

THE

ECHO Uniting Volunteers for Christ

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Eddie and Lola Hopkins

The Hopkinses serve as pastor and pastor's wife at First Free Will Baptist Church in Waverly, Tennessee. Brother Hopkins was converted to Christ on May 4, 1952. He is a native of Beckley, West Virginia. He answered God's call to the ministry in 1963 and has pastored churches in Ohio and Tennessee. Brother Hopkins organized and built the Stony Ridge Free Will Baptist Church in North Ridgeville, Ohio, and pastored the church for nine years. Later, he pastored First Church in Memphis for eight years; then he pastored North Memphis Church for twelve years. The Hopkinses have served First Church, Waverly, for one year.

The Hopkinses have two sons, four grandsons, and three granddaughters. Their son, Reggie, and his family live in Lexington, Ohio. Their son, Eddie, and his family live in South Bend, Indiana.

Brother Eddie and Sister Lola Hopkins are a great blessing to Free Will Baptists and especially to Free Will Baptists in Tennessee. Brother Hopkins is one of our most successful pastors. We thank God for the Hopkinses and their work for the Lord. He is a good preacher, a very fine pastor, and an excellent evangelist. Sister Hopkins is a most exemplary pastor's wife. The church they pastor is enjoying a new, beautiful, debt-free building with very adequate paved parking.



A Letter From Jerry and Barbara Gibbs Missionaries to France

We were appointed to France in August of 1972 and departed in March of 1974. We began our first term by working with the young people at the Rennes church. We are now ministering in the Free Will Baptist Church of Saint Nazaire, France. The Saint Nazaire church was begun in 1978 during our second term. The church has grown through the use of literature, personal contacts and individual Bible studies and is averaging 75 to 80 on Sunday mornings. In 1988 land was purchased and a church building was constructed. The church is now in the process of purchasing the adjacent property in order to build a fellowship hall, classrooms, and to have a meeting place for the youth group.



Barb and I just finished up our term of service this

past July, 21 years this March. This past term was six years long instead of the usual four years. We are finally seeing some strong leadership being developed in the Saint Nazaire church. This year is an important year for the church because they will be on their own with no pastor several months during the year 1994-1995. We are praying that this will be for them a good year of maturing. The Aldridges will be there about four and a half months and the McCulloughs will have been there three months filling in for us.

Marc, 18, our oldest son, is at FWBBC this year and is planning, at this time, to perhaps return to France after his college education to work in the music and youth ministry. Our other two boys, Joël and Ryan, will be going back with us to the field to finish their high school education.

Our return to the field is set for the month of July. This is a must, seeing that the church will have been without a pastor since the month of May. In order to go back we still need approximately **\$2,400** in monthly support and **\$7,350** in cash. Please pray with us that these needs be met.

First Church Erwin Assists West Knoxville

The youth of First Free Will Baptist Church in Erwin, Tennessee presented a check for \$1,500 to home missionary Gerald Fender on December 21. These young people were thrilled at the National Association Convention last July when the youth of Arkansas told about their "Norman Invasion," which was a campaign to assist foreign missionaries from their state. The Erwin youth launched a project to raise money for the building fund of the West Knoxville Free Will Baptist Church. Their project was called the "Volunteer Connection" and their slogan was "45 by December 25." The "45" refers to 45 square feet for the new building to be built in Knoxville. They achieved their goal and visited the Knoxville group and presented their \$1,500 check.

They raised money through the Vacation Bible School offering, "Patch the Pirate" weekly offerings, "Rock-A-Thon" by junior and senior youth groups, sold T-shirts, and sold Pizza Hut Gold Cards.

First Church, Erwin is pastored by Brother Ronnie Atkins. He is assisted by Brother Leo Martin. These young people and their church would like to challenge the young people in all Tennessee churches to develop projects to help build the West Knoxville church building. We thank the Lord for the youth of First Church, Erwin!



Western Quarterly Women Raise \$1,400

The auxiliaries in the churches of the Western Quarterly of the Union Association raised \$1,400 for the West Knoxville church building. This project was begun one year ago. Various means were used, such as craft sales. The auxiliary of Burl's Chapel raised \$515.50; this was the largest amount raised.

All these WNAC women of the Western Quarterly of the Union Association issue a challenge to all the women in all the Tennessee churches to devise a plan to assist the Fenders and the West Knoxville church building.

**Free Will Baptist
WNAC National Retreat
October 20-22, 1995
Glorieta Conference Center
Glorieta, New Mexico
Theme: "On the Trail with Him"
- Psalm 37:23
For additional information and applications contact
WNAC, P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
(615/731-6812).**



Sacrificing for Souls
"... Neither will I offer... unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing..."
2 Samuel 24:24

Jesus gave His life!

Surely some sacrifice on our part is in order!

- Fast for one meal a week during April and give the cost of the meal.
- Give up some vacation or travel plans and give the proposed costs.
- Do without some new item of clothing and give its cost.
- Give up desserts and soft drinks and contribute their price.

Give sacrificially to the

**Laura Belle Barnard
World Missions Offering
April 30, 1995**

Send gifts to FOREIGN MISSIONS, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002

New Hope Church Centennial

New Hope Free Will Baptist Church of Joelton, Tennessee will be celebrating their centennial homecoming on August 6, 1995. They would like to extend an invitation to all previous members, pastors, and all Bible College students who attended there while in school.

The day will be filled with various activities as we share together in worship, lunch, special singing, a history of the Lord's blessings on our church, an honoring of all the church's pastors, and sweet fellowship. Please make your plans to attend to help make this day of celebration special.

1994 Sexton Walk-A-Thon for Foreign Missions

The Tennessee State Foreign Mission Board is proud to present the following list of churches which participated in the 1994 Sexton Walk-A-Thon along with the amount that each raised. We thank you and congratulate you for your effort. The total received from churches and individuals as of January 8 was **\$120,350**. May our Lord richly bless each of you for your faithfulness and love for His work.

Limestone	\$8,833	Piney Grove-Hampton	945
Fellowship-Kingsport	6,227	Bethany	904
Valley Forge	5,273	Phipps Bend	896
Faith-Knoxville	4,005	Red Hill-NC	877
Keystone	3,933	Ashland City	825
Parker's Chapel	3,600	United	800
Glamorgan Chapel-VA		Dunbar's Chapel	700
	3,365	Oakdale	700
First-Sparta	2,876	First-Portland	700
Burl's Chapel	2,845	Heritage Temple-KY	685
Peace-Morristown	2,824	Stoney Point	672
Wooddale	2,695	Calvary-Nashville	649
Forest Grove	2,587	St. Joseph's Chapel	611
Eastern Star	2,383	Valley View	606
Community Chapel	2,250	First-Dickson	586
Sunset	2,224	Greystone	586
Liberty-Millington	2,017	Macedonia	580
East Nashville	2,014	Grassy Creek	574
Midfields	1,800	Bethlehem	550
Burbank	1,792	Randall Memorial	500
First-Church Hill	1,750	First-Morehead, KY	430
Richland	1,718	Goshen Valley	425
Southside	1,593	Doran Addition	426
Union Temple	1,545	Oak Grove-Charlotte	404
Mt. Carmel	1,441	Hilltop-SC	363
Head's	1,403	Strength and Everlasting Love	354
North Memphis	1,401		354
First-White Pine	1,379	First-Oak Ridge	350
Victory	1,364	First-Waverly	310
Island Road	1,336	Covenant	300
Good Springs	1,333	Oak Hill	300
Union Chapel	1,300	Union	300
Fall Branch	1,276	Riverside	277
New Home	1,261	Great Bridge-VA	255
First-Surgoinsville	1,226	First-Elizabethton	220
Union Hill	1,226	Vale	210
Unicoi	1,200	Berea	200
First-Greeneville	1,160	Van Hill	200
West Knoxville Mission		Y	182
	1,152	Shady Grove-Clarksville	160
Piney Grove-Greeneville			160
	1,150	Evergreen Baptist	100
Fairview-Hampton	1,032	Lyon's Chapel	100
First-Knoxville	1,010	Sugar Hollow	100
Fairview-Heiskell	1,002	Pyburn	90
Carlisle	1,000	Bridges Chapel	47
First-Smithville	1,000	Crab Orchard-NC	25
Piney Flats	975	Cross Timbers	10
East Sweetwater	960		

Sexton Medical Fund In Need

It is urgent that additional funds be directed to the Sexton Medical Fund. Brother Sexton had surgery on both feet. Unusually heavy demands have been made on the fund recently which need to be replenished. Don and Billie Sexton have served the Lord and our denomination faithfully and very richly deserve this means of assistance. Please make your checks payable to "Valley Forge Free Will Baptist Church" and earmark each for Sexton Medical Fund. Send the checks to Rev. Jonas Revis, Rt. 10, Box 250, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

A Letter From Dr. Roy Thomas

To the Churches of Tennessee:

I thank the Lord and the good people and churches of Tennessee for all the prayers and gifts which enabled the National Home Missions Department to have a tremendous year with some great accomplishments in 1994. Although some months were very tight financially, the year ended with a total income of \$2,657,833.23, which was a record year for the department. For this we are very thankful!

Eighteen states exceeded their goals in giving to National Home Missions. Tennessee gave \$319,296.96. I thank the churches of Tennessee for what you did. The 1995 goal for Tennessee is \$330,000.

Our greatest need at this time is additional support for our *General Fund*. This fund undergirds the work of the entire department, pays the missionaries whose accounts are in the red, and provides many other helps for our home missionaries. (No money is taken out of home missionary accounts to help operate the office.) It is our prayer that the annual *Benjamin Randall Day Offering* each November will grow until it completely underwrites Home Missions' General Fund needs.

Thank you for your help. May the churches of Tennessee and the National Home Missions Department join hands to put "*Missionaries in Every State for Churches in Every City.*"

Pastoral Changes

Taylor Scarborough to West Greene Church,
Mosheim, from East Sweetwater, Sweetwater.

David Benninghoff to Brandon's Chapel Church,
Bumpus Mills.

National Offices Building

Tennessee's Portion—\$78,557

Amount Given—\$52,678

Yet Needed—\$25,879

From My Heart To Yours

by Charles A. Thigpen

Tennessee is a great state for Free Will Baptists! We have some of God's choicest ministers and some of the best churches in the entire denomination. Tennessee Free Will Baptists are wonderful people. For many years now this state has given more to national causes than any other state!

We are most privileged to have all the national offices and Free Will Baptist Bible College here in our state. This is an added dimension of great proportion. No other state is so honored!

Tennessee Free Will Baptists need to pay our remaining \$25,879 on the National Offices Building. We really need to do this before July 1995. Many of us have given—but to reach our goal we must give again. Every pastor and every layman reading this could give, or raise, \$100 or more. My wife and I have given \$1500, but we are giving another \$100. Please make this matter a major item on your agenda. Every gift will be acknowledged in *Echo*. Make your checks payable to National Offices Building and send them to me at 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205

Dates to Remember

April 28-29
CTS State Competition - FWBBC

July 16-20
National Association
of Free Will Baptists
Charlotte, NC

Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists Financial Report December-February

Income

Appalachian Assn.	
Keensburg	\$100.00
Appalachian Assn.	57.55
Watauga Valley	150.00
Cumberland Assn.	
Bethlehem	115.00
Brandon's Chapel	417.38
Cross Timbers	112.50
Cumberland Assn.	417.66
Calvary	221.06
Donelson	3,131.37
Dunbar Chapel	75.00
East Nashville	75.00
Friendship	45.00
Good Springs	348.78
Head's	262.76
Hendersonville	200.00
New Hope	50.00
Trinity	57.46
Liberty Assn.	
Cookeville	150.00
Liberty Assn.	117.66
Northeast Assn.	
Union Street	150.00
Grace	136.87
Union Assn.	
Bethany	30.00
Church Hill First	300.00
Fellowship	150.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Limestone	100.00
Loudon	25.00
Union Assn.	386.99
Valley View	67.50
Others	
Home for Children	225.00
Valley Forge	546.08
Total Income	\$8,296.52
Expenditures for December, January, February	\$8,420.59

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

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Nashville, TN 37205-2498

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