its easy for me to understand the need for Gods word in other countries because I can see and hear that they are different. The Deaf do not have that "advantage." I can't see any difference between them and me, and I didn't hear them at all...so...I could claim ignorance.

I no longer have the "privilege" of ignorance. Now that I know that there is an entire populous right outside our church doors and across this land that haven't been reached. Now that I know that so many of them have never even been introduced to the same Jesus that I am guilty of taking for granted. Now that I have seen the pride and the ownership that they take in their faith. Now that I have felt first hand the love and acceptance of a people who, by worldly standards, should despise and distrust me. Now that I understand that the blood of Jesus transcends deaf and hearing, blind and seeing, rich or poor, and every single race, who am I to keep that Good News to myself? Just because the Deaf live in a silent world does not give me the right to remain silent. As a child of God, I am commanded to break the silence (see Matthew 28:19). As part of this family you and I have a responsibility. We have brothers and sisters whom we have not even met yet.

God is doing an awesome work through Blended Fellowship. We sure could use your support.

We have to find ways to reach more deaf people. If you have read this article you can never again say, "I didn't know." www.blendedfellowship.com



November's Picture from the Past!

Your Clue: FWB Press Board, circa 1981-82. Name those sitting from left to right. Name all nine ministers and **double** your gift.

October's Picture: The Reverend Charles Renfrow

October's Winner: Joyce Hill

Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or email <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.



Needs and Upcoming Events

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

We need people! While visitation to Cragmont has been down some, we are doing well. Groups are still coming. They are just bringing smaller numbers and leaving some rooms empty. With the cost of electricity, water, and propane rising, an empty room is not a good thing. So call us and come stay with us.

We need to retire the debt on the new lodge. Currently, we are in debt and cannot move on to the next phase of New Heights—the kitchen and dining hall. If you cannot make a pledge, send us a contribution that is reasonable for you to make. The debt on the Lodge is \$250,000. If every church in the denomination would give \$1,000 over their normal gifts, we could pay off the loan.

General fund giving is down. It is down \$7,000 in comparison to last year at this same time. Another interesting fact is that out of 240 churches only 15 have given \$1,000 or more. We can do better and we must do better. In order to keep our prices low and inexpensive, we need contributions from churches and individuals.

Playground. Last year, a spring storm landed a big pine tree on our swings and they had to be removed. King's Cross Roads Church helped us launch a playground equipment fund by raising \$8,000. The equipment will cost \$20,000. So, if you are looking for something special to do for Cragmont, consider this.

Cragmont Club Weekends are October 16–18 and October 23–25. The Weekday Club is October 25–29.

"A Mayberry Cragmont Christmas" is December 3–6. This is a bus tour with transportation beginning in eastern NC arriving at Cragmont on Thursday evening (Dec. 3), day trips on Friday and Saturday (Dec. 4 & 5), and departing Cragmont on Sunday (Dec. 6). The cost is \$300 per person. This includes transportation costs, lodging, most meals, and any necessary tickets for activities or entertainment.

Christmas at Cragmont is December 20–27. On January 14, 2009, Arlinda and I began our 30th year at Cragmont bringing to mind the fact that Cragmont is "home" and as home, it is a place of comfort, reassurance, and nurture. The thoughts naturally lead us to consider those who might experience a life change that can make celebrating Christmas somewhat difficult or of those who might desire a new view of Christmas with extended family. Consider coming to Cragmont during Christmas week 2009 and be nurtured in the special fellowship found here.

Bring many or a few, stay one day or several, but do try to be with us on Christmas Eve for our worship service and Christmas Day for the good food. The only other plans are to enjoy the fellowship of one another and the fire in the fireplace. Oh! One more important part about this planned time: The cost. In the spirit of Christmas giving, we only ask for a donation to Cragmont. We are taking reservations now.

The Minister's Wives Retreat is January 28–31, 2010. Please contact Mary Dudley for information. You may reach her at the Headquarters (252-746-4963).



On September 10–13, Cragmont hosted the North Carolina Christian Motorcycle Association rally.



LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT SERVICE

Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church
Deep Run, NC

Saturday, November 14, 2009

4:00 P.M.

Everyone is invited to attend a service in recognition of and appreciation for The Reverend Thomas Bruce Dudley and Mary Moore Dudley for their lifetime of dedication and commitment to the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination and all its ministries.

Camp Scholarships for 2010

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 exception of personal spending money. The application must be accompanied by a letter from the pastor, 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 PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. The application must be postmarked by December 31, 2009 in order to be considered. If further information is needed, do not hesitate to contact the Sunday School office at 252-746-4963 or email: director@ofwbsundayschool.org.

Name: _____

Age: _____ Male Female

Names of Parents or Guardians: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Church: _____

Conference: _____

Write a statement as to why you want to go to camp and why you need the financial assistance. (Use extra paper as needed).



Bridge Builders Honored at Annual Dinner

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Approximately 475 people attended the 2009 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner at Mount Olive College. The dinner is the College's way of expressing appreciation to donors from Free Will Baptist churches throughout Eastern North Carolina.

During 2008–2009, gift support to Mount Olive College from the FWB Church totaled \$1,005,820. Included in that figure was \$540,427 given during the College's annual fund programs known as the College Dinner Program. During the Dinner Program, more than 2,100 donors were designated as Bridge Builders, giving \$100 or more in unrestricted gifts. Altogether, 68 persons were designated as Society members, giving \$1000 or more.

At the dinner Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support, said to the Bridge Builders, "Someone was telling me the other day that they weren't important, but they are important. We are all important to God. You are very important to the ministry of Mount Olive College."

Nick Lewis, a senior religion major, spoke about his transforming educational experience at Mount Olive College. "As a religion major and a ministerial student, I have not only learned the history of the Bible and how to speak in front of crowds; I have also been given the opportunity to learn how to live. Most importantly, to use the mind God gave me, to learn to think for myself," Lewis said.

President Philip P. Kerstetter also spoke about the transforming power of education. "Education is in fact the great equalizer of people by providing backgrounds and opportunities," he stated. "Education is also the mechanism by which we can develop those skills and talents



Pictured above, Mrs. Donna Sullivan (standing, Daniels Chapel, Wilson County) speaks with Amanda and Keith Parnell (l-r, First Church of Wilson, Wilson County).



Pictured above is the family of Dr. Billy R. Yawn.

that we have received from God."

Dr. Pepper Poole Worthington, editor of the MOC Press, talked about the book *Eternal Light Beams: A Collection of Christian Poems* by Dr. Billy R. Yawn, which will be this year's gift to Bridge Builders. Members of the MOC baseball team helped serve at the event. Roger Hill, pastor of Oak Grove Church in Sampson County, provided the din-

ner music.

One of the highlights of the annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner is the inspiring music provided by the Concert Choir, Free Spirit, and the Mount Olive College Chamber Choir. *Exalt the Name* was the theme of the musical program which ended with a very uplifting experience for those attending.

Annual MOC Society Gala Held

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Annual Mount Olive College Society Gala was held on September 11 and was attended by more than 200 business, community, church, and educational leaders that contribute \$1000 or more annually to the institution.

Kenney Moore, president and founder of Andy's Burgers Shakes and Fries and president of the MOC Society, welcomed guests and made the introductory remarks. Casey Spencer, a freshmen business major from Four Oaks and a Nido Qubein Scholar, provided the invocation.

Dr. Nido R. Qubein, an internationally renowned speaker, president of High Point University and a Mount Olive College alumnus, provided the keynote address.

Qubein relived fond memories of his college days, which included a time when his house mother, Mrs. Verta Lawhorn, gave him money to buy his first car.

"Mrs. Verta said to me, 'I've decide it is much better to invest my money in the life of a budding young man than to park it in a bank account somewhere.' It must be the same feeling that each of you here



Dr. Nido Qubein shares fond memories with his former professor Lorelle Martin. Martin celebrated her 93rd birthday on Thursday, September 17, 2009.



Pictured above (l-r), John Pegram, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Kerstetter and Bill Fahrner enjoy a laugh as guest speaker Dr. Nido Qubein recalls his college days.

tonight have in your hearts. Because one day we will all wake up and realize all that we have is naught, except for the goodness we have planted in the hearts of others."

Qubein went on to note that Donald Trump would define success as making a lot of money;

Albert Einstein would have defined success as unraveling the secrets of the universe and Mother Teresa would have defined success as feeding the hungry and clothing the poor in the back alleys.

"My point is we don't know what success is," Qubein said. "Success is nothing if it is not framed with significance. That is why you are here tonight. You have chosen to participate, to invest, to share, to partner, and to give this institution your love, your devotion and your caring. I submit to you that all of our achievements are nothing compared to our ability to light a candle to shine down the path of a traveling student on this campus."

Qubein received a standing ovation.

In the closing remarks, President Philip Kerstetter lauded members of the Mount Olive College Society for their commitment to the College. "Because of you,

many people who would otherwise be unable to pursue a college education are transforming their lives at this institution. We deeply and sincerely thank you!"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Campus Visitation Day

November 11

Mount Olive College

Founder's Day

November 24—11 A.M.

Southern Bank Auditorium

MOC Concert Choir Fall Conert

December 1—7 P.M.

First Baptist Church, Mount Olive



Freshmen Learn an Important Lesson in History

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

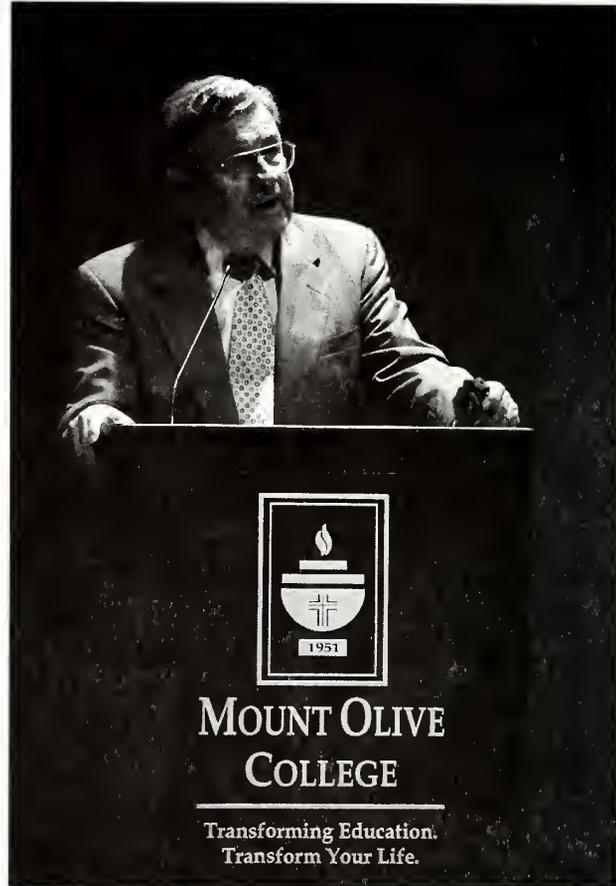
If you want to know about the history of Mount Olive College, who better to ask than the one person who has lived most of his adult life promoting the mission of the institution, Dr. W. Burkette Raper. Dr. Raper has dedicated 50 plus years of his professional life to Mount Olive College, including serving over 40 years as president of the institution. At the age of 82, Dr. Raper is still sharp as a tack and never seems to forget a name or a face, especially if the person was ever associated with MOC.

It was for all those reasons that Dr. Ronda Bryant, assistant vice president for Student Development at Mount Olive College, immediately thought of Dr. Raper, when she needed a speaker to talk about the history of MOC as part of the Freshmen Seminar experience.

"It is important for students to learn about the history and vision of the College as part of their overall experience," Dr. Bryant stated. "We are very fortunate that we have in

our midst someone like Dr. Raper who has actually seen first hand the development of the College since its inception. Students can gain so much more from hearing Dr. Raper talk about his personal experiences than they could ever absorb from any literature that we could prepare on the College's history."

Freshmen Casey Spencer said, "Dr. Raper did a good job! I was really surprised at some of the interesting facts he told about the institution. For example, I never knew the College was originally located at Cragmont. I also did not know that the female students were once housed on the second floor of the downtown campus building. It was all very interesting."



Dr. W. Burkette Raper

Jessi Faye Kennedy Learns by Doing

BY BRANDI N. WHITLEY, *Student Intern*

Learning typically takes place behind a desk in a classroom, listening to a teacher, and reading a textbook, but Jessi Faye Kennedy of Mount Olive has found that knowledge sometimes comes in a different kind of package.

Kennedy, a member of Whaley's Chapel Church in Richlands, grew up attending Original Free Will Baptist Youth Conventions. Over time her involvement led her to take part in various mission trips within the United States to destinations like California, Maryland, and Georgia.

In 2006, Kennedy participated in a mission trip to Sandersville, Mississippi where she conducted Bible school for children in the aftermath

of Hurricane Katrina. After setting up a base camp and helping clean up the town, volunteers spent time teaching children about the Bible, serving food to people in the local communities, and spending time entertaining the children.

"Working with others and helping better their lives is very rewarding," said Kennedy. "Knowing that I made a difference in someone's life is the best feeling in the world!"

Kennedy has also traveled abroad. As an agribusiness major at Mount Olive College, she spent



Jessi Kennedy

her freshman year spring break touring Mexico where she learned about the cultures, customs, and business practices of the country.

"Going to Mexico was a wonderful experience. It truly opened my eyes to a whole new culture," commented Kennedy. "I

have met so many people at Mount Olive College who have changed my life, that is why I love MOC," she concluded.

Cummings Brings Fresh Ideas to UAA

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

"I have had the best experience at Mount Olive College," said Alyssa Cummings a senior visual communications major. "I have met wonderful people, been on amazing trips, and grown in my faith. These past four years have been incredible and I know I wouldn't have had a better time anywhere else!"

Cummings is the newly elected Undergraduate Alumni Association (UAA) president at Mount Olive College, and according to Dianne Riley, director of Alumni Relations at the College, she was the perfect candidate for the position.

"Since both of Alyssa's parents are MOC alumni, she has a unique perspective to bring to this position," Riley said. "She can draw from her own experiences as a student, as well as glean insight from her parents who are members of the Alumni Association. Alyssa brings a lot of



Alyssa Cummings

energy and new ideas to the table."

One idea at the top of Cummings to-do list is to instigate a Legacy Dinner.

"The dinner will be for students and their parents who are alumni of the College," Cummings said.

Other projects on tap for the Club this year include participating in several service projects including prepare spring goodie baskets for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The organization also coordinates the annual Chocolate Craze held in conjunction with Valentine's Day each year as a way to show appre-

ciation to the College's faculty and staff. Additionally, the UAA assists with planning for Alumni Weekend, scheduled this year for November 20-22.

"The UAA is important because it closes the gap between students and alumni," Cummings stated. "The money contributed by the Alumni Association helps provide Mount Olive College with new facilities and funds numerous scholarships. Being a member of UAA is a chance to show the alumni that we appreciate what they do for the College."

Cummings is the daughter of Charles and Debbie Sharpe Hancock, a 1980 graduate of MOC. Cummings' father, Doug Cummings, is also a 1990 graduate of the College. In addition to her UAA presidential duties, Cummings is involved with Campus Ministries and Thursday Night Worship. She is a graduate of Hunt High School and attends Marsh Swamp Church in Rock Ridge near Wilson.

Talley Trio & Free Spirit



Pictured above: Talley Trio members Lauren, Debra, and Roger Talley are pictured with members of the Mount Olive College group, Free Spirit. Talley Trio performed at the College on Friday, September 25. They were accompanied on stage by Free Spirit for several of the musical selections.

Campus Tour Guides are Waiting for You!

If you can't come to visitation day or just want a special campus tour, Andrew Grubbs, Tabatha Kennedy, Brian Parnell, Chris Stroud, Kortland Stanfield, Jessica Whitley, Audrey Owens and Christie Hamby are this year's admissions campus tour guides. These students are experienced with the campus, and they are ready to take you and your family on a campus tour. Come to see new residence halls, classroom buildings, science and computer labs, Chapel, arena, wellness center, and sports fields. Let them know you want to come by sending a message to admissions@moc.edu or by calling 800-653-0854. Ask for Meredith, our office manager, who schedules the campus tours. To see profile information on campus tour guides, visit <http://www.moc.edu/?traditional/traditional> tour guides at www.moc.edu.



Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

College Fairs

Tim Woodard, director of admissions, and the admissions team members will be at College Fairs in your neighborhood during the Fall of 2009. Jamie Massengill, Heather Beaman, Brad Evans, and Yeeka Yau, all MOC grads, will be glad to tell you more about scholarships and program opportunities. To find out when your high school's college fair is scheduled, contact your guidance counselor, or call 800-653-0854 and ask for admissions. You can also find us at www.moc.edu.

Visitation days at Mount Olive College

High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend one of the MOC visitation days scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2009, and Monday, January 18, 2010. These days are designed to help prospective college students and their families learn more about how to prepare for college life. To learn more and to make a reservation, send a message to admissions@moc.edu or call 800-653-0854 and ask for the admissions office manager. Private campus visits can also be scheduled for students who cannot attend one of the scheduled dates.

SAT/ACT Test Planning

High school seniors and juniors should be making plans to take or re-take the SAT or ACT right away. To learn more about test dates and locations, students can talk with their guidance counselors or visit Collegeboard.com and ACTstudent.org. MOC accepts the highest combination of scores, so taking the test more than once is recommended.

CFNC College Application Week: November 16–19, 2009.

College Foundation of NC sponsors college application week every fall to help prospective college students prepare for the transition from high school to college. High school seniors can sign up with their guidance counselors to be able to participate in this very important week. Students who wish to apply to MOC can use the CFNC option or they can use the free application at www.moc.edu.

One night a week programs for working adults

One night a week programs for adults who need the convenience of evening higher education opportunities: New Bern, Jacksonville, Mount Olive, Research Triangle Park, Wilmington, Washington, and Mount Olive Evening College. MOC has 6 locations where working adults can enroll in one night a week programs. All programs meet from 6–10 P.M. on the same night every week. To make contact with an admissions representative at one of our locations, call 800-NEW-GOAL.

Evening College at Mount Olive

Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) begins 1/16/10
Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 1/19/10

Mount Olive College at Jacksonville (910-455-1677)

Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 11/17/09
Health Care Management (HCM) begins 12/1/09

Mount Olive College at New Bern (800-NEW-GOAL)

Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) begins 11/9/09
Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 11/19/09
Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 1/13/10

Mount Olive College at RTP (800-NEW-GOAL)

Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 11/5/09
Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 1/7/10

Mount Olive College at Washington (800-NEW-GOAL)

Religion (MRM) begins 11/17/09
Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 1/13/10
Health Care Management (HCM) begins 1/19/10

Mount Olive College at Wilmington (800-NEW-GOAL)

Heritage Associate Degree program begins 11/10/09
Heritage Associate Degree program begins 1/21/10



“LEADING INTO THE FUTURE”

Alumni Weekend 2009

November 20-22

President and Mrs. Philip Kerstetter
cordially invite you to a reception
honoring
Mount Olive College Alumni
on Saturday, November 21, 2009
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
626 West Main Street
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Friday, November 20, 2009

- 12:00 PM **Registration/Hospitality Room**
Hunt Lounge, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
- 12:15 PM **13th Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic**
Shotgun Start - Southern Wayne Country Club - Mulligan's
and Tee Buster's available - Door prizes and Trophies - E-mail
twoodard@moc.edu or driley@moc.edu to register your team
- 5:30 PM **44th Annual Pickle Classic – Barton vs. Virginia Union**
Between the Games - Recognition of our NCAA participants -
Women's Tennis Team and Scott Woodard (Men's Golf)
- 6:00 PM **Casual Dinner with “Free Spirit”**
Contemporary Christian Singers – Alumni Dining Room
- 7:45 PM **MOC Concert Choir – National Anthem**
National Anthem (Alums please join in – Kornegay Arena Floor)
- 8:00 PM **Mount Olive College vs. Mars Hill**
Recognition – Alumni golf tournament winners
Presentation Pickle Classic Court at halftime
Hospitality Room Hosted by Class of 2009 and MOC Alumni Faculty/Staff

Saturday, November 21, 2009

- 7:00 – 10:00 AM **Pancake Breakfast at and sponsored by Andy's of Mount Olive**
supporting the MOC Women's Softball Team: Tickets \$5, Contact Katie
Field at kfield@moc.edu
- 8:30 AM **Alumni Weekend Registration Headquarters opens - Hunt Lounge**
- 8:30 AM **Cystic Fibrosis Walk/Run**
sponsored by Recreation/Leisure Studies - Kornegay Arena Parking Lot -
Contact Jill Mills at jmills@moc.edu
- 9:00 AM **Reunion and Alumni Tent Opens**
yearbooks, refreshments, music, etc.
Quad by Kornegay Arena and Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
- 10:00 AM **Coffee Break**
sponsored by the Office of Planned Giving – Alumni Dining Room

- 11:00 AM **Annual Business Meeting, Reunions & Recognition**
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center – Alumni Dining Room
 - The State of the College – Dr. Philip Kerstetter, President
 - Special Recognition of 50th and 25th Reunion Classes
 - Recognition of all other reunion years
 - Election of 2009-2011 Alumni Board Officers and Members
 - Special Recognition for Gary Barefoot '59 - Librarian Emeritus
 - Outstanding Leaders Recognition
 - Alumni of the Year Awards
 - Alumni Luncheon with “Mount Olive College Singers”
Reunion tables for former classmates, family and friends to sit together
(Cohorts from all locations are invited to attend, enjoy lunch together
and visit with cohort board members.)

- 12:30 PM **50-inning Softball Game**
Nancy Chapman Cassell Field - For more information contact
Coach Jaime Kyllis-Higginbotham at jkylis@moc.edu
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM **Open House – Check in at Hunt Lounge**
Raper Hall
hosted by Collegiate Future Farmers of America (CFFA)
Henderson
hosted by Prospective Teachers Association (PTA)
Laughinghouse Hall
Art Exhibit - Jason Lancaster '05 - Alumni Show
Visual Communication / Art Reunion
Poole Administration Building - Prospective Students Tours
Prospective Students Tours – Admissions interviews
Poole Administration Building - (Please mark your registration
form with names of students you wish to bring)
- 1:15 PM **10th Annual Criminal Justice Seminar and Reunion**
Rodgers Chapel
- 2:00 PM **Athletics Hall of Fame and Reception**
Hennessee Room – Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
2009 Inductees – Billy Lee '69, Pat Riley '84, Heather Parker
Collier '98, Matt Dudley '00
- 4:00 – 5:30 PM **Presidential Reception**
Home of Dr. and Mrs. Philip Kerstetter
Bus departing Kornegay Arena parking lot every 15 minutes
for your travel and parking convenience
- 5:00 PM **Tailgate/Cookout with Students**
Annie Mae Whitfield and Everett Edwin Herring Residence Halls
- 5:30 PM **Reunions Continue - Casual Dinner - Raper Hall**
- 5:30 PM **Pickle Classic Continues – Barton vs. Mars Hill**
Between Games – Crowning of 2009 Pickle Classic Queen and King
Hospitality Room Upstairs in Kornegay hosted by the Classes of 1999
and 2004
- 8:00 PM **Mount Olive College vs. Virginia Union**
Recognition of the 2009 Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees – Halftime

*After the game – Music and Ice Cream for everyone at Andy's
at the Mt. Olive Centre Shopping Center*

Sunday, November 22, 2009

- 9:00 AM **Alumni Legacy Breakfast**
sponsored by the Undergraduate Alumni Association with special
recognition given by President Philip Kerstetter to all students/alumni
with family members present who are also alums. Hennessee Room -
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
- 10:00 AM **Memorial Service**
Alumni Cross Walk
- 10:15 AM **Alumni Worship Service**
Rodgers Chapel
- 11:30 AM **Buffet Lunch**
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
- 2:00 PM **Women's Alumni Volleyball Game**
Kornegay Arena – Contact Head Coach Cole Tallman,
ctallman@moc.edu

*Alumni are invited to join in the spirit of Thanksgiving and
Christian service along with other campus clubs by bringing
a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child – contact Alumni
Office for more information.*



Doing the Expected— A Look at OFWB Relational Government: Part 2

BY BUDDY SASSER

Last month we examined the responsibilities of the local church in relation to the conference to which it belongs and to the Original Free Will Baptist Convention. We will now take a good look at (1) the Annual Conference, (2) the Annual Convention, and (3) the Headquarters office. For clarification, we will be referring you to the page and paragraph number of 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 AOF*.

The Annual Conference:

The basic structure of an Annual Conference requires the inclusion of the following offices—Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk (Secretary), Board of Trustees, Ordaining Council, and Executive Committee. For the duties of these officers, refer to pages 94–100* in the AOF. All officers must be active members of a church which is a member of the Annual Conference or by ministers who are members in good standing with the Conference. Offices are not required to be filled by ministers, unless so stated in the Conference's by-laws. Upon request, the Conference Executive Committee and Ordaining Council should work together in matters that involve ministerial indiscretions or church disputes. This cooperative effort will assure proper procedures are followed.

Refer to pages 100–102* in the AOF for membership and representation privileges within the Annual Conference. The first new paragraph on page 102, beginning with "Each church..." indicates that representation by letter at the

Annual Conference by member churches is a requirement, while voting in the Conference is a privilege and responsibility given to delegates by their individual churches. In like manner, each ordained minister must attend the Annual Conference or represent by letter as required by the Annual Conference or be subject to disciplinary action (p. 103*, AOF).

The duties of the Conference include the promotion of Christ's Kingdom, working together with the local churches to enhance their work, maintaining standards of justice, righteousness, and love among its members, supporting the work of all Original Free Will Baptist Ministries, and maintaining Christian discipline among its member ministers (pg. 103–104*, AOF).

The Annual Convention:

The best description of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is found on page 105* of the AOF. The first paragraph states that the Annual Convention "... is a coordinating body working for the cooperation of the churches, conferences, ministers, and institutions of the Original Free Will Baptists." The Objects and Duties section simply reinforces this principle. Maintaining the authority of each Annual Conference, the Annual Convention seeks to promote the Kingdom of Christ through information sharing, learning opportunities, workshops, worship services, fellowship, such business as is necessary, and through the mutual respect and cooperative spirit asked of its members.

The work of the Annual Convention and its Executive Committee is promoted by the

Office of Convention Services located at OFWB Headquarters in Ayden, NC. This office serves as a center for the outflow of information from local churches and denominational ministries. An OFWB website, www.ofwb.org, plus a comprehensive database of e-mail addresses, ministers, churches, and other support services is maintained from this office. Promotional activities such as the annual Minister's IMPACT Banquet, the Wall of Honor, the Convention Golf Fellowship, a variety of awards and certificate programs for churches and ministers have their formation here. Various training and mentoring programs as well as other avenues of learning for your church can be acquired through this office. The goal of the Headquarters Office is to "Serve Him by serving you."

Original Free Will Baptists have a very rich heritage. Standing on the foundation of the Word of God, this denomination has met every challenge with a renewed determination to boldly promote the Kingdom of God. Today we face new opportunities for expansion and growth, with our biggest deterrent being our failure to move beyond our own comfort zone. Just as Jesus had expectations of His disciples, He also expects great things from us. These expectations contain rules, regulations, and guidelines. However, they are not designed to hem us in, but rather to make us certain of our pathway. Like the lines on a highway, our Articles of Faith keep us focused on the road that leads to Christ and everlasting life. . . not just for us, but for whosoever will.

* Pages listed refer to the 2001 printing of the Articles of Faith. Copies are available at the FWB Bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, and New Bern.

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Following God's Guidance: Part 2

In my last column, I talked in general about the topic of guidance. Here is a 10-point list with some commentary of the ways that I have discovered guidance acting in my life. Do not take anything unto yourself unless it finds a place in your heart.

Listening in Prayer. The "listening" time of prayer is the best way that I believe that I receive guidance. I am careful, though, not to forget that my own desires may interfere with what I "hear," and that I may make a mistake. Many have said that God speaks in the silence, and I think this is an appropriate way to seek His will.

Keep a Prayer Log. In the early eighties the spiritual writer Catherine Marshall recommended keeping a prayer log, very specifically, with prayers listed succinctly and then the answer, when it was received, recorded and dated. I followed this recommendation for the remainder of the eighties and into the nineties, and I found it very, very useful.

Intuitive Advice. In daily life I receive guidance through a feeling that I ought to take a given course of action. "Feeling" is akin to intuition, but that is not the whole of it, I think. I believe that our minds, our intellects, fre-

quently interfere with receiving God's messages, and that God finds it easier to reach us through our emotions, our feelings.

Intrusive Words. Sometimes I am able to be in a spirit of inspiration, and, much as if I were writing without being sure what I would say next, words come into my mind from my unconscious that suggest a given pathway. I do not actually hear a voice; it is my own thinking, but it also seems to be a bit beyond me.

An Inner Knowing. Quiet times may bring forth an inner knowing of how to proceed in a matter that is troubling us. This is non-verbal, akin to hearing God in our innermost hearts. This "knowing" without being able to verbalize "how" we know is powerful stuff. I think that it is certainly one of the most potent forms of guidance.

Journaling. Writing out our struggles in a journal is a way to invite God's input. I try to let my conscious mind die down and to invite thoughts from my deepest spirit.

Dreams. In especially faithful times, we may have a dream that appears vivid and suggests the next step for us in our life. Certainly dreams and visions are important ways in which

God spoke to His people in the past, as recorded in Scripture. I have had two significant "warning" dreams in my life that I still recall vividly. The dreams came when I was contemplating a pathway that I now realize would not have been healthy for me.

Agitation. Occasionally in my life I have become severely agitated when I was walking along a given pathway. I have come to see such agitation as evidence from God that I am walking the wrong way.

Visions. Many years ago, when I was 25, I had a series of nighttime hallucinations, or visions, that became important to me in setting the pathway for my life. Perhaps there was a reason that this gift came at an early age. The visions have not recurred.

Signs. Signs are welcomed by many, but I would caution against too much of an emphasis here, because it is very easy to twist signs around to mean anything that we want.

This is my list. Do you have one of your own? I would encourage everyone to think of the ways that God has acted in your lives and see if guidance has played a role.

CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT:

The Rev. Jonathan Best is available for fill in and interim ministry. He is a graduate of Mount Olive College and currently attends Campbell Divinity School. He is reliable and dependable. He may be contacted by phone at (910) 514-3211 or by email at <jonathanlbest@hotmail.com>.

SEEKING PASTOR:

Crab Point Church, 2301 Crab Point Loops Road, Morehead City, Carteret County, NC is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a rural church with regular services on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. A parsonage is available. Send résumés or call Earl Fulcher at 1775 Country Club Road, Morehead City, NC 28557, 252-729-1851 or Tom Bennett at 2348 Crab Point Loop Road, Morehead City, NC 28557, 252-726-6370.

By the Bay

WITH RICK PRICE

It's November! We still have a few more weekend retreats to go and then the holiday season! We still have some open weekends for Christmas parties or other events in December. Remember to call ahead to schedule yours! Thanksgiving and Christmas is just around the corner. I think that this year at the camp has possibly been the most rewarding year of my life. To be able to help others and share JESUS with as many people as we do here at Camp Vandemere has got to be the best "Job" in the world. I am very thankful, not just at this time of the year, but at all times, that this ministry exists. I know I've probably said this before, but if it weren't for the older ones that had a vision for this place, a vital part of Christian history would be missing. We all should be thankful that we have a place like this to come and bring others to. Thanksgiving has always been a time to take time to reflect on all the blessings of God. We certainly need to do that! Be thankful

for every breath we take because it can be gone in one more! It's a time that we spend with family and friends, eating and laughing! Let's be careful not to forget that Jesus is the very reason we can be thankful for anything!

So now, let me begin with saying, thank you Jesus, for the opportunity to serve you here at Camp Vandemere. It's been an awesome year! So many things have happened here to draw people close to You!

And next, great big thanks to all of you that have come and are planning to come to the camp. Thank you for choosing to come here. I'm sure you could easily go somewhere else, but you chose to come here! Thanks to all of our summer camps! You all have surely made my job easy this past summer. Every one of the summer camps were awesome. All the children and others had a great time because the leaders put a lot of effort into the planning of these weeks. As

I've said before, the summer camps are a lot of hard work, but most gratifying when, at the end of the week; you see the results of many hours of that hard work. Everyone goes away with more knowledge of Christ than they came here with! Some that came without Him, go home as a child of God! A changed life forever! Praise God!

And then, thanks to the weekend retreats, family reunions, and others that come, also. It is wonderful to have groups here about 43 weeks of the year. Thank all of you for your prayers and financial support. I can't thank you enough! Please continue to pray and seek God in every thing you do for this camp. As you know, we are in the planning process of building a new building, which will, at completion, house up to 300 people. I'm excited about the possibilities for the camp in the near future and hope that you are also. Thanks again.

ANNUAL SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT

campvandemereministries@embarqmail.com



November 13 & 14, 2009

Friday, Nov. 13: Meal at 7 P.M.

Saturday, Nov. 13: Meal at 7 P.M.

Tournament begins at 6 A.M.

Fees: \$50 (includes one night lodging in dorm room and meals on Friday and Saturday)

\$35 (for fishing tournament only)

Prizes awarded for "Most Weight Caught by One Person" and "Biggest Fish Caught"

Come join us for other activities on Saturday! Basketball, volleyball, tennis, and other outside activities. You don't have to fish in the tournament to come enjoy a relaxing day here at the camp!

All proceeds go toward the general operating fund for Camp Vandemere.

Call Rick Price for reservations: 252.670.9775 or 252.745.3171 or e-mail: campvandemere@embarqmail.com



The Sam N. and Connie Weeks Endowment

BY DR. W. BURKETTE RAPER

Having been taught from her youth the biblical principles of Christian stewardship and to honor her parents, Betty Jean Weeks Sutton looked for a way to live out these truths. She asked her father in what way a special gift might be most meaningful to him and Mrs. Weeks. Her husband, Frank, joyfully joined with her in making the gift.

After careful consideration, her father suggested an endowment that would benefit two of the primary components of his ministry: First Free Will Baptist Church of Smithfield; and Blended Fellowship, a Free Will Baptist ministry of the deaf. He recommended that sixty percent (60%) of the annual distribution from the endowment be designated for Blended Fellowship and forty percent (40%) for the Smithfield Church.

Dr. Weeks has been pastor of the Smithfield Church since 1996; and as a member of the Executive Board of the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, he serves as the Conference representative to coordinate the work of the Conference in its supportive relationship with the Fellowship. He is also chair of a committee that is working with the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries to build a permanent endowment that will help provide a firm financial foundation that will enable the Fellowship to strengthen and expand its ministry. To date, three endowed funds, including \$6,000 in the Weeks Endowment, have been established with gifts totaling \$23,657 for this purpose. The Endowment Committee for the Fellowship has set a goal of \$25,000 by the meeting of the Cape Fear Conference on November 10. The next goal



Front row (l-r): Frank and Betty Jean Weeks Sutton present a gift in the amount of \$10,000 to Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, in honor Mrs. Sutton's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Sam N. Weeks. In the background are members of the "Signing Choir" of Blended Fellowship who performed at a special service at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, at which the Weeks Endowment was announced.

of the Committee is an endowment of \$100,000 by the Centennial Anniversary of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in May 2013. Long-range, an endowment of one million dollars is envisioned. An endowment in this amount would provide a projected \$50,000 annually, which would enable Original Free Will Baptists to become a leader in Christian ministry to the deaf.

The Ministry of Blended Fellowship

Located on Big Daddy Road near Pikeville, the Fellowship under the pastorate of the Reverend Doug Seymour, provides worship services, Bible study, and a special ministry to a deaf community which, including family and friends, numbers approximately 100. The expanded outreach of its ministry to the deaf extends to a multi-county area in eastern North Carolina and beyond. Future goals of Blended Fellowship include a Christian school for deaf children that will focus on their special needs and financial resources for the full-time services of the pastor. Currently, Pastor Seymour, who founded the Fellowship, is bi-

vocational. In addition to his services for ministry to the deaf, he is a full-time computer technician with Hospice.

In emphasizing the need for a ministry to the deaf, Pastor Seymour reports that: "The deaf in the United States are a mission field, virtually unreached. Only 7% of deaf adults have ever had the Gospel presented to them in their own language. Fewer than 2% call themselves Christians."

Those who wish additional information on the work of Blended Fellowship are encouraged to contact: The

Reverend Doug Seymour, 2091 Big Daddy's Road, Pikeville, NC 27863, www.blendedfellowship.com, Phone: 919-735-7676 (Voice or TTY), Fax: 919-736-9048.

The North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries has adopted Blended Fellowship as one of its special projects, and an open invitation is extended to individuals, churches, Sunday Schools, woman's auxiliaries, and others to help build an endowment for the support and advancement of this vital ministry. After all, would you be in church Sunday if you could not hear and the church could not communicate to you in a language you could understand?

Gifts to an endowment for a Christian mission to the deaf may be made to:
NC Foundation For Christian Ministries
W. Burkette Raper, President
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, North Carolina 28365
Phone: 919-658-3855
Email: www.wraper@noc.edu

MY GRANDFATHER: NORMAN ARD

BY SARAH HAM

Has there been a time in your life that death was a positive experience for you? Have you had a family member or friend that really impacted your life? My granddaddy was such a man and I only realized how special he was at his death.

My dad picked me up unexpectedly from my best friend's house on a Sunday afternoon. When we pulled up in the driveway, my mom was in her car crying. I learned that my grandfather had just died. I was devastated. My dad came over and comforted my mother and me since we were crying. My grandfather was a smoker and had suffered many heart attacks and strokes. He had just been diagnosed with liver and colon cancer one week earlier. Deep down our family was relieved that my granddaddy would not have to suffer anymore. That very night we went to Pink Hill, North Carolina to see our family and make plans for his funeral.

As soon as we arrived, everyone was at my grandmother's house sitting around the kitchen table looking through pictures for his memory board. As we were looking for pictures, we told stories, laughed, and cried while sharing so many great and funny memories with granddaddy. The next day was very busy as we visited the funeral home to pick out the casket and give facts for the obituary. Since one of granddaddy's hobbies was woodworking, we selected a beautiful pine casket. My grandfather was a Free Will

Baptist minister for 48 years and loved good choral singing so my mom coordinated a choir for his service. She hoped to have at least 50 singers from the area churches. Much to our surprise, 95 singers came early to rehearse two of granddaddy's favorite songs. The front of the church was a sea of faces as the choir sat anywhere they could to make room for each other. Have you ever experienced 800 voices singing with conviction and joy? Did you ever think a sad and unexpected death could be uplifting? During the funeral, the combination of voices singing great hymns of the church made me realize granddaddy was in a much better place and that comforted me.

At my grandmother's request, we placed granddaddy's open, well-worn Bible and a yellow rose on top of his pine casket. At my granddaddy's request, my daddy and uncle eulogized granddaddy with many stories and memories from his 72 years. I do not know about your granddaddy, but mine could be very serious but also had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to play practical jokes. They shared many stories that broke our sadness into much laughter.

When we witnessed the outpouring of 800 people at his service we knew he was well-liked and blessed to have so many friends. Being raised by a tenant farmer and a hard worker himself, at my uncle's request, my grandfather's casket was carried the next morning from

the funeral home to the cemetery on a buckboard wagon pulled by two Belgian workhorses. As we followed the horses at such a slow, steady pace, I could only imagine doing farmwork using horses and wagons. At such a slow speed, how could you ever get much work done?

This was the first death that affected me because he was my first grandparent that died and I loved him very much. Some of my fondest memories are the time he came to my elementary school for Grandparent's Day and was dressed to "kill" in his suit, buying my cousin and me our birthstone necklace and ring, and always giving me a "piece" of money folded very neatly. It was very hard to let him go and it took me awhile to realize that he was gone forever. I still think of him every now and then and I wish I could see him one last time. I feel like I should see him sleeping in his favorite brown leather chair recliner when I walk in grandmother's den. After experiencing such a traumatic, unexpected event I realized I could get through anything. Seeing how his life made such a great impact for so many years on people from the community, the church, and the business world left me with encouragement to be a positive role model to my peers and others with whom I come in contact.

I have been tremendously changed by his death. I wish he was still here, but he is in a better place now. Can my life be such a positive influence? I can only hope so.



Morris Honored at the Eastern District Auxiliary Convention

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary met September 19, 2009, at Juniper Chapel Church. The convention theme was "Hope for a Changing World," based on Hebrews 6:19.

Juniper Five sang several songs to get our convention off to the right start. I am not sure who had the loudest hallelujah in the house, but it was wonderful. We were in the right frame of mind to receive God's messenger, the Rev. Mike Scott, pastor of Juniper Chapel, who presented the morning message. Hope might or might not happen. It is based on circumstance or happenstance. Through the Scripture, hope takes on a new meaning; it hasn't happened yet, but nonetheless, the promise is there—an assurance. He covered three points:

1) Basis of our hope:

Not found in the things of this earth or this life. If so, our hope would be in vain.

2) Benefits of our hope:

The world promises us so much that it simply cannot deliver. The hope we have is security for our future. Our confidence is in our unchanging God.

3) Blessedness of our hope:

Christ could come at any time; no man knows the hour.

Joan Little, State President, installed the incoming officers for 2009–2011. She used a "holey" umbrella to show how the Executive Committee looks when they don't work together. As each officer was installed, they placed a tape over a hole in the umbrella and made the pledge "In all things I will honor God." When all officers were installed, the umbrella was "patched" or repaired so it would work as originally intended.



(L-R) Wanda Costner, Velma Morris, and Lois Wetherington.

Lois Wetherington reminded us that our money had been in excellent hands for the past 32+ years because Velma Gray Morris has been watching over it. She served on the Finance Committee from 1970–1976. She gave her first treasurer's report at the Spring Convention March 1977.

In appreciation for what she has done for the Eastern District, Wanda Costner, President, presented

Miss Morris with a glass plaque and an arm bouquet of red roses. She has been such an important member of the Executive Committee; always willing to guide a new officer and encourage her to do her best. Velma promised to continue to support the Executive Committee. She has given so much to the Eastern District and been a blessing to so many over the past 32+ years. It was great to be able to show her how very much she means to us!



Emmanuel Retreat at Cragmont Assembly

BY BRENDA BEST

Cragmont and Black Mountain, North Carolina are synonymous in the Free Will Baptist community. You can't say one without thinking of the other. And it doesn't matter the season of the year; there is always something of beauty to explore, and a time of refreshing for mind, body, and spirit. Whether you attend a designated retreat, summer camp, or just hold up a few days in this quiet, serene environment, you leave in awe of God's creation and presence. For those attending the Emmanuel Retreat at Cragmont Assembly in September, the experience was especially inspirational this year.

Arrival was a busy time; locating rooms, unpacking luggage, greeting everyone, getting hugs, having quick conversations with old friends, and introducing new ones. Some ladies arrived early to allow more time for shopping and sight seeing, while others came as time allowed for fellowship and spiritual refreshing. There were 25 ladies and one gentleman in attendance for our fall session, and of those ladies, 10 attended for the first time. It is always a joy to see new faces and share the strength and victory we receive during our retreats.

We want to thank Becky Jo Sumner, whose dual role of Bible teacher and devotional leader taught us many ways that God is with us in all of His creation, and helped us to learn more of His Word and applications to our daily lives. Becky Jo blessed us with unexpected and inspiring reminders of God's presence and power with us. I have a vivid picture in my mind, our first morning, as we stood on the front lawn, watching as daylight cast itself on the mountain across the road from Cragmont, and the gentle rising cloud that lingered while we listened and took in all the beauty. How could we not see, as Becky Jo stated, that "God's grandeur is the center of attention, He



Emmanuel Retreat group gathers for a photo.

is the Light of the morning, and He scatters away the dark?"

We thank Dianne Riley, Kathy Cahoon, Sande Brown, and Sharlene Howell (our pianist), as their newly named group, Common Threads, blended voices in beautiful harmony with special selections that always enhanced the message.

We appreciate Gail Heath, our music director, for leading us in song and worship; our registrar, Joan Little (who was unable to attend), and May Pittman, our director, for her leadership and organizational abilities that she uses for the glory of God and His kingdom. They all worked so well together, and followed God's leading to bless our hearts in music and "rightly dividing the word of truth: (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV).

We are grateful for the Cragmont staff, their preparation for our arrival, and continued service throughout our stay. Our meals were always appealing and appetizing.

A special time of worship was shared by Ms. Frances Phillips, who had not been able to attend Cragmont retreats for a while. She was so grateful to return, and let us know her heart is right with the Lord. She expressed her desire for everyone to be ready to meet Him when He comes as she ministered to us in song, a favorite of hers and ours, *Going Home*. Ms. Frances

celebrated her 88th birthday on Sunday and was our princess for the day.

John Williams, Camp Director, gave the closing message Sunday morning. His Scripture text, taken from Mark 9:30-37, was a challenge for us to remember all children and their needs. He spoke of how Jesus had "stooped down" to the child's level (v. 36), picked him up, and put him in the middle of the disciples, teaching them a lesson in humility, and where greatness should be expressed in God's kingdom work.

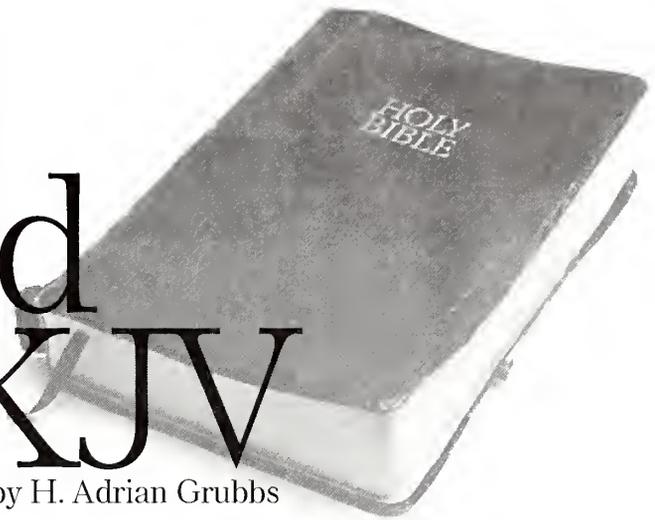
We are thankful for John and Arlinda and the staff members at Cragmont, and their desire to reach children everywhere, and meet their needs as God leads them.

Thank you to the ladies who attended Emmanuel Retreat, and the special offering of \$540 for the continuing work at Cragmont Assembly.

Another great weekend of fellowship ended, prayers for safe journeys prayed, hugs and good-bye's expressed, and we loaded our luggage and headed home. I can't help but wonder, if knowledge could be weighed in pounds, how many of us would have gotten tickets for traveling with overloaded vehicles on the way home? I think all of us were like sponges, soaking in all the freshness of God's word we could receive.

Why I Replaced My KJV

by H. Adrian Grubbs



Like many among us, if not most, I grew up with the King James Version of the Bible. For many years I did not know there was any other translation. When I was little, we were given take-home cards in Sunday School. A picture was on one side of the card depicting the theme for that Sunday, and the Bible story was on the other side. The memory verse was from the KJV. At sporadic periods of time in Sunday School we were encouraged to actually memorize the memory verse, which I usually did—but only when it was expected of me. When as a teenager I received Christ as my Savior, I started going to Wednesday night prayer meeting. As we studied various books of the Bible, I would sometimes memorize verses of Scripture that had special meaning for me. All the verses that I memorized as a youth were from the KJV. So when I say that I grew up with the KJV, I mean it literally.

It was during my early teens that I became aware that there were other translations of the Bible. We had a copy of the Amplified Bible in our house. But, of course, it was not a “real” Bible; it was simply a tool to help us to understand the meaning of the Bible—the King James Version, which was the only “real” Bible. I remember hearing an out-of-state revival preacher expound on the evils of the Revised Standard Version, which came out in 1952. Even in our Free Will Baptist League quarterly we were told that, among other things, the Revised Standard Version denied the virgin birth.

When I started to college I was well aware that the professors used the RSV and recommended that we purchase the Oxford Annotated edition. Well, I was not going to spend that much money on a book that I would promptly discard as soon as the Old and New Testament Survey courses were completed. So I went to a book store and bought the cheapest RSV that I could find. Out of curiosity, I started looking up passages in the RSV to confirm for myself what I had heard about the gross errors in it. Lo and behold, I discovered that the RSV does not deny the virgin birth! It stated very plainly in Matthew and Luke that Mary was a virgin. The RSV did not deny the blood of Christ! It stated clearly that Jesus died on a cross, that he bled for our sins, and that by his blood we were saved. Clearly, somebody had lied to me, or else they had repeated false information without checking it out for themselves.

In my studies, I learned that the Old Testament was first written in Hebrew and Aramaic, and the New Testament was originally written in Greek—not in the Greek of lawyers and law-makers, but in the everyday Greek spoken by the people of that time. I opened my trusted KJV and, for the first time, read the preface. I learned that the KJV was published in 1611 and was an English translation of the Hebrew and Greek Bible. The English language had not even been invented in Bible times, so Jesus could not have taught using the king’s English, and the apostles could not have preached from the KJV. These were astounding discoveries for a

college freshman!

The KJV is often referred to as “the authorized version,” which is misleading. The only “authorization” relating to the KJV was when the translators had completed their work and were ready to send it to the publisher, only one printing company was authorized to publish the KJV. Eventually that copyright expired and other publishers began printing it. Somewhere along the way some publisher in England used the phrase “authorized version” and it caught on with other publishers.

Eventually, I did acquire a copy of the Oxford Annotated Revised Standard Version. Here are some of the reasons.

1. It is much easier to read and understand.
2. It replaced words used in the KJV that through the centuries have become obscure and other words that have changed in meaning.
3. Even though the KJV was translated from the best Hebrew and Greek manuscripts available at the time, much older and better attested manuscripts have since been discovered, studied thoroughly, and used in translating the RSV.
4. Other ancient documents have also been discovered, which shed much light on the meaning of words, phrases, and idioms used in the Greek New Testament.
5. The Oxford Annotated edition includes the translators notes (footnotes) indicating words and phrases that were difficult to translate

(Continued on page 29...)

Everett Chapel Church Ladies Auxiliary Project

BY AMANDA CLEVE

The Ladies Auxiliary of Everett Chapel Church, 307 Everett Avenue, Clayton, NC sponsored a school supplies drive for our Children's Home during the month of August. Our church congregation gave generously and we had book packs for all and many need items for the children. Pictured is Ms. Flora Dismukes, Auxiliary President, as the van was loaded at Everett Chapel and also pictures the items being unpacked at the Children's Home. We are blessed to carry clothes donated by Victoria and Ben James, youth from our church.



Ms. Flora Dismukes, Auxiliary President

First Church Wilson Woman's Auxiliary "Wedding"

BY BRENDA BEST

What started as an ordinary Woman's Auxiliary meeting ended on a very different note. It all began approximately 10 minutes prior to the 7:00 P.M. meeting. A member came and informed me that "the groom" had asked if I would have the ladies, including "the bride," in the sanctuary of the church at 8:00 P.M.—to get them there anyway I could.

No one was to know anything about this, especially the bride. As president of the WA for three years, I have never had a request like this, but I knew I could not disappoint the waiting groom.

It was suggested to tell them that we were going to have our picture taken. Well, that might work. But it's 7:00 P.M. and the bride has not arrived. Now what? Oh good—here she comes. I had been told she was last seen cutting grass at 5:30 P.M.) But here she was—clean and dressed very casually. Tennis shoes, t-shirt, walking shorts, and no make-up.

So the meeting progressed without a hitch and then it was time. Oh dear Lord, what do I do? It worked!

The ladies followed me into the sanctuary to have a picture made (God forgive me). When we walked in, nothing looked unusual. Everyone stared looking around for the photographer. Then in walked

the groom and Pastor Wayne. And as we saw the groom, dressed in shorts, t-shirt, and ball cap, walk towards the bride with a bouquet of flowers, we knew something was up. At last, the secret was revealed—Randy and Linda Faircloth (the bride and groom) were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary! The groom came up with the idea of renewing



Randy and Linda Faircloth renew their vows during the First Church Woman's Auxiliary meeting.

their wedding vows and wanted to surprise the bride—and was she surprised! So after a very condensed "wedding," the bride and groom were remarried—25 more glorious years together! But the best part was the audience that was present to witness this wonderful event. And to top it all—their daughter, Kristen, was there to take a picture!

Christ Church Homecoming and History

BY BRENDA BEST

On Sunday, August 2, 2009, Christ Church had its 38th annual Homecoming. Our guest pastor and speaker was the Rev. Roger Motsinger of Friendly Chapel in Greensboro, NC. Christ Church really enjoyed Rev. Motsinger and his wife, Debbie, for our special day. Perfect attendance pins were also given out. After the services, a chicken, vegetable, and dessert lunch was served for everyone. Thank you Lord for another homecoming to fellowship with our Christian friends.

History of Christ Church:

The first services were held in a brown house on Hwy. 150 in Summerfield, N.C. The Lord blessed us with a building and the church was moved to Hwy. 150 and Eversfield Road in Oak Ridge, N.C. On August 1, 1971, this building was dedicated and declared the House of the Lord. Christ Free Will Baptist Church was the name given to the church and we had our first homecoming that Sunday.

The first pastor was Rev. Wiley J. Combs, voted in on August 15, 1971 and remained pastor through 1973. The first deacons were ordained on September 5, 1971: Bobby Chambers, Carl Ray Hicks, and Fred Hicks. Christ Church joined the Piedmont Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists at the second annual session in August 1972. In 1974, Rev. Gordon Massey was voted in until 1975.

In 1975, Rev. Clifford Slone was voted in and remained pastor until October 1979. In 1978, a mobile home and another home and another piece of land; our current location, 163 Hilton Road, was purchased in Stokesdale, N.C. In October 1979, Rev. David Atkins preached in the mobile home and in 1980, he officially became pastor of Christ Church.

In 1981, blueprints were donated to the church and a church building was started on this land. Our church building was finished and dedicated on Easter Sunday 1982. A fellowship hall was built in July 1983 and finally finished in 1995. In 1985, Cazz Mabe donated the cemetery land to Christ



Pictured (l-r) are the Rev. Roger Motsinger, his wife, Debbie Motsinger, Janice Atkins, and the Rev. David Atkins.



Pictured above are Perfect Attendance pin recipients (back row, l-r): Curtis Stevens, Nancy Stevens, Sheryl Hopper, Bud Stevens, Rev. Cathy Vernon, Frankie Vernon, Rev. David Atkins, and Wayne Hicks (front row, l-r) Nancy Hopper, Lily Hopper, and Nellie Hopper.

Church.

On April 11, 2001, Fred Hicks died, the only original remaining deacon and founder of Christ Church. Pat Hicks, Fred's wife, is now the only living person that is considered the first founders of Christ Church. She has been the teacher of the Adult Sunday School Class for many years. They had two children, Wayne Hicks, who is now a deacon, trustee, and conference clerk and Ann Hicks Tilley who is an active attending member of the church.

Wayne Hicks, Curtis Stevens, and Frankie Vernon are the current deacons. In 2006, Christ Church doubled the size of the fellowship hall and was rededicated to the Lord Jesus Christ in 2007.

In October 2009, Rev. David Atkins had been pastor of Christ Church for 30 years. The Rev. Atkins currently



The late Fred Hicks and his wife, Patsy Hicks (the only living founder).

has a radio broadcast each Saturday morning in Mayodan, N.C. We are thankful to the Lord for all He has blessed us with. We pray that Christ Church will continue to be a soul winning station for all who are willing to accept Christ.

A First for Free Will Baptists

BY DON E. LASSITER

Selma Church has an all ladies Deacon Board for the first time in its long history, and, perhaps, this is a first in the history of our denomination.

The ladies in our church and denomination have always served very important roles with their contributions in many areas. The ladies in our church have served as Sunday School teachers for both men and women's classes, Bible school directors, superintendents, have served on many different committees, and have provided tremendous support in our Christian endeavors in the woman's auxiliary.

Thanks to the work of Mrs. Kathleen Hinnant, we discovered our first lady deaconess was Mrs. F. D. Cuddington elected in 1933. In more recent times, there is no record of a deaconess until 1986 when Mrs. Ruth Narron and Mrs. Carol Parrish were elected. They both served with dignity, honor, and wisdom. Since that time we have never had a deacon board that did not include at least one lady and in many cases more, or even a majority. This year is the first time our Deacon Board has been composed of all ladies. The Chair of



Women of the Selma Church Deacon Board.

the Board is Doris Martin. Others that serve, and are pictured above include Louise Tucker, Chris Mitchell, Geneva Wall, Teresa Foster, Nell Adams, and Ruby Taylor. All of these ladies have been members of our church for many years and have served well in all areas.

Even though our current board's responsibilities are primarily devoted to family ministry and prayer, all are encouraged to attend our General Board meetings. This Board discusses issues regarding our church and

makes recommendations for our quarterly business meetings.

I am very proud of all our ladies and consider them to be equal in every way with the men in our church and denomination. I would like to encourage all ladies in our denomination to consider the services they can provide in any way they feel God leads. I feel that, we as a denomination, are limiting ourselves if we do not utilize the very valuable services our ladies can provide in all areas of ministry.

Stephenson Celebrates 103rd Birthday

BY SYLVIA W. JOHNSON

Mrs. Merle Allen Stephenson celebrated her 103rd birthday on August 8, 2009 with her children, Anne, Max, and Jackie, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors. Pictured with her is her great-grandson, Parker Ivey, from Goldsboro.

Mrs. Stephenson is a member of Johnston Union Church in Smithfield, N.C.



Haymount Church Honors Bass

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

On August 30, 2009, Haymount Church proudly presented Ms. Eunice Bass with a certificate of appreciation and a purple swede Bible with silver lettering spelling out her name. She has been a faithful, loyal, and diligent Sunday School teacher for 35 years. Her faith as an unwavering Christian has lead her to hold many positions in our congregation.

She was a member at College Lakes before attending Haymount. She taught Sunday School there for a period of approximately 10 years. Ms. Bass told of a story while teaching there about a little boy whom she thought never paid very much attention. A mother asked her son what he studied in Sunday School and he replied that he did not think that she would believe it, so he told her this. "Moses and a group of good people build a bridge across the ocean and got away from the army, but when the army came across the bridge, it broke down and they all fell in the ocean and died." The mother then relayed the story back to Ms. Bass.

(KJV continued from page 25...)

and offering alternative ways to render them in English.

6. The "thee's" and "thou's," and the verb endings "-est" and "-eth" have been replaced.

7. The Bible is holy, but there is nothing holy about the language that is used in translation. (If that were the case, we would all have to learn to read Hebrew and Greek!)

When the Today's English Version came out (or Good News for Modern Man; New Testament in 1966 and the Bible in 1976 by the American Bible Society), I started using it, along with the RSV and KJV, for public and private reading. Although the TEV broke from the Tyndale-KJV tradition, it was truly a translation of the Bible into everyday English. The books of the New Testament were originally written in the everyday language of



Mrs. Eunice Bass receiving her certificate of appreciation.

She realized just how important her teaching was. She is now 84 and is still teaching. She teaches the senior citizens class at Haymount Church. Eunice Bass is a kind but determined person,

the people, which at that time was Greek; therefore, the Bible should be available to all people in the common language they speak and understand. Gradually, my KJV spent more and more time on the bookshelf.

The RSV has since been updated with the New Revised Standard Version because of changes in the English language, more discoveries of ancient manuscripts, and better knowledge of Bible times and languages. As other knowledge becomes available and the English language continues to change, there will always be a need for a new and fresh translation of the Bible into English.

The Bible was given to us for us to read. In the Bible, we find not only the way of salvation but the way to live as God's people. In the Bible, we hear God speak to us and learn what He expects of us. In the Bible, we find

strong in her faith. She is well-respected and loved by all. We appreciate her company and opinions in our congregation. God Bless You, Eunice!

passages of encouragement, hope, and reassurance. In the Bible, we find conviction for our sin, challenge to higher living, and courage for faithful living. And, in the Bible, we find the assurance of forgiveness when we honestly confess our sin to God. But we have to read it! So, select a translation that you are comfortable with—one that you can read with ease and understanding. I would suggest The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version, or the Good News Bible (Today's English Version), because of the high quality of scholarship, the reliability of the translation, and the reasons listed above. Choose a good translation and enjoy the journey of reading the Scriptures; read it every day for pleasure, for enlightenment, and for instruction. The Bible is God's word for anyone who will take time to read it.

2009 Parade of Tables at Reedy Branch Church

BY CAROL STEVENS

The Reedy Branch Woman's Auxiliary held their second Parade of Tables luncheon on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Each of us had looked forward to doing this again since we had the first event in November of 2007. The overall theme of the event this year was "A Parade of Blessings." The profits from this year's event will be donated to Cragmont Assembly.

Each of the 18 tables was decorated around a unique theme related to a Bible scripture. The women decorating the tables had spent much of the past year working on their themes and decorations, and the results reflected their hard work. As before, men in the church volunteered to be the servers for the luncheon. Those who had participated in the first event were eager to be among the first to volunteer this year. Once again, our "servers" did an admirable job. Guests invited to the event all seemed to admire the tables and enjoy the luncheon and the speaker.

Following the luncheon, we were honored with singing and testimony by Dawn Smith Jordan. Dawn was Miss South Carolina in 1986, and second runner-up to Miss America. She has spent her years since then ministering as a vocalist, worship leader and speaker at Christian concerts and events. Dawn has shared the stage with well-known Christian leaders such as Beth Moore, Kay Arthur, Anne Graham Lotz, and Patsy Clairmont. She has appeared with the Billy Graham Crusade and on the 700 Club. She is also a published author and has nine Christian music albums.

Dawn shared her Christian journey, which has included much heartbreak, with the audience. In May of 1985, Dawn's younger sister was kidnapped and murdered. She has ministered to many through her story, as told in her book, "Grace So Amazing" and the CBS made-for-TV feature-film "Nightmare in Columbia County," which continues to air internationally. Her song, "How Far," came out of the work God did in Dawn's life, bringing her to the point of forgiving her sister's murderer. Through song and testimony, Dawn's story of the sufficiency of God's grace and forgiveness has been used by God to minister to thousands. Few eyes were dry as Dawn shared her story.

Dawn's life verse and commitment are found in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths." For additional information about Dawn and her ministry, you can visit her website at www.dawnsmithjordan.com.



TRANSFERRED INTO A NEW KINGDOM

BY FRANK R. HARRISON

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13–14 NIV).

The Apostle Paul never ceased to be amazed and never ceased to praise God for His mighty work accomplished in Jesus Christ. From sinful lost humanity, without God and without hope in the world, God has placed all who believe and trust in Christ into a wholly new Kingdom, the Kingdom of His dear Son! This Kingdom would not resemble any kingdom of human origin on Earth. It was to be a new Kingdom, a Kingdom in which Christ is King and will reign in the hearts of faithful dedicated believers.

Jesus spoke of this new Kingdom and covenant on the night of His betrayal as He celebrated His last meal with them only hours before His arrest and execution. “And He took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, ‘Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament (new covenant) which is shed for many for the remission of sins’” (Matthew 26:27–28).

If the Church of the 21st century could see the implications of that statement, there would surely be a spiritual awakening that would cause all others in history to pale into insignificance! This covenant will be supreme to any covenant, God has ever made with humanity in the past. The writer of Hebrews states: “In that He saith, a new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to

vanish away” (8:13). This covenant, achieved by the very blood of Christ, cleanses us of all our sin and guilt, replaces it with the very righteousness of Christ, so that Paul would state it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, the new one has come.”

This new Kingdom would be the reign of God in the hearts and lives of those who believed in Christ and put their trust in Him as Lord and Savior. By faith and the work of the Holy Spirit, the believer is transferred and delivered from the kingdom of darkness into His marvelous Kingdom of light, the Kingdom of His dear Son. This Kingdom is radically unlike any kingdom, government, or political ideology of the world. His Kingdom would be represented by a basin of water and a towel, not a sword or any military might. It would be a Kingdom in which the rule of God and the will of God is the prevailing the driving factor. This Kingdom cannot be identified with any political party, or ideology, or nation; it can't be identified with any human institution, or an organized “religion.” Rather, this Kingdom—the Kingdom of God—displays the very character and behavior of Jesus Himself. It is the “Kingdom of God” we see embodied in Christ, the Song of God. Therefore, it will always look like Jesus—loving, serving, and sacrificing Himself for all people, including His enemies.

So “the Kingdom of God” that Jesus refers to is the domain of God's reign, and thus we see in the very life and teachings of Jesus what it looks like when God reigns

in a person's life and in the life of a community. And to the extent that any individual, church, or movement, including Christianity, looks like that, it manifests the Kingdom of God. To the extent that it doesn't look like that, it doesn't! Further, our job, as the followers of Jesus, and as people who claim to submit to God's reign, is to do everything we can to grow this Kingdom in our own lives and throughout the world as we live day by day empowered by the Holy Spirit, and Christ Himself transforms us into His image. Christ Himself is working through His corporate body, the church, to carry on the work He began in His earthly body and life.

This way of life literally becomes a revolution to “turn the world upside down” as it challenges the pagan idols of wealth, power, success, and fame that any secular people hold dear as their highest values. It's a revolution of humble, self-sacrificial, loving service that will always look like Jesus, dying on Calvary for the very people who crucified Him.

Taking our cues from our Leader, the holy Son of God who chose to be cruelly executed by those He sought to love and serve, we as His followers, Kingdom people, are called out of the world to be holy, separate people, called to be non-conformists, resisting the “pattern of the world:” as we are transformed into the image of Christ. Again, Dr. Gregory Boyd states it this way: “This holy non-conformity isn't just one aspect of who we are—it is the essence of who we are. It's how we manifest the beauty of God's character and Kingdom. Out of the wellspring

(Continued on page 33...)

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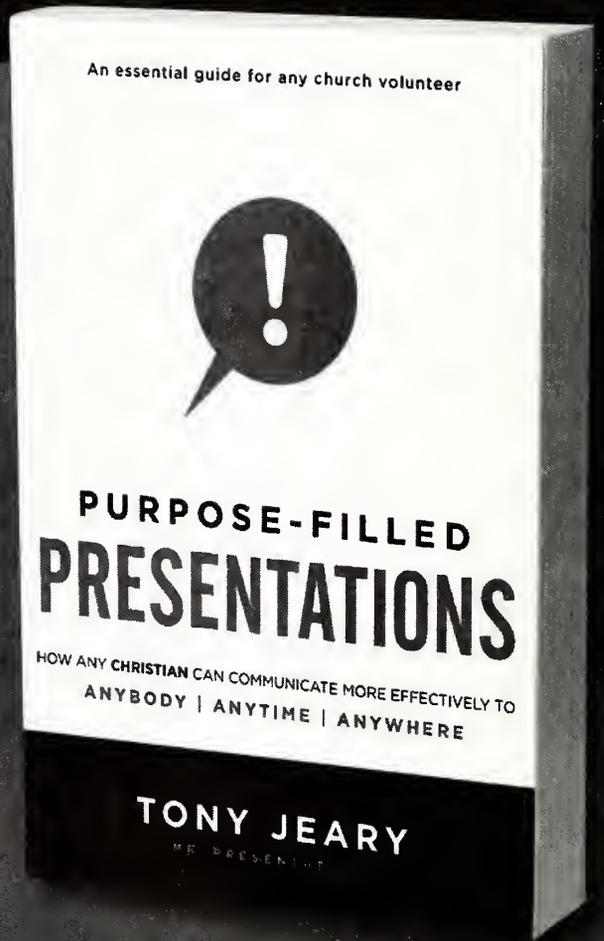
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(KINGDOM continued from page 31...)

of the abundant life we receive from Christ, we are to live in revolt against everything in our lives, in society, and in the spirit-realm that is inconsistent with God's reign." (*The Myth of a Christian Nation* 28).

In contrast, Jesus had a world view in which His primary focus was to do the will of God and He tells His disciples, "I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do what I want." (John 6:38). He came as a Servant, and again, He would say to His disciples, "I came to serve, not to be served." Wherever and whenever Jesus was present, the Kingdom of God was present, or it was embodied in Himself, for He was the incarnation of God.

By God's grace and mercy, given to us so freely in Jesus Christ, we are transferred from the kingdoms of darkness into His glorious Kingdom to live out our lives and follow in His footsteps of service and love to God and to be lights to fallen humanity. First John 2:6 tells us "...that whoever says 'I abide in Him, ought to walk just as He walked.'" Or, again, Paul put it this way in Philippians 2:5: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." If we have the mind of Christ in us by the Holy Spirit, then we will seek to walk obediently in His Kingdom, letting our love be sincere, hate what is evil, cling to what is good, relating to each other in brotherly love, honoring others above self, being joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer, and sharing with those in need, being careful to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord, and overcoming evil with good, so says Paul in Romans 12:9-21.

The Church, the Body of Christ in the world, is to be His Presence in the world, doing what He did on Earth. His agenda was people, and bringing them to God, cleansing of sin, meeting their needs, that they may know and rejoice as children of God. The Apostle Paul tells us: "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages, He

might show the incomparable riches of His grace in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:6-10 NIV).

What a great joy and privilege given to us who believe and trust in Christ! We are citizens of His Kingdom—we who were lost in darkness, without God, without hope, excluded from heavenly citizenship, and foreigners to the covenants of promise have now been reconciled to God, new creations in Christ, given heavenly citizenship in Him and given the gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us as our Guide and Helper, and as children of God, we can go boldly into the presence of God as His children in Christ Jesus! Furthermore, Paul continues to state the centrality of this truth in verses 18-20 of Ephesians 2: "For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone" (NIV).

In His Kingdom of light, His followers will seek to live out a lifestyle given to us in Matthew 5, 6, and 7, a lifestyle of servanthood that always interacts with others with their best interests in mind as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. It is a lifestyle of the "Servant," a lifestyle that follows Jesus by way of a cross as we spend our lives for others in His service as we "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take in the homeless, befriend the friendless, and visit the sick, and the prisoners. The "Lamb Power" looks like Calvary and self-sacrificial live that establishes the rule of God though love and outrageous, scandalous grace. In this Kingdom, we are all equal children of the Father Christ and "co-laborers" with Christ; all are called to witness and to proclaim the mighty deeds of God in

Christ Jesus as we carry the towel of service.

His kingdom is made up of Holy Spirit people—born of the Spirit with a new birth, and this a "new creation in Christ," translated into His new Kingdom—a Kingdom of glorious light where all the old social customs, divisions, distinctions, and walls of hostility are gone. Now in His Kingdom, "the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Roman 8:16). Here in this Kingdom all pre-established social values are rendered null and void. Where God reigns, people are to be defined solely by what God did for them by dying on Calvary, not by their social class, or race, or gender, Jew or Gentile—we are all equal citizens in this Kingdom.

Again, Dr. Gregory Boyd sums it all up in these words: "for Kingdom people are called to walk in obedience to the example and teaching of Jesus even when it seems to make no sense to do so...To the world's (normal) way of thinking, Jesus' radical posture is indeed ludicrous, impractical, unpatriotic, irresponsible, and even immoral....We need to remember that this is exactly how matters looked on Good Friday, when the omnipotent God suffered at the hands of evil rather than use coercion force to extinguish it. But under the reign of the sovereign God, Good Friday never has the last word. Easter is coming!

Our call is to trust that the foolishness of self-sacrificial love will overcome evil in the end. Our call is to be faithful and to manifest the beauty of a Savior who loves indiscriminately while revolting against all hatred and violence. This is the humble mustard seed revolution that will in the end transform the world." (*The Myth of a Christian Nation* 102). Thanks be unto God who transfers us into His new Kingdom.

"...to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen (Revelation 1:5-6).

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NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

THE SAM H. AND CONNIE WEEKS ENDOWMENT
THE ENDOWMENT OF THE MONTH



For First Free Will Baptist Church
Smithfield, North Carolina
and
Blended Fellowship
A Christian Ministry to the Deaf



*Footprints from the past—
Footprints for the future.*

For more information on the Alumni Endowment and the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, please see page 21.

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Merry Christmas



This Month's Features:

- ***Thank You For Your Wonderful Response***
- ***Praise the Lord For My New Life***

AND MORE!

FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

December 2009 Foreign Missions Month

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
20	30	1	2	3	4	5
1 st Sunday of Advent						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2 nd Sunday of Advent			NCFM Board of Directors Meet at McLawhorn & Assoc. Greenville, NC			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
3 rd Sunday of Advent						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4 th Sunday of Advent					Christmas Day	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					New Year's Day	

COMING SOON:

Saturday, May 22, 2010—Free Will Baptist Children's Home will celebrate 90 years of Christian child care. More details will be announced as they become available.

NOTES:

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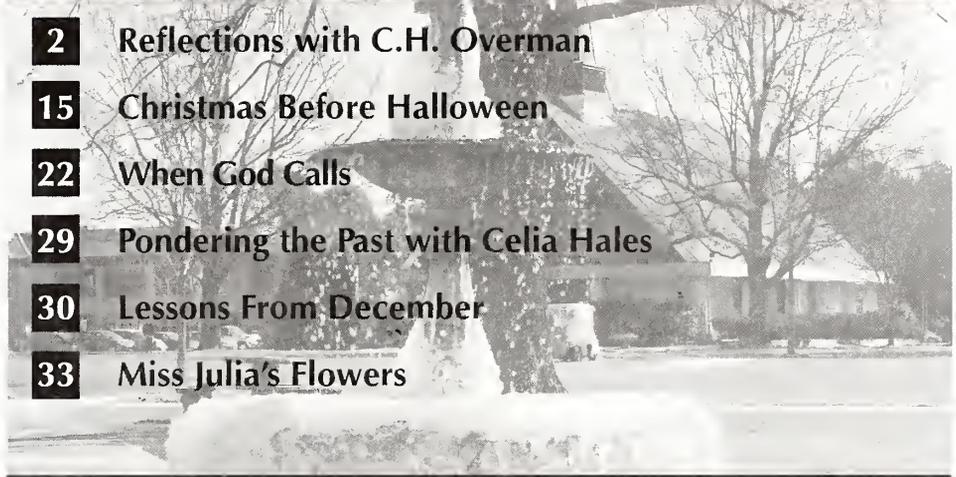
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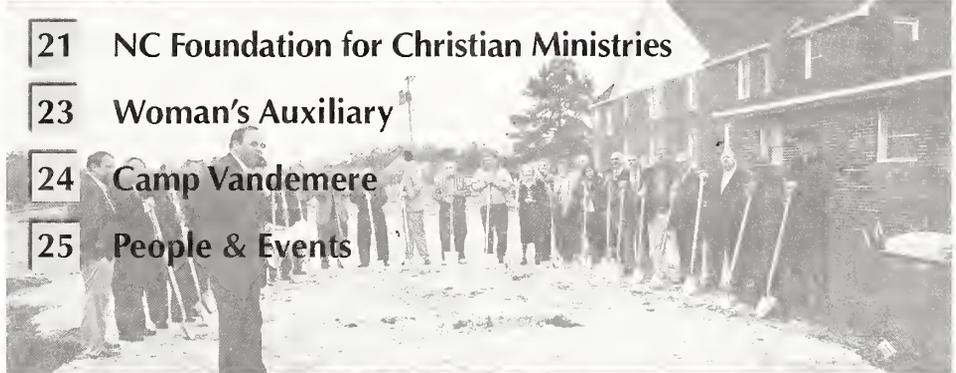
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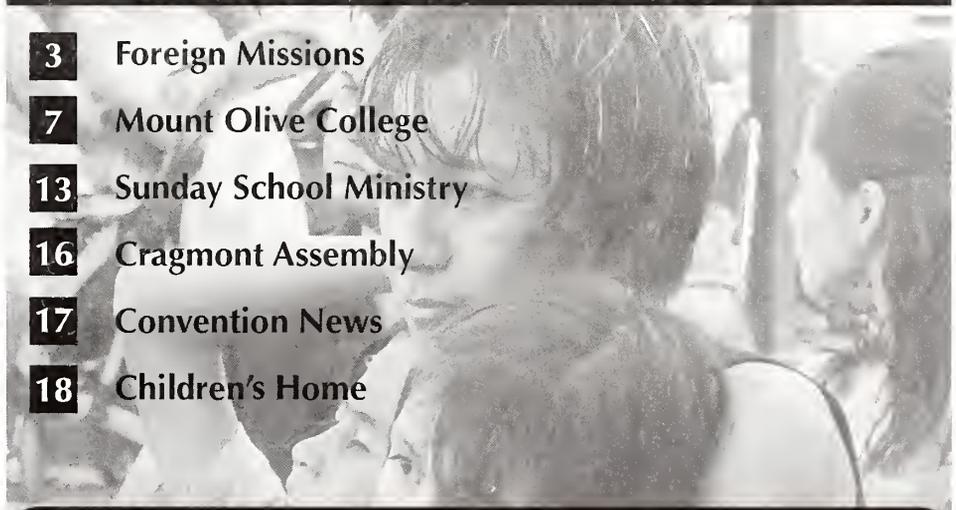
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ON THE COVER:

Pictured (l-r) are the Rev. Eliseo Rodriguez Torres, pastor of Jordan FWB Church, Piedras Negras, Mexico, the Rev. Harold Jones, Everardo Martinez Hernandez, Field Director for Mexico, Alfredo Estrada (being baptized), and the Rev. John Hill, pastor of First FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC.

REFLECTIONS

with C. H. Overman

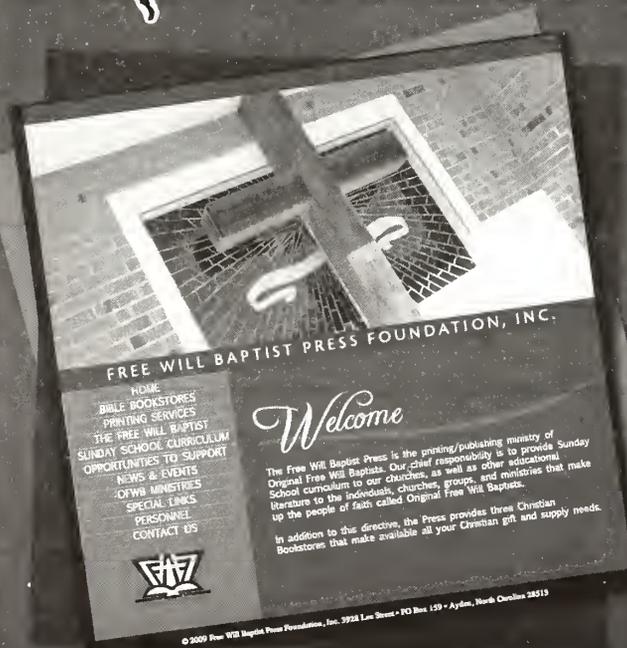
The Christmas Message Unchanged

When we were young, it seemed those special days of the year would never come. This was especially true relative to Christmas. In those days, gifts were not lavish gifts such as expensive electronic devices. They didn't exist, and based on today's prices they were unaffordable to most families back in the 30s and 40s. After all, the country was reeling from The Great Depression. Most of the gifts were simple. For the boys there were wind up toys, cap pistols, Daisy® air rifles, wagons, wooden tinker toys, etc. For the girls there were dolls (some that said "mama"), little cribs for the dolls, small dishes to play house with, etc. Talk about change since those days! Nowadays its gadgets and devices that operate with the push of a button, or a set of keys to press. Children of an early age easily adept to the "finger exercises" on their own cell phone in text messaging. Practically every toy runs off batteries or electricity. Every device, it seems, either makes music on its own, or talks, or something. The little Tonka® toys that we used to push around have transformed into miniature cars to ride in, and some styled for little girls.

The Christmas season begins earlier and earlier each year, especially from a commercial perspective. To this writer, its asking too much to shift into the Christmas mode before Thanksgiving. Many of the businesses now begin to set up their Christmas displays in October, and of all things, before Halloween (and before my birthday). It doesn't seem appropriate to walk in a business and see both witches, goblins, distorted masks, RIP gravestones on display, and just around the corner and down another aisle are all the decorative Christmas items along with all the modern-day toys.

Changes, changes, changes! It's a part of life, we are reminded. Yet, some things cannot and should not change. Christmas is all about Jesus Christ. However, it's just another holiday to the commercialized world and to the non-believer. To the Christian, it's a time of celebration, a time of joy. It is a reminder of the angel's message to the shepherds: "...Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy... (Luke 2:10) and of the heavenly host who sang on that night, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward man" (Luke 2:14).

Check out the New FWB press Website!



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- Links to FWB Ministries
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- Personnel Profiles
- Sunday School Curriculum Information
- Opportunities to Support

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Thank You for Your Wonderful Response

BY WILLEM VAN DER PLAS
BALCHIK, BULGARIA—

Dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ, your response on the letter of our Missions Director, the Rev. Harold Jones, has overwhelmed us. It has renewed our confidence and strengthened our faith. Every single donation ignited praises to God, which came from the depths of our hearts. The House of Prayer is under construction; the builder promised to have it under the roof before the deadline of the municipality.

It is wonderful to be part of our small denomination, serving together with you who are filled with love to our Lord Jesus Christ the Savior. Together we witness His Salvation to lost people and together we share His blessings with joy. God has given us a great adventure on four continents of the world. It is part of our covenant with Jesus to obey His mission commands and to be His witnesses. God's mission has been descending from Heaven to Earth and at the same time it is ascending from Earth to Heaven in prayer and expectation, because Jesus has to be shared in action.

How did Jesus fulfill his minis-



Willem and Lydia van der Plas

try? He went around doing good— healing, preaching, and teaching. Together we form the Body of Christ and it is vital for our denomination to be united and follow the example of Jesus as has been happening in the past month. Let us bring praises and THANKSGIVING together with great JOY, because He brought us together into an unbelievable

MIRACLE.

The Lord has worked in your hearts as he did in ours and we testify: "It is YOU, Lord—Almighty Father—who cared and worked in so many hearts at the same time. Thank you Lord and thanks to all of you who made it possible to experience this MIRACLE."

O Come Let Us Adore Him

December is Foreign Missions Month

The month of December has been designated in the church calendar as Foreign Missions Month. I encourage each pastor to incorporate this message in your Christmas sermons, for Jesus truly came to seek and to save those who are lost. Ministry to the lost is the chief business of the Church. I also encourage each church and individual to remember Foreign Missions in your Christmas giving. Your gift to this ministry makes it possible for our denomination to continue its outreach to the nations beyond.

Thank you in advance for your generous gift during December.

God bless you with all the full joy of Christmas!

In the Name of Jesus,

Harold Jones, Executive Director





Praise the Lord for My New Life

BY BELEN MARTINEZ

We had not been members of the Upper Room Free Will Baptist Church in Monclova, Mexico very long when we heard the words, "Camp Morelos." We knew nothing about the camp, how it functions, or where it was located. Pastor Juan Montoya told us some of his experiences at past camps, but his words were inadequate to describe what it was like to be at the camp personally.

We had the opportunity to attend Camp Morelos in August 2009. The fellowship and oneness with fellow brothers and sisters was just wonderful. We learned the value of water and lights, which we take for granted in the city. This also made a great impression on our children and taught all of us that we must care for these blessings and be thankful.

We also had the opportunity to take part in all the activities of the camp such as helping in the kitchen and participating in the night services. We felt at home and loved by the other campers.

My life had been lived apart from God. I had done things and said things that caused great wounds to me and others. I felt there was no hope. I felt as if something was chasing me. I could not sleep. I was desperate. When I was at that point, I went to the home of Pastor Montoya and told him my story. He asked me if I wanted to be free of all that had happened to me. I could not believe what I was hearing. I never thought that the pastor could give me a solution to my many problems. He told me that my life could be different—new! He said, "the only condition was that I accept Jesus Christ into my heart as my personal Savior and serve Him as Lord." I accepted Jesus Christ and when the pastor prayed, I felt the weight of sin and fear lift



Belen with her children.



Group during worship services.

from my life. My life changed, I now live and see things differently.

Participating in the camp further strengthened my life. I never imagined that in just a few months my life could change so dramatically.

Camp Morelos helped me see what great things God can do in me and others. Praise the Lord for my new life!

Feast of God's Celebration

BY REV. DARIO S. BASINGIL

The Mandaue Original Free Will Baptist Church, Cebu, Philippines held a one week celebration from July 27–August 2, 2009. The theme for the week was “Feast of God’s Celebration.” In Deuteronomy 16:15 it says, “Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord shall choose: because the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice.” The celebration was headed by the host pastor, the Rev. Dante Cepeda. There were seven nights of wonderful celebration.

Every night there was a different speaker. The Rev. Dario Basingil spoke on the second night, which was men’s night. He shared a message from 2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” The Rev. Basingil talked about the qualifications of a workman, the quality of a workman, and a workman’s approval unto God. He emphasized that we should build our lives on God’s Word and give ourselves in service to Him.



The Rev. Dario S. Basingil



Group of men from the local church sharing a song.

God's Timing Is Always Perfect

BY REV. JUNE P. BUSCANO

When we were assigned to the Aribungas area of Palawan, Philippines in 1999, we began to pray for a pastoral house. We first lived with some of the church brethren. Then after a few months they decided to build a temporary house while we were waiting for God’s provision to our prayers. Finally, our prayers were answered through our brethren in North Carolina. Construction on the pastoral house was started on July 5,



2009. God’s timing is always perfect. The dimensions of the house are 6 x 6 meters, with 3 small bedrooms.

The pictures included with this article show the house as it was

being constructed. The house is now complete and we have moved in. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this wonderful blessing. Praise the Lord!

News From Liberia and Guinea

BY REV. B. DARLINGTON GNININTE

Christian greetings. We are so grateful to the almighty God and thankful to you for your continuous support to the mission in Liberia and Guinea respectively. We are continually experiencing God's blessings.

When I visited Guinea a few months ago, the brethren there expressed the need to plant another church in some parts of Guinea. A brother was commissioned and has since been in the rural side of Guinea to plant an EBLO (OFWB in French) in the Macenta, the southeastern part of that country. All is well with the brethren there, but he has been facing a lot of difficulties, since the people there are Muslim. It is not easy. Currently, they have been having secret services.

Isn't that good news? Yes it is. Though they are worshipping secretly, the good news is souls have been won for the Kingdom of God. Please pray along with them. They sincerely need your prayers.

In Conakry, the Capital for Guinea, the church has experienced tremendous growth in membership, since my last visit there. Many people were moved when I baptized over seven people. Many have come to give their life to Christ despite the persecutions they are undergoing. Please pray along with them that God will renew their strength each day. In fact, they need additional benches/chairs to accommodate the new converts.

The mission in Liberia has experienced growth in the churches. Just a few days ago, four churches were officially launched in Sinoe County. The brethren there are zealous for the work of God. And a temporary tent for meeting is under construction in Greenville, which is Sinoe's Provincial Capital. This brings a total of 29

churches in Liberia and one church in Guinea for a total of 30 churches under the mission. What a great effort. This is in line with our commitment and our goal to conquer all 15 counties of Liberia by 2013. God has truly been with us.

1. Please pray along with the brethren in Guinea. The country has not been at peace since the death of their former president. There have been riots and curfews in recent days.

The fear of many is that what is currently happening might lead to a civil crisis, if it does, it will be dangerous for Christians there.

2. Please pray along with me (Rev. Gnininte). I have been ill for the past days, and have been facing spiritual attacks in recent times. I have a severe headache. This is the result of a spiritual attack. I had a fearsome attack the night before my illness. Had it not been for the Lord, who stood by me that night to battle against the enemy, and your prayers, I would have been defeated. Thank you so much, and I appreciate your daily prayers for me and my family.

3. Many children here in our churches are out of school due to the lack of finance. Please pray along with them also that the Lord will provide for them to be in school.

May the Lord continue to be with us each day as we work in His vineyard.





Kevin Jean to Head Advancement Team

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Kevin J. Jean joined Mount Olive College as vice president for Institutional Advancement this fall. His responsibilities include providing leadership and direction in all the advancement efforts of the College, including development, alumni affairs, church relations, capital campaigns, planned giving, and public affairs.

Mr. Jean has over 15 years of experience in executive level management in the academic, Christian non-profit and corporate communities. He most recently worked with Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, where he served as vice president of Institutional Advancement. He has also served as the executive regional director of US Central Operations for Prison Fellowship, which was founded by Former White House Council Charles W. Colson.

He completed his bachelor's degree in Theology from Southwestern College in Bethany, Oklahoma. He earned a Master of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary in Enid, OK, and a Master of Theology from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Mr. Jean has volunteered for several organizations including Billy Graham Missions, Crop Walk, Habitat for Humanity, and Kiwanis.



Kevin J. Jean

In an interview, he noted that he

hopes to bring to Mount Olive College his full dedication and passion for the College's mission.

"I believe that my non-profit experience in maintaining oversight and adherence to mission, vision, and values in executive decision-making is compatible with an organization on the move such as Mount Olive College."

Mr. Jean is married to Vickie M. Jean, a Ph.D. in psychology. They have three grown children, Jennifer, Christopher, and Melissa, and a son-in-law Brad Blood.

Jean's selection at Mount Olive College is the result of an extensive and rigorous eight month search.

Newly Formed Chamber Choir to Focus on Vocal Excellence

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mount Olive College has long had a fine tradition of music performance in its choral ensembles. The addition of the Mount Olive College Chamber Choir this fall promises to build on that reputation. Focused on the highest level of vocal excellence the Chamber Choir will embrace a diverse repertoire of literature such as master choral works, early cantatas, and madrigals (a type of secular vocal music composition, written during the Renaissance and early Baroque eras).

According to Dr. Melanie Crump, director, the group previously known as the Mount Olive College Singers has been retired and in its place is the newly formed Chamber Choir.

"The Chamber Choir is, in essence, the choral equivalent of a chamber ensemble, using voices instead of instruments," said Dr. Crump.

Performing both a cappella and accompanied pieces, the group is flexible to perform in a variety of venues.

"I am very excited about the direction of the group," said Dr. Melanie Crump, director. "The Chamber Choir continues to show its flexibility as we venture into new genres of choral music, a rewarding task when you are working with many of the top voices on campus. I anticipate the reputation of the group to grow and expect it will quickly be in high demand for concerts, recitals, and guest performances."

The Chamber Choir has already



performed at several College Dinners this fall and will have four featured songs in the upcoming Choir Concert scheduled for December 1 at First Baptist Church in Mount Olive. The group will present a formal concert in the spring.

For more information about the Mount Olive College Chamber Choir, contact Dr. Crump at 919-658-7184.



Mount Olive College is a Guffey Family Affair

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

When Hannah Guffey of Knightdale decided to enroll at Mount Olive College (MOC) her parents were both surprised and pleased since they too had attended the institution in the mid 1970s.

When asked why she chose to attend MOC this is what Hannah had to say, "I came to visit my junior year and I loved the quiet town and small setting because I'm a small town girl and it just fit. Also, I had a dream one night my senior year that I drove up and unpacked my stuff at Mount Olive College, so I thought that maybe that was a sign God wanted me to go here."

"Hannah had already made a decision to attend another university," said Tim Guffey, "However, after visiting Mount Olive College, meeting the friendly people, and being captivated by the small town—close knit family atmosphere, she changed her mind."

It was the people, mainly the professors that made a difference for Tim as well.

"The professors I had like Lucy Mooring, Claude Moore, Ken Dilda, and Lorelle Martin, instilled in me the desire to keep learning and to make it a life-long commitment," he said.

Tim Guffey enrolled at Mount Olive College in June of 1976. He received his associate degree in business administration in 1978. He earned his bachelor's degree in the same field from Atlantic Christian College, now Barton, in 1980. Following college, Tim worked for several years with a Fortune 500 company, all the while volunteering as a firefighter. In 2002, he was offered the position of fire chief in Knightdale.

"I believe my degree from Mount Olive College helped me to de-

velop my leadership and problem solving skills, which have been a tremendous asset in both my business and my fire service careers," Tim said.

Tim ranks his college experience as one of the top 10 milestones of his life. Part of the reasoning could be that he met Patricia, his wife of 29 years, at MOC.

Patricia Banks Guffey attended Mount Olive College in 1977-78. She has primarily worked in the legal field in an administrative area for over 23 years. Patricia credits her success to her studies at MOC.

"Meeting Tim was definitely a highlight of my college experience, but we also came away with many wonderful lifelong friendships," she said.

Each January 1st, four couples, along with Tim's brother, Garland, all Mount Olive College alumni, gather to reconnect, celebrate, and share fond memories of their college days. It is those kinds of relationships that both Tim and Patricia hope Hannah form during her time at MOC.



Pictured above (l-r) are: Patricia Banks Guffey, Hannah Guffey, and (standing) Tim Guffey.

"I believe that Hannah's life is being transformed spiritually and academically, and my desire is that she take advantage of the opportunities that come her way," Patricia said.

Hannah, whose friends describe her as strong-willed, out-going, optimistic and fun-loving, is making the most of her college experience. She is involved in cheerleading, the Honors Program, and is serving as the treasurer of the Psychology Club.

"I love every minute of my Mount Olive College experience," Hannah concluded.

Mount Olive College Choir to Perform Christmas Concert

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present its annual fall concert at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 1 at the First Baptist Church at 300 North Chestnut Street in Mount Olive.

The concert will consist of Christmas selections including John Rutter's Angel's Carol, Shepherd's Pipe Carol, and What Sweeter Music.

Music will also be presented by the Mount Olive College Chamber Choir and Free Spirit, and the concert will conclude with a performance of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

"Each of the vocal groups at Mount Olive College is composed of strong



singers, all of whom are diligently working to bring the composer's intentions to life. It should be a beautiful night of holiday music," says Dr. Melanie Crump, director of the

Mount Olive College Concert Choir.

The performance is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information about the concert, contact Dr. Crump at 919-658-2502.

Men's Basketball Team Visits Children's Home

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

MOC Trojans and FWB Children's Home are both number one as shown in this photo taken as the Mount Olive College Men's Basketball team visited FWB Children's Home this fall. This has become an annual event coordinated by Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, Joey Higginbotham, Head Coach of the Trojans, and Cynthia Batten of the Home.

The evening included Trojan players interacting with the students on the basketball court in Whitley Center, talking about vocations/career choices, and sharing a fried chicken feast. Eric D. Williams, a member of the Stoney Creek Church and a member of the Trojan team shared

his experience this way: "Playing and spending time with the children from the Children's Home was very meaningful to us as a team because it gives us a chance to go into the community, meet new people, and give them a reason to smile. You see, these kids look up to us as athletes, and just the opportunity for them to be able to spend time with us means a lot to them. It is evident to us every year, as we visit, that



Mount Olive College Varsity Basketball Team with children from FWB Children's Home.

there is a sense of joy in the children that keeps us looking forward to coming back year after year."

there is a sense of joy in the children that keeps us looking forward to coming back year after year."

Nash County Dinner

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

These alums attended the Nash County Dinner: Jason Modlin '95 and his three daughters, Caroline, Ashleigh, and Elizabeth; Jim Lewis '75, Carrie Brown '01, Sande Brown '75, Romey McCoy '78, and Gary Lee '94.



CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT



**Thursday, December 3 • 7:00 p.m.
Southern Bank Auditorium • Mount Olive College**

Mount Olive College invites the community to *Christmas by Candlelight*. This Christ-centered service is patterned after the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, a traditional English evening service, which began in Cambridge in 1918. The service includes nine Scripture lessons, tracing salvation history from Genesis through the Gospels; each reading is followed by a carol. The Mount Olive College Chamber Choir, Free Spirit, Mount Olive College Concert Choir, and Mount Olive College Symphonic Band will provide music for this spectacular Christmas service.

FREE tickets are available at the following locations:

- Mount Olive College (Poole Administration Building)
- Wayne County Chamber of Commerce
- Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce
- Arts Council of Wayne County
- At the Door (if tickets are still available)

Hines Appointed as Dean of School of Arts and Sciences

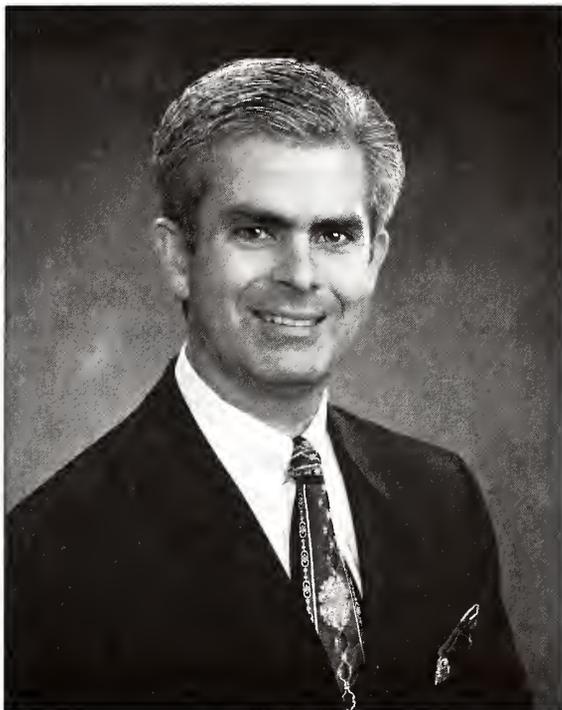
SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Mount Olive College announced the appointment of Dr. K. David Hines as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, effective November 1. The appointment is the culmination of a nationwide search.

"I am delighted that Dr. Hines has accepted the position of dean," stated President Kerstetter. "He brings with him vast experience as a dynamic member of our faculty, as a highly successful department chair, and as a recognized leader of several campus organizations. I know that he will be a significant addition to the College's academic administration."

Hines graduated from Mount Olive College in 1979 with an associate's degree. He then transferred to Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) where he earned his B.A. in Religion and Philosophy in 1981. He attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his Master of Divinity in 1984 and his Doctor of Ministry in 1989. Hines has been employed at Mount Olive College since 1988 and has served as chair of the Religion Department since 1994.

In 1999, Hines was awarded the Thomas R. Morris Award for excellence in teaching at MOC. In 2006, he earned the Dean's Merit Award for Leadership and in 1984 he was named as an Outstanding Young Man in America. He is a member of the Christian Theological Research Fellowship



Dr. K. David Hines

and the North Carolina Ministerial Association. Hines, an ordained Original Free Will Baptist minister, has provided leadership to the denomination in many capacities including ministering to several churches and serving the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists on both the Ministerial Examining Board and the Executive Committee.

When asked about his new role, Hines said, "I recently saw the movie *Amelia*, on the life of Amelia Earhart. As she described her love of flying she said, 'No borders, only horizons.' This

is what I want for the School of Arts and Sciences—our professors and our students: No borders, only horizons! While I have enjoyed my work in the classroom, I am excited about this opportunity for expanded service to the College and to Original Free Will Baptists. My dream is that all our students leave Mount Olive College not only with marketable skills, but also with transformed hearts and minds. Christian higher education is not just the mission of the Religion Department; it is the mission of the entire College community."

Having served the College for the past 15 years as chair of the Religion Department, Hines understands a great deal of the inner workings of the College.

"I have taught courses in all the formats utilized by the College and at most of the College's locations," he said. "I have worked closely with the department chairs and know their good work. I hope that the Dean's office can foster an environment of creativity and help these committed people provide even better services to our students, community, and the Church."

Hines and his wife Teresa have one daughter, Ashley. They are members of Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church in Walstonburg.

Merry Christmas

FROM MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

For high school seniors

January 18, 2010: Visitation day at Mount Olive College

High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend Visitation Day on Monday, January 18, 2010 starting at 9:00 A.M. The day is designed to help prospective college students and their families learn more about how to prepare for college life. To make a reservation, send a message to <admissions@moc.edu> or call 800-653-0854 and ask for the admissions office manager.

Private campus visits can also be scheduled for students who cannot attend one of the visitation days. Call or send e-mail to get your special visit on the schedule at <admissions@moc.edu> or 1-800-653-0854. Ask for Meredith, office manager, who schedules the campus tours. To see profile information on campus tour guides, visit <www.moc.edu/?traditional/traditional> tour guides.

Admissions representatives, faculty, staff, and student tour guides are glad to see prospective students visiting our campus. If you come any day Monday–Friday, when classes are in session, you are likely to see students in laboratories dissecting specimens, athletes practicing their sport, musicians rehearsing, and artists doing their magic with paint, graphic design, or drawing. If you visit on the weekend, choose a time when you can see some of our NCAA II Trojan Teams on the playing fields.

SAT/ACT Test Planning

High school seniors and juniors should be making plans to take or re-take the SAT or ACT. To learn more about test dates and locations, students can talk with their guidance counselors or visit Collegeboard.com and ACTstudent.org. MOC accepts the highest combination of scores, so taking the test more than once is recommended.

For college transfers and early high school graduates

If you are a college transfer student or an early high school graduate ready to start college in January 2010, complete our free online application at <www.moc.edu> and have your transcripts sent to Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Then contact him about your plans to attend MOC at 1-800-653-0854 or <twoodard@moc.edu> . Do it soon. Classes begin right after the holidays.

One Night a Week Programs

One night a week programs for adults who need the convenience of evening higher education opportunities are available at New Bern, Jacksonville, Mount Olive Evening College, Research Triangle Park, Wilmington, and Washington. MOC has 6 locations where adults can enroll in one night a week programs. All programs meet from 6:00–10:00 P.M. on the same night every week. To make contact with an admissions representative at one of our locations, call 800-NEW GOAL.

Evening College at Mount Olive

Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) begins 1/16/10
 Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 1/19/10
 Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 2/5/10
 Early Childhood Education (ECE) at Johnston CC begins 2/8/10

Mount Olive College at New Bern (800-NEW-GOAL)

Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 1/13/10

Mount Olive College at RTP (800-NEW-GOAL)

Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 1/7/10
 Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 2/9/10

Mount Olive College at Washington (800-NEW-GOAL)

Heritage Associate Degree Program (HP) begins 1/13/10
 Health Care Management (HCM) begins 1/19/10

Mount Olive College at Wilmington (800-NEW-GOAL)

Heritage Associate Degree program begins 1/21/10



Peace On Earth

Let us ALL recognize the gift that is offered to each of us this Christmas. In times such as these, we need a Savior more than ever. Can we give of ourselves to others as our Lord did so long ago.

Remember: *“A Little Child Shall Lead Them.”*

Merry Christmas from the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry. We graciously thank each of you for your generosity during the past year and look forward to many more as we pray for guidance and leadership as we carry the message of our Lord.

The Reverend Terry Ellis, Chairman
The Reverend Roger Hill, Vice-Chairman

Ms. Kitty Barnes, Secretary
Ms. Brenda Best, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Wayne Hicks
Mr. Heath Conner
Ms. Nancy Cale

The Reverend Mike Williams

The Reverend Bruce Jones
Ms. Mary Dudley, Executive Director
Ms. Gail Heath, Assistant to the Director



Camp Scholarships for 2010

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 exception of personal spending money. The application must be accompanied by a letter from the pastor, 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 PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. The application must be postmarked by December 31, 2009 in order to be considered. If further information is needed, do not hesitate to contact the Sunday School office at 252-746-4963 or email: director@ofwbsundayschool.org.



Name: _____

Age: _____ Male Female

Names of Parents or Guardians: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Church: _____

Conference: _____

Write a statement as to why you want to go to camp and why you need the financial assistance. (Use extra paper as needed).

Christmas Before Halloween

A Self-Critical and Hopeful Reflection

BY MARC BOSWELL

For the first time in three years, I have regular access to a curious box of wires, tubes, and plastic. It is a mysterious object called a "television." I knew this strange contraption very well for 22 years of my life, but then I took a not-so-temporary vacation from the land of television in a probably vain attempt to detoxify my mind.

This was not done because of a belief that Jesus does not like television—no moral or theological high road here—just the slowly growing recognition that this box has a knack for getting in our heads and telling us what to believe, instead of encouraging us to critically think about the constant barrage of images, news clips, jingles, and advertisements that are projected into our homes.

What did I miss the most? Sports. Definitely sports. I do not deny that I would find ways to watch, guilt-free, the Tarheels' basketball games, election results, the World Series, and the Super Bowl, but this was about the extent of my time in front of the box. Needless to say, watching the Emmy Awards or the Academy Awards now makes me feel like I've lived on another planet for the last three years. I have no idea who many of the celebrities are, except for their images one can catch on a magazine in a check-out line of a grocery store. No, my heart did not ache for Jon and Kate—I hardly knew they had a show or eight children.

Now, several months back on the other side of the television, I once again find myself fascinated by the poor and unabashedly biased journalism that represents our national news (regardless of which network station one prefers), the unrealistic and unhealthy standards of beauty cast before our gaze—the "normal"

woman is a size two and the "normal" man comes equipped with a six-pack, acne and wrinkle free, of course—and the constant flow of words which tell me that I should be concerned with the goings-on of actors, actresses, and musicians who live in foreign lands (like NYC or Hollywood) and who make more money from one show or one album than I will ever make in a career.

Magazines and online journals tell me that I, as a member of "main street," should be mad at "Wall Street"—bailouts, big executive bonuses, plutocratic politicians (government by the rich) and the like—but I feel a little funny about only directing my anger towards them when I make it a point to watch a World Series with two teams playing (the Phillies and the Yankees) whose combined annual paid salaries to players alone total more than \$300,000,000. I realize that what may be at stake here is the ethics of "Wall Street," but, still, something seems disingenuous about jeering one group of billionaires and uncritically turning to another group of millionaires (professional athletes) to provide my nightly entertainment.

But, alas, this is what I'm supposed to do—idolize and idealize those in the next higher tax

bracket—worker harder—buy more stuff—lose more weight—get riled up by local or global injustices (but not too much)—toe the political party line—and press repeat.

More or less, I do not disappoint, and I fulfill my role. I cheer very hard for the Phillies (actually, anyone but the Yankees). I notice the extra five pounds in the mirror. I get suckered into buying the new MP3 player and rather enjoy using it. I purchase an extra book from Amazon. I spout off opinions about health-care reform—realizing, deep down, that I haven't even read one of the numerous bills floating around the House and the Senate and, therefore, really don't know

enough to say which political party is actually bringing about the supposed destruction of the United States. And I have the nerve to pontificate about such things in an article.

I really just sat down to write this article because of a

(Continued on page 27...)





Cragmont Needs and Upcoming Events

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

While visitation to Cragmont has been down some, we are doing well. Groups are still coming. They are just bringing smaller numbers and leaving some rooms empty. With the cost of electricity, water, and propane rising, an empty room is not a good thing. So call us and come stay with us.

We need to retire the debt on the new lodge. Currently, we are in debt and cannot move on to the next phase of New Heights—the kitchen and dining hall. If you cannot make a pledge, send us a contribution that is reasonable for you to make. The debt on the Lodge is \$250,000. If every church in the denomination would give \$1,000 over their normal gifts, we could pay off the loan.

General fund giving is down. It is down \$7,000 in comparison to last year at this same time. Another interesting fact is that out of 240 churches only 15 have given \$1,000 or more. We can do better and we must do better. In order

to keep our prices low and inexpensive, we need contributions from churches and individuals.

Playground. Last year, a spring storm landed a big pine tree on our swings and they had to be removed. King's Cross Roads Church helped us launch a playground equipment fund by raising \$8,000. The equipment will cost \$20,000. So, if you are looking for something special to do for Cragmont, consider this.

Christmas at Cragmont is December 20–27. On January 14, 2009, Arlinda and I began our 30th year at Cragmont bringing to mind the fact that Cragmont is “home” and as home, it is a place of comfort, reassurance, and nurture. The thoughts naturally lead us to consider those who might experience a life change that can make celebrating Christmas somewhat difficult or of those who might desire a new view of Christmas with extended family. Consider coming to Cragmont during

Christmas week 2009 and be nurtured in the special fellowship found here. Bring many or a few, stay one day or several, but do try to be with us on Christmas Eve for our worship service and Christmas Day for the good food. The only other plans are to enjoy the fellowship of one another and the fire in the fireplace. Oh! One more important part about this planned time: The cost. In the spirit of Christmas giving, we only ask for a donation to Cragmont. We are taking reservations now. Call 1-877-669-7677.

The Minister's Wives Retreat is January 28–31, 2010. Please contact Mary Dudley for information. You may reach her at the Headquarters (252-746-4963).

The Pastor/Deacon Retreat is March 25–27, 2010. The speaker for the Pastor/Deacon Retreat is H. Mac Wallace. You may register your Pastor and Deacons by calling 1-877-669-7677. The cost is \$110 per person (\$50 per person deposit).

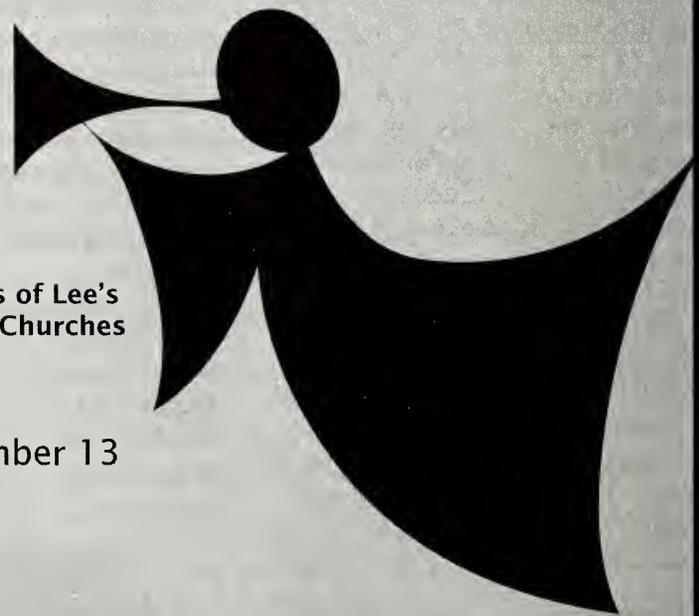
Journey of Hope

A Choral Cantata presented by the Adult Choirs of Lee's Chapel, Robert's Grove, and Shady Grove OFWB Churches

Friday, December 11 & Sunday, December 13
7:00 p.m.

Plain View Elementary School
(6 miles east of Dunn on US Hwy. 421)

A Special Offering will be received each night, with proceeds going to the construction of the “House of Prayer” in Balchik, Bulgaria.





Merry Christmas

*From the Original FWB
Executive Committee
and your Headquarters Staff*

The search of the shepherds for the Babe of Bethlehem ended with the discovery of the Christ of Christmas. The angelic choir sang of peace and good will to all men. May your Christmas be a time of comfort in a troubled world. May your heart be cradled with the same joy that Mary must have known on that blessed holy night.



The Beauty of the Bell

For many years, the old dinner bell has been a symbol of the Children's Home. Especially to our alumni, the bell represents an icon of heritage, history, and memories of pastimes on the campus. Although we have been unable to verify the exact time the bell was brought to the campus, one alumnus who lived in the home in the 1920s remembers it being there. Other alumni have told us it has rested in various places on campus over time. The Free Will Baptist Children's Home wants to return our historic bell to a permanent location. The refurbishing of the bell and the building of a tower to house it, not only represent the past, present, and future of the Children's Home, but provides a way to bring together our alumni, children, friends, churches, organizations, and our business community to collectively create a lasting legacy of our history. We want to put it back in front of the eyes of all who visit our campus.



Our dream is to return the bell to working order so everyone can enjoy it. A beautiful new patio area will surround the bell tower. The patio will include two sections of commemorative engraved brick pavers. The bell tower will be built to the front of Heritage Hall, the former dining hall as part of The Heritage Hall Renovation Project.

There are many ways to help. You can simply make a donation to the renovation project; you can have a name such as a family, church, or business engraved forever in a brick paver; or you can have a name in memory or honor of someone engraved forever in a brick paver. We would also ask you to contact other individuals, organizations, or groups and share information about this opportunity with them.

To order your brick paver for the patio, please complete and return the Brick Order Form below.

Donation Amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Brick Paver Information

Print Clearly. You have 3 lines of text per paver available.

17 characters and spaces **maximum** per line

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Heritage Hall Renovation and Steeple Repair

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

One evening late in the summer, the serenity of the evening was interrupted by a quick thunderstorm, with high wind and sharp lightening. After a quick surveillance of the campus, nothing looked out of place except for a few leaves here and there. With further inspection, it was noticed that the wind had taken the cross from atop

the steeple at Memorial Chapel.

Memorial Chapel is one of the main focal points on the Children's Home campus. Steps to repair the steeple began immediately. While replacing the cross, the steeple was cleaned. Everything is now back in order. I have included some photos of the repair process.

Work on the Heritage Hall (the old

dining hall) renovation project began early morning, November 5, 2009. We expect the work to take approximately three months to complete.

Plans are to document the building progress through photographs we can share each month. I've included a few photographs of the dining hall before renovation started, and some showing the first day of renovation.



Merry Christmas
From the FWB Children's Home



Christmas Sponsorship 2009

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is quickly approaching. Preparations are already underway to make this Christmas a memorable experience for the children we serve.

Many of the children we serve have never experienced the true meaning of Christmas, or the joy of receiving gifts. One of the biggest challenges we encounter at The Home is convincing the children here they are loved, are special, and that people really do care. Throughout the year and at Christmas, we not only provide the physical needs of the children in our care, but we also share the good news, according to the gospel of Jesus Christ, with them—the greatest gift of all. Your acts of sharing demonstrate love and unselfish giving, as well as enforce the Christian attributes we are attempting to instill, and bring a smile to the faces and joy into the hearts of the children in our care.

I invite you to be a part of our Christmas sponsorship program this year, and help us make this a special time of sharing for the children at The Home. You can do this by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form and return it to us by December 11, 2009.

May you and your family be blessed this Christmas in knowing you have helped us share the joy of this holy season and His precious children. Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,
Gary Lee
President/CEO

Campus Needs

- Cleaning Supplies (Pine-sol, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleaner)
- Cleaning brushes (toilet brushes, scrub brushes, brooms)
- Kitchen Towels and Dish Cloths
- Craft Supplies (age appropriate for middle & high school)
- (3) Wii Game Stations and Wii Games
- Vacuum Cleaners—Upright (call for details)
- (5) Scientific Calculators (Texas Instruments Model 84 or Texas Instruments Model 85)
- Fabric Table Coths (2 to match per cottage, rectangular shape) & Placemats (8 per cottage)
- Park Bench (Call for details)
- Dryer Sheets (Fabric softener sheets)
- Trash Bags (33 gal or larger)
- Large (cool side) griddles
- Refrigerator (please call for details)
- Cooking Utensils—Long Handle
- Framed Pictures/Posters for cottages
- Renovation to Heritage Hall (estimated \$150,000)
- Board Games (Trouble, Mexican Train)
- Baking dishes (glass 13x9)

Have questions? Call the Development Office at (252) 235-2161.

Free Will Baptist Children's Home Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Children we would like to sponsor: _____

Comments: _____

CS09



The Casey-McCormack Endowment

BY DR. W. BURKETTE RAPER

As a living memorial to her parents and her late husband, Sarah Casey McCormack of Goldsboro has established an endowment with the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries to provide perpetual support for Casey's Chapel, the family home church, and to provide scholarships for those called to Christian Ministry.

Casey's Chapel OFWB Church

Members of the Casey family have held membership in Casey's Chapel Church since it was organized in 1874 through the efforts of Mrs. McCormack's grandfather, Alex Casey, who donated the land on which the original church building was located. Organization of the Church preceded the state sponsored public schools in North Carolina, and in its early years the building served not only as a church, but was also used as a school house.

In 1871, with a membership of 14, the Church was admitted to the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. By 1893, the membership had grown to 80 and a larger building had been constructed, which continued to house the school. The present sanctuary was constructed in 1918 under the pastorate of the Reverend J. Frank Casey.

It was to help perpetuate the spiritual heritage of her church to future generations that Mrs. McCormack wished to include Casey's Chapel as a beneficiary of her family endowment.

In addition to support for the work of Casey's Chapel Church, the Casey-McCormack Endowment provides annual scholarships for students preparing for Christian ministry at Mount Olive College or at accredited divinity schools and theological seminaries. Selection of candidates is by recommendations



Dr. W. Burkette Raper (left), president of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, presents to Dr. Alan Lamm, pastor of Casey's Chapel Church, a check in the amount of \$414 from the Casey-McCormack Endowment. In addition to the distribution for the Church, the Endowment will provide a scholarship in the amount of \$1,241 for a student preparing for the Christian ministry, making a total distribution of \$1,655 for fiscal year 2009. The picture plate, being held by Dr. Raper and Dr. Lamm, is an early rendering of Casey's Chapel Church.

of the Scholarship Committee of the Foundation.

The provision for educational assistance for those called to Christian ministry is rooted in Mrs. McCormack's appreciation of those pastors who have provided distinguished leadership to Casey's Chapel Church during its 135-year history. The roll call of earlier and more recent pastors includes:

- J. F. Hill, founding pastor who served 42 years (1874–1908) and (1903–1911);

- J. Frank Casey, 7 years (1912–1919).

More recent pastors have included:

- Leonard B. Woodall, Jr., for whom Casey's Chapel was his first and last pastorate (1954–1957 and the late 1980's and early 1990's);

- DeWayne Eakes, 2 years (1966–1968);

- Edward W. Miles, 8 years (1971–1979);

- Bryant Hines, the mid 1980s and

- Alan K. Lamm, present pastor, beginning in the year 2000.

The Endowment is named in memory of Mrs. McCormack's father, Benjamin Casey (1880–1945), her mother, Elizabeth Herring Casey (1904–1989), and her husband, Homer M. McCormack (1921–1997), all of whom were active members of Casey's Chapel Church. Her mother was a public school teacher, and in addition taught Sunday School classes for more than 65 years. Her husband was a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and after retirement from the U. S. Air Force served as a Sunday School teacher, deacon, and treasurer of Casey's Chapel Church.

Mrs. McCormack is retired from 30 years of teaching in North Carolina public schools and now lives in the Casey's Chapel Church Community, west of Goldsboro, NC.

When God Calls

by H. Adrian Grubbs

It was during fall revival at Long Ridge Church that I received the call from God. It was not at all clear to me what God was calling me to do, but I knew He was calling. My dad was also my pastor. He was taking a night course at Mount Olive College, along with some other active pastors, and he asked me to go with him and audit the course. I was a senior in high school, and in those days a high school student was not allowed to enroll in college and receive college credit. I accepted my dad's offer and audited the course taught by the Rev. Ralph Lightsey. Soon after, I met with the Ministerial Examining Board in the Eastern Conference and was licensed to preach by Long Ridge Church. That was the beginning of a long journey down the road of education and preparation.

It was very clear to me that if I was to obey God's call, then I had to give my best; if I was to give my best and do justice to the call, I had a lot to learn; and if I was to learn how to preach and be a good pastor, I had to begin by enrolling in college. Well, I already knew that I would be going to college; after all, that is why Mother and Daddy moved us from Perry, Florida to Mount Olive, North Carolina, so that all eight of their children could have at least two years of college. So I knew I was college bound, but I did not know what career path I would follow until God called me to be a pastor.

So after graduating from high school, I committed myself to two years at Mount Olive Junior College. The Reverend W. B. Raper, president of Mount Olive Junior College, sent me to several churches for pulpit supply. Then Indian Springs Church asked me to preach for them two Sundays a month, and not long after, Grant's Chapel asked me to preach

for them on the other two Sundays. I was not a pastor to the people; I only filled the pulpit for them each Sunday. My first priority was preparation.

Toward the end of my tour at Mount Olive Junior College, I saw the need for further studies, so I began to explore my options. 1) How would I finance more schooling? Mother and Daddy had been telling us for several years that they would see us through two years of college but could not promise more; after all, they had seven more to send after me. Many of the government grants and loans that are available today were not available then. 2) In the meantime I had acquired an interest in the sciences and was thinking of pursuing a degree in physics. Mount Olive did not offer a course in physics, so I could earn a master's degree and return to MOC to teach physics while working on my Ph.D. I was not ignoring God's call to the ministry; could that not be a form of ministry? We certainly need more committed Christians in the field of science, such as Mrs. Lorelle Martin. What better way to fulfill the call to ministry than to teach physics in a Christian college? All my reasoning made sense to me, and surely God would agree with good logic. (Little did I know that I was in for a huge awakening!) 3) Where would I go to pursue such lofty goals? It had to be a reputable college that was not too expensive. Research narrowed my choices to two, so I sent in applications. I was accepted at both, but only one of them offered any financial assistance. Consequently, I enrolled at N. C. Wesleyan College as a physics major. (I had not heard God emphatically and unequivocally say, "No," so I was on my way.)

One thing above all else that I learned along the way is that God will allow a lot of latitude, but He will not allow us [me] to define His

call to us [me!]. God, in His infinite wisdom, calls us into service where He needs us. Then we must use all the resources at our disposal to equip ourselves as best we can to serve Him where He leads us. The last semester before I graduated with a degree in physics, through no effort of my own, I was introduced to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Through that acquaintance, somehow, God made it clear to me that He wanted me to serve His people as pastor. I do not know why God called me; I only know that He did.

While in college at Rocky Mount, I served as interim pastor at the Rocky Mount Church. When they called a pastor, I went to Shiloh Church at Pinetown and Stony Hill Church near Middlesex. Upon graduation I got married, resigned those two churches, moved to Wake Forest, and became the pastor of a mission, Palmer Memorial, on the south side of Raleigh. As soon as I graduated from seminary I had to pay off my college loans. One was the Anna Phillips Loan Fund with the N. C. Original Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary Convention. Another loan was for prospective public school teachers. Those were lean years for my family while I repaid those loans. But I am very appreciative of those loans; without them a college education would not have been possible.

It has been said many times by many people in many places, that a call to ministry is a call to prepare. God's call to pastoral ministry is not to be taken lightly; neither is the preparation for that ministry to be anything less than the very best available to us. While serving on the Ministerial Examining Board of the Eastern Conference I have seen licensed ministers seeking the

(Continued on page 32...)



ATTENTION

Woman's Auxiliary Recording Secretaries

Remember to mail your completed A-1 Standard of Achievement forms to your District/Conference Woman's Auxiliary Recording Secretaries prior to your Spring Woman's Auxiliary Conventions.

These forms are located in the NEW *Manual of Methods of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB* (section 5, pages 5.2-5.8).

You will need to make copies of these pages to complete and mail to your District/Conference Woman's Auxiliary Secretaries.

(District/Conference secretaries will mail the A-1 Standard of Achievement forms to the Woman's Auxiliary Convention recording secretary, Becky Jo Sumner)

Only auxiliaries completing this form will be eligible for the A-1 Standard of Achievement.

If you have any questions regarding how to complete this form, please call

Becky Jo Sumner at (252) 209-6101 or (252) 332-6810

(I am sure all work done by your auxiliary in the service of our Lord in 2009 can be included on this form. If you have any difficulties, please let me help you locate the best place to report your work in this new format.)

By the Bay

WITH RICK PRICE

Here it is December and all of our camps and retreats are finished for the year! In a short while it will be time to start planning for next years events. A good, successful summer camp is the result of a lot of hard work and planning. This is the time of the year to prepare for next summer! Lots of prayer and seeking God for direction will be rewarded with results in Christian growth and many first time decisions for Christ. Sometimes we as youth workers get the idea that we are not getting through to the young people, and we start thinking about not coming back to youth camp the next year! Our thoughts may even be, "I know someone else can do a better job" or "I need to let someone else do this job." Well, if that happens to be the case with you or someone you know, don't let Satan have the satisfaction of discouraging them or you. Satan would be so happy to have you or someone else quit serving God. He is the master of deception and he will fool you into believing that everyone else can handle it and you need to take it easy for a short time. Don't let Satan fool you!

This past year has been an awesome year here at Camp Vandemere. There have been many souls saved and Christians have been drawn closer to Christ because of the efforts put into summer camps and weekend retreats here. I am truly looking for God to do even more and greater things here this coming year. We have been talking about a new building for several months. I have had a picture of the proposed building in the dining hall for over 2 months. Many people have seen or heard about our vision for the camp. We are continually meeting and planning our strategies for starting this new project. Some of the clearing across the road where the building

will be built has already been started!

Like I've said in many conversations before, "we don't have enough space for the groups that want to come here and have camps or retreats." I've turned down many that want to come simply because we don't have the facilities to accommodate any more new groups. Now is the time to go forward and accomplish as much for God as we can. For Camp Vandemere, that simply means that a new building must be constructed to handle the number of people that would come here. The time is here and we need the support of everyone to achieve this goal! So, this coming year, please pray and seek God in what ever you can do to help with this project. We have to start somewhere and prayer should be first. God is good all the time. He has blessed us this past year to be debt free all during the year and we even replaced the metal roofs on the dining/kitchen building and the dorm building without having to borrow any monies for the project at a cost of approximately \$15,000.00. That's awesome! I can't wait for this coming year to see what God will do here at Camp Vandemere.



Angie, Jessica, and Josh are shown here in the chapel doing a skit.



This group was from King's Chapel Church in Trenton. This was their first time visiting the camp. They had a wonderful time for the weekend.



This year's Singing by the River was a great success. We had about 275 people in attendance. There were four singing groups that sang on Saturday. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported us!

Black Jack Church Ground-Breaking Ceremony

BY DR. W. BURKETTE RAPER

On October 18 after Homecoming Luncheon, the Black Jack OFWB Church had a Ground-breaking ceremony for a new classroom building and renovations to the present building. Members of the General Board, Pastor Phillip Boykin, Associate Pastor Brad Williamson, Deacons, Building Committee, Special Committee Chairpersons for Phase 1 Building Project were Present.

Special guests included Eddie Stocks from Hudson Bros. Construction and Drew Dalton from Dunn and Dalton Architects.

Despite the cold and rainy weather, we had a wonderful program by Pastor Boykin. The above used their shovels to dig a portion of the ground. The building should begin before the end of the month.



Special guests and church members break ground for a new classroom building.

Walnut Creek 150th Anniversary and Homecoming

BY BETTY ROLLINS

Walnut Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, LaGrange, N.C. observed their 150th Anniversary and Homecoming on Sunday, October 11. Approximately 150 members, friends, and guests were in attendance.

Services began at 10 A.M. with special music by "The Called Out Singers." One of the highlights of the morning worship service was the sharing of the church history followed by a special slide show—"A Look Back in Time," prepared and presented by Matt McLamb. Our church history had been researched and written by Mrs. Mary Ann Sut-

ton Barlett. During the service, an award from the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists recognizing our 150 years of ministry was presented. After a morning message by Pastor Tony McLamb, lunch followed in our fellowship building.

Walnut Creek had been deeded on November 22, 1859, by Matthew Uzzell, a 30x40 foot building. Since that time, much renovation and progress has been made and now to our original chapel has been added bathroom facilities, a baptistry, a fellowship building, an office, eight Sunday School rooms, and a large storage area. The comfort of heating

and air conditioning, carpeting, new padded pews, a sound system, and video equipment have enhanced the worship services.

In 1986, the Rev. Tony McLamb became pastor and is currently still serving our small congregation. The church actively supports all Free Will Baptist Ministries, Mount Olive College, and many other benevolent causes. God has blessed this church and its congregation in many ways and we are so proud of the ability He has given us to serve Him.

Merry
Christmas



FROM THE FWB PRESS

Everett Chapel Church Ladies Auxiliary Project

BY AMANDA CLEVE

The Ladies Auxiliary of Everett Chapel Church, 307 Everett Avenue, Clayton, NC sponsored a school supplies drive for our Children's Home during the month of August. Our church congregation gave generously and we had book packs for all and many need items for the children. Pictured is Ms. Flora Dismukes, Auxiliary President, as the van was loaded at Everett Chapel and also pictures the items being unpacked at the Children's Home. We are blessed to carry clothes donated by Victoria and Ben James, youth from our church.



Ms. Flora Dismukes, Auxiliary President

First Church Wilson Woman's Auxiliary "Wedding"

BY BRENDA BEST

What started as an ordinary Woman's Auxiliary meeting ended on a very different note. It all began approximately 10 minutes prior to the 7:00 P.M. meeting. A member came and informed me that "the groom" had asked if I would have the ladies, including "the bride," in the sanctuary of the church at 8:00 P.M.—to get them there anyway I could.

No one was to know anything about this, especially the bride. As president of the WA for three years, I have never had a request like this, but I knew I could not disappoint the waiting groom.

It was suggested to tell them that we were going to have our picture taken. Well, that might work. But it's 7:00 P.M. and the bride has not arrived. Now what? Oh good—here she comes. I had been told she was last seen cutting grass at 5:30 P.M.) But here she was—clean and dressed very casually. Tennis shoes, t-shirt, walking shorts, and no make-up.

So the meeting progressed without a hitch and then it was time. Oh dear Lord, what do I do? It worked!

The ladies followed me into the sanctuary to have a picture made (God forgive me). When we walked in, nothing looked unusual. Everyone stared looking around for the photographer. Then in walked

the groom and Pastor Wayne. And as we saw the groom, dressed in shorts, t-shirt, and ball cap, walk towards the bride with a bouquet of flowers, we knew something was up. At last, the secret was revealed—Randy and Linda Faircloth (the bride and groom) were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary! The groom came up with the idea of renewing



Randy and Linda Faircloth renew their vows during the First Church Woman's Auxiliary meeting.

their wedding vows and wanted to surprise the bride—and was she surprised! So after a very condensed "wedding," the bride and groom were remarried—25 more glorious years together! But the best part was the audience that was present to witness this wonderful event. And to top it all—their daughter, Kristen, was there to take a picture!

Little Creek Senior Saints News

BY LOU SMITH

On September 16, 2009, the Senior Saints met at Little Creek Church for their monthly meeting. Rev. Glenn Batten from Bethany Church presented the devotion. Mrs. Carolyn Belch of Freedom Church in Ayden sang several gospel songs. Everyone truly

enjoyed their messages. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed the fellowship, apple pie, and ice cream.

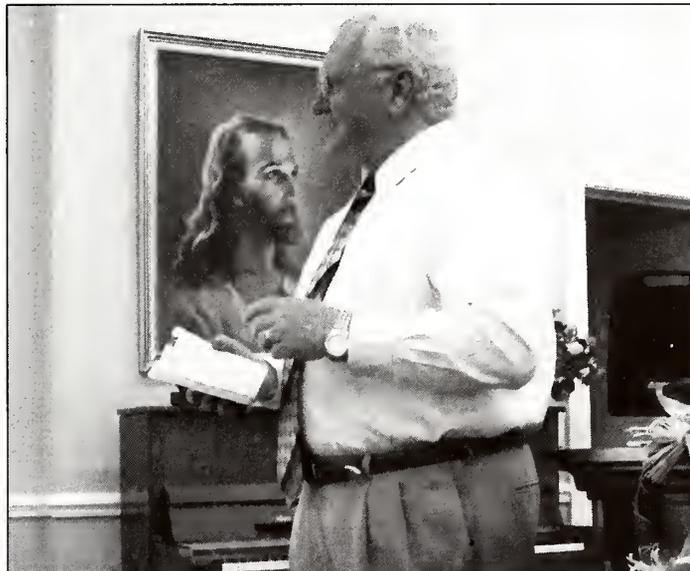
On October 21, the Senior Saints met with approximately 22 members present. The Reverend Keith Phillips of Grimsley Church visited with us and gave a wonderful devotion. Mr.

Cyrus Taylor was invited to sing. Everyone always enjoys hearing him. He also sings for Senior Day at the Pitt County Fair yearly.

David Blackwood, an ECU student shared information on the H1N1 virus. Cake and ice cream were also served at the meeting.



Mrs. Carolyn Belch



The Rev. Glenn Batten

(CHRISTMAS continued from page 15...)

recent commercial - a commercial about Christmas shopping which aired several weeks before Halloween rolled around. Surprised? A little. But I'm more surprised at how much some things stay the same. The great Baptist theologian and pastor, Walter Rauschenbusch, noted the same thing 102 years ago when he stated, "[Mass marketing] spreads things before us and beseeches and persuades us to buy what we do not want. [Companies] offer us goods on credit and dangle the smallness of the first installment before our eyes as an incentive to go into debt heedlessly."

Some things do not seem to change. In this regard, as I stated in an article three years ago, I'm less concerned with which company, advertising agency, or grocery store uses the word "Christmas"

or "Holiday." Their goal is not to spread the gospel. Their goal is to make a profit from consumers.

The goal of the Church, instead, should be to prepare our hearts for the advent/coming of Jesus—to make room for the stranger and the alienated, the poor and the sick, the naked and the prisoner (Matthew 25:31–40)—to spread peace instead of dissension (Luke 2:14)—to challenge the idea that "stuff makes us happy," and show that joy is found in our God and in healthy relationships (Matthew 6:19–21)—and to celebrate the birth of our Lord through worship, gift-giving (not to be confused with giving pre-packaged "stuff"), and the breaking of bread (Luke 24:30–31).

These are just a few of the marks of a community of foot-washers (Free Will Baptists), not our weight, not our skin complexion, not our political party. The birth of Jesus,

after all, did not make television headlines. He wasn't born into the right political party or even the "right" nation. Indeed, being born in a shed behind the low-end hotel in a backwater, insignificant town, was not exactly newsworthy.

So, while I fully expect to continue watching and enjoying television (at least the sports), to buy gifts (some which are probably unnecessary), and to feel a little self-conscious about the inevitable five extra "holiday" pounds, it my hope this Christmas that we find Christ in unexpected places, more joy in giving, and remember (in ways that actually matter) the people in our communities that lack the financial resources to meet their weekly or monthly needs. If so, it'll be a good Christmas. The peace of Christ be with you.

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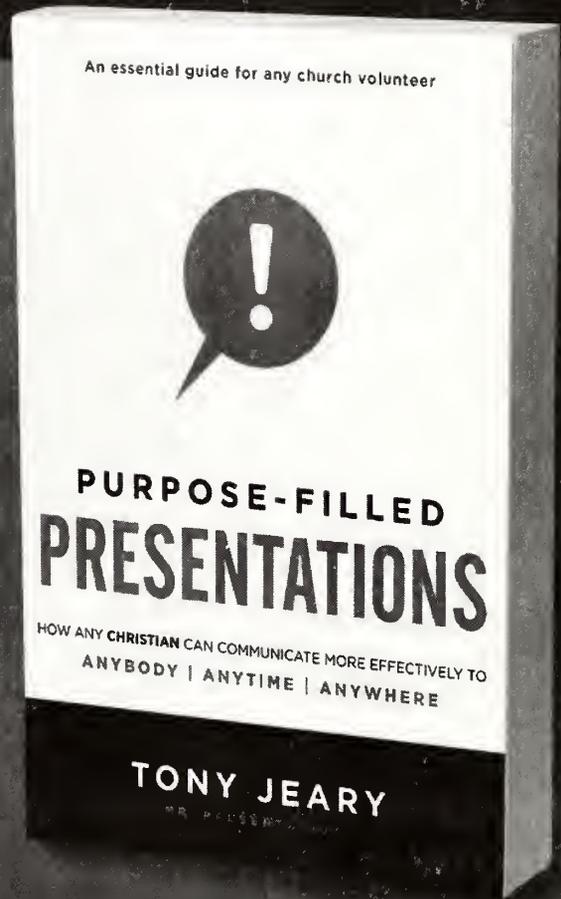
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PUBLISHING
Bringing The Word to Life

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

I am not qualified to write an answer to this question that is doctrinally accurate. I can write, though, of the mystery that the Holy Spirit embodies, and that is what I propose to do as I trace my own meandering path to an answer that can satisfy me today. This will not be a complete answer, even for me, but one in progress.

My earliest recollection of wondering about the Holy Spirit came in Sunday school when I was a teen. Our pastor was filling in on that significant day for our regular teacher. He asked, "What [not 'Who'] is the Holy Spirit?" and then he went around the room, expecting an answer from each of us. When my turn came, I replied, "I think the Holy Spirit is my conscience." The pastor didn't agree with my incomplete answer, but he liked it. As we proceeded around the circle of teens, a thoughtful teen said that she didn't think the Holy Spirit was our conscience, because our conscience can be wrong. I saw the light, and nodded my head in agreement with her. We didn't reach consensus that morning, but that discussion started my quest for greater understanding.

When I was 24, a physician friend asked me once again the same ques-

tion that had been raised in that Sunday school room.

"Isn't the Holy Spirit 'love'?" he queried.

By then, I had read J. B. Phillips's translation of the new Testament, and I parroted Dr. Phillips.

"No," I replied. "The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth."

That is precisely how the Phillips translation reads.

Yet still, almost 40 years later, the mystery for me continues. I see the Holy Spirit now not only as part of the ineffable Trinity, but also as the spirit of guidance in my life. In the New Testament, we are told not to plan ahead of time what to say when called to account for our faith, because the words will be given us in the moment that we have the need to speak.

As I ponder the mystery of the Holy Spirit, my understanding stops just now at this reassuring point. The Holy Spirit will guide my speech. I don't have to worry either about what to say or how to say it. I do realize, of course, that, being fallible, I may misinterpret what I intuit as guidance when it is not. I do not always say the right thing, the thing that the Holy Spirit would bid. I am all too human.

But, surely, I can walk an easier path when we know the Holy Spirit is there to guide me each step of the way.

To follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I often think that I must be willing, be flexible enough, to "turn on a dime," so to speak. The guidance that I hear does not often come far in advance of what its directive is. The prompting comes at the moment of action or reflection. I think we would be very mixed up if we receive directives far in advance of when we need to respond.

The Holy Spirit is dependable, and often the guidance that we hear is the only sure pathway that we can know. When our own thinking gets in the way, we need to stop and ponder what we are doing that seems awry. This is particularly true when we get "stops" in our guidance, the sense that we should cease what we are doing at the moment, cease what plans we have made. Frequently, I think that guidance would not have us plan too much. By so doing, we often tangle ourselves up. It is better to wait patiently for God's timing.

What more could we really ask in this sometimes troubled world?



December's Picture from the Past!

Your Clue: A true pastoral team—Name this husband and wife!

November's Picture: (seated, l-r) Fred Rivenbark, David Charles Hansley, David W. Hansley (standing, l-r) Billy Hardee, Felton Godwin, Willis Wilson, Dewey Boling, Robert May, Walter Reynolds

November's Winner: Sarah Branch

Call Andrea or Buddy at (252) 746-4963 or email <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org> with your correct identification. You may win a \$10 gift certificate to the FWB Press Bookstore.

Lessons From *December*

by Dr. W. Burkette Raper

In late October, while in Western North Carolina on a delayed summer vacation, I had the rare advantage of planning my schedule for the winter months before the "mad rush" of the holiday season begins. When I came to December, I was overwhelmed with the number of historical and natural events, in addition to Christmas, for which the month is noted. For those who find time to read this article, I would like to share some thoughts on the lessons we can learn from December.

I. December 7, 1941—The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the Entry of the

United States into World War II.

It was Sunday afternoon, and we children at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage were enjoying playing games on the campus when a boy ran from the dormitory to tell us that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. At that time, I was fourteen years old, a sophomore in high school. The only thing I knew about the Japanese was that they were buying scrap iron, which we boys had gathered from broken farm equipment to sell to a traveling junk man for a few silver coins. I had never heard of Pearl Harbor.

The next day at school, the principal invited students to the library to hear President Franklin Roosevelt address Congress. I clearly remember hearing his calling the bombing of Pearl Harbor "a day that will live in infamy," and I also remember his request to Congress for a "declaration of war." In addition, I recall his telling Congress that at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor peace talks were underway in Washington

with representatives of the Japanese government.

It seemed that overnight, everything in America changed. Some of the older boys at the Orphanage soon left for military service. Fortunately for me, the war was over before I reached age eighteen and became eligible for the draft. More than twelve million American young men either volunteered or were drafted, some 400,000 of whom died from combat before Japan and Germany were defeated. To this day, I never see the unending rows of white crosses on foreign military cemeteries without thinking that if I had been one year older, one of those crosses might have been mine. If Japan and Germany had won the war, the United States would have become a conquered nation and the blessings we enjoy to this day would never have been.

The lessons of December 7 are many, but one that stands out is that people with self-serving goals and closed minds can be dangerous. Months before Pearl Harbor the war lords of Japan, who controlled the military, had decided that the United States stood in their way of making Japan an imperial empire in the Pacific. Their minds were closed to any other point of view and they would resort to whatever means necessary to achieve their goals. An important lesson from December is that when a mind is closed for self-serving purposes not even truth can enter it, whether in military affairs, political affairs or religious affairs.

II. December 17, 1903—The Birth of Aviation

On this date, Orville and Wilbur Wright "made the first controlled,

sustained flights in a powered-heavier-than air vehicle," (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language). The place was Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. This breakthrough of the Wright brothers in understanding the laws of nature—laws that God had built into the universe—marked the beginning of a new era in the advancement of science and technology. From this event, the mode of transportation of goods and people would never be the same. Whether this new technology would be for the good of humankind or for evil, would depend upon its use. Air flight can be used to carry Christian missionaries to people where roads have not been built and to transport people to medical centers for life-saving treatment and care; or, it can be used in warfare to destroy human life. Technology itself is neither good nor bad—it has the potential for being either a blessing or a curse.

Underlying the technology, which has transformed human life on planet earth, is the advancement of science. One of the greatest failures in the history of the Church has been our opposition to knowledge discovered by science rather than to use the knowledge to advance the Christian faith. Jesus spoke to this point in a parable when he said: "... the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light," (Luke 16:8). As we ponder the lessons of December, we would do well to remember the words of Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947), an internationally noted mathematician and philosopher, who wrote:

In the conditions of modern life

the rule is absolute, the race which does not value trained intelligence is doomed. Not all your heroism, not all your social charm, not all your wit, not all your victories on land or at sea, can move back the finger of fate.

To-day we maintain ourselves. To-morrow science will have moved forward yet one more step, and there will be no appeal from the judgement which will then be pronounced on the uneducated....

The essence of education is that it be religious.

Long before the advent of modern science, one of the greatest of the Old Testament prophets declared: "And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times," (Isaiah 33:6).

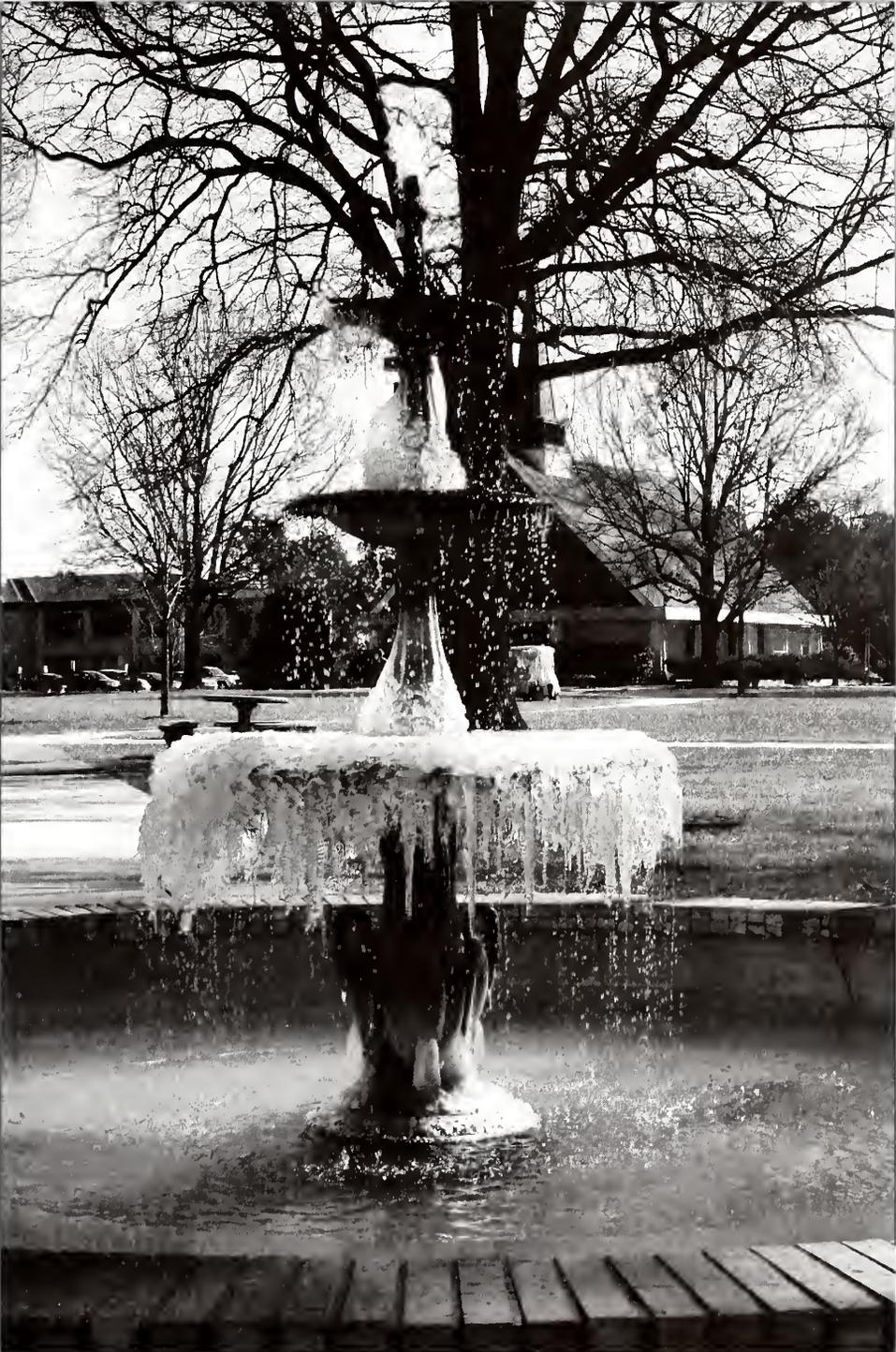
III. December 21—The Official Beginning of Winter

Winter begins where the sun—the source of celestial heat—is farthest from the earth. It is a season associated with harsh and freezing weather, bitter coldness and misery—the time of the year when the earth is dormant and barren.

In human experience, winter is not only a season in nature, but also a season of the soul when we despair, lose hope and feel that life has tumbled in on us. Winter in nature is a time when we need protection for our bodies; but in the winter of our soul, we feel alone and reach out for warmth of love from those who care. The Apostle Paul was facing both the winter of nature and the winter of his soul when he wrote from his prison cell in Rome to Timothy: "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me," (II Timothy 4:9). Then Paul laid bare his soul to Timothy, whom he regarded as a son:

- "Demas has forsaken me;"
- Titus was in Dalmatia;
- During his first trial, "No man stood with me ... all forsook me;"
- He had sent Tychicus to Ephesus, and he had left his friend Trophimus at Miletus, sick;
- "Only Luke is with me."

Then Paul thought of the winter



of nature and how cold it could be in Rome, especially in a prison cell without heat. During his last missionary trip to Troas, he had left his overcoat—probably the only one he had—with a friend named Corpus, and so he asked Timothy to bring it when he came. After sending greetings to some special co-workers, Paul ended his letter with an urgent plea to Timothy: "Do thy diligence to come before winter," (II Timothy 4:21).

What does December teach us about winter: That our souls need care and protection during the winter of human experience as much as our bodies need care and protection during the winter of nature.

IV. December 25—The Birth of Jesus—The Christ

The Incarnation and birth of Jesus as the Son of God is without question the greatest and most important event in the history of the

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universe. The Gospels of Matthew (Chapters 1 and 2) and Luke (Chapters 1 and 2) provide the biblical account of his birth, but they do not provide information that identifies the exact date. Nor are there references in the New Testament to occasions when his birthday was celebrated by the Church.

Three centuries would pass before the birthday of Jesus would be celebrated on December 25, beginning about 325 A.D. in Rome. During earlier years, Christians were severely persecuted, even to the point of death, and their survival often depended upon their worship being out of public view. It was not until early in the Fourth Century that the emperor of Rome, Constantine the Great, adopted the Christian faith and suspended the persecution, which would account for a public mass (Christ-mass) in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The most important fact about the birth of Jesus is not the exact date of His birth, but the truth that he was

the Incarnation of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who came to earth as the Son of God to be the Savior of all who would believe in Him. He was the long-awaited Messiah—the Anointed One—the Christ—who would become “the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world,” (John 1:29).

The lesson of Christmas is that our response to the truth of Jesus Christ will determine our destiny in this life and in the world to come. Beyond question, the Advent of Jesus is the most decisive point in history, and our response to him is the most important decision we will ever make.

V. December 31—New Year’s Eve

December 31 is not only the last day of the year, but the bridge to a new year. This transition reminds us that God is eternal: “The former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new,” (Revelation 21:4, 5).

From The Gate of The Year

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 shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And he led me toward the hills and the breaking of day . . . Minnie Louise Haskins (Quoted by King George VI in a Christmas radio broadcast to the British Empire, December 25, 1939 at the outbreak of World War II.)

The message of the New Year is that we are not alone in the universe. God is with us, and there is nothing that can “separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,” (Romans 8:39). (Responses to this article may be addressed to: W. Burkette Raper, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365-1906; E-mail: wraper@moc.edu

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easiest way to meet the minimum requirements of the conference. Most of them struggle as I did and settle down to the difficult task of preparing for ministry. Others settle for less, looking for shortcuts, cheating themselves out of an education while pursuing a degree, but somehow manage to meet the requirements for ordination, unequipped to provide good leadership to our churches and denomination—and some of them are always causing trouble. From time to time I hear a ministerial candidate asking, “Why do I have to take algebra? What does that have to do with theology and ministry? I should spend that time taking Bible courses!” It may be true that algebra, biology, and English composition are not theology, but they make one more aware of the world to which he or she is called to serve and sharpen

one’s skills in communication and logical reasoning—all of which are quite useful in pastoral ministry. Taking shortcuts is not always for the best; when in pursuit of an education, when preparing to fulfill God’s call, taking shortcuts is a poor choice. God wants and expects the very best from those whom He calls. In many of his epistles the Apostle Paul gives his credentials as called by God. I Corinthians 1.1 is a good example: Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God... Also, in Romans 1.1 he writes, Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God. The call of God to the pastoral ministry is a high calling, and it carries with it the call to prepare purposefully and adequately.

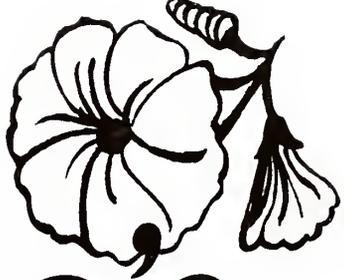
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See page 36 for more
information

Miss Julia's Flowers



By Pam Price

My neighbor, Miss Julia has been a Christian mentor to me for many years. Her life is one of meekness and humbleness. You only have to be in her presence for a few seconds to know that Jesus Christ is first in her life. We have a Sunday night date night that I looked forward to all week.

Miss Julia is 88 years old. She buried her only child when he was 19 and her husband about 20 years later. She will tell you that her Jesus Christ and her Holy Bible, especially John 14, got her through both of these tragedies and she has helped me get through some trying times in my life, too.

Along with her Bible and prayer time, Miss Julia also found solace in her yard. When she was able, she loved to mow her grass. She said she loved being outdoors and just riding making her yard look nice. She got a little over zealous one time and ran the mower into the edge of her fish pond, but, once out, she was on it and gone again.

I love her flowers. She has various kinds throughout her yard as well as flowering bushes and trees. Each was planted with a little good soil, some fertilizer, and lots of love.

There is one flower bed in particular that is very special. It's the only one she can care for now and

it's done with a little fertilizer and water when needed, a few tears, and, of course, love.

This flower bed is beside the steps that lead into her home. It's small in size but rich in memories. Many of the flowers there were given to her by family and friends and she can tell you who gave her which flower and the name of the flower. It's also surrounded by seashells that were given to her by friends, but mostly by her late husband who gathered them for her during his fishing trips to the coast. Each flower and shell has a special memory.

Every spring, Miss Julia anxiously waits for the day when the sun will warm her back as she stoops to pick up each shell and clean away the dirt from the past year and cherish the memories of years gone by.

This past spring, I was going in her door and she said I have something I want you to see. There growing from a tiny crack in the wall of bricks surrounding her house was a petunia. God himself had to have planted that tiny seed there and from it Miss Julia was able to enjoy countless purple wave petunias during the summer months and also to marvel at the handiwork of God.

Another time, she said I have a

bird nest in my hanging basket, and sure enough there were some tiny birds making their home in her plant. Still another time, we stood on her porch and marveled at a small nest of baby birds on what looked like one petite twig of a tree and wondered how the nest stayed put and talked about how if God takes care of the birds of the air, He surely takes care of us.

Miss Julia has two beautiful red Christmas cactuses. She places them on her porch during the summer but when the cooler weather approaches she places them back in the house and has beautiful blooms from Thanksgiving well past Christmas.

Miss Julia is a special Christian lady. She is a mentor to many people and willing to listen anytime someone needs her. She is not able to visit as much as she used to, but she spends most of her days in prayer for her family and friends, and especially her church family. There is not one person in our Church, Daly's Chapel Free Will Baptist in Seven Springs, for which she hasn't spent many hours in prayer. I am privileged to call her friend and neighbor and to enjoy her flowers and her companionship—and especially our Sunday Night dates.

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