

THE TENNESSEE

ECHO

Uniting
Volunteers for Christ 

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GOODLETTSVILLE CHURCH HAS GROUND BREAKING

Easter Sunday 1993 was a day of two-fold blessing for the congregation of the Goodlettsville FWB Church, 731 Dickerson Road S., Goodlettsville, Tennessee.

First, it was the traditional celebration of Easter; and second, it was the long-awaited day of ground breaking ceremony for a new worship center.

The church has met for several years in a renovated house on more than two acres of land. Under the guidance of a



building committee, plans have been drawn and approved for a 5,000 sq. ft. structure with the sanctuary on the upper level with educational and fellowship hall on the lower level of the proposed 70x40 ft. building.

Those working closely on the project are Bobby McKinney, Scott McKinney, Hank Welch, Robert Michael, Frank Deeter, and Jerry Neuenschwander. Dr. Malcolm C. Fry, Editor-in-Chief at Randall House Publications, serves as pastor.

AGNES FRAZIER WITH THE LORD

On May 18, 1993, Pastor Rob Morgan conducted the funeral service for Sister Agnes Frazier at the Ashland City FWB Church. Bro. Morgan was assisted by Brothers L. C. Johnson, Robert Crawford, and Homer Willis. Brother Fred Hall sang and led congregational singing.

Mrs. Frazier was truly one of the "great ladies" among Free Will Baptists. She served as a public school teacher for over thirty years. For more than fifty years she served in various denominational positions on the local, district, state, and national levels. In addition to serving in many capacities in the local church—teacher, pianist, organist, choir member—she was secretary of the Cumberland Association and of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists, served as Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention for five years, and she was secretary of the National Home Missions Board for three years. Also, she wrote articles and lesson materials for Church Training Service, Sunday School, and Woman's Auxiliary.

It would be very difficult to find a woman anywhere who has made a greater mark on an entire denomination that Agnes Frazier made on Free Will Baptists. May God give us more such wonderful women!



WE WELCOME

PASTOR & MRS. DOYLE PRUETT BACK TO TENNESSEE

We welcome Doyle and Linda Pruett to Canah Chapel FWB Church in Erwin, Tennessee. The Pruetts have four children: Pam, Mark, Rachel, and John. They are from the Loudon-Sweetwater area of Tennessee. The Pruetts began their ministry at Canah Chapel in May.

Bro. Pruett has had an effective and very productive ministry. He pastored East Sweetwater Church for seven years, the Alexander Church in Illinois for two years, Greeneville First (Greeneville, Tennessee) for eleven years, and North Spartanburg (South Carolina) for three and one-half years.

He has held many denominational positions, including promotional secretary for the Western Quarterly, member of the Licensing Council of the Western Quarterly, and member of the Ordaining Council of the Union Association. He has conducted numerous revival meetings, including two crusades in Jamaica and one in Mexico City. He has had a weekly radio program for thirteen years.

For all of the pastors, leaders, and church members here in Tennessee, we join together to say to the Pruetts, "We are so glad you are back!"



MY TESTIMONY

(The editor of Echo asked Bro. Doyle Pruett to share his personal experience with the Lord with all of us here in Tennessee.)

God used a combination of things to bring me to know the Lord. As a little boy I remember parents who called us children around an old cane-bottom rocking chair, reading the Bible and praying with us. I made a profession of faith about 1959 but I really never "nailed things down" with the Lord until a dear old Free Will Baptist preacher, Rev. Carson Whiteaker, moved to our community to pastor the Valley View FWB Church. I cannot thank the Lord enough for sending him and Sister Whiteaker our way.

The Lord was gracious in giving me a good wife, Linda, and her parents that prayed for me. On Sunday night, December 10, 1967 at about 10:00 p.m. I asked Linda to call that old Free Will Baptist preacher up the road that had been knocking on our door, visiting and praying for us. Linda called the preacher and he and Sister Whiteaker came. There in my home after being under conviction a long time, I prayed my way out of trouble and into the arms of a loving Savior.

Linda and I, along with our two oldest children Pam

and Mark, began attending the Valley View Church, where folks graciously encouraged us. Through various ways I began to feel the call of God to preach. I put it off for a long time, but at the Western Quarterly meeting of the Union Association which was meeting at the Fairview Church near Knoxville, God used Bro. Don Sexton to preach a message from Exodus 3:11 entitled "Who Am I" to speak to my heart. Bro. Don did not even know me, but the Holy Spirit used him that Saturday morning to almost call my name!

Linda and I did not sleep much that Saturday night. We could hardly wait for Sunday morning to come. On that Sunday morning after the quarterly meeting I walked down the aisle at the Valley View Church and announced my call to preach.

God has certainly been good to me. I have not missed a Sunday being a pastor since I started in 1970, and in addition to my pastoral work, I have been blessed to preach 184 revivals in 12 states.

~~We are happy to be back in the great state of Tennessee with the wonderful folks at the Canah Chapel Church in Erwin.~~

BOARD CONFIRMS MISSIONARIES' STAND ON FWB CHURCH COVENANT

We, the Board of Foreign Missions, met with nine missionaries from Spain and France April 28, 1993, and upon hearing each missionary we confirm the following:

Every missionary affirmed and reaffirmed his belief in the Free Will Baptist Treatise, our Articles of Faith, and the Free Will Baptist Covenant. Each pledged to this board that he would make every effort to practice, preach, teach, and wholeheartedly endeavor to implement all of the above as he seeks to bring his church to a self-governing, self-propagating, and self-supporting status.

Furthermore, these all firmly acknowledged their commitment to practice, preach, and teach total abstinence. They expressed the genuine desire to bring every church attendee to that same biblical conclusion.

We further direct the staff to instruct and strongly emphasize to all missionaries during the orientation and pre-field training the need to preach, teach, and model the Treatise, Articles of Faith and the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant. The missionaries must acknowledge that this board expects them to endeavor to implement all of these Free Will Baptist distinctives from the beginning of a mission church.

Furthermore, honest misunderstandings of the board's 1989 communique to the entire missionary staff which addressed the use and translation of the church covenant were clarified. (1989 statement: "Motion carried that if the church covenant is translated into another language, the full content be accurately translated in meaning. If any changes or deletions are considered, it must be by board approval.") The intent of the board's 1989 decision was to reaffirm that the covenant be taught and preached and that every endeavor be made to implement it in all our mission churches. This misunderstanding was due, in fact, to poor wording used by the board to communicate this intent.

In the recent meeting, each missionary affirmed that he now understands the board's intent and stated: "We regret any misunderstanding or offense which may have occurred. We want to assure you of our reaffirmation of all

denominational beliefs and practices."

Furthermore, be it known that from the inception of our work in Europe, our missionary efforts to firmly convince the European converts to believe and practice total abstinence have been frustrating. Every missionary currently serving in Europe has clearly affirmed that he models, teaches, preaches, and makes every reasonable effort to produce godly people, who are genuine Free Will Baptists in doctrine and lifestyle. This positively includes the practice of total abstinence. This has also been true of every missionary who has ever labored in Europe.

This process has been challenging, difficult, and slow. This board once again affirms that every missionary is laboring to produce total abstainers who adhere to the church covenant, but realizes that this process will in fact require substantially more time. It is encouraging that through the instruction and life testimony of our missionaries many, though not all, European converts have adopted, truly believe and practice total abstinence.

Once again, our European staff has affirmed their absolute commitment to preach, teach, and model total abstinence. They have also promised that they will faithfully endeavor to implement the church covenant.

Furthermore, every board member and the entire administrative staff join our missionaries in mutual affirmation to model, teach, preach and implement total abstinence and the church covenant.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and commendation to our missionary staff for their faithful service, life sacrifice, and visible commitment to bring Europeans to Christ. We further commend them for their stated loyalty and uncompromising commitment to produce bona fide Free Will Baptist churches in Europe.

We also wish to express our absolute confidence in and appreciation for our general director, R. Eugene Waddell, and the administrative staff for their wisdom, patience, and transparent spirit. We believe they have honestly endeavored to promote the worldwide spread of the gospel, demonstrate loyalty to our entire missionary staff, and uphold the precepts and standards set forth in our Articles of Faith and Church Covenant.

TENNESSEE FINANCIAL REPORT

March, April, May 1993

Income:

Appalachian Assn.

Keensburg ----- \$75.00
 Watauga Valley ----- 150.00
 Appalachian Assn. ----- 47.20

Center Assn.

Faith ----- 200.00

Cumberland Assn.

Bethlehem ----- 166.50
 Brandon's Chapel ----- 403.64
 Calvary ----- 468.51
 Cross Timbers ----- 50.00
 Cumberland Assn. ----- 1,846.36
 Donelson ----- 339.01

Dunbar Chapel ----- 75.00

East Nashville ----- 50.00

Friendship ----- 45.00

Good Springs ----- 274.25

Head's ----- 112.74

Hendersonville ----- 400.00

New Hope ----- 50.00

Trinity ----- 93.00

Liberty Assn.

Cookeville ----- 150.00

Liberty Assn. ----- 74.97

Northeast Assn.

Union Street ----- 150.00

Union Assn.

Bethany ----- 15.00

Church Hill First ----- 350.00

Forest Grove ----- 75.00

Johnson's Chapel ----- 75.31

Limestone ----- 125.00

Union Assn. ----- 463.07

Other Income:

Home for Children ----- 300.00

Tennessee Home Missions (refund) ----- 40.00

Transfer from Savings ----- 2,500.00

Total Income and Transfer ----- \$9,137.56

Expenditures for March, April, May 1993 --- \$9,295.43

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

Here's an Exciting V.B.S. Project!

Would you like to get your V.B.S. students excited about missions? The National Home Missions Department has FREE lesson booklets available for your teachers for their missions emphasis and story time during V.B.S. These lessons will acquaint the students with home missionaries serving in isolated places, and give them exciting missions projects for their V.B.S. classes.

Your V.B.S. can help National Home Missions! The Department challenges your Vacation Bible School to give a good offering for Home Missions. You may want to designate it to the GENERAL FUND of Home Missions which undergirds the entire work of the Department. Here are some ways your V.B.S. can help!

1. Set a cash goal and challenge your pupils to reach it.
2. Take a missions offering each day in V.B.S.
3. Give quarter folders (supplied free by the Department) and ask pupils to fill them for National Home Missions.

Use the order blank below to order your free V.B.S. Story Time Lessons on Home Missions and other materials.

Order Blank
FREE V.B.S. Missions Lessons

Yes! My church will plan for a V.B.S. offering for National Home Missions.

Please send the following free materials to be used in our V.B.S.

(Quantity)

V.B.S. Story Time Lessons on Home Missions (for teachers)

Quarter Folders

Prayer Cards for _____

Missionary Maps

Home Missions Directories

Mission Grams

Home Missions History Booklets

Home Missions Study Course

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

(Mail to Home Missions, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.)

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