

THE  
*Birmingham District Association*

of

FREE WILL BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

---

1948

*Proceedings Of The  
Tenth Annual Session*

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Held With

MT. ZION CHURCH ————— EAST THOMAS

Sept. 2 - 3 - 4, 1948



MINUTES  
Of The  
*Birmingham District Association*  
Of  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST  
HELD WITH

Mt. Zion Church of East Thomas

Sept. 2 - 3 - 4, 1948

OFFICERS

Moderator\_\_\_Rev. A. R. Barker, 800 24th Ave. W., B'ham 4  
Ass't. Mod.\_\_\_Rev. J. F. Williams, Rt. 8, Box 640, B'ham 8  
Clerk-Treas.\_\_\_Mrs. C. R. Williams, Rt. 8, Box 640, B'ham 8

The next setting of this Association will be held with Meadows Chapel Church of Blossburg, Ala., beginning Thursday night before the first Monday in September at 7:30 p.m., 1949.

ORDER OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

The body is declared ready for business:

1. Call for peace and fellowship of the church.
2. Opportunity for members.
3. Invite visitors to seat with us.
4. Reading of minutes of last conference.
5. Call for acknowledgements.
6. Deacons report.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Report from sick committee.
10. Motion to adjourn.



## PROCEEDINGS

### THURSDAY NIGHT

Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Session of the Birmingham District Association met with Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church of East Thomas on Thursday night, September 2nd, 1948.

Services began with singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," also, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," directed by Brother Waits.

Prayer by Rev. Robert Moncriff. Rt. 1, Empire, Ala.

We had good crowd of members and visitors with us.

The Moderator gave a hearty welcome to all to take part in our worship services.

Devotional Services were conducted by Rev. J. F. Williams, with all Christians taking part in the services.

The moderator: Appointed a Devotional Committee. Bro. C. K. Evans, Brother Vernon and Brother J. V. Comer.

Rev. Euel Johnson of Dilworth brought a wonderful message, reading Matthew: 24; 3-5.

### FRIDAY MORNING

Services opened in great Spirit this morning with a nice crowd attending, singing "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be".

Prayer by Rev. Walter Coleman.

Song. "When We All Get To Heaven".

Moderator extended a welcome to all that were present.

Moderator reading St. Luke 8:1-14 and giving a grand talk on "Sowing Good Seed."

Call for peace and fellowship of the body, singing "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms", with an old-time handshake.

Declared the body ready for business. Called for letters. The following churches reported:

1. Meadows Chapel: Sister Eunice Couch, Sister Mildred Burr, Sister Retha Bevis and Bro. James V. Comer.

2. Mt. Zion: At East Thomas, Sister Evylan Gamel, Sister Ethel Barr, Bro. D. W. Ingram.

3. Shiloh: Sister Rosa Prestage, Sister Bessie Fulton, Rev. George Fulton.

4. Dilworth: Rev. Euel Johnson, Rev. Wallace Mitchell, and Rev. Virgil Moncriff.

5. Mt. Zion of Pell City, Sister H. E. Hewitt, Rev. H. E. Hewitt and Bro. G. W. Hollis.

Dilworth Church of Rt. 1 Empire, Ala., and Mt. Zion

Church of Rt. 1, Pell City, Ala., were admitted to our Association.

6. Pleasant Hill Church not represented.

Moderator appointed reading committee, Sister Evylan Gamel, Sister Ethel Barr.

Letters read and delegates seated.

The following officers were selected:

Moderator: Rev. A. R. Barker.

Ass't Mod.: Rev. J. F. Williams.

Clerk-Treasurer: Mrs. C. R. Williams.

Evangelist: Rev. Lee Hanks.

Eleven o'clock Message by Rev. L. A. Lively of Dilworth Church, Reading Jer. 6:15-16 followed by Rev. Walter Coleman and Rev. Virgil Moncriff which was greatly enjoyed by all.

A fine lunch was spread on the table of the churchyard, was highly enjoyed by all.

Returned for afternoon services singing "I'll Fly Away".

Prayer by Bro. C. D. Snelling.

Moderator reading 1st John 1-3.

We were glad to have Rev. Robert Moncriff as visitor from "The Jasper Association".

Declared body ready for business. Committies appointed by Moderator.

1. Business Committee: Rev. C. R. Allen, Bro. Wing Ingram, Bro. Erkel Gunter and Bro. James V. Comer.

2. Standing of Ministers: Bro. G. W. Hollis, Sister Retha Bevis and Sister Ethel Barr.

3. Deceased Committee: Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. C. K. Evans and Bro. L. A. Lively.

4. Temperance Committee: Sister Eunice Couch, Sister Mildred Burr and Sister Bessie Fulton.

5. Auditing Committee: Bro. F. S. Higdon, Bro. George Fulton and Bro. Virgil Moncriff.

6. Ordaining Council: Rev. Waler Coleman, Rev. John H. Doss, Rev. Lee Hanks and Rev. Euel Johnson.

7. Executive Committee: Bro. Curtiss Williams, Bro. F. S. Higdon, Bro. Walter Murphy, Bro. C. K. Evans and Rev. John H. Doss.

The business committee gave a partial report, it was accepted and adopted by items.

The following were examined by the Ordaining Council, Rev. C. D. Snelling, Rev. B. W. Alexander and Rev. W. O.



Mitchell, and granted license to preach the gospel for one year.

Rev. L. A. Lively was examined and Ordination papers exchanged with him.

2. We, the Committee see fit to give all Ministers a certificate of standing for one year.

Chairman Bro. G. W. Hollis.

3. We, the committee on deceased members, report to our sorrow that we have lost one beloved brother, Bro. Meadows of Meadow's Chapel.

Chairman C. R. Franklin.

4. We the Committee on Temperance report. Be temperate in all things. Use God's Word for our rule, and be guided by the Spirit of God, for it will cleanse us if we will obey it. Do all things decently and in order.

Chairman Eunice Couch.

5. Auditing Committee: We report, that we have examined the books of 1947 and find them in order.

Chairman. Bro. F. S. Higdon

Final report of business committee: We recommend that Rev. George P. Fulton of Shiloh Church be granted license to preach the Gospel for one year.

2. We, the business committee, recommend that when the Association convenes it shall not be interrupted by any other services unless it be agreed upon by the Moderator and the business committee.

3. We, the business committee, recommend that rule No. 13 in the rules of decorum be changed to read as follows: That no business be voted on without the whole delegation be present.

4. We, the business committee, recommend that all licensed ministers turn in their old license before new ones are granted.

Voted to have 500 copies of Minutes printed at Star Publishing Company, Ensley, Ala.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT

Opening with a song, "Everybody Will be Happy Over There."

Prayer by Rev. H. L. Mitchell.

We had a well filled house. Brother A. R. Barker gave a welcome to all.

We were very proud indeed to have with us Rev. W. H. Ryland, Superintendent of the Children's Home of Eldridge, Ala., also the nurse and eleven (11) of the children from

the home. The children entertained us with singing songs of praise, which was very heart-warming and soul-stirring.

The Ryland twins also gave us a special number in song.

Rev. W. H. Ryland brought an inspiring message, reading Job 31.

A free will offering of \$52.11 was taken for the Children's home. For this we are thankful.

This was a wonderful evening and enjoyed by all.

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Song, "When I Read My Titles Clear."

Prayer by Rev. H. E. Hewitt.

Moderator reading Rev. 22.

Declared the body ready for business.

The time was taken for discussions until time for the Eleven O'clock Message which was brought by Rev. Lee Hanks using 2nd Tim. 4: 1-8. This was a grand message which brought much joy.

Lunch was served at the church.

Returned for afternoon services singing, "Some Day."

Prayer: Sister Hewitt.

Declared body ready for business.

Clerk's report:

Balance carried from 1947 Association ..... \$86.00

Amount received: ..... 46.20

Total ..... \$132.20

Paid out for Minutes ..... 76.00

Paid out for State Association ..... 10.00

Balance in Treasury ..... \$46.20

Mrs. C. R. Williams, Clerk

#### MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The conference was held with the following taking part: Rev.'s John H. Doss, J. F. Williams, A. R. Barker, C. R. Allen, George Fulton, H. E. Hewitt, C. B. Snelling and B. W. Alexander.

Deacons: Bro.'s Charlie Franklin, Erkel Gunter, G. W. Hollis, F. S. Higdon and Vernon Evans.

Moderator: Rev. Lee Hanks.

Clerk: James V. Comer.

Voted to pay Clerk of Association \$10.00 out of the Treasury.

District Evangelist's report:

I have filled unexpired term of one pastor, held five revivals, pastored two missions part time, have prospect of two churches, but have not organized any churches this year.



Respectfully submitted, Rev. Lee Hanks.

#### MINISTER'S REPORT

Number Churches Pastored: ..... None  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 350  
Number Funerals Conducted: ..... 4  
Number Baptized: ..... None  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... 5  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... None  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... 4,000  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... \$60.00  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... \$2.50

#### ELDER C. R. ALLEN

Number Churches Pastored: ..... 2  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 104  
Number Funerals Conducted: ..... 1  
Number Baptized: ..... 33  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... 2  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... 3  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... 3,919  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... \$802.55  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... \$300.00

#### ELDER A. R. BARKER

Number Churches Pastored: ..... None  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 101  
Number Funerals Conducted: ..... 2  
Number Baptized: ..... None  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... 5  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... 1  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... Not Known  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... \$245.83  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... Not Known

#### ELDER LEE HANKS

Number Churches Pastored: ..... None  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 17  
Number Funerals Conducted: ..... None  
Number Baptized: ..... None  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... None  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... None  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... 360  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... \$11.50  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... \$13.25

#### ELDER J. F. WILLIAMS

Number Churches Pastored: ..... None  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 100

Number Funerals Conducted: ..... 3  
Number Baptized: ..... None  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... 2  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... None  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... 800  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... None  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... \$12.50

#### ELDER JOHN H. DOSS

Number Churches Pastored: ..... 2  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 176  
Number Funerals Conducted: ..... 4  
Number Baptized: ..... 26  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... 13  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... 1  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... Not Known  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... \$484.57  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... Not Known

#### ELDER WALTER COLEMAN

Number Churches Pastored: ..... 1  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 65  
Number Funerals Conducted: ..... None  
Number Baptized: ..... None  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... 1  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... None  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... 350  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... \$28.60  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... \$35.00

#### ELDER H. E. HEWITT

Number Churches Pastored: ..... None  
Number Sermons Preached: ..... 30  
Number Funerals Conducted: ..... None  
Number Baptized: ..... None  
Number Revivals Assisted In: ..... 1  
Number Marriages Performed: ..... None  
Number Miles Traveled: ..... 40  
Amount of Offering Received: ..... None  
Expense of Ministerial Work: ..... None

#### ELDER GEORGE P. FULTON

A vote of thanks was extended to Mt. Zion East Thomas Church and Community for their kindness shown us during our Association.

#### SATURDAY NIGHT

Opening singing song of praise.  
Prayer by Bro. Moore.



Devotional services conducted by Rev. C. D. Snelling.

Message by Rev. J. F. Williams and Rev. Lee Hanks.

Reading John 13 and giving a wonderful talk on the "Life of a Christian."

Followed with the Lord's Supper and feet washing, mid much joy.

#### MINISTER'S ROLL

Rev. J. F. Williams, Route 8, Box 640, Birmingham 8, Ala.

Rev. Ira Lee Hanks, Route 14, Box 288, Birmingham, Ala.

Rev. Walter Coleman, Blossburg, Ala.

Rev. John H. Doss, Blossburg, Ala.

Rev. J. M. Holly, Route 2, Cordova, Ala.

Rev. A. R. Barker, 800 24th Avenue W, Birmingham 4, Ala.

Rev. W. R. Parker, 1833 Pearson Avenue, Birmingham, Ala.

Rev. C. R. Allen, 6404 1st Court Noth, Birmingham, Ala.

Rev. H. E. Hewitt, Route 1, Pell City, Ala.

Rev. L. A. Lively, Route 1, Empire, Ala.

Rev. W. O. Mitchell, Route 1, Empire, Ala.

Rev. Enel Johnson, Route 2, Box 123, Cordova, Ala.

Rev. George P. Fulton, Route 9, Box 104, Birmingham, Ala.

Rev. C. D. Snelling, Birmingham, Ala.

Rev. B. W. Alexander, Birmingham, Ala.

#### RULES OF DECORUM

1. After an introductory sermon is preached the association shall be called together by the Moderator who presided at the last session. In case of his absence, the assistant Moderator shall call the body together, the former clerk also officiating until organized.

2. The association when assembled shall be composed of all the Ministers and Ordained Deacons, and Delegates chosen by the different churches composing the body.

3. the officers of the association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and a Clerk to be chosen from the members present.

4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the body during the session at which he is elected, to call the next session to order and preside until reorganization and the election and installation of his successor. It shall be his duty to keep order, enforce the Rules of Decorum, decide all questions, discipline, and in case of a tie vote to cast the deciding ballot. He may speak on any subject but must call on the Assistant Moderator to preside while he is speaking.

5. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep the minutes of the proceedings and to read the same when called upon by the body, and shall prepare the minutes for publication.

6. Each church is entitled to three delegates.

7. A majority of the members shall rule in all cases except the admission of churches, then the vote must be unanimous.

8. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator.

9. All business shall be brought before the body, motion and a second and be disposed of by same.

10. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, nor more than ten minutes each time, without permission from the Moderator.

11. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion or uses words of personal reflections.

12. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time, and he must arise and address the Moderator.

13. That no business be voted on without the whole delegation be present.

14. This decorum may be altered, amended or abridged at any session of the association by a majority of the number present.

15. The minister that receives the most votes shall be elected Moderator, and the next highest, Assistant Moderator.

16. That any minister carrying licenses first be called to pastor a church, or be set apart by the association, as District Evangelist, before being set apart by ordination.

17. When he is called to pastor a church, the church to which he belongs is notified, and the ordaining council is called. He is ordained in his home church by request of said church.

18. We recommend that preachers coming from other associations have a certificate of standing, or a recommendation from their association.

19. We recommend that we correspond and ask correspondence with other association.

#### FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE.—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are infallible rule of faith and practice.



2 Timothy 3:16.

2. GOD.—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

1 Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19.

3. CHRIST.—Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

St. John 1:1-12.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT.—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:46.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

Psalms 22:28; 97:2.

6. THE SINFULLNESS OF MAN.—Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

7. THE WORK OF CHRIST.—The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

1 John 2:2.

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION.—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved commitment of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

2 Cor. 7:10; Pro. 28:13.

9. ELECTION.—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

1 Tim. 2:4.

10. FREEDOM OF WILL.—The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

Joshua 24:15.

Rev. 22:17.

11. SALVATION FREE.—God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of Life freely.

12. PERSEVERANCE.—All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

St. John 15:6; Peter 2:20-22.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES.—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel: Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

Mark 16:15; Cor. 4:5; St. John 13:14.

14. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

Gen. 2:3, Exodus 20:8-11.

15. RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION.—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 5:29; Matt. 25:46.

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adjoining the word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to strengthen the weak and admonish the erring. We, everyone, hold Christian principles sacred.



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