

THE ECHO

Uniting Volunteers for Christ

Volume 20

March--April 1987

Number 2

The ECHO is a bi-monthly publication of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists.
Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Raymond Riggs, Editor.

SPRING AND A NEWNESS OF LIFE

by Joe D. Allen

"Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." —John 11:25, 26

Winter reminds us of advanced age and death, but spring brings a newness, a freshness of life, as the world greens and early flowers burst into bloom. The sun warms our chilly world and birds sing with cheering music. New plants and new animals appear and man gains hope for the coming year.

How appropriate that we celebrate Easter, commemorating the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, as spring brings newness of life to a winter-weary world! Christ's resurrection brings Christians renewed hope in this sin-weary world. "He is not here, for He is risen!" the angel announced on that early Sunday morning long ago. (Matt. 28:6) Those beautiful words still stir our hearts every year.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you!" (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Christ's resurrection was total victory over sin, death and the grave. He conquered them all and made it possible for us to have victory over these enemies. When we put our trust in Him, claiming Him as our personal Saviour, we are also promised eternal life after physical death.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us

the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:55-57)

Of course, this victory becomes possible only after we have been "born again" or saved. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:3, 5)

With the spiritual birth comes "a newness of life," and we should "walk in a newness of life." (Rom. 6:4) "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation); Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17) "You hath He quickened (brought to life) who were dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:1) "Put on the new man which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:24)

Eternal life is promised to those who are born again. Jesus said that in heaven or eternity, "Behold I make all things new." (Rev. 21:5) In Rev. 21:4, we learn that there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain. Verse 25 says there will be no night there and the Lamb of God (Jesus) will be the source of eternal light. Verse 27 adds that nothing (or no one) shall enter that defiles, only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

As spring brings a newness of life in the world of nature, the true gospel of Jesus Christ and His resurrection should bring about a newness of life, a big difference, in us spiritually. May we have a renewed determination to live more dedicated lives in the coming months!

Ed. Note: Bro. Joe Allen is a member of Olivet Free Will Baptist Church, Clarksville, TN.

STATELY SPEAKING

by Raymond Riggs



Bro. Marion Pettus from Happy Hills Says—

Bro. Hunt from Faith Church in Columbia gave a woodstove for the manager's home.

Those who worked on November 22 to pour concrete and put shingles on the lodge: Terry Watson, Bro. Kenneth Wilson, Jeff Craig, Lee Culwell, David Pettus, Fulton Edwards, Bro. Willard McCarroll, and Carroll Poole.

Bro. Clayton Hampton and Oakwood Church for use of their copier for our newsletter each month.

"Work for the night is coming, when man works no more." The truth of those words has been brought to us recently. You will notice above that Fulton Edwards worked with us on November 22. He went home to glory December 5 at the age of 75. He often commented about how few people came to work at the camp. Now that he is gone, who will take his place?

Needs

1. Shower stalls (\$200.00), Commodes (\$65.00), Lavatory (\$45.00).
2. Sickle type mower.
3. Shower curtains and bathroom brushes.
4. Propane tank.
5. Concrete finishers and blocklayers.

SPRING YOUTH RETREAT AT HAPPY HILLS—APRIL 17-18 Y'ALL COME!

The Crowsons From France write:

We praise the Lord for *your continued prayers and support*. We really appreciate your faithfulness. But we do need more supporters, and perhaps you could pray and encourage others to give. The dollar has lost value here in France over the past year and a half. Practically speaking, things are almost 40% higher than they were before we came home on furlough in 1985! Our account suffers from this, and needs help.

Continue to pray, thank you for giving. May the Lord bless your lives there where you are. May all our lives honor Him.

Rev. Allen Presley, back in Tennessee

Bro. Presley has recently returned to Tennessee from a pastorate in Michigan and is available for pastoral work. He may be contacted as follows: Rev. Allen Presley, Route #4, Sweetwater, TN 37874. Phone #1-615-337-7548.

78 ON FALL SEMESTER BIBLE COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Seventy-eight students completed the fall semester at Free Will Baptist Bible College with grades averaging B or higher, according to Dr. Charles Hampton, Registrar.

THE TENNESSEE HONOR ROLL STUDENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

"A"—Barbara Allen, Richardson, Fred Hoffman, Julie Martin, Julie Steele,

"B"—Daniel Dean, Vicky Christy, Michele Polk, Coleen Spears, Karen Tippett, Mike Gragg, Wendy Grindstaff, Sheila Pratt, Melissa Renfrow, Andrew Thompson, Tamara Walley, Michael Curtis, Joel Hampton, Randy Hood, Cheryl Hudson, Paul Shelton, Monica Vincent, and Lynn Williams. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS—ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE VOLUNTEER STATE!

Donnie and Ruth MacDonald from Japan writes something of interest that no doubt would apply to all of our Foreign Missionaries. Let's remember all of them in prayer. Donnie & Ruth say, —

One of the first words we included in our Japanese vocabulary is the one you see listed above—GAJJIN! Funny, but we didn't even have to work to memorize this one. It could very well be the word we hear most often here in the city of Tokyo, Japan. Compared with the one-race Japanese population, we look funny, talk funny and act funny. We are gaijin!

Fortunately, being a gaijin isn't all bad. The stares and constant notice we get can be assets. Sometimes our very "foreign-ness" is just what's needed to open the door of friendship with the Japanese. Take for instance the Fujisawa family. We met Mr. Fujisawa, owner of a local gas company, while trying to get our appliances hooked up. Just an ordinary business contact. But, because we are gaijin and he is interested in improving his English, he took an interest in us.

Over a month ago, he took us out to eat and to a classical concert. Then, just two weeks ago, he and his family were our very first Japanese dinner guests. Were we ever nervous! We served American food (which they didn't like too well) and ate with silverware (which they had a hard time using!). But, it was a good experience for us and, we trust, for them.

Mr. Fujisawa is, like most Japanese, a follower of the Shinto and Buddhist religions. But, sometime in the past, he attended a Christian funeral. He asked us, "Why do Christians call each other 'brother' and 'sister'?" And, we were able to tell him in mixed Japanese and English: "When we believe in Christ, God becomes our Father. Therefore, all believers are our brothers and sisters. That includes Americans, Japanese, Koreans, Africans, and people all over the world who believe in Christ!" Though a very simple truth, we hope that this can be a small nugget of witness to the Fujisawa family. You see, in their Shinto religion, only Japanese people are eligible to take part. Gaijin are excluded because only the Japanese race is the "chosen" race which descended from the gods!

Continue to pray for us as we adjust to life in Japan.

PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED

The Executive Committee of the National Association in their last meeting arranged the following program to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, July 19-23, 1987

Theme—GROW TOWARD THE GOAL—

The main Speakers are as follows:

Sunday Morning—Rev. Larry Condit

Sunday Evening—Rev. Delbert Akins

Monday Evening—Dr. Ken Riggs

Tuesday Evening—Rev. Dale Skiles

Wednesday Evening—Rev. Milton Worthington

The Bible Conference Speakers for Tuesday are Rev. Fred Hall and Rev. Johnny Pike.

Various other men have also been assigned to preside at the different services. Already the brethren from Alabama are busy with their plans for the Convention, and ALL OF US have been asked to really pray for this meeting. Begin now to plan for the National Association in Birmingham!

BRO. RIGGS' SCHEDULE

March 22-26—Revival—Thomaston, Georgia—Rev. Gerald Baxley

April 3 & 4—Sunday School Revival—Conway, Arkansas—Camp Ground

April 5-10—Revival—Jenkins, Kentucky—Rev. John DePriest

April 17-19—Revival—Grace Church, Memphis, Tennessee—Rev. Glenn Poston

April 26-30—Revival—Morehead City, North Carolina—Rev. Mance Cason

May 15—Attend Grandson's Wedding—(Kevin)—Nashville, Tennessee

May 17-22—Revival—Dickson, Tennessee—Rev. Wayne Bess

May 23-25—Family Reunion—Hillmont Camp, White Bluff, Tennessee

QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF UNION ASSOCIATION

April 10, 1987—Friday, Eastern Quarterly, Fellowship FWB Church 7:00 p.m.

April 25, 1987—Saturday, Northern Quarterly, Riverside FWB Church 9:45 a.m.

May 2, 1987—Saturday, Western Quarterly, Knoxville First FWB Church 9:30 a.m.

May 16, 1987—Saturday, Central Quarterly, Overlook Drive FWB Church 9:15 a.m.

COOKEVILLE CHURCH CALLS NEW PASTOR

Rev. David Crowe, from Alabama has been called to pastor the Cookeville FWB Church in Cookeville, Tennessee. For the last two years Bro. Crowe was engaged in full time evangelism and he comes to the church with a good track record, both as pastor and evangelist. The Cookeville Church has been a good supporter of the State Office since its inception, and we welcome Bro. Crowe to our state and to Cookeville Church. Please pray that he will have a successful ministry there!

STATE OFFICE STILL NEEDS SUPPORT

Thanks to all of you who are supporting in any way the State Office. We are still operating on a very small balance, and we need your continuing support, and we

The first of February we began an emergency shelter that will broaden our ministry. This is very needful according to the Department of the Human Services.

Our goal for 1987 is that we will have twenty children on campus by the end of the year. In 1985 the Department of Human Services placed 6,000 Children in Foster Care. We need to meet the challenge that is before us.

The Home needs your continuing prayer and financial support.

In the Child-care Ministry,
 A. J. Looper, Superintendent

**Treasurer's Report
 for December 1986 and January 1987**

Balance on Hand	\$3,506.57
Receipts for December 1986 & January 1987	
Calvary FWB Church	22.00
Goodsprings FWB Church	50.00
Oakwood FWB Church	118.00
Cookeville FWB Church	341.75
First FWB Church, Sparta, TN	126.68
Liberty Association of FWB Church, TN	111.50
Grace FWB Church, Nashville, TN	30.00
Watauga Valley FWB Church	100.00
First FWB Church, Greeneville, TN	30.00
Monterey FWB Church	100.00
Faith FWB Church	82.00
Dewey Barnard	30.00
Interest	19.86
Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists	864.18
Total Receipts for	
December 1986 & January 1987	\$2,025.97
Total on hand	5,532.54

Total Disbursements

Glenn Poston (Stamps)	22.00
Wendall Walley (Expenses)	115.00
Gwyn Pugh (Expenses)	21.00
Howard Messer (Expenses)	13.20
Glenn Poston (Expenses)	20.00
Terry Boyd (Expenses)	66.00
Wayne Wagner (Expenses)	15.00
National Home Missions (Millington Work)	45.40
National Home Missions (Terry Mosely)	10.00

Total Disbursements 327.60

Balance on Hand 1-26-87 \$5,204.94

Breakdown of Cash on Hand

General Fund Account	\$2,236.18
Glenn Poston Account	1,178.60
Poston Land Fund	630.00
Lebanon work	1,128.16
Paris Work	32.00

Balance on Hand 1-26-87 \$5,204.94

Respectfully Submitted

Wayne Wagner, Home Missions Treasurer
 Route 2, Box 183
 Cedar Hill, TN 37032

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS NEWS

TEAGUES APPOINTED AS DORM PARENT REPLACEMENTS

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Jim and Evelyn Teague of Newport, Tennessee, have been appointed as dorm parent replacements for Neil and Sheila Gilliland at Bouake, Ivory Coast. The Gillilands will return to the United States in the summer of 1987 and the Teagues hope to be in Ivory Coast before Neil and Sheila leave.



The Board of Foreign Missions for Free Will Baptists made the official appointment during its semiannual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, in December.

Mr. Teague is a skilled construction worker who went to Ivory Coast early in 1985 to help in building some needed facilities on the medical station. At that time, God spoke to his heart about serving others. When he and his wife, Evelyn, prayed for God's will, the opportunity to serve in Ivory Coast was presented.

The Teagues have had experience with rearing three of their own children and even served for one year as house parents at the Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Jim is continuing to hold his employment and fills deputational appointments on weekends so he can conserve money and be ready to go to the field on schedule.

People interested in having Jim and Evelyn for a service or wanting information about support needs should contact Foreign Missions, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202, or phone 615/361-1010.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

WOMEN IN ACTION By Jane Bailey

It is hoped that all women's auxiliaries have gotten off to a good start this year. If for some reason your auxiliary has not received a copy of this year's plan of action, write to Anne Worthington, 3308 Timber Trail, Antioch, TN 37013 for a copy. Adopted projects for March and April are as follows:

March—STATE PROJECT: raising \$2000 for Jim and Evelyn Teague, missionary appointees to Ivory Coast Academy to serve as dorm parents. This is an urgent need as they need to leave in June in order to be "oriented" to the academy before the Gilliland's departure in July.

April—FOREIGN MISSION MONTH: offering to foreign mission's general fund or to a particular missionary's account.

We have received letters of appreciation from Gene Waddell (general director of Foreign Missions), Jim & Evelyn Teague, Glenn Poston, Janie Aldridge and Mary Ruth Wisheart. The Teagues appreciate being chosen as our state project and request that we remember them in prayer as they make preparations for the Ivory Coast. Janie expressed her thanks for being able to share with us during the state association banquet and for the support we have given the advanced celebration project. Bro. Waddell also expressed his gratitude for our support of these two projects. Bro. Glenn wrote to thank us for the opportunity of speaking at the state association during worship on Tuesday and for our contribution to his account. Lastly, but certainly not least, Dr. Wisheart expressed her thanks for our donations to the provision closet for our missionaries. At this time they are in need of full size sheet sets, full size mattress covers, four and six quart pressure cookers, and matching towel sets.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—September 24-26 are the dates of our state retreat at Smoky Shadows Conference Center in Pigeon Forge. More details will be released in future ECHOs. Pray for the officers as they meet to plan the retreat and state association convention.

If your church does not have an auxiliary, but would like to organize one; contact our field worker Debbie Mitchell, Route 1, Limestone, Tn 37681 and she will assist you.

FREE WILL BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN NEWS

From the Superintendent of Free Will Baptist Home for Children:

Things are going well and we are getting settled in as the new superintendent.

God has given us a good staff to work with. Their cooperation has been very helpful to me in getting settled in this new work.

We received one child in the month of January, and have five that may be a prospect for our ministry.

also need several new supporters to keep operating in the black. If the *Echo* and the State Work mean any thing to you why don't you send a special offering soon to help us keep on keeping on? It would certainly be appreciated! Remember send all monies to our State Treasurer, Rev. Wallace Hayes, 305 Santa Rosa Drive, Old Hickory, TN 37138

If you have news items, reports, compliments or complaints, please send them to the editor: Rev. Raymond Riggs, Post Office Box 49334, Algood, TN 38501

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE NEWS

175 ATTEND WELCOME DAYS

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Free Will Baptist Bible College had 175 visitors from 15 states and Mexico attend fall Welcome Days, November 20-22, according to Dr. Charles Hampton, Coordinator.

The visitors represented 58 churches and several Christian schools. The largest group was 11 from Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN. Two churches had eight in their groups: Cleveland (OH) Free Will Baptist Church and East 38th Street Free Will Baptist Church, Anderson, IN. The leading states were Tennessee (28) and Ohio (24).

The next Welcome Days is scheduled for April 2-4, 1987. Please write or call the college to register or to request more information.

WELCOME DAYS
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205-0117
(615) 383-1340

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS NEWS

REV. ROY THOMAS, NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS DIRECTOR SAYS:

"I want to thank the Lord and the good people of Tennessee for making it possible for the National Home Missions Department to have such a good year in 1986. Although income was down for much of the year, the last three months were record months. Our total gifts were \$1,830,978.96, which was \$30,978.96 over our quota and an increase of \$31,572.41 over 1985. Tennessee gave \$206,371.13, toward your quota of \$240,000.00. We really appreciate your help!

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS NEWS

The Board approved several new missionaries in its meeting December 1-3. Louie Nix will go as an Associate Missionary to the Hawaiian Islands. He is from Alabama and brings 23 years of pastoral experience. His wife's name is Donna.

Gwyn and Rebecca Pugh will go to Millington, Tennessee for one year. They have already moved and have had several saved.

Bill Campbell is a layman. He and his wife Sandra have been greatly used of the Lord as fund raisers for missions. They will work without pay to erase deficit missionary accounts and raise funds for various projects for Home Missions.

Alvis and June Paul will go to Glendale, Arizona (a suburb of Phoenix) as Associate Missionaries. They have some families who will move with them to help in the work.

James and Mitzi Munsey have been employed as Coordinators for Mexico. He will assist the 30 pastors and churches now in existence, and will start new churches by using national pastors.

Melvin and Sheila Haas have completed itinerate and moved to Hartford, Connecticut.

Howard and Patsy Gwartney arrived in Mesa, Arizona (a suburb of Phoenix) on December 27.

James Sasser and his wife Janice had 28 in their first service December 7 in the Washington, D.C. area of Maryland.

I am praying that 1987 will be the best year yet for Home Missions and for all Free Will Baptists everywhere. Thank you for your help.

ROLL CALL SUNDAY March 29, 1987

The National Home Missions Department urges our churches to band together in a cooperative effort to have an attendance of 227,000 in morning worship service on March 29, 1987. Note: Pastors are urged to count SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH ATTENDANCE ON MARCH 29. Every church will be contacted to obtain results. Let's reach "227 in '87!" (Sponsored by the Evangelism and Church Growth Division of the Home Missions Department, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.)