

THE

ECHO

Uniting
Volunteers for Christ 

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The Homegoing of Gail Fender

Gail Underwood Fender, wife of Gerald Fender, home missionary to Knoxville, Tennessee, passed away May 24, 1995, in Knoxville after an illness of several months.

She is also survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Michelle Lynn and David Kirk of Fort Hood, Texas; two sons, Brett Anthony, a junior at the University of Tennessee, and Darren Andrew, a student at Farragut Primary School; sisters, Sue Carroll and Pamela Haynes; and one brother, Gregory Underwood.

Gail was an elementary teacher with the Knox County School System. She was a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and the University of Tennessee. Gail and Gerald were married August 15, 1970.

The Fenders were working to establish the West Knoxville Free Will Baptist Church. Theirs was a ministry of teamwork. Gail loved children and directed Children's Church; she taught in Sunday School and Bible School. She was very involved in Women Nationally Active for Christ.

The funeral was held on Friday, May 26, at the Oak Ridge Free Will Baptist Church, Gail's home church and where her parents are still active. The service was conducted by Brothers Terry Mosley, the



Oak Ridge Church pastor; Brother Wayne Wagner, a member of the Tennessee State Home Missions Board; Dr. Roy Thomas, General Director of the National Home Missions Board; and Dr. Charles Thigpen, Promotional Director for Tennessee Free Will Baptists. This was a service of praise to the Lord. Sister Gail Fender was a truly beautiful person. She loved the Lord, her husband, her children, her relatives, and her church; she loved people and especially children. One member of the Fenders' church remarked, "Sister Gail was the perfect role model for the women of the church—especially the young Christians." She was a brave, strong, optimistic, loving person. As far as we know, Gail Fender was the first National Home Missionary to pass away. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Please pray for Brother Gerald, his children, and especially for the West Knoxville Church. Gail's greatest desire was to see the church building erected on the property that has been purchased.

One passage of Scripture used at the memorial service is the following, and is very appropriate: "Her children rise up and called her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all" (Proverbs 31:28, 29).

65th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Hall, charter members of First Church, Oak Ridge, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 30. At that time, Mrs. Hall was hospitalized, recovering from hip surgery. Their daughter, Doris Holland, from Texas, along with a group from the

church, met in the hospital room for a time of celebration.

It was at the home of the Halls where a prayer meeting was held on June 18, 1954, which later became First Free Will Baptist Church of Oak Ridge.



From My Heart

by Charles A. Thigpen

The State Promotional Offices must have more financial support. Somehow, it just seems very unfair that Tennessee gives more to national ministries than any other state and does not give enough finances to operate the state office. For instance, the modest treasurer's fee has not been paid since last December. Also, it has been necessary to pay some bills one month and hold some for the next.

Please, please put the Promotional Office in your church budget. Either allocate one or two percent of your general fund offerings or give a set amount each month. An offering now and again would be of great help. Personal gifts are also accepted.

We sincerely thank those churches that give regularly. Please continue to do so. Send all checks to Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists, in care of E. B. McDonald, Treasurer, P.O. Box 685, Ashland City, TN 37015.

Open House Planned

The Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Greeneville, Tennessee, will have Open House on July 15. If you plan to pass through East Tennessee on the way to the National, or plan to be in the area, you are invited to see firsthand what God is doing through the Ministries.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries includes: Trula Cronk Home for Children; the PATH Shelter; the Stanley Foster Care Program; the OAKS Family Conference Center and Camp. It is located just out of Greeneville, Tennessee, which is about four hours northwest of Charlotte. For more information, please call the Development Office at 615-639-9449.



1995 PASTORS' CONFERENCE
September 25-27, 1995
Free Will Baptist Bible College
Nashville, Tennessee
Featuring Dr. Stephen Olford and Dr. David Olford
For more information, write or call:
Pastors' Conference
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
615/383-1340

National Offices Building

Tennessee's Portion — \$78,557
Amount Given — \$55,195
Yet Needed — \$23,361

New Church Organized in Springfield

by C. Fay Forlines

Sunday, March 5, 1995, Victory Free Will Baptist Church, Springfield, Tennessee, was organized. Officers are as follows: Pastor, the Reverend Thurman Lonas Page; deacon, Gary Minnis; clerk, Sue Starks. The church organizational meeting was held in the Activity Room of Holiday House, a senior citizens apartment building at 400 22nd Avenue East, Springfield 37172. The church presently has 19 adult members and 9 children. Average attendance is 30.

Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, Tennessee State Promotional Director, gave the keynote message and presided over the procedure. The Reverend F. Leroy Forlines, professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, spoke on the importance of churches adhering to the Bible and the Biblical world view. The Reverend Marion Pettus read the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant. Dr. Thigpen asked, of all planning to join the church, a show of hands indicating their willingness to subscribe to the covenant.

Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, pastored by Dr. Paul Harrison, supplied the mission church with hymnals. Other churches and individuals lent their support.

All present joined hands, formed a circle, and were dismissed by ordained ministers present praying consecutively: Jamie Thornsberry, Marion Pettus, F. Leroy Forlines, Charles A. Thigpen, and Thurman L. Page.



Dates to Remember

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

Aug. 11-12 - National Softball Tournament - Nashville, TN

Sept. 21-23 - Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Retreat - Gatlinburg, TN

Nov. 13-15 - Tennessee State Association Keystone Church, Johnson City, TN

Homer Ray Smith With The Lord



One of Free Will Baptist's finest pastors has died. Brother Homer Ray Smith, 67, pastor of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Chuckey, Tennessee, passed away on Saturday, March 4, of an apparent heart attack. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and a former employee of Pet Dairy for 26 years.

In addition to his mother, survivors include his wife of 47 years, Lavada Malone Smith; one son, Jeffrey Allen Smith; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jo Ann and Henry Mathes and Barbara Jean and Rodney Hearing and five grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Liberty Church, where Brother Smith had pastored for 16 years, with Brothers Bobby Sams and Ross Bailey officiating. Veterans of Foreign Wars, Andrew Johnson Post # 1990, was in charge of the graveside service.

Other churches pastored by Brother Smith included St. Joseph's Chapel, United, and Brittontown. Homer Ray Smith was very active in community and denominational affairs. In addition to being an effective minister, he was a compassionate man with a sincere love for people and a genuine pastor's heart. He was a lover of the souls of men—three people were converted at his funeral.

Brother Winston Sweeney said, "You could always count on Homer Ray Smith. In his work for the Lord, he made lots of visits, especially hospital visits. He will really be missed." Brother Howard Munsey said of Brother Smith, "He was a very good man. He was a good husband, father, grandfather—and an especially good pastor. He was truly a 'people' person—he loved people. He had a deep personal devotion to the Lord and to the Lord's people."

Sylvan Park Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On Sunday, April 30, Sylvan Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, celebrated 50 years of representing our Lord and serving the West Nashville community. Almost 300 current and former members, friends and family packed out the auditorium and overflow area for the morning service. Brother Frank Owens is the pastor.

Early in 1945, Rev. Rashie Kennedy led a group of people who had begun meeting in his home next door to the current property to establish Sylvan Park Free Will Baptist Church. Though built in three separate building programs, the church facilities have always been located at the corner of Wyoming and 47th Avenues.

Several former pastors, including Rev. Danny Dwyer, Rev. John Gibbs, and Rev. Ken Riggs, were represented by family members or letters of congratulations.

Rev. Bob Jones, pastor from 1968-1979, was the speaker in the morning service. Rev. Ivan Ryan, who answered the call to preach while a student at FWBBC and attending Sylvan Park, preached in the evening service.

The Praiseman Trio from Florence, Alabama, provided special music for the morning service. The evening service was a hearty 5th Sunday Night Singing with about a dozen various individuals and groups singing.



SEPTEMBER 21-23 • TENNESSEE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY RETREAT • GATLINBURG, TN

HOTEL RESERVATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Arrival Date _____
 Departure Date _____
 Rooms Required _____
 Special Requests _____

1 King Bed _____ 2 Double Beds _____

Guests Per Room _____ (1-4 persons only)

Hotel Confirmation # If Called In _____

Cut Off Date: August 21, 1995

AMEX _____ VISA _____ MC _____ DISCOVER _____ CARD# _____ EXPDATE: _____
 Full refunds will be made if cancellations are received 72 hours prior to arrival.

Mail To: River Terrace Resort, P.O. Box 747, Gatlinburg, TN 37738
 Or Call: 1-800-251-2040

TWAC Retreat Registration Form

WHAT: Tennessee Women Active For Christ Retreat

WHEN: September 21-23, 1995

WHERE: River Terrace Resort, 240 River Road,
 Gatlinburg, TN

THEME: Let The Beauty Of The Lord Be Upon Us
REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 (This includes Saturday
 Buffet Breakfast)

SEND REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Gladys Gragg
 294 Colvernook Drive
 Nashville, TN 37210
 615/885-3966

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 21, 1995
 (non-refundable after this date)

Thirteen Tennesseans Graduate from FWBBC

Congratulations to each of the following who graduated with a Bachelor's degree on May 11, 1995, from Free Will Baptist Bible College:

Angela D. Barlow, Knoxville
 Brandon Todd Bell, Nashville
 Wesley Scott Benton, Ashland City
 Christy Leigh Britton, Nolensville
 Lisa Michele Duncan, Nashville
 Gregory Randall Fawbush, Whitesburg
 Darin Scott Gibbs, Pleasant View
 Kyle Ashley Hayes, Nashville
 Betsy McMillan Lampley, Dickson
 Leah Kathryn Plunkett, Nashville
 Pamela Diann Roehl, Nashville
 Mark E. Vincent, Nashville
 Jennifer Janeen Workman, Nashville

Memorial Fund for West Knoxville Church

A fund has been established as a memorial to Gail Underwood Fender for the Building Fund of the West Knoxville Church. All memorial gifts will be used as a part of the construction cost of the much-needed church building. The building site has been purchased and paid for. Please send all memorial gifts clearly marked "Fender Building Fund" to National Home Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

The urgent need is for \$45,000. Let us pray that even more than this will be given in memory of Sister Fender toward this project that was so dear to her heart.

Tennessee State Bible, Music & Arts Competition Winners

All of us in Tennessee join to congratulate all winners. We will be praying for you as you compete in the National.

Bible
 Memorization Grade 1 - Andrew Heath, Valley View
 Memorization Grade 2 - D. J. Miller, Liberty
 Memorization Grade 3 - Brooke Dickerson, Limestone
 Sword Drill Grade 4 - Lisa Nicole Royston, Eastside
 Sword Drill Grade 5 - Valerie France, Berea
 Sword Drill Grade 6 - Nikki Hill, Berea
 Tic-Tac-Toe Limestone
 Bible Bowl Grace

Music
Vocal Solo
 Age Level A Matthew Slomp, Johnson City First
 Age Level B Lexi Head, Oaklawn
 Age Level C Leah Chamberlain, Limestone
 Age Level D Female - Stephanie McVay, Cofer's Chapel
 Age Level D Male - Jeffrey Woods, Keenburg
 Age Level E Female - Jodi Young, Cofer's Chapel
 Age Level E Male - Billy Harper, Cookeville

Vocal Ensemble-Duet
 Age Level A On Guard, Cookeville
 Age Level B Good Springs Duet, Good Springs
 Age Level C Tallent/Morgan, Donelson
 Age Level D Baker/Anderson, Donelson
 Age Level E White/Walker, Heads

Vocal Ensemble-Trio
 Age Level A Good Springs Trio, Good Springs
 Age Level C Oaklawn Trio, Oaklawn
 Age Level D New Hope Trio, New Hope

Vocal Ensemble-Quartet
 Age Level A Cross Carriers, Cookeville
 Age Level B Shining Hope, Cookeville
Vocal Ensemble-Quintet

Age Level D Cofer's Quintet, Cofer's Chapel
Vocal Ensemble-Sextet
 Age Level D The CrosSing, Cross Timbers
 Age Level F Heads F Sextet, Heads

Vocal Ensemble-Chorale
 Age Level A Patch the Pirate A Chorale, Good Springs
 Age Level D Xample, Donelson
 Age Level F Girls Ensemble, Cofer's Chapel

Vocal Ensemble-Choir
 Age Level B Patch the Pirate B Choir, Good Springs
 Age Level F Roan Street CTS Youth Choir, Roan Street

Instrumental-Woodwind
 Age Level C Suzanne McVay, Cofer's Chapel

Instrumental-Keyboard
 Age Level A Lynna McInturff, Grace
 Age Level B Ashley Carter, Cross Timbers
 Age Level D Megan Mackie, Cookeville
 Age Level E Becky Tallent, Cookeville

Oral Communications
Dramatic Selection
 Age Level B Chris Duke, Good Springs
 Age Level C Laura Corlew, Good Springs
 Age Level D Luke Grooms, Newport First

Duet Acting
 Age Level A New Hope Duet, New Hope
 Age Level B C&C Duet, Good Springs
 Age Level C Lewis/Sass, Cofer's Chapel
 Age Level D Crowson/McVay, Cofer's Chapel

Skit
 Age Level C Beem/Crowson/McVay, Cofer's Chapel
 Age Level D Cofer's Skit, Cofer's Chapel
 Age Level F Mt. Zion Skit, Mt. Zion

Interpretive Reading of Scripture
 Age Level D Allysa Hampton, Cofer's Chapel
Readers Theater
 Age Level D New Hope Readers Theater, New Hope

Puppetry-Live
 Age Level B Sunshine Kids, Canah Chapel
 Age Level C R&T Puppeteers, Canah Chapel
 Age Level D Small Wonders Live, Canah Chapel
 Age Level F Mt. Zion Puppeteers, Mt. Zion

Puppetry-Recorded
 Age Level B Kids for Christ, Newport First
 Age Level C Tommy Bernard, Shady Grove
 Age Level D Jason Ours and the Kritter, Taylors Seminary
 Age Level E Ambassadors for Christ, Newport First
 Age Level F Small Wonders, Canah Chapel

Creative Arts
Sculpture/Pottery
 Age Level B Misti Rediker, Mt. Zion
 Age Level C Jamie Harter, Fellowship-Nashville

Painting
 Age Level C Monica Jones, Mt. Zion
Graphics
 Age Level A Connie Ridgell, Cookeville
 Age Level B Timothy Lee, Shady Grove
 Age Level C Mickie Cox, Marbleton
 Age Level D Megan Mackie, Cookeville

Ceramics
 Age Level A Arliss Nicole Crow, Eastside
 Age Level B Lisa Nicole Royston, Eastside
 Age Level D Regina Tapp, Canah Chapel

Textiles
 Age Level B Amber Nicole Crow, Eastside

Color Photography
 Age Level B Lisa Nicole Royston, Eastside

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 Nashville, TN 37205-2498

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