

THE ECHO Uniting Volunteers for Christ

Volume 30

October - November - December 1997

Number 4

The ECHO (USPS-909860) is a quarterly publication of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists. Editorial office, 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205. Periodicals Postage paid at Nashville, TN. Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, Editor. Postmaster: Send forms 3579 to ECHO, 3606 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37205.



Rev. Ralph Hampton

60th Annual Session of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists

Convening with the
Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church
Cookeville, Tennessee
November 10-12, 1997



Rev. Doyle Pruett

Host Pastor: Rev. Sterl Paramore



Rev. Sterl Paramore

Monday Evening:

Keynote Message—Rev. Winston Sweeney
Musicians: Herman Hersey and Winona Riggs
Song Leader: Rev. Raymond Riggs



Pat Franks

Tuesday Morning Bible Conference:

Rev. Ralph Hampton, Rev. Darrell Pickle
TWAC Speaker: Rev. Eddie Payne
TWAC Banquet: Mrs. Pat Franks



Rev. Darrell Pickle



Eddie Payne

Tuesday Evening:

Rev. Doyle Pruitt

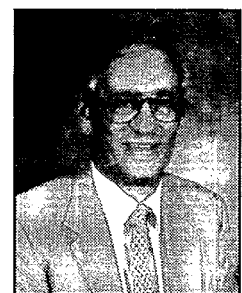
Wednesday Morning:

Rev. Paul Sitton



Rev. Paul Sitton

Moderator: Rev. Bill Gardner
Assistant Moderator: Rev. Terry Eagleton
Clerk: Rev. Ken Smith



Rev. Winston Sweeney

**Tennessee State Association
of Free Will Baptists
Treasurer's Report**
June-August 1997

INCOME

Appalachian Association

Grace.....	\$184.65
Keensburg	75.00
Watauga Valley	165.00
Appalachian Assn.	52.76

Central Association

Crossville	100.00
------------------	--------

Cumberland Association

Ashland City	168.07
Bethel	133.30
Bethlehem	180.00
Brandon's Chapel	606.58
Calvary	216.20
Cross Timbers	65.00
Cumberland Assn	590.07
Donelson	675.52
Dunbar Chapel	75.00
East Nashville	75.00
Friendship	45.00
Goodlettsville	100.00
Heads	157.61
Hendersonville	200.00
Oakwood	75.00
New Hope	100.00
Pardue Memorial	72.00
Richland	52.35
Trinity	113.57
Waverly First	50.00
Woodbine	150.00
Southern Quarterly	50.00
Western Quarterly	50.00

Liberty Association

Cookeville.....	150.00
Liberty Assn.	184.42

Northeast Association

Union Street.....	150.00
-------------------	--------

Union Association

Bethany	30.00
First, Church Hill	675.00
Fellowship	150.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Limestone	75.00
Loudon	25.00
First, Newport	150.00
First, Oak Ridge.....	404.37
Shady Grove	150.00
Unicoi	75.00
Union Assn.	631.24
West Greene	75.00

Toe River Association

Berea	85.00
Valley Forge	654.65
Individuals	220.00
National Fees, etc.	932.00

TOTAL INCOME \$9,469.36
TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$13,716.63

Thank you for your gifts to support the State Association work. All checks should be made payable to Tennessee State Association Free Will Baptists and sent to E. B. McDonald, P.O. Box 685, Ashland City, TN 37015.

Directions to Cookeville FWB Church:

Get off I-40 at Exit 286 and go north for approximately 1/2 mile. The church is on the left at 833 South Willow Avenue. The church's phone number is 615/526-8418.

Motels:

Note: When making reservations, please indicate that you will be attending the Free Will Baptist meeting in Cookeville.

Executive Inn (Headquarters Motel)

I-40 at Exit 287

897 S. Jefferson Ave.	\$34.95 + tax for one person
615/526-9621	\$5 for each additional person
800/826-2791	Complimentary breakfast

Econo Lodge

I-40 at Exit 287

1100 S. Jefferson Ave.	\$39.59 + tax for one person
800/221-2222	\$45.25 for up to four people
615/528-1040	Complimentary breakfast

Star Motor Inn

I-40 at Exit 286

1115 S. Willow Ave.	\$33.00 + tax for 1-4 persons
800/842-1685	No complimentary breakfast
615/526-9511	

New Churches In Pennsylvania

The National Association of Free Will Baptists, through the Home Missions Department, is beginning two new churches in Pennsylvania. If you have relatives or friends in either of these areas, please call or write the pastor, or tell them about these Free Will Baptist churches.

The Pittsburgh Work:

Pastor Tommy Jones
69 Robin Hood Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
412/776-0369 or 412/776-7588

The Philadelphia Work:

Pastor Vergel A. Maness
317 East Duttons Mill Road
Brookhaven, PA 19015
610/872-3228
Fax: 610/872-3285
E-mail: vam@juno.com



The Homegoing of Pastor Charles Davis

The Lord called Brother Charles Davis home in June. On April 12, 1997, he learned that he had leukemia and passed

away on June 23.

He was 65 years of age and had been married to his wife Helen for about 47 years. He is survived by his wife and three children, Claude A., Michael L. and Edith Johnson, all of Afton, Tenn. He had four grandsons and five granddaughters. Also, he had three great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Brother Davis was the son of Mrs. Edith Davis and the late W. A. Davis. He grew up in Union FWB Church, where he taught Sunday School and served as a deacon.

In 1974, Brother Davis answered the call to the gospel ministry, was licensed to preach later that year, and was ordained in 1976. He pastored New Home Church for two years, Fugate Church for five years, and had pastored Woods Memorial Church for fourteen years.

A fellow preacher, Brother Jimmie Lowe, said of Brother Davis, "He was an outstanding person, a quiet, solid, really top-notch man. He was a loving, caring, friendly person who touched a lot of lives for the Lord."



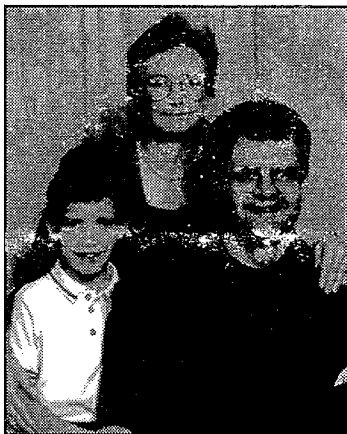
Charles McNeese With the Lord

The beloved pastor of Faith FWB Church, Columbia, Tenn., had a fatal accident on July 3. The 59-year-old pastor left behind his wife of 39 years, Gennette; a son Bryan of Goldsboro, N.C.; and a daughter, Monica Daniel, of Memphis; one grandson, and three granddaughters.

Brother McNeese was a native of Collinwood, Tenn. He was a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He had pastored churches in Georgia and Tennessee. He was very active on each level of the denomination. He was moderator of the South Central Quarterly of the Cumberland Association. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. He had pastored Faith Church for approximately two years.

This man of God was a faithful Bible student, a devoted husband, a good father and grandfather, and a caring pastor. Brother McNeese will certainly be missed by all of us who knew him. One of his fellow pastors, Brother Jesse Meade, said, "Brother McNeese was extremely steady and consistent; he was always the same. He was a tremendous man of God." And another, Brother Steve Swango, said, "He was kind and very cooperative. His chief desire was to further the Kingdom of God."

We Welcome the Kilgores to Tennessee and to Free Will Baptist Family Ministries



On October 1, Brother James Kilgore will become the newly chosen Executive Director of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. All of us in Tennessee join to give this dear man and his family a warm Christian welcome. May we all support Brother Kilgore and pray daily for him and his family.

James H. Kilgore was born and reared in Wise, Va. His father, Rev. Harold Kilgore, has been a Free Will Baptist pastor for many years. James answered the call to preach at an early age and began pastoring at age 19.

He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville in May 1989. He now holds a doctor's degree in Education Administration from LaSalle University.

James has worked in the field of Christian education for eight years. He has served as Administrator of Seffner Christian Academy in Seffner, Fla., for the past

six years. When he came to Seffner, the school had an enrollment of around 150 in K-2 through eighth grade. They will begin this school year with over 600 students in K-2 through eleventh grade. During his time there, 19 new classrooms were built, along with a two-story dining hall/gymnasium, baseball/soccer field, state-of-the-art science lab and a 24-unit online computer lab.

He pastored in Virginia and Tennessee for eight years and served as assistant director at FWB Camp Jacob in Clintwood, Va., for two years.

"I am very excited about joining the ministry of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. I feel God has called me here for a purpose. I want to help this ministry expand and grow to better minister to the needs of the hurting children and their families. I also want to be a help to the churches in any way I can. I look forward to visiting our churches, getting to know everyone and being a part of the work here."

James and his wife Amanda have been married for 20 years and have one son, Jamie, who will turn seven this fall. Amanda is currently writing Sunday School curriculum for the junior department for Randall House Publications in Nashville.

Thurman Pate, Sr. Honored



The Union Association at its recent annual meeting honored Brother Thurman Pate, Sr. for serving 60 years in the gospel ministry. Brother Pate was converted at the age of 13 and actually started preaching informally to his young friends at the age of 14. He left home for Johnson Bible College with less than \$20 in his pocket. He paid for his entire college education by working at the dairy and farm owned by the college. Many mornings he would have to get up at 3:00 to milk cows and then attend classes.

Few men among Free Will Baptists have contributed as much to the cause of Christ as Brother Pate. His pastorates have all been in Tennessee, except for one in Michigan. He has pastored Faith Church in Knoxville for over 30 years. Earlier on he had to serve as a bi-vocational pastor. He has held many denominational offices and now serves as Treasurer of the Union Association.

Brother Pate believes deeply in our Lord's Great Commission. He promotes the entire denominational ministry, but he has a special heartbeat for foreign missions. He has been very active in the Sexton Walk-A-Thon from its beginning.

He and his wife Faustine have been married 54 years. They have a son, Dr. Thurman Pate, Jr., who is principal of a public school in Nashville and a deacon in his church; a daughter, Barbara (Mrs. Jerry Gibbs), who has served along with her family as a foreign missionary in France for 24 years; and another daughter, Karen (Mrs. Randy Brown), who teaches Sunday School and is pianist at her father's church in Knoxville. The Pates have four grandsons and three granddaughters.

The Union Association presented a plaque to Brother Pate in honor of his 60 years in the ministry.

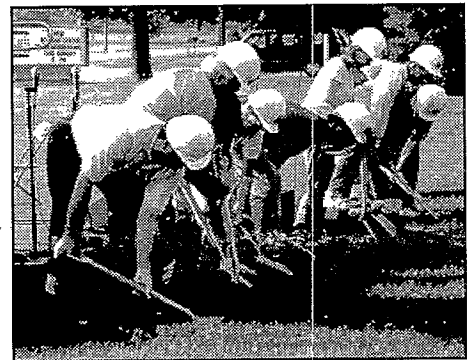
From My Heart by Charles A. Thigpen

Please attend the State Meeting! We really need more people, preachers and laymen, to attend the State Association. All ordained preachers and deacons are **standing delegates**. The great need is to involve more dedicated lay people in the state work. This will be a time of spiritual renewal, outstanding Christian fellowship, and the opportunity to learn more about what all of us do together as a state body.

Pastors, include the Promotional Office in your regular church giving. Put the Promotional Office in your church budget for a regular monthly or quarterly amount. Many churches support the office very generously, but sadly, most of our churches give nothing for the state ministry. Please encourage your church to start giving. Gifts from individuals are also accepted.

The end is in sight in giving Tennessee's share for the National Office Building. Get your Church, Sunday School, Women Active for Christ, or Master's Men to give one last generous offering. And then, will you give a personal gift? This must be done by December 31, 1997. We want to be listed as one of the states that did our part and reached the goal. Accept my thanks for whatever you give.

The Donelson Church Breaks Ground For New Worship Center



After four years of careful planning, members of Donelson FWB Church gathered on the church's lawn on June 15 to break ground on a new two-level worship center. The \$2.2 million structure is uniquely designed to be multi-purposed, with a stage that rises into the wall and seats that are easily removed, allowing the room to be used for fellowship, sports, childcare, and educational activities. Pastor Robert J. Morgan, quoting Psalm 102:18, told the crowd, "Let this be built 'for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.'" Charter member Mrs. Oleda Rudy Lundquist offered the groundbreaking prayer.

Completion of the 32,600 sq. ft. facility is expected by Easter 1998.

FWBFM Honor the Hoods



Tuesday, August 26, was a great day at Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greeneville, Tenn. Brother and Sister Roger Hood were honored with a reception brunch commemorating the seven years that they have served FWBFM. Brother Hood's resignation as Executive Director was to become effective on August 31.

Brother Hood has put Tennessee Free Will Baptists back in the child care business. Presently, all the buildings are full and scores and scores of applicants are turned away each year. Before Brother Hood assumed his leadership role, some among us were wondering what could be done with the home's facilities. The Hoods have left an enduring mark on FWBFM.

To further emphasize Brother Hood's role at FWBFM, on this same day a large crowd gathered for a groundbreaking service for an emergency shelter for boys. All the events on this day were very ably planned and directed by Beth McPherson, the Director of Development for FWBFM. Mr. Larry Estep, President of First Tennessee Bank in Greeneville, gave warm greetings from the business community. Among those attending the groundbreaking were many supporters from across the state, pastors, FWBFM trustees, neighbors and friends from the area. Another honored guest was Mr. Scott M. Niswonger, President and Chief Executive Officer of Landair Services Inc., who has made a challenge matching-gift pledge of \$250,000.

In addition to that which has already been pledged and raised for this much needed expansion, an additional \$400,000 is yet needed. The total project includes the shelter for boys, an emergency shelter for girls, and an endowment for the maintenance of the buildings at FWBFM. This was an outstanding day for all Free Will Baptists in Tennessee.

Kevin Trimble, Assistant Executive Director of FWBFM, will serve as the Acting Executive Director until the newly chosen director comes to FWBFM.

Tennessee Youth Conference

Free Will Baptist youth are invited to attend the TYC in Pigeon Forge, December 29-31, 1997. The Christian Education Board calls this conference "the biggest and best event of the year for Tennessee youth and youth workers!"

Special speaker will be Rob Morgan, pastor of Donelson FWB Church. Musician will be Geoff Kimber from Australia.

The conference will be held at Heartlander Country Resort, 2385 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. For more information write: Phil Polston, 706 First St., Elizabethton, TN 37643, or call 423/542-8702.

Homecoming Celebration

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries (formerly Free Will Baptist Home for Children) in Greeneville cordially invites everyone to attend their 1997 Homecoming Celebration on Saturday, October 18, 1997. This annual event begins at 11:00 a.m. with an inspirational program, including a special speaker, followed by a delicious buffet lunch. In the afternoon, the whole campus is open for tours. Please join the staff and all the children in these festivities, as FWBFM commemorates 58 years of child-care ministry. For more information, please call 423/639-9449.

Verlin and Debbie Anderson Approved for Africa



Verlin and Debbie Anderson were appointed in May 1997 as medical missionaries to the Free Will Baptist medical center in Doropo Cote d'Ivoire. Verlin, a registered nurse, will be responsible for training African nurses at the medical center. He also will have other supervisory and management responsibilities. Debbie's ministry plans include teaching Bible to children in public schools and assisting in the African woman's auxiliary.

Verlin's home church is Central FWB in Royal Oak, Mich. Debbie's home church is Donelson FWB in Nashville. Debbie is the daughter of Eddie and Sandra Payne and spent much of her early life in Africa.

Please invite the Andersons to your church. They need our prayers and our support. They may be contacted at 615/361-6537 or through the Foreign Missions Department at 615/731-6812.

Benjamin Randall Day November 23, 1997

The Home Missions Department is committed to helping our missionaries and chaplains, church planting and church growth, and the cross-cultural ministry. The opportunities for Free Will Baptists to make an impact on our country for Jesus Christ is unlimited. Please join us in striving toward our goals in the work of the Lord.

Every church is urged to give a special offering for the National Home Missions General Fund. We need your help! Please make this your best gift yet!

Free materials to promote **Benjamin Randall Day** may be obtained from the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

1997 National Youth Conference Winners From Tennessee

Congratulations to each individual and to each group that won. All of us in Tennessee are proud of you!

A Grades 1-3 • B Grades 4-6 • C Grades 7-9 • D Grades 10-12

Bible Sword Drill

Grade Four

2nd Place (tie) Lynna McInturff

Grade Five

3rd Place Brooke Dickerson

Bible Tic Tac Toe (Grades 7-9)

3rd Place Limestone Church

Turning Point (Grades 7-9)

1st Place Laura Ham

Vocal Solo

B Amy Lawrence

C Female Carrie Stewart

D Male Luke Grooms

D Female Emily Ketteman

Vocal Ensembles

13+ Members

D Xample

Instrumental Solo

Strings

C Anna Gee Harris

Communication Aids

Individual Drama

C Erin Williams

Recorded Puppetry

D Tell It Puppet Team

Creative Arts

Painting

B Chad Mackie

Dates to Remember

Oct. 17-19

The Hike (Christian backpacking for the college and career age),
The Oaks at FWBFM

Oct. 18

Homecoming, Free Will Baptist
Family Ministries

Oct. 24-25

Marriage Enrichment Retreat for
couples of every age, The Oaks at
FWBFM.

Speaker: Dr. Ken Riggs.

Nov. 10-12

Tennessee State Association of
Free Will Baptists, Cookeville
FWB Church

Nov. 13-15

Welcome Days at Free Will
Baptist Bible College

Dec. 29-31

Tennessee Youth Conference,
Heartlander Resort, Pigeon, Forge

National Offices Building

Tennessee's Portion	\$78,557
Amount Given	\$65,937
Yet Needed	\$12,620

The ECHO
Periodicals
Postage
paid at
Nashville
Tennessee
USPS 909-860

3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205-2498

ECHO

THE