
MINUTES of the
Thirty-Fourth Session
of the Alabama State
Association of Free Will
Baptists—

Winfield Church
Winfield, Alabama
November, 5-6-7, 1953

The next session will convene
on Thursday before the Second
Sunday in November, 1954, at a
place to be selected by the
Executive Board.

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MINUTES
THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
of the
ALABAMA STATE ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
held with
WINFIELD CHURCH
November 5-6-7, 1953

OFFICERS

Rev. H. A. Pitts, Moderator, Winfield, Ala.
Rev. A. J. Lambert, Asst. Mod. Florence, Ala.
Rev. E. W. Graves, Sec. Treasurer, Vernon, Ala.
Rev. Malone Cobb, Chr. Home Mission Board, Vernon, Ala.
Rev. R. W. Ritch, Chr. Executive Board, 724th 12th St. B'ham, Ala.
Rev. Louie Bates, Chr. Superannuation Board, Alden, Ala.
Mrs. A. J. Lambert, Treasurer Unified Program, Florence, Ala.
642 Sweetwater Ave.

The next session will convene on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in November at a place to be selected by the Executive Board.

The combined Sunday School Convention will meet with East Florence Church in June.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
34TH SESSION
OF THE

ALABAMA STATE FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
WINFIELD CHURCH, WINFIELD, ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 5-6-7, 1953
MINISTER'S MEETING

Rev. A. J. Lambert led "Throw Out The Life Line" to open the meeting. Prayer was led by Rev. J. L. Lavender.

Rev. A. L. Warren of Vernon gave a fine devotional service centered around the promises of God.

Sister J. B. Bloss led in prayer.

Rev. A. J. Lambert, the assistant moderator, presided throughout the session to allow Rev. H. A. Pitts to perform his duties as host pastor.

The moderator read the constitution of the minister's meeting and the Secretary declared the meeting in order and ready for business.

"The Church Program", was the theme of the day's program.

Rev. J. B. Bloss was first speaker and brought a wonderful message using for his subject, "The Pastor and How He Fits Into The Church Program."

Rev. Clyde Clearman of Nashville consented to substitute for Rev. J. M. Dutton in presenting "The Evangelist And How He Fits Into The Program."

At the 11 o'clock hour Rev. Paul Lang of Cardova delivered a fine message from 2. 7-12, subject, "Seek My Face."

The church bountifully fed the congregation in the basement at the noon hour.

At one o'clock Rev. O. L. Fields led the song service after which Rev. G. O. Parker of Hamilton conducted the devotional.

Bro. Wm. G. Palmer of Castlebury had for his subject, "The Deacon And How He Fits In The Program Of The Church."

Rev. A. J. Lambert of Florence, told how the Lay member fits in the program. "The Clerk And Treasurer And How They Fit In The Program" was the subject used by E. W. Graves in the closing message of the day.

Several visitors gave short talks to close out the program.

The following ministers registered during the minister's meeting.

Revs. H. A. Pitts, Paul Lang, J. L. Lavender, L. V. Collier, H. A. O'Donnell, A. J. Lambert, Thomas H. Dixon, O. L. Fields, H. C. Killen, Theredore Narred, S. F. Lee, W. H. Ryland, N. A. Patterson,

J. B. Bloss, James E. Self, J. O. Jones, C. D. Burrell, J. M. Cobb, John W. Burnham, E. W. Graves, T. L. Walker, M. L. Hollis, A. L. Warren, Gurlie Roberts, J. M. Spencer, J. J. Barnes, G. W. Franks, G. C. Lawrence, A. A. Peoples and Clyde Clearman.

THURSDAY P.M.

The congregation enjoyed a good song service, prayers by E. W. Graves and J. M. Cobb. Rev. L. C. Johnson, president of the Bible College gave a fine report of the work of the college then delivered a wonderful message on the subject, "The Gifts of God." An offering of \$38.46 was given the school.

All visitors were assigned to homes. Rev. W. B. Hughes gave the benediction.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING OF
ALABAMA PREAMBLE

In order to promote fellowship, better understanding, greater cooperation and greater vision among the ministers of Alabama, we do ordain and established this Constitution:

I. NAME: This shall be known as the Alabama Ministers' Meeting.

II. We adopt the Treatise of Faith and practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptist as our standard to look to and pray for the day when we may be more nearly one.

III. The officers of the Ministers' Meeting shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator and Secretary, and any other officer we may need.

IV. These officers shall be elected by nomination and acclamation at the regular session on even years. The officers of the State Association may serve as officers of the Ministers' Meeting if so elected.

V. This meeting shall be composed of all ordained ministers in good standing in Alabama and adjoining states who wish to represent.

VI. FINANCE: Each minister shall pay one dollar registration fee to help pay for the record being printed in minutes.

VII. The Secretary shall be paid five dollars preserving the record of each meeting.

VIII. DISCIPLINE: The Ministers' Meeting is not a court to try, nor air out the faults of preachers. If they are in good standing with the State Association they are with the Ministers' Meeting. This is to be a meeting of fellowship and inspiration and brotherly love.

X. All elected officers shall serve two years. All appointed officers and committees one year.

XI. The Ministers' Meeting shall meet on Thursday morning before the 2nd Sunday in November of each year at the meeting place of the State Association.

XII. This Constitution may be altered at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of ministers present.

BY-LAWS OF ALABAMA MINISTERS' MEETING

1. The Clerk or Assistant Clerk or the Senior Minister in years may call the meeting to order and shall have charge until Moderator assumes his place.

2. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to enroll all the ministers present who are in good standing. If there are questionable characters they shall be referred to an appointed Credential Committee for advice, but not for trial. They may be seated if found worthy, if not they are referred to their church and Association.

3. Each meeting shall be opened with scripture reading and prayer.

4. By a two-thirds vote any decision of the Moderator may be over-ruled.

5. This meeting shall sit with open doors unless it goes into a committee as a whole.

6. Any person, not a member of the body shall be allowed to take part in discussions, with Moderator's permission, but shall have no vote.

7. All members of the body are expected to be present throughout this session unless excused by the Moderator.

8. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one officer or committeeman if his nomination is elected.

9. The Moderator must not allow any discussion to be carried on in an unchristian spirit.

10. The person who desires to speak must first arise and address the Moderator, and when recognized, shall proceed.

11. The votes on any question must be counted upon request of one-fifth of members present.

12. No member shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on same subject unless given permission by the Moderator.

FRIDAY A.M.

The regular session of the Ala. State Association opened this session at this hour. Rev. Gurley led the prayer.

The moderator read the scripture lesson and gave some fine remarks on the "Unity of the Brotherhood."

Rev. T. L. Walker led the devotional service. The clerk called the house to order and seated the standing delegates.

Rev. H. A. Pitts gave the welcome address and E. W. Graves responded.

The credential committee reported that Union Grove church of Liberty No. 1 be seated as an independent church and the following Associations with their letters and delegates be received.

VERNON: Bro. Verdo Dubose

STATE LINE: Revs. A. A. Peoples, L. V. Collier, Roy Barnes.
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT: Sisters Odessa Hollis, Arthur Barker and C. D. Burrell.

LIBERTY NO. 2: Johnnie Burnham.

BEAR CREEK: H. L. Key.

MT. MORRIAH: Bro. W. L. McAdams, J. O. Perrigan and N. T. Cawley.

CAHABA RIVER: Sisters H. A. McSpadden and J. T. Kimbrough.

JASPER: Bro. Richmond Pollard, Sisters Lee Johnson and N. A. Patterson.

PROGRESSIVE: A. L. Parker, Mildred Parker, Margaret Dutton, Mrs. G. W. Franks, Mrs. A. J. Lambert, Mrs. Merle Dyer, Clara Cobb, Theo Kuykendall, Florene Sides, Wade Fowler, Hazel Perkins, and Mrs. A. J. Smith.

UNION GROVE CHURCH: Sisters W. G. Palmer, and Irene Palmer.

The letters were read and the delegates were seated.

The following visitors were seated, Revs. T. H. Dixon, D. C. Dodd, Clyde Clearman, W. B. Hughes, and David S. Copland.

After a short recess Rev. W. H. Ryland gave his report of the Childrens Home. Rev. S. F. Lee led in prayer.

Rev. D. C. Dodd, National Home Missions representative, delivered the 11 o'clock message. He chose for his text Acts 16:10. His was a soul stirring message. An offering of \$61.07 was given for Home Mission. Benediction and Grace for the noon hour was given by Rev. T. H. Dixon. Everyone enjoyed the noon meal.

FRIDAY P.M.

Rev. O. L. Fields led the song service. Devotional led by Rev. E. B. Ledlow.

Rev. Dodd gave a verbal report of the National Association.

The Business Committee reported. Mrs. Lorene Ryland, secretary Home Missions Board, reported. An offering to Children's Home of \$42.72.

Superannuation Board reported. Rev. W. B. Hughes gave a fine talk in the cause of Superannuation.

Unified Program report received. Executive Board reported.

Report of the Promotional Secretary was received.

The Moderator filled all absentees on the various boards.

Recessed until 6 p.m. Benediction by Bro. F. Johnston.

FRIDAY EVENING

A fine song was enjoyed by all. Rev. R. P. Rich led in prayer.

Rev. Charles Hollingshead announced the State wide Youth Rally to be held with Cardova. At this time Rev. Raymond Riggs of Nashville, who is secretary of National Foreign Mission Board brought the evening message. He chose Acts 13-47 for his text.

A strong appeal was made to all to yield themselves to God to be used in His plan. An offering of \$59.60 was given. Assigned to homes and benediction.

SATURDAY A. M.

Bro. Lavender sang, "Heavenly Sunlight". Rev. Riggs led the prayer.

Rev. N. A. Patterson led in a fine devotional.

Home Mission Board reported. The Auditing Board reported, (see reports!)

Rev. Charles Hollingshead gave the proposed plan for a youth's camp site.

Revs. R. P. Ritch, Malone Cobb and Paul Lang were appointed to a committee to promote the youth camp.

Final business report received. The moderator made his appointments at this time. Delegates appointed as follows.

To National Association: C. D. Bunell, Stanford McDonnagh, A. L. Parker, Joe Kimbrough, P. A. Crawford, Grady Palmer, Mrs. Palmer to represent the State as a whole.

Rev. A. J. Lambert appointed to Georgia State. (See personnel of Boards for other appointments).

A rising vote of Confidence was given the Board of Trustees of Children's Home.

Rev. R. P. Ritch gave the highlights of the State Sunday School Convention.

The Board of Publication and Literature reported and was adopted.

The moderator declared the seats of Revs. E. P. Rowden and Grady Hudson on the Board of Trustees vacant because of failure to attend meetings.

Rev. Malone Cobb, from Progressive, Rev. O. Z. Johnson, of Jasper and Rev. R. P. Ritch from Cahaba River were elected to the Board of Trustees.

It was agreed the Executive Board select the next meeting place.

The Secretary and Treasurer reported. In a plea for more funds for association expenses it was agreed that each association pledge \$10 extra for this purpose.

The association paused for a minute in silent prayer in memory to our beloved brother and co-worker Rev. Harry L. Mitchell.

A rising vote of appreciation was extended to Winfield church for the royal entertainment given the association during the session.

Adjourned to meet at the selected place. Rev. J. L. Lavender brought the closing message from 2 Peter 5-7.

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

1. We recommend that Rev. Malone Cobb contact every church in the association to take an offering to be used to purchase a tent to be used in evangelistical work.

2. We have elected Rev. Cobb as chairman of this Board and urge the cooperation of everyone with him.

3. We recommend that Rev. J. J. Staab be appointed to this Board to replace sister Lester Jones.

J. M. Cobb, Chairman

Articles 1 and 2 were adopted. Article 3 was rejected as unconstitutional.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

We recommend that we as a people do what know we ought to do for our denomination and our God.

Rev. R. P. Ritch, Chairman

ALABAMA HOME MISSION TREASURER REPORT

PAID IN:

Nov. 7, 52 Ala. Asso. Tent Fund Offering	\$ 13.25
The following for Ala. Unified Program Fund:	
Dec. 13, 52	14.45
Jan. 2, 53	34.64
Feb. 2, 53	39.98
Mar. 3, 53	9.83
Mar. 29, 53	26.26
May 9, 53	24.08
June 9, 53	22.46
July 1, 53	37.25
Aug. 7, 53	33.15
Sept. 5, 53	26.57
Oct. 3, 53	29.15
July 5, 53 Northport church D. V. B. S. Students	10.00

TOTAL RECEIVED FOR YEAR \$321.07

BROUGHT FORWARD 541.75

GRAND TOTAL \$862.82

TOTAL PAID OUT 350.00

BALANCE ON HAND \$512.82

PAID OUT:

Nov. 8, 52 1st F. W. B. church of Ensley, Ala.	\$100.00
Nov. 8, 52 1st F. W. B. church of Aliceville, Ala.	\$100.00
April 11, 53 The Dover Town church	\$100.00
July 27, 53 Rev. W. H. Ryland for the State Paper	\$ 50.00

GRAND TOTAL PAID OUT \$350.00

Mrs. Lorene Ryland, H. M. Treas.

REPORT OF ALABAMA STATE SUPERANNUATION FOR 1952 & 1953

Brought Forward	\$ 67.16
Received From Unified Program:	
December 1952	11.56
January 1953	27.71
February 1953	31.98
March 1953	7.86
April 1953	21.01
May 1953	19.26
June 1953	17.97
July 1953	28.80
August 1953	26.53
September 1953	21.26
October	23.32
TOTAL	\$304.42
Paid Out	135.82
TOTAL BALANCE	\$168.60

Mrs. A. M. Wallace - Treasurer, Route Five, Fayette, Alabama

BUSINESS REPORT

1. We recommend that all children coming into the home be approved by the Executive Board.
 2. We recommend that the place of next session of this body be decided by this body.
 3. We recommend the pastors urge their churches to support the unified program.
 4. We recommend we retain our promotional secretary for another year.
 5. We recommend that all churches coming into this association be known only as Free Will Baptist churches.
- Article 1 was rejected, No. 2 was tabled Nos. 3-4-5 were adopted.

REPORT OF THE PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY ALABAMA STATE F.W.B. ASSOCIATION

Letters and cards mailed out.
Letters making appeal for the general support of our work in the State of Alabama.

Cards and letters making Foreign Mission appeal.
Letters sent out for funds for Typewriter and Memograph machine, envelopes, paper, stamps, etc. NO RESPONSE.

Department of church expansion which was placed under supervision of Promotional Secretary. Requesting 10c per member or \$120. per year for the purpose of building new churches making

loans for church building and expansion. NO RESPONSE.

Sent out several letters trying to build up a radio broadcast, but got NO RESPONSE.

Sent cards to ministers announcing State Association.

Wrote several letters raising money to send State Delegate to National Association.

Money received for that expense. \$74.00. Delegates name Mrs. Lois Brom.

Total money received for all purposes:

Association	\$11.53
Graysville	4.81
TOTAL	\$16.34

Total letters 500
Total Cards 250

Rev. J. J. Staab

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT

RECEIVED:

Balance	\$ 74.25
Fees	200.00
Registration	64.00
Sunday School Con.	38.00
TOTAL	\$376.25

PAID OUT:

Minutes	\$190.00
National Fee	60.00
Programs	15.00
Clerk	30.00
Moderator and Assistant Moderator	25.00
Expense of National Delegate	38.00
Mailing	5.00
TOTAL	\$363.00

Total Received	\$376.25
Total Paid Out	\$363.00
BALANCE ON HAND	\$ 13.25

PUBLICATION AND LITERATURE REPORT

1. We recommend that we give our mailing list of the Alabama Free Will Baptist and the \$60 in the treasury to "The Contact" of the National Association, which agrees to complete the subscription obligations of the Alabama Free Will Baptist.

2. We recommend our people refrain from purchasing murderous and immoral comic books for their children and that only clean

literature be sent to the children's home.

3. We wish to commend Rev. Floyd Cherry for his splendid work in preparing our Sunday School and League Literature and that this body send him a letter of appreciation.

R. P. Ritch, Secretary

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHILDRENS HOME ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 1952 to NOVEMBER 1953**

ITIMIZED EXPENDITURES:

Salaries	\$ 7,322.89
Groceries and Feeds	5,293.39
Shoes and Clothing	272.34
Alabama Power Co.	363.18
Telephone	166.73
Postage and Office Supplies	487.76
Hardware Supplies	383.70
School Books and Supplies	129.26
Trucking and Hauling Expenses	166.54
Refrigeration	115.00
Drugs	50.87
Lumber	277.31
Butane Gas	104.36
Gasoline and Oil	317.54
Electric Supplies	306.55
Plumbing and Supplies	491.59
Fertilizers and Farm Supplies	847.67
Tractor and Equipment	1,049.43
Year Insurance on Buildings	129.09
Bonding of Treasurer	25.00
Janitor Supplies	14.47

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$18,325.27

TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED \$19,060.86

PAID OUT \$18,325.27

BAL. ON HAND \$ 735.59

Donation of Food	\$ 2,126.86
Donation of Clothing	1,911.48
2 Pianos	200.00
Value of Hay Crop	190.50
Value of Corn Crop	750.00
Value of Pork Slaughtered	600.00
Value of Beef Slaughtered	450.00
Value of Truck Donated	300.00

Dr. and Surgery Donated	450.00
Dental Work Donated	95.00
Donation and Process	\$ 7,073.84
CASH RECEIVED	\$19,060.86
COMMODITIES & PROCESS	\$ 7,073.70
ALL TOTAL	\$26,134.70

AUDITING BOARD REPORT

We beg to report that we have examined the books of the following, Children's Home, Home Mission Board, Superannuation Board, State Unified Program and State Association and found them O.K.

G. O. Parker, Chairman

REPORT OF UNIFIED PROGRAM

Cordova Church	\$ 912.36
Goodwater Church	43.58
Fayette Church	55.00
Ariton Church	170.86
Hamilton Church	35.00
Evergreen Church	11.86
TOTAL	\$1,228.66
30% Orphanage	\$ 369.70
20% Missions	247.21
25% National Program Fund	303.76
20% Supernnuation	247.21
5% Office Expense	60.78
TOTAL	\$1,228.66

Mrs. Barker, Treasurer

MINISTERS WHO REGISTERED IN ASSOCIATION

Revs. E. W. Graves,	Route 2, Vernon, Ala.
E. B. Ledlow,	512 Morris Ave., Syacauga, Ala.
R. P. Ritch,	54 Twin St., Sylacauga, Ala.
A. J. Lambert,	642 Sweewater Ave. Florence, Ala.
Gurlie Roberts,	Guin, Ala.
J. M. Spencer,	616 11th St., Tuscaloosa, Ala.
N. A. Patterson,	Brilliant, Ala.
G. W. Franks,	Cordova, Ala.
C. D. Burrell,	Box 611, Oakman, Ala.
John W. Burnham,	Pell City, Ala.
A. L. Warren,	Vernon, Ala.

G. C. Lawrence,	Brilliant, Ala.
Paul Long,	Box 234, Cordova, Ala.
J. L. Lavender,	Box 876, Aliceville, Ala.
G. O. Parker,	Rt. 4, Hamilton, Ala.
R. W. Ritch,	724 12th Ave. W., Birmingham, Ala.
H. A. Pitts,	Box 208, Winfield, Ala.
J. J. Staab,	2313 33 Ave. N., Birmingham, Ala.
J. M. Cobb,	Box 263, Vernon, Ala.
T. L. Walker,	55 Bellwood, Northport, Ala.
R. K. Franklin,	2213 31 Ave. N., Birmingham, Ala.

DEACONS WHO REGISTERED

Bros. Joe Kimbrough,	Birmingham, Ala.
W. F. Johnston,	Sylacauga, Ala.
D. G. Henry,	Sylacauga, Ala.
W. G. Palmer,	Castlebury, Ala.
W. H. Clearman,	Vernon, Ala.

**PERSONNEL OF BOARDS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Rev. R. W. Ritch, 724 12 Ave. W.	Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. N. A. Patterson	Guin, Ala.
Rev. Louie Bates	Alden, Ala.
Rev. Roy Barnes	Vernon, Ala.

TRUSTEE BOARD OF CHILDREN'S HOME

Rev R. P. Ritch	Sylacauga, Ala.
Rev. O. Z. Johnson	Guin, Ala.
Rev. Gurley Roberts	Guin, Ala.
Rev. L. V. Collier	Route 2, Hamilton, Ala.
Rev. T. L. Walker	Northport, Ala.
Rev. Arthur Barker	1565 Tuscaloosa Ave., Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. Malone Cobb	Vernon, Ala.
Rev. P. J. Box	Graysville, Ala.
Rev. G. W. Nobles	Cottonwood, Ala.
Bro. D. J. O'Donnell	Ashville, Ala.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Edward Ledlow	Sylacauga, Ala.
Mrs. Lorene Ryland, Treasurer, 1954	Cordova, Ala.
Rev. J. L. Lavender, 1955	Aliceville, Ala.
Bro. Ronald Dean, 1956	
Bro. Paul Booker, 1957	
Rev. Malone Cobb, 1958	Vernon, Ala.
W. F. Johnston	Sylacauga, Ala.

BOARD OF PUBLICATIIN AND LITERATURE

Rev. R. P. Ritch	
Rev. A. J. Lambert	Florence, Ala.
Rev. J. J. Staab	2313 33rd Ave. N., Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. Charles Dean	1623 11th Ct., Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. W. H. Ryland	Eldridge, Ala.

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Mrs. Annie Lou Shellnutt	Winfield, Ala.
Rev. Louie Bates	Alden, Ala.
Rev. James Elmore	
Rev. N. A. Patterson	Guin, Ala.
Rev. R. K. Franklin	Birmingham, Ala.

UNIFIED PROGRAM

Mrs. A. J. Lambert	Florence, Ala.
Mrs. Malohe Cobb	Vernon, Ala.
Mrs. H. A. Pitts	Winfield, Ala.

BY-LAWS

The adoption of By-Laws of National Association.

I. The Clerk or the Assistant Clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference if a quorum is present. The Moderator or in his absence, the Assistant Moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them is present the Senior Minister in years shall act as Moderator.

II. It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll the delegates to the Association who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the Clerk shall compose the Association. In case of questionable representation, however, the case under question shall be referred to the Credential Committee.

III. It shall be the duty of everybody belonging to this Association to send a letter to every annual session of this Association, reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this session may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

IV. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer and shall be closed with prayer.

V. By a two-third vote of all members present a ruling of the Moderator can be overruled.

VI. This Association may correspond by messenger or other wise with other religious bodies.

VII. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

VIII. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussion by obtaining permission from

STATISTICAL TABLE

ASSOCIATIONS	Progressive	Cahaba River	Jasper	Mt. Moriah	Boy Creek	Liberty No. 2	Vernon	State Line	Birmingham District	Union Grove Church	TOTALS
No. Churches	14	14	30	16	12	9	13	17	9	1	135
No. New Churches	1				2						3
No. Members	1,341	876	3,218	1,935	1,034	586	1,650	1,471	592	90	12,793
No. New Members	141	94		82	64	48	54		92		575
No. Lost Members	17	34		8	6	27	18		19	3	132
Licensed Ministers	1	5		2	1	7			6		22
Ordained Ministers	20	25	48	18	19	29	12	12	30	3	216
No. of Sunday Schools	14	14	29	11	12	9	13		9	1	112
No. of Members	1,153	750	2,000	625	542	418	671		399	40	6,598
No. of Leagues	8	5	6	2			4		2	1	28
Members	370	250	175	45			145		70	22	1,077
Ladies' Auxiliaries	5	6	6	2		1	1		2		23
Members	92	100	85	35		14	12		30		368
Value of Church Property	\$141,680.00	\$ 59,700.00	\$ 96,300.00	\$115,000.00	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 43,500.00	\$ 60,600.00	\$ 30,100.00	\$ 40,000.00		\$620,380.00
Paid to Pastors	\$ 14,622.63	\$ 5,574.40	\$ 14,395.75	\$ 6,834.15	\$ 2,764.65	\$ 4,197.07	\$ 4,216.26	\$ 2,328.75	\$ 5,513.51	\$ 325.00	\$ 60,770.18
Paid Evangelists	\$ 1,293.17	\$ 1,080.03	\$ 2,073.95	\$ 884.69	\$ 728.25	\$ 529.27	\$ 792.01	\$ 541.22	\$ 522.77	\$ 40.31	\$ 8,485.67
Paid to Children's Home	\$ 961.26	\$ 779.33	\$ 1,336.50	\$ 982.69	\$ 444.25	\$ 527.30	\$ 432.87		\$ 559.66	\$ 127.90	\$ 6,151.76
Paid to Missions	\$ 226.51	\$ 213.34	\$ 263.98	\$ 163.44		\$ 55.00	\$ 309.19		\$ 33.33	\$ 217.12	\$ 1,481.91
Paid to Superannuation	\$ 10.00	\$ 38.83					\$ 24.87				\$ 73.70
Paid to Unified Programs		\$ 18.00	\$ 110.00								\$ 128.00
Paid College	\$ 792.79	\$ 83.90	\$ 2,060.69			\$ 20.00	\$ 64.97				\$ 3,022.35
Paid For Improvement	\$ 4,826.46	\$ 3,139.17	\$ 8,374.22	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 1,665.55	\$ 1,315.95		\$ 4,330.59	\$ 219.18	\$ 26,371.12
Other Expenses	\$ 6,622.79	\$ 1,141.70					\$ 169.00		\$ 542.86		\$ 8,476.35

the Moderator.

IX. It shall be the duty of all members of the Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave from the Moderator.

X. No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meetings without first obtaining permission from the Moderator.

XI. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee provided the person nominated be elected.

XII. The Moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

XIII. Anyone desiring to speak shall arise to his feet and address the Moderator by the appellation "brother moderator", but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.

XIV. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

XV. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission from the Moderator.

XVI. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

XVII. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

CONSTITUTION

NAME—This body shall be known as the "ALABAMA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST."

SEAL—This Alabama State Association of Free Will Baptist adopt the treatise of the National Association in faith and practice. Praying for the day when we shall be one in Christ.

SEC. II—The officers of the State Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Executive Board.

These officers are elective. Other officers being appointed as Moderator may need or desire.

SEC. III—This Association shall be composed of all active, ordained ministers and deacons who are members of an Association or church, which is a member of this body and duly elected or appointed delegates of District Association or church.

One delegate for each church of each Association which is a member of this body.

SEC. IV—No independent church may be a member of this body unless Association to which it belongs refuse to represent in the State body. Then the church may report independently. The fee of said church be the sum of \$2.00.

ARTICLE II, FINANCE—Each District Association send the

sum of \$15.00 annual fee and \$5.00 National Association fee with the annual report. And each minister and deacon pay the sum of \$1.00 registration fee to help carry on the expense of the Association.

SEC. V—The Secretary shall be paid \$25.00, the Moderator \$15.00 and the Assistant Moderator \$10.00 for their services rendered. All other expenditures not specified shall be made at the direction of the body.

ARTICLE II, DISCIPLINE—The State Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or practice that may properly come before it from any of the bodies composing the State Association. Said appeal having been properly signed by the constituent body or bodies and its decision shall be final.

SEC. VI—All appeal coming before the State Association may be settled in either of the following ways: (1) By the State Association sitting in a committee as a whole, (2) By a special committee appointed by the Executive Board, whose report shall be voted on without discussion.

ARTICLE II—The Moderator of the State Association of Free Will Baptist shall be regarded as an ex-official member of all Boards or committees elected or appointed.

ARTICLE III—Each elected officer shall serve for a period of two (2) years. Elections coming on the even years.

The appointed officers or committees serving at the direction of the Moderator or until dismissed by the Moderator.

ARTICLE IV, MEETINGS—The State Association of Free Will Baptist shall hold its regular meetings annually. Place of meeting to be decided by a vote of the body. The time of meeting to be on Thursday night before the second Sunday in November of each year. And to remain in session until its work is completed.

ARTICLE V—This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the State Association by a two-thirds vote of members present; provided proposed amendment be presented in writing to the body and shall lie on the table at least from morning session until evening session, or from evening session till morning session prior to adoption and shall during that time be read at least twice in open session.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The Woman's Auxiliary State Convention convened with the First Free Will Baptist church of Sylacauga, Alabama, June 11, 1953.

The program was opened by the songs, "Standing on the Promises" and "The Haven of Rest" led by Rev. Charles Hollingshead, followed with a prayer by Rev. R. P. Ritch. Another song, "Power in the Blood" was sung and was followed by the devotional by Mrs. W. G. Palmer. Matt. 25:14 was used as the scripture reading.

A prayer was led by Rev. A. J. Lambert. Mrs. Sam Kendrick gave the welcome address, and Mrs. Lorene Isabelle the response.

Letters were read from the following auxiliaries listing the

delegates' names:

PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION: Mrs. A. L. Parker, Mrs. Theo Kuykendall, Mrs. Lorene Ryland, Mrs. A. J. Lambert and Mrs. Nettie Whitehead.

JASPER ASSOCIATION: Mrs. Lorene Conner, Mrs. Clyde Warren, Mrs. A. P. Leonard, Mrs. Howard Franks and Mrs. G. C. Lawrence.

CAHABA RIVER ASSOCIATION: Mrs. H. L. Mitchell.

PROSPECT CHURCH OF DOTHAN: Mrs. Docia Allen.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF SYLACAUGA: Mrs. Troy Hendrick.

A motion was moved and seconded to receive the letters and seat the delegates.

The following committees were appointed: RESOLUTION: Mrs. A. L. Parker, Mrs. Wm. G. Palmer, and Mrs. Howard Franks; APPREC.: Mrs. H. L. Mitchell, Mrs. A. P. Leonard, Mrs. Lorene Conner; NOM.: Mrs. A. J. Lambert, Mrs. Kendrick, Mrs. Jim Widman; FIN.: Mrs. Troy Engle, Mrs. Lorene Isbell, and Miss Annie Lou Shelnutt.

The presidents message was given by Mrs. Lester Jones.

The congregation was dismissed for a short recess.

The session was reopened by a song, "Lift Him Up" by Rev. A. J. Lambert

Rev. Jamess Pickett expressed his appreciation for the convention and led a prayer followed by another song, "Lord, Send Me" and a wonderful message followed by Rev. Lester Jones, using Eccles. 8:4, for his scriptural reading, "The Power of the Word" being his subject.

Mrs. Lester Jones appointed Mrs. A. J. Lambert, Mrs. Lorene Isbell, and Miss Annie Lou Shelnutt as a committee to purchase a gift for the church sending in the most coupons to the Children's Home.

Rev. R. P. Ritch announced about refreshments and Bro. Engle prayed the benediction.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious, refreshing meal.

The afternoon service was opened by a song, "I'll Go Where He Sendeth Me" - led by Rev. A. J. Lambert followed by a prayer by Bro. Wm. G. Palmer.

A playlet, "Women of Destiny", was presented by Mrs. Howard Franks and Mrs. Loren Conner from the Mt. Olive church of the Jasper Association.

Introduction of the program theme: "Christ the More Excellent Way" was given by Mrs. A. J. Lambert. "Choosing the More Excellent Way in Bible Study" by Mrs. Mary Edna Cook. "Choosing the More Excellent Way in Church Attendance" - by Mrs. Jim Widman.

"Choosing the More Excellent Way of Soul Winning", -by Mrs. Mrs. A. L. Parker.

"Choosing the More Excellent Way of Soul Winning", - by Mrs. Earl Smith.

A prayer was led by Mrs. Lester Jones.

A nice flower vase was awarded to the Talledega church as the one sending the most coupons to the Children's Home.

Business was entered and the following reports were given and received from the committees:

Registration:

Financial:

We the Finance Committee, have examined the treasurer's report and find the following correct:

Amount left from last year	\$62.81
Amount received for dues	\$17.05
TOTAL	\$79.86
Amount paid for Gift	\$ 4.10
BALANCE in the treasury	\$75.76

Appreciation:

In behalf of our Women's State Auxiliary Convention, we the Appreciation Committee wish to thank this convention for each song, prayer and message throughout the day. We want to express our appreciation and gratitude to this church for the hearty welcome we have received and to each lady that put forth any time and effort for the wonderful lunch that was served, and also for Mrs. Jones' interest and effort she has put forth in promoting our auxiliary work.

Resolution:

1. We recommend that the field secretary contact each church by letter and encourage them to send delegates to the next session of this convention.

If they have no auxiliary, we recommend that she encourages them to organize one.

2. We further recommend that this convention reimburses her expenses for postage and supplies.

3. We recommend that this convention sends \$10.00 to the Co-Laborer Band Fund.

4. We recommend that this convention pay the expenses for printing the program each year.

5. We recommend that each auxiliary obtain the new manuals for study.

Nominating:

President - Mrs. Lester Jones, Cordova, Alabama; Vice President - Mrs. Howard Franks, Rt. 2, Guin, Alabama; Recording Secretary and Treasurer - Mrs. Lorene Isbell, Sylacauga, Alabama;

Assistant Recording Secretary and Treasurer - Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Dothan, Alabama; Youth Auxiliary Director, Mrs. A. L. Harmon; Corresponding Secretary: Miss Annie Lou Shelnut, Rt. 3, Winfield, Alabama; Field Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Parker; Enlistment Chairman: Mrs. H. L. Mitchell; Mission Study Course Chairman: Mrs. H. A. Pitts, Winfield, Alabama; Personal Service Chairman: Mrs. Woodroe Suggs; Stewardship Chairman: Mrs. Wm. G. Palmer; Missionary Education Chairman: Mrs. Clara Cobb.

Mrs. Lester Jones appointed Mrs. A. J. Lambert, Mrs. Woodroe Suggs, and Mrs. James Melton as a Gift Buying Committee.

The benediction was prayed by Rev. G. C. Lawrence.

THURSDAY NIGHT

The session was opened by singing "There'll Be Shouting" and "Jesus Hold My Hand".

Bro. Kellum led in prayer, followed by the song "Coming."

Devotional was conducted by Rev. G. C. Lawrence.

After singing "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart", Rev. A. J. Lambert brought the message.

Announcements were made about homes for visitors.

Rev. Charles Hollingshead made announcements about the league convention which was the next day.

We were dismissed with prayer.

The statistical report was not complete enough to be worth reporting. All auxiliary are urged to send in complete reports next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Lou Shelnut, Sec.

ASSOCIATIONS	MODERATOR	ADDRESS	CLERK	ADDRESS
Progressive	Rev. J. M. Dutton Jr., Leeds Alabama		Mrs. Merle Dyer, Samantha, Alabama	
Cahaba River	Rev. R. P. Ritch, Rt. 3, Sylacauga, Alabama		H. A. McSpadden, Rt. 9, B'ham., Alabama	
Jasper	Rev. G. C. Lawrence, Brilliant, Alabama		Brandon Estes, Guin, Alabama	
Mt. Moriah	Rev. J. H. Tilley, Ethelville, Alabama		Rev. Leander McAdams, Rt. 2, Columbus, Miss.	
Bear Creek	Rev. Grady F. Parker, Rt. 3, Haleyville, Ala.		Mrs. Ava Lee Taylor, Houston, Alabama	
Liberty No. 2	Rev. J. T. Windsor, Pell City, Alabama		Paul R. Davis, Pell City, Alabama	
Vernon	Rev. Gurley Roberts, Guin, Alabama		D. G. Jordan, Vernon, Alabama	
State Line	Rev. Roy Barnes, Vernon, Alabama		L. C. Wright, Hamilton, Alabama	
Birmingham District	Rev. Lee Hanks, Rt. 15, Box 1142, B'ham., Ala.		Arthur Johnston, 701 Mavis Ave., Sylacauga, Alabama	
Union Grove Church	Rev. Eugene Sanford		Mrs. W. G. Palmer, Rt. 1, Castlebury, Ala.	

**MINUTES OF THE
ALABAMA STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION
WHEN CONVENED WITH THE**

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, SYLACAUGA, ALA.

The State Sunday School Convention convened with the First Free Will Baptist church, Sylacauga, Alabama, June 13, 1953.

The Session opened with singing, "Rescue The Perishing" and the chorus "Everybody Happy."

Bro. Grady Palmer, Castlebury, Alabama, gave the devotional. "The Pastor's Place" was given by Rev. Charles Hollingshead. We entered into the business session.

The reports and dues were received and read. There was a move and second to accept these reports as read.

The following delegates were listed:

PROGRESSIVE CONVENTION: Miss Sue Lambert and Jimmy Aldridge.

UNION GROVE SUNDAY SCHOOL: Mrs. Grady Palmer.

UNITY SUNDAY SCHOOL: Betty Lou Gentry

STATE LINE CONVENTION: Madison Taylor and Thurman Tolar.

LIBERTY NO. 2 CONVENTION: Rev. Floyd C. Barber.

The following report was given by the Appreciation Committee.

We the Appreciation Committee extend our thanks to this church for the invitation to meet with you in this session. We are grateful for the fine hospitality that has been shown and for the welcome that has been extended to us.

Mrs. Lester Jones
Miss Sue Lambert
Miss Meredith Kirksey

Rev. Ritch, from Sylacauga, Alabama, gave a talk on the Children's Home, Eldridge, Alabama and its needs.

After singing the choruses "Lead Me To Some Soul Today" and "Hallelujah" and the song "Amazing Grace", Rev. J. M. Dutton Jr., Leeds, Alabama, brought the message. His text was taken from Judges 7:21.

"Just As I Am" was sung, followed by the benediction by Bro. Baxley.

A very enjoyable chicken dinner was served at the parsonage.

The afternoon session began by singing "I Will Sing The Wonderful Story."

A member of the Ensley Sunday School gave the devotional.

The congregation sang the following choruses: "Walking With Jesus" and "I'll Be So Glad When Jesus Comes."

A report of the '52 National Sunday School Conference was given by Mrs. Lester Jones.

The following partial report was given by the Secretary and

Treasurer:

Number of Sunday Schools represented	30
Number of Leagues represented	19
League Dues collected	\$28.00
Sunday School Dues collected	\$46.00
Amount Brought Forward	\$10.69
Gift for Sword Drill Winner	\$ 5.00
Amount Left in Treasury	\$79.69

The Credential Committee had no report to make.

The following report was made by the Executive Committee:
We recommend that the Sunday School and League Convention pay \$20.00 for our part in printing the State Minutes.

We recommend that the Sunday School and League pay the required fee to be represented in the National Conventions.

We recommend that the Executive Committee be made up of a rotated committee-one for five years, on down to one for one year.

We recommend that the Sunday School and Leagues Convention convene with the East Florence church in 1954.

We the Nominating Committee recommend the following officers:

Rev. Charles Hollingshead, President; Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Vice President; and Miss Annie Lou Shellnutt, Secretary and Treasurer.

A move and second was made that we accept this report and was carried.

A move and second was made that the body authorize the Secretary or President to fill in delegates names to the National Convention when they find out who can go. Carried.

A message, "The Superintendents Place", was given by Bro. Grady Collins.

A message, "The Secretary's Place". was given by Miss Annette Jones.

A message, "The Teacher's Place", was given by Miss Meredith Kirksey.

A message, "The Convention's Place", was given by Rev. Charles Hollingshead.

After a move to adjourn, the convention was dismissed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted.
Dorothy Ruth Scott

**MINUTES OF THE
ALABAMA STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION
WHEN CONVENED WITH THE
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, SYLACAUGA, ALA.**

The State League Convention convened with the First Free Will Baptist church, Sylacauga, Alabama, June 12, 1953.

The Session opened with our League Song, "Onward Christian Leaguers," lead by Rev. Charles Hollingshead, the president of the convention.

Devotional was conducted by Rev. J. M. Cobb of Fayette, Alabama and Mrs. Cobb recited an inspiring poem, "I Met The Master Face To Face", in with Rev. Cobb's devotional. He read from the 23rd Psalm and closed with a testimony service and the chorus, "Thank You, Lord For Saving My Soul."

The welcome address was given by a member of the First Free Will Baptist church of Sylacauga, and the Response, by Jimmy Aldridge of the Cordova League.

We entered into the business session. The officers were recognized. Dorothy Ruth Scott, of Dothan, Alabama, was appointed as Secretary for the convention in the absence of its Secretary, Mrs. James Pickett, Birmingham, Alabama.

Reports were read from the following churches and District Conventions with the delegates listed:

PROGRESSIVE: Jimmy Aldridge, Roy Stanfield, Misses Sue Lambert and Wilma Aldridge.

COOPERATIVE: Misses Dorothy Ruth Scott, Glenda Smith, Dannie Sue Jones, Meredith Kirksey, and David Rabon.

UNITY CHURCH: Miss Faye Johnston.

JASPER: Mrs. Jim Wideman, Mrs. A. P. Leonard, Misses Ila Dean Stanford, Beatrice Williams, Patsy Williams.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the reports as read and seat the delegates.

A motion was made that the president read the constitution and by-laws of the Sunday School and League Convention.

The Executive Committee read the report of recommendation to the constitution and by-laws. There was a move and second that we accept these recommendations for revision. The following was their recommendation:

Exclude Article No. IV and change Article No. III to read as follows: All officers, ordained ministers and their wives who are members of Sunday Schools or Leagues shall be standing delegates.

The following committees were appointed: **REGISTRATION:** Misses Jeannette Strickland, and Dollie Dennis; **APPRECIATION:** Mrs. Lester Jones, Misses Meredith Kirksey and Sue Lambert; **EXECUTIVE:** Reverends H. A. Pitts, Lester Jones, W. H. Ryland, and A. J. Lambert; **CREDENTIAL:** Reverends J. M. Cobb, R. P. Ritch, and Chester O'Donald; **NOMINATING:** The Executive Committee.

There was a discussion about the State Youth Camp. Plans

were discussed to provide a place for youth camp this year, also to establish a permanent place for the camp.

Reverends R. P. Ritch, J. M. Cobb, Lester Jones were appointed to look after this.

Rev. Hollingshead led the congregation in singing "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus", after which Rev. Dave Franks brought an inspiring message on the Crucifixion of Christ.

We were dismissed for the noon hour during which a very enjoyable lunch was served.

Rev. Hollingshead reopened the session by leading the congregation in singing "Love Lifted Me".

Mrs. Lester Jones, Cordova, Alabama, gave a report of the '52 National League Conference after which Wilma Aldridge expressed her feeling about the conference.

The Florence League presented a playlet "The Jones Family" which was an inspiration to all.

A discussion on League work was led by Rev. Lester Jones, Cordova, Alabama.

A message, "Reaching Our Youth" was given by Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Dothan, Alabama.

A message, "The Word", was given by Mrs. A. L. Parker.

Rev. Hollingshead led the group in singing the chorus, "Everybody Happy."

A message, "Missions", was given by Mrs. Clara Cobb, Fayette, Alabama.

A business session was held.

Mrs. Lester Jones, Mrs. A. J. Lambert, and Mrs. Mary Edna Cook was appointed to serve as a committee to get the prize for the Sword Drill Winner. It was moved and seconded that they not exceed \$5.00 in getting the Bibles for the drill and the prize for the winner.

Rev. Ritch, assistant pastor of the host church, announced that supper would be served at the church at 5:30.

The convention was adjourned until night services with prayer by Brother O'Donald.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Rev. Hollingshead led the congregation in singing some choruses. Afterwards, the Cooperative District Convention, Dothan, Alabama, presented a playlet, "The Voice". Glenda Smith gave a devotional at the end of their playlet.

Mrs. Lester Jones conducted the Sword Drill. Contestants were: Wilma Aldridge, Faye Johnston and Donnie Sue Jones. Wilma Aldridge was the winner and was presented a Brownie Camera.

Rev. Lester Jones brought an inspiring message following the Sword Drill.

The session was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Ruth Scott