

THE ECHO Uniting Volunteers for Christ

Volume 30

July-August-September 1997

Number 3

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.

Tennessee Foreign Missionaries



David & Annette Aycok
Brazil



Jim & Karen Cowart
Brazil



Tom & Nancy Hughes
Brazil



Bobby & Geneva Poole
Brazil



Paul & Rhoda Creech
Côte d'Ivoire



Dr. Kenneth & Rejane
Eagleton
Côte d'Ivoire



Dr. Paul & Tammy
Gentuso
Côte d'Ivoire



Clint & Lynette Morgan
Côte d'Ivoire



Jerry & Barbara Gibbs
France



Steve & Becky Riggs
France



Walter & Marcia Ellison
Uruguay



Jeff & Susan Turnbough
Spain



Sam & June McVay
Spain



Don & Ruth McDonald
Japan

These are the missionaries who represent the Lord, the Free Will Baptist denomination, and Tennessee Free Will Baptists. Please learn all that you can about these, our representatives. Keep before your family, your friends and your people such things as where they serve, the needs of the people to whom they minister, any special personal or family needs they have, and especially their financial needs. Let us determine that Tennessee foreign missionaries' accounts will *never* go into the red column.

We are greatly blessed to have such choice servants of the Lord to represent us on the various fields. Remember to pray for them in your personal devotions, your family worship, and especially when your church meets together to pray.

Write to them, assuring them of your love and your prayers. When they are home on furlough, have them to speak to your church, Sunday School class, Women Active for Christ, or Master's Men. Remember to have them in your home. Also, do something special for them to show your love and appreciation.

A wonderful way for all Tennessee Free Will Baptists to show support for our foreign missionaries is to participate in the Don and Billie Sexton Walk-A-Thon. This will be held in the month of September. Each Quarterly (or District Association) is to have a special day for the Walk-A-Thon. Every pastor should promote this effort and every church should participate.

Treasurer's Report March-May 1997

INCOME

Appalachian Assn.	
Appalachian Assn.	51.84
Grace	\$133.43
Keensburg	75.00
Watauga Valley	275.00
Central Assn.	
Crossville	100.00
Cumberland Assn.	
Ashland City	119.69
Bethel	125.80
Bethlehem	180.00
Brandon's Chapel	667.28
Cofar's Chapel	100.00
Cumberland Assn.	345.34
Donelson	665.17
Dunbar Chapel	75.00
East Nashville	75.00
Faith	62.51
Friendship	60.00
Good Springs	178.87
Goodlettsville	200.00
Hendersonville	400.00
Oakwood	75.00
New Hope	100.00
Pardue Memorial	72.00
Richland	92.75
Trinity	111.75
Waverly First	75.00
Woodbine	150.00
Western Quarterly Meeting	50.00
Liberty Assn.	
Cookeville	150.00
Liberty Assn.	68.98
Northeast Assn.	
Union Street	150.00
Union Assn.	
Bethany	30.00
First, Church Hill	550.00
First, Newport	150.00
Doran Addition	75.00
Fellowship	150.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Grassy Creek	182.10
Limestone	75.00
Shady Grove	386.00
Unicoi	75.00
Union Assn.	787.33
West Greene	75.00
West Tennessee Assn.	100.00
FWB Family Ministries	800.00
Individuals	185.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,680.84
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$7,605.02

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

Paul and Wilma Sitton Set a Great Example

The Free Will Baptist denomination was built by bi-vocational pastors and church planters. There is probably no one among us who does not know of several bi-vocational pastors from an earlier generation. I well remember hearing Henry and John Oliver talk about their father who farmed for a living and also pastored. In the present day, we still have here in Tennessee a goodly number of pastors who find it necessary to work at a full-time lay job—and pastor a church.



One such pastor is Brother Paul Sitton. Paul and his wife Wilma grew up in Van, West Virginia. They married in 1947 after Paul served in the U.S. Army for three years in New Guinea and the Philippine Islands. Paul attended Free Will Baptist Bible College for two years and then graduated from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1954. He earned a Master of Arts degree and also 48 hours above the Masters at Austin Peay State University. Brother Paul taught school on the elementary level at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and retired after completing thirty years.

During all these years (and before and after), Brother Paul has pastored Free Will Baptist churches. All the churches except one have been in the Cumberland Association. For one year he pastored Philadelphia Church in Detroit, Michigan. He and Sister Wilma pastored Rock Springs Church for eleven years, Pardue Memorial Church for thirteen years, Stoney Point Church for six years, Carlisle Church for ten years, and Brandon's Chapel Church for two years, where they are currently serving. I praise God for this fine couple who have pastored churches among us for 43 years!

The Sittons have two children, Jane and Ed, and four grandchildren. Jane has two children, Ben and Amanda. Ed also has two, Jessica and Julie.

When anyone pastors or serves as a missionary on a bi-vocational basis, he is following in the Apostle Paul's steps—who was a bi-vocational missionary. It was necessary for him to make tents to support himself (and perhaps his missionary partners). I thank God for Paul and Wilma Sitton. They have made, and continue to make, a profound contribution to God's work and to the Free Will Baptist denomination. They are truly dedicated to pastoring and serving people for the glory of the Lord. It would be wonderful if we had more pastors and missionaries who would consider serving on a bi-vocational basis.

Also, congratulations are in order for Paul and Wilma as they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on May 18, 1997.

TWAC Sets Fall Retreat

"The Triumphal March" is the theme for the Tennessee Women Active for Christ fall retreat September 25-27, 1997, at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, Gatlinburg. The theme focuses Thursday evening on triumphant heroes of the past: Laura Belle Barnard, Mabel Willey, and John and Betty Stam.

Friday morning breakaway groups will further enlarge the theme focusing on triumphing over fear, depression, suffering, and loneliness. Elizabeth Hodges speaks Friday evening on "Triumph Over Stress." Francis Shelley will bring the retreat to a climax at the Saturday breakfast buffet with the topic "You Are Loved."

The registration fee is \$25 and must be sent to Gladys Gragg, 294 Clovernook Drive, Nashville, TN 37210 before August 4. The room rate is \$72 per room per night plus 11% tax (up to four people may stay in a room). Send only the registration fee to Gladys. Hotel information will be sent after Gladys receives the registration fee.

Groundbreaking at West Knoxville

Home missionary Gerald Fender wrote the following:



“April showers bring mud! We have a lot of that on our property with a whole lot of excitement. These are exciting days for our folks. We had our groundbreaking ceremony on April 6 and began site preparation immediately. We now have the footings poured and will have the slab poured by the time you receive this letter. We will then be waiting for Howard Gwartney and his crew to get to us and begin framing the building. They are building a church in Alabama and should get to us in early June. We have the site

prepared for their campers.”

The latest word is that Brother Howard Gwartney and his crew have already arrived at the West Knoxville Church site. Please pray for them as the work progresses. A proposed date for “cleaning up and furnishing” the building is early August. If any of you can volunteer your help, please call Ron Kirk, Building Committee Chairman, at 423/675-5228.

Student Financial Aid for Tennesseans

There are several programs of financial assistance that are now available to Tennessee residents who attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. For many years FWBBC students have been eligible for loans and grants from the federal government. But now that the college is regionally accredited, programs of financial assistance are also available through the State of Tennessee.

The programs offered to FWBBC students through the State are as follows:

Ned McWherter Scholars Program

This is open to entering freshmen with a 3.5 high school GPA and an ACT or SAT in the top 5% nationally (29 ACT; 1280 SAT). This would provide up to \$6,000 annually for a maximum of four years.

Tennessee Teaching Scholars Program

This is a forgivable loan of \$3,000 for college juniors, seniors, and post-baccalaureate students admitted to a state-approved teacher education program. In order to receive this loan, a student must pledge to teach at a public preschool, elementary, or secondary level school in Tennessee one year for each year the award is received.

Tennessee Student Assistance Award

This is a non-repayable grant of up to \$2,010 per year. This is a “need based” grant. The student must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for this assistance.

All these assistance programs are available only to Tennessee residents. If a person comes to Tennessee to go to college, he is not considered a resident of the state.

Any inquiries about these financial assistance programs, or for those provided by the federal government, please contact the Financial Aid Office, FWBBC, 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205, or call 615/383-1340.

From My Heart

by Charles A. Thigpen

Do you faithfully and regularly support *all* the denominational ministries? Remember that this includes financial support for Free Will Baptist Bible College. There is no area of the national work that needs our finances more than the college. Why does the denomination need FWBBC? This is our main educational institution and is owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. The college provides clear Bible teaching and biblical understanding of Free Will Baptist distinctives. FWBBC emphasizes evangelistic and missionary outreach in a drug-free, smoke-free, alcohol-free, and clean-living atmosphere.

The college has made an outstanding contribution to all phases of denominational life. Consider the hundreds of pastors and pastors’ wives, together with other church workers, who have been trained there, together with scores of home and foreign missionaries, and teachers in Christian colleges and Christian day schools. We should not overlook the hundreds of lay workers in our local churches who were trained at the college. It is only proper to say that the denomination has been greatly blessed and the entire ministry of our churches enriched by those who received part or all their college training at FWBBC.

Do you personally support the college with a financial gift on a regular basis? Does your church include the college in its budget? Both of these should be considered as necessary—in order to enable the college to continue its needed ministry.

Someone may ask me, “Do you believe in the college and support it?” The answer for my wife and me is a resounding “Yes!” She and I believed in it enough to invest forty years of our lives in its ministry. Also, a gift of at least \$100 is given by us, over and beyond our tithe, to the college each month.

Why not send the college a gift today—or get your church to send a check—and add the college to your church’s budget. The future of the Free Will Baptist denomination, to a large extent, depends on the faithful ministry of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Tennessee Walk-A-Thon

During the month of September, every church should plan to take part in the Don and Billie Sexton Walk-A-Thon for Foreign Missions. The Lord has enabled Free Will Baptists in Tennessee to raise a goodly amount of money to assist our Tennessee foreign missionaries through this means. In 1995, we raised \$125,000; in 1996, we raised \$128,000. The goal for this year is \$155,000. In order to achieve this goal, every church should plan to participate.

There should be someone in each church to give leadership to this worthy effort. Pastors, Sunday School superintendents, and teachers should all promote this cause. Regular reminders are necessary. Let’s work hard to make this year’s goal a reality!

Tennessee State Competition Winners

Congratulations to each church who had young people enter on each level of CTS competition. Special congratulations to each winner. We are proud of you! We will pray for you as you compete in Cincinnati in July.

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

Vocal Solo

- A - Ashley Hill, Berea, Johnson City
- B - Amy Lawrence, Donelson, Nashville
- C - (Male) Derek Gibson, Oak Grove, Greeneville
- C - (Female) Carrie Stewart, Donelson, Nashville
- D - (Male) Luke Grooms, First, Newport
- D - (Female) Emilee Kettelman, Cross Timbers, Nashville

Vocal Ensembles (Duets, Trios, Quartets)

- B - Grace Duet, Grace, Johnson City
- C - Mt. Zion Trio, Mt. Zion, Ashland City
- D - Lori & Lisa Gaw, Cookeville, Cookeville

Vocal Ensembles (5-12 members)

- D - Cofer's Chorale, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville

Vocal Ensembles (13+ members)

- B - Patch the Pirate Choir, Good Springs, Pleasant View
- D - Xample, Donelson, Nashville

Instrumental Solo (Strings)

- B - Nicholas Skaggs, Mt. Zion, Ashland City
- C - Anna Gee Harris, Good Springs, Pleasant View

Instrumental Solo (Wind)

- B - Alison Sagraves, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville
- C - Amanda Gentry, First, Newport

Keyboard Solo

- A - Andrew Heath, Valley View, Loudon
- B - Ashley Poole, East Side, Elizabethton
- C - Ashley Carter, Cross Timbers, Nashville
- D - Bethany Crowson, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville

Individual Drama

- B - Christie Flatt, Good Springs, Pleasant View
- C - Erin Williams, Donelson, Nashville
- D - Jenny Lewis, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville

Interpretative Reading of Scripture

- C - Amanda Gentry, First, Newport
- D - Katie Ham, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville

Group Drama

- B - New Hope Duet, New Hope, Joelton
- D - Cofer's Drama, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville

Group Mime/Pantomime

- D - Lewis/Sass, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville

Live Puppetry

- D - Small Wonders Live, Canah Chapel, Erwin

Recorded Puppetry

- C - Hughes J&B, Canah Chapel, Erwin
- D - Tell It Puppet Team, First, Newport

Painting

- B - Chad Mackie, Cookeville, Cookeville

Graphics

- B - Rachel Winchester, Good Springs, Pleasant View
- C - Brian Paramore, Cookeville, Cookeville
- D - Megan Mackie, Cookeville, Cookeville

Three-Dimensional Art

- B - Lisa Gaw, Cookeville, Cookeville

Photography

- A - Sarah Leanne Blevins, East Side, Elizabethton
- B - Lisa Nicole Royston, East Side, Elizabethton
- C - Amanda Magdalena, Cookeville, Cookeville

Bible Memorization

- 1st Grade - Whitney Osborne, Valley View, Loudon
- 2nd Grade - Caleb Dickerson, Limestone, Limestone
- 3rd Grade - Ashley Hill, Berea, Johnson City

Bible Sword Drill

- 4th Grade - Lynna McInturff, Grace, Johnson City
- 5th Grade - Brooke Dickerson, Limestone, Limestone
- 6th Grade - Craig Beecher, New Hope, Joelton

Bible Tic Tac Toe

- Limestone, Limestone (Joshua Arrowood, Jacob Crane, Bradley Gentry, Candice Poore)

Bible Bowl

- First, Newport (Amanda Ball, Vince Lillard, Tommy Sutton, Ryan Talley)

Turning Point

- C - Laura Ham, Cofer's Chapel, Nashville

Dates to Remember

- July 20-24** — National Association of Free Will Baptists, Cincinnati, OH
- Aug. 12-14** — Union Association, Roan Street Church
- Aug. 15-16** — Toe River Association, Odom's Chapel
- Sept. 6** — West Tennessee Association, Liberty Church
- Sept. 25-27** — Tennessee WNAC Retreat, Gatlinburg
- Sept. 26-27** — Liberty Association, Monterey Church
- Sept. (various dates)** — Don and Billie Sexton Walk-A-Thon
- Oct. 4** — Northeast Association, Union Street Church
- Oct. 10** — Central Association, Smithville Church
- Oct. 10-12** — WNAC National Retreat, Glorieta, NM
- Oct. 11** — Cumberland Association, Dunbar's Chapel Church
- Nov. 10-12** — Tennessee State Association, Cookeville Church

National Offices Building

Tennessee's Portion ... \$78,557
 Amount Given \$64,284
 Yet Needed \$14,273

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

3606 West End Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37205-2498

ECHO
 THE