

The **ECHO**

Uniting Volunteers for Christ

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Tennessee State
Association of
Free Will Baptists

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NUMBER 1

TENNESSEE HAD A GREAT ASSOCIATION!



The 62nd Annual Session of the Tennessee State Association was a great blessing to those in attendance. Pastor **Kevin Trimble** and members of **Oak Grove Church** in Greeneville were outstanding hosts to the meeting.

The music was inspiring—thanks to **Louise Shaw, Merle Archer, Neil Hill, Raymond Riggs, Kevin Trimble**—the church choir and others who sang specials. The preaching was uplifting—thanks to **Stanley Outlaw, Frank Woods, Alton Loveless, Bill Greer** and **Sterl Paramore**. The reports from state personnel and state boards were encouraging. Reports from the various departments were informative. Even the business sessions—under the leadership of Mod-

erator **Terry Eagleton** and Assistant Moderator **Robert Hobbs**—were characterized by harmony and unity.

Total attendance (of those who registered) was 209. Of this number, 104 were ministers, 6 were deacons, 17 were elected delegates. Total offerings amounted to \$1,707—the largest amount ever received at a state association in Tennessee.

The 2000 meeting will be held November 13-15 at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. Please make your plans now to attend.



Alton Loveless



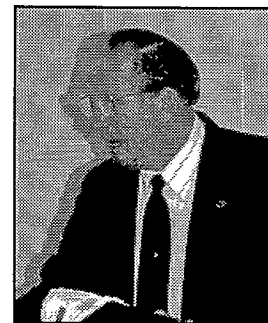
Stanley Outlaw



Frank Woods



Sterl Paramore



Bill Greer

SHOULD YOU HAVE A "FRIEND DAY" AT YOUR CHURCH?

Some of our Tennessee churches have an annual or semi-annual "Friend Day." This is the day when every member is encouraged to get friends to attend Sunday School and church with them. It is usually best to have "Friend Day" during the school year, because there are fewer people taking vacations at that time.

"Friend Day" is a Sunday that has been set aside by a local church to demonstrate the effectiveness of its members in inviting others to attend that church. Studies show that most of the people who do not attend church would do so if they had an invitation from someone they know and respect.

How should I invite? Invite anyone you know who is not presently active in another church. This will be a great means of outreach for your local body of believers. Those you bring will become prospects for your church. A prospect is anybody who is not presently attending Sunday School or church on a regular basis; that is, someone who is not involved in a community of faith.

You come in contact with people like this almost every day. Some are your fellow workers; some are your neighbors; some are your classmates. Some assist you in grocery stores, banks, dry cleaners or service stations. Some are close friends, while others are merely acquaintances. But all of them have one thing in common—they need to know Christ as their Savior and Lord. You may be the only one who will ever be in a position to help them.

How should I invite them? Write a letter, send a fax, make a telephone call, leave a voice mail, speak to them at work, or across the back fence, or at a ball game. Invite your associates at work. You may need to do something special—take homemade goodies to them, cut their grass, wash their car—then ask them to be your special friend on "Friend Day" at your church. Offer to pick them up if they need transportation.

What if they agree to come? Begin praying for them. Thank God for this opportunity. Plan to do your part to make

the day special. Pick them up on time or arrange for a place to meet at church. Sit with them during Sunday School and during the worship service. If they have children, make certain that each one gets to the proper class. Introduce them to others. Following the service, introduce them to the pastor. Plan to take them out to lunch if you possibly can. At lunch, talk about the pastor's message and the Sunday School lesson. Let them know how much you appreciate their joining you on "Friend Day."

What should I do for them after "Friend Day"? Continue to be their friend. Pray for them. Minister to them in any way you can. Encourage them to seriously consider becoming regular attenders—and, if they are not believers, seek to win them to Christ.

"Friend Day" for your friends could truly be the greatest day of their lives. At that time they could meet the greatest Friend of all—the Lord Jesus. And you could gain a friend for all eternity!

"FOUR MEN OF GOD"

The above was the designation of a special service in which four of God's choice servants were honored. Each of these men had been in the Gospel ministry sixty years or more. The men were **Brother Robert Crawford, Dr. L. C. Johnson, Brother Raymond Riggs** and **Brother Homer Willis**. This service was hosted by the Cumberland Association Presbytery and was held on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College on Saturday, November 13. All of these men, except Brother Riggs, are members of the Cumberland Presbytery—and Brother Riggs was a member for many years.

Each of these men has served the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Brother Crawford served as the first full-time Executive Secretary for the denomination. Dr. Johnson was the founding president of Free Will Baptist Bible College—and the president who has served in that position longer than any other person. Brother Riggs was the first full-time General Director of the Foreign Missions Department, a position he held for six years. Brother Homer Willis served as Director/Treasurer of the National Home Missions Department for seventeen years. All of these men have been leaders among us—they have pastored, served as evangelists, helped the denomination at every level and—at the same time—been heroes and examples to all of us.

We regret that Brother and Sister Crawford and Sister Willis did not get to attend this service due to illness.

THE HOMEGOING OF BROTHER BURL COX

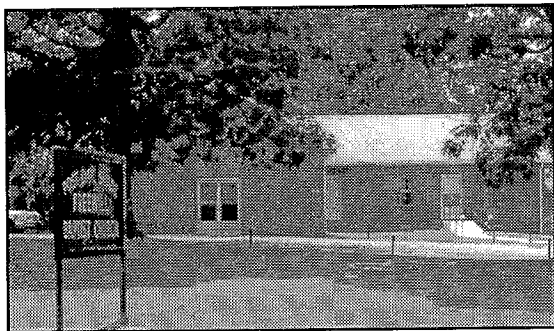
Brother Burl Cox of Kingsport went to be with the Lord on November 23. He is survived by his wife of 74 years, **Mary Eliza Love Cox**; two sons and daughters-in-law, **Homer B. and Virginia Cox; Harold D. and Bertha Cox**; eight grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, **Velma Hamilton and Montie Thomas**; one brother, **Vernon Cox**.

Burl Cox was retired as a supervisor from J.P. Stevens. Brother Cox pastored the following churches: **Horse Creek, Pine Grove, Phipps Bend, and Riverside Free Will Baptist** churches.

Services were conducted Friday, November 27, at Eastern Star Free Will Baptist Church, with Brothers **George Winegar** and **Billy Gragg** officiating. Internment was in Eastern Star Cemetery.

His pastor, Brother George Winegar, said the following about Brother Cox: "Three words characterized this dear man: love, limit, and leaving. He truly loved the Lord, the Lord's work, his own family and all people. He was a man who would go the *limit* in God's work. In his *leaving*, he demonstrated that he was a true soldier of Jesus Christ."

THE HISTORIC POST OAK SHADE CHURCH



One of the oldest Free Will Baptist churches in Tennessee—or perhaps the oldest church in this state—is Post Oak Shade Free Will Baptist Church in Putnam County, six miles northwest of Cookeville. This congregation dates its founding back to the beginning of the nineteenth century. In fact, there is a good likelihood that it was started in the 1790s. Ernest H. Boyd stated in an article in the *Putnam County Herald*, “From the best information available, this church was organized not later than 1803.” Even though the church has used several different names—for almost a century and a half—the name has been Post Oak Shade Free Will Baptist Church.

It is presently a thriving, excited, growing church with wonderful members. The pastor is a native of the area, **Brother Dow Allen**, a very respected and capable pastor. It is not unusual for the auditorium to be more than “well filled” for services. Therefore, a new sanctuary is already in the planning stages.

1999 MEETING OF THE CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION

The 157th Session of the Cumberland Association met at Loyal Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Columbia on October 9, 1999. Eighty-nine attendees conducted business and enjoyed three practical messages centering around Christ’s appearances from Hebrews 9:24-28.

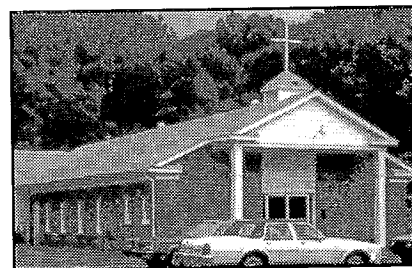
The association voted to send a semi-truck loaded with needed items to help North Carolina Free Will Baptist flood victims of Hurricane Floyd. The association also voted to meet November 13 to honor Dr. L.C. Johnson, Rev. Robert Crawford, Rev. Raymond Riggs and Rev. Homer Willis. Each of these men has served the Lord through Free Will Baptists for 60 years or more.

Rev. Jon Justice was reelected moderator for 1999-2000 associational year.

This was an outstanding meeting of the association.

NEW WORK IN MEMPHIS

Members of Hope Free Will Baptist Church of Memphis have given their building to the National Home Missions Department for a Hispanic ministry to be begun. The new, Spanish-speaking church was begun on August 5, 1999. **Gustavo Zuniga Jasso**, a Free Will Baptist missionary from Mexico, is the missionary-pastor. He is an Associate Missionary and this is a joint Tennessee/National project. Several



Hispanics are already in attendance—and the work is growing. **Brother Carlos Rubio** is giving overall supervision, and **Tyrell Wagner**, son of **Pastor and Mrs. Wayne Wagner**, a layman who speaks Spanish, is also giving assistance.

Please pray for this very newest state missions project. Our prayers and financial assistance are needed. Send earmarked offerings, “Brother Jasso,” to National Home Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



Bro. Jasso

THE CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY OF THE CARLOS RUBIO FAMILY

Brother Rubio is a native of Mexico and his wife **Sarah** hails from the state of North Carolina. Carlos attended the Rio Grande Bible Institute, and he and Sarah both attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, where Carlos earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Sarah also attended Pitt Community College in North Carolina, earning an Associate degree in Applied Science, and presently works as a registered nurse. Brother Rubio headed the Spanish ministry at **Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church** in Hookerton, North Carolina for four years and is presently pastoring a Spanish congregation, **Iglesia Bautista Libre Getsemani**, in Nashville. They have one son, **Christopher Josiah**.



Nashville has more than 30,000 people in the local Spanish community. There are only a limited number of Bible-believing churches in this area available for the Hispanic population to attend. The potential is tremendous—almost overwhelming—for reaching the people for Christ. Brother Carlos will continue his work as pastor of Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. He will also be helping to coordinate other Spanish-speaking works throughout the state of Tennessee, as well as participating in missions conferences. Please pray for the Rubio family as they follow the Lord’s leading in working with the Spanish-speaking people. Support may be sent to National Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

2000 ASSOCIATIONAL MEETINGS
Tennessee State Association, November 13-15
Donelson Free Will Baptist Church • Nashville, TN

APPALACHIAN ASSOCIATION

Jan. 15 Trinity, Erwin
 April 7-8 Eastside
 July 8 TBA
 Oct. 14 TBA

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

Jan. 14 Crossville
 April 14 Victory, McMinnville
 July 21 First, McMinnville
 Oct. 13 Victory, McMinnville

CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION

Oct. 21 Ashland City

Northern Quarterly

Jan. 8 Trinity, Bowling Green, KY
 April 8 Ashland City
 July 8 Bethel
 Oct. 14 Bethlehem

South Central Quarterly

Jan. 8 Crossroads
 April 1 First, Murfreesboro
 June 24 Berean
 Oct. 7 New Life

Southern Quarterly

Jan. 14 Madison
 April 14 Manchester
 July 14 Richland
 Oct. 6 Smyrna

Western Quarterly

Jan. 8 First, Dickson
 April 8 First, McEwen
 July 8 First, Waverly
 Oct. 7 Hurricane Chapel

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Jan. 21-22 Smithville
 May 19-20 Taylor's Seminary
 Sept. 22-23 (annual) First, Albany, KY

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION

Jan. 8 Morrison City First
 April 1 Living Waters
 July 1 Magnolia
 Oct. 7 (annual) New Life

TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

Jan. 28-29 Solitude
 April 28-29 New Chapel
 July 28-29 Piney Grove
 Sept. 15-16 (annual) Solitude

TOE RIVER ASSOCIATION

Feb. 19 Berea
 May 20 Buffalo Valley
 Aug. 18-19 Locust Gap
 Nov. 18 TBA

UNION ASSOCIATION

Aug. 15-17 The Oaks at FWBFM

Central Quarterly

Feb. 12 Shady Grove
 May 13 West Greene
 Aug. 12 Greystone
 Nov. 11 Union Chapel

Eastern Quarterly

April 14 Unicoi
 Oct. 13 Boone's Creek

Northern Quarterly

Jan. 22 Mt. Carmel
 April 22 Phipps Bend
 July 22 Pine Grove
 Oct. 21 Pine View

Western Quarterly

Feb. 5 Fairview
 May 6 Forest Grove
 Aug. 5 Valley View
 Nov. 4 Wooddale

WEST TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION

March 10 Victory
 June 7 Grace
 Sept. 9 (annual) Liberty
 Dec. 8 Hope

**TENNESSEE STATE ASSOCIATION
 OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
 TREASURER'S REPORT
 SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1999**

Income

Appalachian Assn.	
Appalachian Assn.	\$296.18
Johnson City First	200.00
Keensburg	75.00
Watauga Valley	165.00
Central Assn.	
Crossville	200.00
Cumberland Assn.	
Ashland City	298.10
Bethel	146.12
Bethlehem	180.00
Corner Stone	335.00
Cross Timbers	65.00
Cumberland Assn.	241.39
Donelson	1,206.31
Dunbar Chapel	75.00
East Nashville	75.00
Fellowship	1,159.41
Flatwoods	50.00
Friendship	45.00
Good Springs	203.21
Heads	158.21
Hendersonville	200.00
Miller's Chapel	1,383.00
New Hope	150.00
Oakwood	75.00
Richland	85.30
South Central Quarterly	25.00
Trinity	84.00
Waverly	75.00
Western Quarterly	50.00
Woodbine	350.00
Liberty Assn.	
Liberty Assn.	503.21
Union Assn.	
Bethany	20.00
Church Hill	300.00
Community Chapel	100.00
Fairview	20.00
Fellowship	150.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Harris Memorial	110.69
Limestone	75.00
Loudon	25.00
Oak Ridge	208.71
Shady Grove	150.00
Unicoi	75.00
Union Assn.	100.00
Valley View	127.71
West Greene	75.00
Wooddale	196.22
Individuals	130.00
State Association Fees	12,484.00
State Association Offerings	1,707.79
Total Income	\$24,284.56
Total Expenditures	\$12,254.98

Thank you for your gifts to 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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists
 3606 West End Avenue
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