

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CAHABA RIVER
Free Will Baptist Association

WHICH CONVENED WITH
Clara's Chapel Church
BOOTHTON, SHELBY CO., ALA.
September 30, October 1, 2, 3, 1927.

REV. T. J. FINCH,	-----	Moderator
REV. L. L. DAVIS,	-----	Assistant Moderator
L. W. KENDRICK,	-----	Clerk and Treasurer

The next session of this Association will be held with Mount Pleasant Church, Perry County, Ala., beginning on Friday night, before the first Sunday in October 1928, 7:30 o'clock, P. M.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS:
1927.

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PROCEEDINGS

The Forty Ninth Annual Session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association, convened with Clara's Chapel Church, Boothton, Shelby County, Ala., beginning Friday night 7:30 P. M., September 30, 1927, and continuing until Monday evening, October 3.

FRIDAY NIGHT

House called to order by clerk. Sermon by Rev. W. F. Isabel. Reading the first 13 verses of 24 chapter of St. Matthews (See Bible for reading).

SATURDAY, 8:30 A. M.

House called to order by the clerk. Devotional services conducted by Rev. J. E. Hodgins, reading the first chapter of Psalms (See reading) Prayer by Rev. Eddie Wilkinson. Song.

The roll of churches was called and their delegates seated as follows: PLEASANT VALLEY.—L. W. Kendrick, W. B. Shirley, Mrs. Mary Grimes.

UNION HILL.—H. J. Falkner, J. R. Weldon.

MEADOWS CHAPEL.—By letter.

CLARA'S CHAPEL.—Dave Hall, D. A. Reach, Zada Reach, Minnie Pickett.

BETHEL.—Frank Pickett, Charlie Thompson, Frank Harris.

WELCOME.—Not represented.

PROVIDENCE.—Not represented.

MOUNT ZION.—Doc Rich, Curtis Taylor.

MOUNT OLIVE.—Lige Isabel, Duey Isabel.

LIBERTY.—H. T. Terry, John Wallace.

WALNUT SPRINGS.—Not represented.

MOUNT PLEASANT.—J. M. Nichols, Robert Taylor, S. B. Rogers, Joe Nichols.

HEPSABA.—J. B. Harris, Robt. Harris, Floyd Adams.

BELLE VIEW.—John Kendrick, Charlie Armstrong, Elzie Miner.

The following committees were appointed:

CREDENTIALS.—W. B. Shirley, Rev. T. J. Finch, R. W. Wiggins, Rev. J. E. Hodgins, James Nichols.

By motion the house went into the election of a moderator. Rev. T. J. Finch was elected, and Rev. L. L. Davis was elected assistant moderator.

L. W. Kendrick was reelected clerk and treasurer.

The body was then declared ready for business.

The doors of the association were opened for new churches. There was one petition, namely: Liberty.

By motion its letter was read and church accepted.

The delegates were extended the right hand of Christian fellowship and seated in the body.

The following committees were appointed:

DEVOTIONAL.—J. R. Weldon, S. B. Rogers, with the deacons of Clara's Chapel church.

READING.—Zada Reach, Eddie Wilkinson.

BUSINESS.—J. W. Spruell, G. W. Hollis, H. J. Falkner, W. B. Hollis.

FAMILY RELIGION.—Sister Minnie Pickett, J. R. Weldon, A. W. Kendrick.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Eddie Wilkinson, J. M. Nichols, Elzie Miner, Frank Pickett.

LITERATURE.—J. E. Hodgens, Ernest Miner, Johnnie Harris, H. T. Perkins.

TEMPERANCE.—W. F. Isabel, W. B. Shirley, Luke Harris, Charlie Armstrong.

EDUCATION.—R. W. Wiggins, Frank Harris, Bob Taylor, Lige Isabel.

DECEASED MEMBERS.—Dock Reach, Curtis Taylor, G. L. Glass.

STANDING OF THE MINISTRY.—J. M. Shirley, Charlie Thompson, S. B. Rogers, Johnnie Kendrick.

AUDITING.—G. W. Hollis, J. W. Spruell, Richmond Howard.

RESOLUTIONS.—A. J. Davis, H. T. Terrell, W. J. Nichols, Dewy Isabel.

By motion the letters from the various churches were read and adopted. A partial report of the Devotional Committee was read and accepted.

By motion all deacons of the Free Will Baptist Association were seated as permanent delegates of this association.

House adjourned till 1:30 P. M.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Sermon by Rev. Eddie Wilkinson, reading 18 verses of the 10 chapter of Matthew, and the last four verses of the 28th chapter of Matthew (See Scripture for reading). Prayer by Rev. T. J. Finch.

SATURDAY, 1:30 P. M.

House was called to order by clerk. Devotional services were conducted by Rev. T. J. Finch, reading the 8th chapter of Psalms and commenting. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Spruell.

By motion committee on credentials read report. The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

A letter was read to the house from Rev. A. C. Farley by Rev. J. E. Hodgens. After being thoroughly discussed, it was moved and seconded that we accept the letter as read, and the credentials our association granted him, and returned his former credentials to him, granted by the Church of God denomination.

The Business Committee made a partial report which was received.

Revs. J. E. Hodgens, J. W. Spruell, A. J. Davis, H. T. Perkins and W. F.

Isabel were appointed as Ordaining Council to ordain Bros. H. T. Smith, H. W. Smith, and J. W. Nichols as deacons; also, Rev. Eddie Wilkinson and W. B. Hollis as ministers. This service to take place after 11 o'clock service on Sunday.

A partial report of the devotional committee was accepted. House adjourned until 8 o'clock, Monday A. M., Oct. 3.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The Forty Ninth Annual Session of the Ministers' Conference of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association was called to order by the clerk. Saturday, 7:00 o'clock P. M. Devotional services were conducted by the moderator.

The conference then went into the election of moderator and clerk. Rev. W. F. Isabel was elected moderator, and Bro. G. W. Hollis was elected clerk.

The moderator invited visiting brothers to seats with us.

The ministerial roll was called as follows:

A. J. Davis, miles traveled 500, churches pastored 1, revival meetings run 2, baptized 16, total collections, \$167.00.

W. F. Isabel, miles traveled 500, revival meetings run 1, total collections \$5.00, total expenses \$8.00.

R. H. Howard, miles traveled 580, revival meetings run 2, total collections \$37.30, total expenses \$26.51, funerals conducted 1.

T. J. Finch, miles traveled 771, churches pastored 2, revival meetings run 3, total collections \$122.00, total expenses \$14.90.

A. W. Kendrick, report lost.

J. W. Iago, Deceased.

H. F. Harden, miles traveled 276, sermons preached 37, collections none, total expenses \$23.79.

L. L. Davis, miles traveled, none, churches pastored 0, revival meetings 0, baptized 0, total collections 0, total expenses 0.

J. W. Spruell, miles traveled 360, sermons preached 29, churches pastored 1, revival meetings 1, baptized 5, total collections \$11.70, total expenses \$9.00.

W. M. Chadwick, miles traveled 90, sermons preached 30, churches pastored 1, total collections \$30.70.

J. E. Hodgens, miles traveled 3,590, sermons preached 96, churches pastored 3, revival meetings run 5, baptized 7, total collections \$276.70, total expenses \$121.00.

H. T. Perkins, miles traveled 830, revival meetings run 6, baptized 11, sermons preached 50, total collections \$76.85, total expenses \$18.85.

LICENTIATES' REPORTS

L. M. Davis, preached sermons 4, helped in Sabbath Schools and revival services.

Eddie Wilkinson, report lost.

By motion Bro. W. R. Scott's name was dropped from the roll.

The doors of the conference were opened. Bro. W. B. Hollis was restored in the conference.

The subject: "The Best Way to Promote the Gospel," was discussed.

The conference adjourned until Saturday night before the first Sunday in October, 1928.

REV. W. F. ISABEL, Moderator.
G. W. HOLLIS, Clerk.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Song service from 10:00 o'clock till 11:00 o'clock. The 11 o'clock sermon was by Rev. T. J. Finch. Scripture reading, Rom. 6. Text: "Behold I set before thee an open door."

On Sunday afternoon, about two hours were given over to ladies for prayer and experience meeting. This meeting was highly enjoyed and will be long remembered by those who were present.

SUNDAY NIGHT

Communion and feet washing, conducted by Rev. J. E. Hodgens. Scripture reading, 13 verses of the 12th chapter of Exodus.

MONDAY 8:00 A. M.

House was called to order by clerk. Devotional services were conducted by Rev. L. L. Davis.

By motion the minutes were read and adopted.

The business committee made a partial report. By motion it was read and taken up by sections.

1. We your committee on business recommend that Bro. L. M. Davis be extended license to preach for another year.

2. That this body organize a Ministers' and Deacons' Meeting. Same to be held once a year. The first meeting is to be held at Mt. Zion church at 4 o'clock P. M. on the fifth Sunday in April, 1928.

3. Bro. Walter Callahan's ordination was deferred until the quarterly conference. By motion this report was adopted.

Reports of the following committees were called for: Family Religion, Sabbath Schools, Literature, Temperance, Education, Deceased members, Standing of the Ministry, Auditing, and Resolutions.

By motion these reports were read and after some corrections were adopted and the committees were discharged.

MONDAY 11 O'CLOCK A. M.

Sermon by Rev. A. J. Davis. Reading of the 54th chapter of Isaiah. Service followed by Rev. L. L. Davis. House was adjourned until one o'clock P. M.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

House was called to order by clerk. Devotional services conducted by

Rev. T. J. Finch. Scripture reading fifth chapter of 2nd. Cor.

By motion the clerk was instructed to have 400 minutes printed.

By motion the body accepted Bro. H. T. Perkins' report on evangelistic work, and pay him \$15.00 out of associational treasury for his work.

By motion the clerk was instructed to draw \$10.00 from treasury for his work.

By motion Bro. H. T. Perkins was retained as associational evangelist.

By motion the report of the Tent Committee was accepted and the committee was retained for another year.

By motion Mount Pleasant Church, Perry County, Ala., was selected as the place for the next session of the body.

The association was adjourned by prayer by Bro. A. J. Davis, to meet with Mount Pleasant Church, Perry County, Ala., on Friday night before the first Sunday in October, 1928.

REV. T. J. FINCH, Moderator.

REV. L. L. DAVIS, Assistant Moderator.

L. W. KENDRICK, Clerk and Treas.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FAMILY RELIGION.

We, your committee on Family Religion beg leave to submit the following:

We believe that heaven's union is set up in the head of the home. It is the beginning of family religion. It consecrates the life and begins the work. Next is the altar made out of the home by procuring the rest of the family on the altar. This will naturally demand daily prayers. Then the light begins to shine, and those on the altar will be the first to see.

So brethren consecrate your home to the Lord, and the first work is done. You need not try to carry something to your neighbor that you have not received yourself. Possess first, and then you can give it to your fellow-man.

The study of the Word has much to do with family religion.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. MINNIE PICKET, Chm.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following:

We are glad to report that a goodly number of our churches have at present good Sabbath Schools, and are making progress with their work.

Sabbath Schools are educational to young and old in the study of God's Word, which should be the chief study of all men. May God's blessings rest upon all who are helping to promote this great work in the church.

ED. WILKINSON, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE

We your committee on Literature, submit the following:

We recommend that our literature be placed in the homes and Sunday Schools for our church. Further, that we reject all such literature that does

not tend to the uplifting of good morals and Christ's Kingdom.

We recommend that we take the Bible as the book of our counsel at all times.

Respectfully submitted,

REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We your committee on Temperance submit the following:

Temperance is a great thing. We believe that people should be temperate in all things, as the Bible sets forth. Therefore, we recommend that our people be governed by God's Word, and be temperate in all things.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. ISABEL, Chairman.

REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

We your committee on Education submit the following:

We believe that we should educate our children on the Bible as well as other literature. We believe this should start in the family altar. This should be the beginning of all education.

R. W. WIGGINS, Chairman.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION RECEIPTS.

Received in 1926, from churches as follows:

Bethel Church	\$ 1.50
Mount Zion Church	5.50
Mount Pleasant	13.00
Belvue	7.50
Clara's Chapel	4.65

TOTAL \$32.15

Paid out:

To J. W. Spruell	\$10.00
To H. T. Perkins	10.00
Balance on hand	12.15

G. W. HOLLIS, Treasurer and Clerk.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Auditing submit the following:

We have examined records of Clerk and Treasurer and found them correct and in regular form.

G. W. HOLLIS, Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSOCIATIONAL TREASURER

RECEIPTS:

Total brought forward from 1925	\$ 41.10
Collected during the year 1926	79.50

TOTAL \$120.60

DISBURSEMENTS:

Paid for 350 minutes	\$35.00
Postage mailing out minutes	.66
Paid to Clerk	5.00
Paid to G. W. Hollis (Order of Asso.)	20.00
To Balance on hand	59.94

TOTAL \$120.60

LAWRENCE W. KENDRICK, Clerk and Treasurer.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MINISTERS

We, your committee on deceased members submit the following:

After careful examination of the several letters we find that six of our members have passed away: Bro. M. R. Nichols of Mount Pleasant Church; Ed Henson, Sister Wade, and two others from Belle View Church, names not mentioned; Bro. G. W. Iago from Walnut Springs.

We extend our sympathy to friends and relatives of these our brethren.

DOCK REACH, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STANDING OF THE MINISTRY

We your committee on Standing of the Ministry report as follow.:

We have examined the character and Christian standing of the following named ministers, and ask that they be given certificates of good standing for one year: J. E. Hodgins, A. J. Davis, T. J. Finch, H. T. Perkins, A. W. Kendrick, W. F. Isabel, J. W. Spruell, L. L. Davis, Eddie Wilkinson, R. H. Howard, W. B. Hollis, W. M. Chadwick, H. F. Harden, L. M. Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

Associational Evangelist.—Rev. H. T. Perkins, Irondale, Ala., Route 1.

STANDING COMMITTEE:

Ed. Harkins, Underwood, Ala.

W. B. Barber,

S. B. Rogers, Plantersville, Ala., Route 1.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We your committee on Resolutions recommend that the former ones laid down in our previous minute be re-adopted as follows:

Resolution 1: Be it resolved, That each minister submit a written report of his year's work to be printed in the minutes.

Resolution 2. Be it resolved, That each member of each church of this association pay 50 cents in the Home Mission treasury and that the collection of the same be looked after by the deacons of the church.

Resolution 3. Be it resolved, That each minister of this association in pastoral care of churches visit each home there, read a portion of God's Word and offer prayer with the family.

Resolution 4. Be it resolved, That we tender the Almighty God our

thanks for his manifest presence in our midst this session of this association.

Resolution 5. Be it resolved, That we tender our thanks to the good sisters of this church and community for their hospitality while among them and that we pray the blessings of Almighty God to rest upon each of them.

We recommend that these resolutions be carried out.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. J. DAVIS, Chairman.

MINISTERIAL ROLL

J. E. Hodgens, Marvel, Ala.
W. F. Isabel, Leeds, Ala.
H. T. Perkins, Irondale, Ala., Route 1.
A. J. Davis, Leeds, Ala.
T. J. Finch, Eden, Ala., Route 1.
A. W. Kendrick, Boothton, Ala.
J. W. Spruell, Leeds, Ala.
L. L. Davis, Chelsea, Ala., Route 1.
Eddie Wilkinson, Pell City, Ala.
R. H. Howard,
W. B. Hollis,
W. M. Chadwick,
H. F. Hardin, 375 Cooper St., Atlanta, Ga.

LICENTIATES

L. M. Davis, Helena, Ala.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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

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 Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet, one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are to supremely love, adore, and obey.

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 an ever present Savior and Lord.

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

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 may require.

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

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

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are: First, Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. Second, Faith or the unreserved committal 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. Third, Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

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.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE 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.

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 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.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

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.

15. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT 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 ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.—John 5:29, revised version; Matt. 25:46.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves one to another by the will of God, in this solemn Covenant. We praise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the purpose of the church, of its poor and its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sa-

cred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end, we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches	Clerks	Post Offices	Counties	Pastors	Rec. by Baptism	Rec. by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Died	No. Members
Pleasant Valley ---	Jamie Davis -----	Chelsea, Ala. -----	Shelby -----	T. J. Finch -----	---	---	1	---	---	96
Union Hill -----	W. C. Walker -----	Sterrett, Ala. -----	Shelby -----	T. J. Finch -----	---	3	---	---	---	55
Medows Chapel ---	W. Myniard -----	Adamsville, Ala. -	Jefferson -----	J. W. Spruell --	5	---	---	---	---	---
Clara's Chapel -----	Mrs. A. R. Harper---	Boothton, Ala. -----	Shelby -----	J. E. Hodgins	---	---	3	---	---	---
Bethel -----	C. P. Hodgins -----	Marvel, Ala. -----	Bibb -----	---	---	2	---	---	---	63
Bellevue -----	Clyde Stewart -----	Leeds, Ala. -----	Jefferson -----	A. C. Farley -	---	9	---	8	4	100
Welcome -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mount Zion -----	G. W. Hollis -----	Pell City, Ala.-----	St. Clair -----	J. E. Hodgins	7	18	7	2	---	78
Mount Olive -----	Frank Minor -----	Dunnovant, Ala. -	Shelby -----	A. J. Davis ---	23	1	1	---	---	46
Mount Pleasant ---	J. W. Barnett -----	Sprott, Ala. -----	Perry -----	J. E. Hodgins	---	---	---	---	1	85
Hepsabah -----	J. B. Harris -----	Trussville, Ala. R2	-----	A. J. Davis --	6	12	---	---	---	24
Liberty -----	H. C. Cash -----	Lawley, Ala. -----	-----	W. M. Chadwick	---	---	---	---	---	16