Bound for Florida: Paul Faircloth will return to his Florida roots after his retirement in a few weeks.

Head of Baptist group will retire

By Jay R. Davis
Staff Reporter

YADKINVILLE — The missions director of the Yadkin Baptist Association is retiring in a little more than a month, moving back to his hometown in sunny Florida.

"I suppose I'll have more time to play golf, swim and jog," says the Rev. Paul Faircloth, the missions director since 1988. "We enjoy warmer weather."

He and his wife, Bettie Ann, plan to move back to his hometown, Lakeland, Fla. He'll begin the move around the beginning of May. His official retirement date is May 15.

"We're moving back to my roots," Faircloth says.

The Yadkin Baptist Association has 26 churches in Yadkin County, and three each in Iredell and Davie counties. All are part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Faircloth will take a little part of Yadkin County, and its people, back with him to Florida.

"Being director of missions in the Yadkin association has been a highlight of my career," Faircloth says. "I've enjoyed the excellent cooperation we've had with the pastors and lay people. When I leave, I'll leave a part of myself. That's usual."

One of the highlights of his tenure, Faircloth says, is the construction of a new association office on U.S. 601 near Yadkinville. "Our old building was not as big as this area an the reception area combined," he says.

The association also started the first Spanish-language church in this area. Member churches began fundraising this year to pay for a new Hispanic church in Yad-
kinville. The congregation will move into the old WYDK-radio station building later this year; worshippers currently meet at Yadkinville First Baptist Church.

As director of missions, Faircloth has worked with pastors organizing workshops, and he fills in as guest speaker at association churches almost every Sunday.

"Plus, I work counseling individual pastors and other lay people who have problems," he says. "I spend much more time counseling that I ever thought I would."

Also, at least once a year, association members have gone on mission trips to help build Baptist churches in other areas.

Faircloth, 65, plans to go back to teaching. He'll teach English and philosophy at Polk Community College in Winter Haven, Fla.

"I've been a pastor in North Carolina, Maryland, Florida . . . 25 years now. I started in 1956." He pauses for a moment and looks down. "I'm getting old. I don't feel old," he says laughing.

A search committee has been formed to poll churches on what they would prefer in a new missions director. That decision should come later this year.

Faircloth is the association's seventh director.
Missions Director To Retire

Rev. Paul Faircloth, the Yadkin Baptist Association's missions director, will be retiring and leaving Yadkin County in May. He and his wife, Bettie Ann, plan to move back to his hometown of Lakeland, Florida. Faircloth, who has been missions director for the past eight years, has accepted the position of English and Philosophy teacher at Polk Community College.

Faircloth's actual retirement date is May 15; however, he will be leaving a few days earlier due to some leftover vacation time.

Paul Faircloth, Missions Director, Resigning Post

Rev. Paul Faircloth, who has served as director of missions for the Yadkin Baptist Association almost eight years, has resigned.

The resignation is to be effective on May 15 which will be the same day and month that Faircloth became missions director in 1988.

Faircloth announced his resignation in the January issue of The Messenger, in Yadkin Baptist Association Newsletter.

He noted that he is reaching retirement age and that he and his wife, Bettie Ann, plan to move back to their home in Lakeland, Fla.

He will return, he said, to Polk Community College as an adjunct professor of English and philosophy and expects to serve occasionally as consultant for the South Florida Baptist Association.