

THE TENNESSEE

ECHO Uniting Volunteers for Christ

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Number 2

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Pastor Doug Roberson Passes Away

Doug Roberson, Pastor of First FWB Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, went to be with the Lord on January 16, 1993. He leaves behind Helen, a faithful wife of 47 years; a daughter, Fran; a son-in-law; and two grandchildren.

Doug, an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College and a native of Tennessee, was laid to rest in Algood, Tennessee. The funeral was conducted by Hughes Ellis and Jack Taylor with music provided by Ken and Anita Haney.

His conversion to Christ was at Philadelphia FWB Church in Detroit, Michigan, in 1953. Doug answered the call to the ministry in 1954 and helped to organize and then pastored the First FWB Church in Toledo, Ohio. Other churches he pastored were all in Tennessee, except the First FWB Church in Newport News, Virginia. The Tennessee churches he pastored were Mt. Zion, Woodbine, Head's, Forest Grove, Johnson's Chapel, and First at Knoxville, where he was pastoring when he died.

Brother Roberson was one of our leading pastors. He was a serious student of God's Word and a very fine preacher and pastor. He was active in associational, district, and national denominational affairs.



Confidence Affirmed for Foreign Missions Board, Staff Members, and Missionaries

1. We affirm our confidence in the Foreign Missions Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists to conduct the Foreign Missions affairs of the National Association.

2. We further affirm our confidence in the General Director, the Reverend Eugene Waddell, and his staff in the Foreign Missions Department.

3. We also affirm our confidence in all of the Foreign Missionaries who presently serve the Foreign Missions Board, and especially those from the state of Tennessee. We believe that each one is a person of Christian character and godliness and believes in and practices Free Will Baptist doctrine, including the Church Covenant.

4. We are totally opposed to public or private meetings which seek to undermine the efforts of the Foreign Missions Board, its General Director, or any of the Foreign Missionaries. If anyone, at anytime, has grievances against the Foreign Missions Board, the General Director, a Field Council, or an individual missionary, there are proper and legitimate channels through which these may be directed.

5. We are in favor of everyone following the Biblical guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17 in correcting grievances.

Executive Committee, Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Moderator | Don Walker |
| Asst. Moderator | Glenn Poston |
| Clerk | Ken Smith |
| Asst. Clerk | Eugene Workman |
| Treasurer | E. B. McDonald |
| Promotional Director | Charles A. Thigpen |
| Members-at-Large | Darrell Pickle |
| | Fred Hall |
| | Howard Munsey |

Tennessee Is Number One!

Tennessee is the leading state in overall denominational support in 1992. For the past several years, no state has contributed more to National Ministries than Tennessee. **The Tennessee Echo** expresses thanks to every individual and church who made this record giving possible. Total gift income to all national ministries for 1992 was \$7,832,441.46.

The top five states are the following:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Tennessee | \$1,137,647.52 |
| North Carolina | \$846,428.54 |
| Oklahoma | \$712,113.19 |
| Missouri | \$578,514.66 |
| Arkansas | \$493,426.91 |



Medical Fund for the Sextons



The following is a portion of "An Open Letter to Friends of Don and Billie Sexton" from Eugene Waddell, General Director of the Board of Foreign Missions. Churches and individuals should respond generously and regularly to this vital need. Bro. Waddell writes:



Don is receiving Social Security disability and is covered by Medicare, but this does not pay for medicine. Billie is continuing to be covered under the department's health insurance policy by paying the \$198 per month premium herself. Under this policy Billie's medicine is covered, except for a \$10 co-payment for each prescription. However, Don is not covered under this insurance. And we all know how dreadfully expensive his medication is. **This is the Sextons' biggest financial burden.**

In discussing this with several East Tennessee pastors we unanimously agreed that we would try to help cover the expense for Don's medicine and Billie's insurance premiums. Bro. Jonas Revis, pastor of the Valley Forge FWB Church, has agreed to handle the funds. He will work with a committee composed of Bro. Howard Munsey, Bro. Steve Corbett, and Bro. Gene Deaton.

I hope all of Don and Billie's friends will get behind this effort. Please send your check made payable to the Valley Forge FWB Church for "The Medical Fund." Bro. Revis' address is Rt. 8 Box 270, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

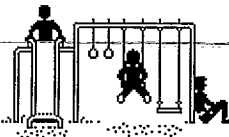



Youth Camps: 1993 Camping Schedule

Camp Joshua, Greenville, TN
 Director: Rev. Ken Smith
 Rt. 10, Box 318A
 Greenville, TN 37743
 615/639-2879

June 7-11	Day Camp
June 13-19	Sr. High
June 20-26	Jr. High
June 27- July 2	Jr.

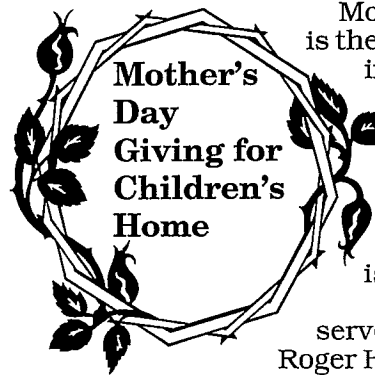
Cumberland Youth Camp-Happy Hill Acres
 Camp Manager: Marion Pettus
 2193 Happy Hill Acres Road
 Woodlawn, TN 37191
 615/647-5111



April 23-24	Spring Retreat	Teens
June 13-18	Jr. Camp #1	8-11 yr. olds
June 20-25	Jr. Camp #2	8-11 yr. olds
June 27-July 2	Teen Camp #1	Teens
July 11-16	Jr. Camp #3	8-11 yr. olds
July 25-30	Jr. Camp #4	8-11 yr. olds
Aug. 1-6	Teen Camp #2	Teens
Oct. 8-9	Children's Retreat	8-11 yr. olds
Oct. 15-16	Fall Retreat	Teens

Please Note

A file is maintained in the Promotional Office on pastors and others seeking church positions. Please write or call 615/383-1340 or 615/297-0327 if you need assistance.



Mother's Day, May 9, 1993, is the day when a special offering should be received for the Free Will Baptist Home for Children. This offering will be used to help underwrite the cost of the Emergency Shelter. The amount needed is \$50,000.

The Emergency Shelter served 141 children in 1992. Roger Hood, Executive Director, says, "Your prayers and support will make the difference in a child's life. Please help us reach even more children this year. Every child deserves a chance to come to know the Lord as their personal Savior and make dreams come true."

Here's how you can help. Encourage everyone—Woman's Auxiliaries, Master's Men, Sunday School and CTS classes—to set goals. Challenge them to help raise the \$50,000 our Emergency Shelter needs to continue its progress in helping children. Set aside May 9, 1993 as a special day for Free Will Baptist Home For Children and the Emergency Shelter. Take a special love offering designated to the "Mother's Day Offering." (Matthew 10:42)

Old Time Camp Meeting



The National Home Missions Team of Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer, and Richard Adams will conduct an Evangelism Conference in all of the churches of the Central Association in Tennessee, April 16-18, 1993. The service will be at Victory Church, McMinnville, on Friday night, April 16, and Faith Church, Manchester, on Saturday night, April 17. On Sunday, April 18, one team member will be in each church of the Central Association.

Attention Pastors and Church Leaders

Tennessee's share in the new National Offices' building is \$100,000. As we have approximately 20,000 members in our Tennessee churches, this amounts to an average of \$5 per member. Several churches and individuals have given to this worthy cause. Slightly more than \$20,000 has been given. Please see that your church and your people do their fair share. Please include this in your giving program for this year. Earmark your gifts "National Office Building" and send them to Rev. E. B. McDonald, Tennessee State Treasurer.

Coming Events

Mark Your Calendar

Welcome Days, FWBBC	April 1-3
Mother's Day Offering for Children's Home	May 9
State CTS Competition, FWBBC	June 4-5
National Assn. of Free Will Baptists, Louisville, KY	July 18-22
Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Retreat, Gatlinburg, TN	Sept. 23-25



52 Won For Christ in 1992

Echo editor interviews Gene Deaton, Pastor of First FWB Church, Johnson City, TN.

Q: Why did you decide to win an average of one soul to Christ each week in 1992?

A: For some time I had been concerned about reaching more unsaved people and trying to determine the best way to win them. The Lord had impressed upon my heart something that I had read. Someone had stated that we should ask God for something so big that when it was done it would be very evident that He had done it. We have a prayer meeting every Sunday evening before the regular service, usually with forty or more people present. In mid-January of 1992, I felt impressed to suggest that we ask God for an average of one soul per week for the entire year. We already had two or three who had been saved that month. The folks seemed to agree and this became a definite prayer-concern every week.

Q: Did your leaders, teachers, and other church leaders work with you in reaching these lost people?

A: Yes, everyone prayed and worked together. I have a great group of Sunday School teachers. In fact, there have been only two "turnovers" among the teachers in twelve years. These teachers and other leaders stimulated concern and interest and helped our people to focus attention on reaching the lost of our city for Christ.

Q: How many of these 52 were won in church services and how many elsewhere?

A: Most of these were won in the regular church services. There were 24 decisions made on Sunday mornings, 14 on Sunday nights, 10 during Children's Church, and 3 at Youth Camp (my wife and I both worked at Youth Camp. These were youth from our church). Only one decision was made at home. The last one was saved after our Christmas program when an invitation was given.

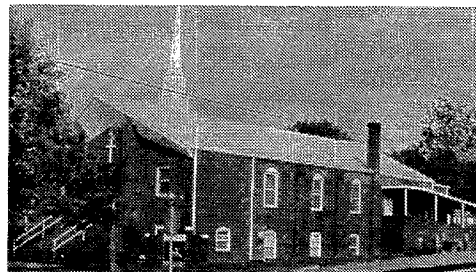
Q: What were the overall results for your church?

A: Throughout the year we had 53 people to join our church. I actually baptized only 38 people. Some of these who were saved united with other local churches. Our Sunday morning attendance really improved. In 1991, our attendance was 238, and in



Pastor & Mrs.
Gene Deaton

First Free Will Baptist Church, Johnson City, Tennessee



1992 it was 271.

Q: Did this great victory do anything for your people?

A: It really did. When we met together, there was an air of excitement and expectancy. The folks seemed thrilled as they waited for yet another person to publicly acknowledge Christ as Savior.

Q: What advice would you give to a pastor about setting a similar goal?

A: He must certainly have his heart in it. Really, this goal became my main initiative in my pastorate work. It became a 24-hour a day obsession. During every contact, every prayer, every message, I never lost sight of the goal. It must become a pastor's chief desire and his people must get something of the same urgency.

Q: What kind of "follow-up" has been used with these new converts?

A: Our teachers have helped greatly in teaching, stabilizing and conserving these results. But I have taught these people in their homes on a one-to-one basis. Many weeks, I devote two nights a week to going into their homes and helping these new converts to "grow in grace and in the knowledge" of Christ. I always seek to include a strong teaching element in my preaching also.

Q: Any final observation, Pastor Deaton?

A: Yes, I want to say that it is the new believers who really reach out and get others. They get their friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors to come to church to hear the gospel. The older Christians should be good examples of spiritual growth and development to inspire and bless these new people. But the ones who do most of the reaching out are the new converts themselves.

TWAC Retreat Reservation Form

WHAT: Tennessee State Woman's Auxiliary Retreat

WHEN: September 23-25, 1993

WHERE: Gatlinburg, TN at the River Terrace Resort, 240 River Road in the heart of Gatlinburg

PROGRAM: "Kept for the Master's Use" based on Frances Havergal's book with the same title. Several exciting things are being planned, including a Readers Theatre, Missions Bulletin Board, and a breakfast buffet.

Speakers include Elizabeth Hodges, Debbie Mitchell, Lorene Miley, Dawn Sweeney, and Carol Reid.

COST: Four to a room- \$51 per person Two to a room- \$77 per person

Three to a room- \$62 per person One to a room- \$134 per person

Above cost includes two nights lodging, Saturday Buffet Breakfast and registration.

SEND RESERVATIONS TO:

Ruth Ann Hall, 2320 Riverside Drive, Nashville, TN 37216 615/226-9762

List the names of persons staying in each room and include \$25 per person listed. This fee will apply to total cost and is non-refundable after August 15, 1993. Make copies of this reservation form for each room needed.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Enclosed is a check (make payable to TWAC) for \$ _____ RESERVATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15, 1993.

**Tennessee Financial Report
December, January, and February 1993
Appalachian Assn.**

Keensburg -----	75.00
Watauga -----	150.00
Appalachian Assn. -----	44.64

Cumberland Assn.

Bethlehem -----	111.00
Brandon's Chapel -----	420.85
Calvary-Nashville -----	286.92
Cross Timbers -----	100.00
Donelson -----	1,752.90
Dunbar Chapel -----	75.00
East Nashville -----	75.00
Friendship -----	45.00
Good Springs -----	254.32
Hendersonville -----	400.00
New Hope -----	50.00
Richland -----	15.64
Trinity -----	88.00

Liberty Assn.

Cookeville -----	175.00
Liberty Assn. -----	30.03

Northeast Assn.

Union Street -----	150.00
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Union Assn.

Bethany -----	15.00
Church Hill First -----	150.00
Forest Grove -----	75.00
Johnson's Chapel -----	73.80
Limestone -----	100.00
Roan Street -----	200.00
Union Assn. -----	449.84

Other

Valley Forge -----	200.00
Individuals -----	25.00
Home for Children -----	225.00
West Tennessee Dues -----	100.00
TN State Assn. -----	
Benevolent Fund Dissolution -----	201.29
Total -----	6,322.43

**Expenditures for December,
January and February**

-----	7,375.11
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Thank you for your support. 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.



**Smyrna Free Will Baptist Church
New Property for Smyrna Church**

Smyrna FWB Church recently purchased a four-acre tract of land at 6477 Florence Road, just north of Murfreesboro Road in Smyrna, Tennessee. This property has a building, 27' x 56', which is presently being used for all church services.

This church was begun in 1985 by tentmaker-pastor, Carlos Kelsey. He pastored the work faithfully and sacrificially for seven years and resigned because of his health. The church is now in the process of locating a pastor. Mildred Daniel (615/895-4392) is the church secretary and may be contacted for further information.

20 Tennessee Students On Dean's List

There were 20 "volunteers" on the honor roll at Free Will Baptist Bible College for first semester (1992-93) grades. We congratulate each of these for achieving this honor.

Juniors

- Scott Benton --- Ashland City
- Kyle Hayes ----- Nashville
- Bryan Pate ----- Nashville
- Rebecca Weems -- Greenville

Sophomores

- Jodi Chilton ----- Nashville
- Jennifer Garrett ---- Nashville
- Jill Goodfellow ---- Nashville
- Carrie Summar ---- Nashville
- Jennifer Workman -- Nashville

"A" Honor Roll

- Ben Evans ----- Nashville, Jr.
- Rebecca Hollifield -----
----- White Pine, Soph.
- Paige Powell --- Nashville, Sr.

"B" Honor Roll

- Seniors**
- Angela Bishop ----- Nashville
 - Pam Chandler ----- Joelton
 - Tommie Jo Malone - Nashville
 - John Waddell ----- Nashville

Freshmen

- Jennifer Hampton -- Nashville
- Shay Hood ----- Greenville
- Brent Jones ----- Nashville

Special

- Angie Deel ----- Franklin

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