

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CAHABA RIVER
Free Will Baptist Association
WHICH CONVENED WITH
Mount Zion Church
PELL CITY, ST. CLAIRE COUNTY, ALA.
October 3, 4, 5, 6, 1930.

J. E. HODGENS	-----	Moderator
T. J. FINCH	-----	Assistant Moderator
L. W. KENDRICK	-----	Clerk and Treasurer

The next session of this Association will be held with Liberty Church, Lawley, Bibb County, Ala., beginning on Friday night before the first Sunday in October, 1931, 7:20 P. M.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
1930

PROCEEDINGS

The 52nd Annual Session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association convened with Mount Zion Church, Pell City, Ala., October 4, 5, and 6, 1930.

Friday Night

Sermon by Rev. Lige Isabel. Reading James 2:8-19. Text, Rev. 2:10.

Saturday, 8:30 A. M.

The house was called to order by the clerk.

Devotional services conducted by Rev. J. E. Hodgens, Reading Psalm 92. Prayer by Rev. T. J. French.

By motion the body went into election of permanent moderator, which resulted in the election of Rev. J. E. Hodgens. Rev. T. J. Finch was elected assistant moderator.

By motion L. W. Kendrick was re-elected clerk and treasurer.

The body was then declared ready for business.

The roll of churches was called and their delegates seated as follows:

Pleasant Valley.—J. M. Shirley and Lexie Kendrick.

Union Hill.—J. R. Weldon and J. W. Isabel.

Meadows Chapel.—Not represented.

Claras Chapel.—Sam Peeples, Forest Davis, Annie Davis and Flossie Peeples.

Bethel.—Frank Harris, Tommie Pickett, and Luther Pickett.

Welcome.—Not represented.

Providence.—Ortimesie Harris and Gordie Harris.

Mount Zion.—Curtis Taylor, W. G. Barber, Will Jackson, General Reach, L. N. Barber and T. C. Mitchell.

Mount Olive.—Shellie Isabel and Dewey Isabel.

Liberty.—Jim Langford and Delphia Langford.

Mount Pleasant.—S. B. Rogers, J. V. Rogers, Sidney Duncan, Edward Johnson and Mrs. J. W. Barnett.

Hepsebah.—Riley Harris and Edd. Gray.

Belview.—Mardis Miner and Jim Henson.

The doors of the Association were opened for reception of new churches. One petition, Pleasant Grove Church, Ashville, Ala., was presented, which was accepted and delegates D. J. O'Donald and W. A. Bishop were seated in order. Pilgrim Rest Church, Aldrich, Ala., presented itself to be restored back to the Association which was accepted and delegates J. F. Harris and W. H. Smith were seated in order.

The following committees were appointed:

Devotional.—D. J. O'Donald, R. W. Wiggins, Forest Davis, H. D. Smith, with the deacons of Mount Zion Church.

Credentials.—J. M. Shirley, Edd. Harkins, and J. R. Weldon.

Reading.—L. L. Davis and Jim Harris.

Business.—E. L. Isabel, G. W. Hollis, L. N. Barber, W. G. Barber, Ben Rogers and Luther Pickett.

Family Religion.—Annie Barnett, Flossie Peeples, Lexie Kendrick and Delphie Langford.

Sabbath Schools.—W. B. Hollis, General Glass, Frank Harris, Ernest Minor and J. M. Langford.

Literature.—Jim Henson, Tommie Pickett, Curtis Taylor, Forest Davis and Shellie Isabel.

Deceased Members.—J. W. Isabel, Henry Smith, Dewey Isabel, I. E. Johnson and Riley Harris.

Temperance.—Mardis Minor, Ortomesie Harris, W. G. Jackson and A. L. Parker.

Education.—H. F. Harden, J. J. Reach, G. W. Harris, Earl Isabel and Gordie Harris.

Standing of the Ministry.—W. A. Bishop, Ernest Minor, R. S. Duncan, W. H. Smith, R. W. Wiggins and Edd. Harkins.

Auditing.—Sam Peeples, Eddie Graves, D. V. Rogers and Eddie Wilkinson.

Resolutions.—A. J. Davis, H. T. Perkins, Richmond Howard and W. F. Isabel.

The body was then adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

11:00 o'Clock Service

Sermon by Rev. A. W. Kendrick. Reading St. John 11:28, followed by Rev. A. J. Davis.

Dinner was served by the ladies of the community.

Saturday, 1:30 P. M.

House was called to order by the clerk. Prayer by Bro. Ed. Harkins. Visiting brothers were invited to seats.

The credential committee made their partial report which was accepted.

The moderator appointed Rev. T. J. Finch, A. J. Davis, and W. F. Isabel to serve as an Ordaining Council.

Bro. L. W. Kendrick made a report on how to secure books of discipline which was accepted by motion.

The business committee made a partial report which was accepted.

The report of the Ordaining Council was accepted.

By motion the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association empowered its moderator, Rev. J. E. Hodgins, and assistant, Rev. T. J. Finch, to correspond with the State Conference and if found to be in harmony with us, represent this body in that Conference.

The body adjourned to meet Monday at 8:30 A. M.

Sunday, 10:00 A. M.

A memorial service was held in memory of Rev. T. W. Jones and Rev. J. W. Spruell, deceased ministers since last Association, conducted by Rev. J. E. Hodgins, reading part of 1st Kings, second chapter.

11:00 o'Clock Service

Sermon by Rev. T. J. Finch reading first seven verses of the fourth chapter of Esther. Text, Esther 1:16, followed by Rev. L. L. Davis.

Sunday, 5:00 P. M.

The ladies held prayer meeting, conducted by Sister Sallie Mitchell. This service was highly enjoyed by all present. This service was followed by communion and feet washing, conducted by Rev. J. E. Hodgins reading Mark 8:38.

Monday, 8:00 A. M.

The house was called to order by the clerk. Devotional services conducted by the moderator, reading Psalm 133.

The minutes were read and adopted.

The committees which were appointed made their reports which were accepted and committees discharged, except the business committee, which was retained until adjournment. (See reports).

By motion the moderator appointed Rev. T. J. Finch, Rev. Lige Isabel, and Rev. Richmond Howard to examine Rev. L. L. Davis and Rev. L. M. Davis as to their doctrine.

By motion the body voted to let Pell City Trust and Saving Bank be responsible for the deposit of Home Mission funds deposited in it at the time of its failure.

By motion the question of restoring Meadows Chapel Church, Jefferson county, Ala., was left to the Home Mission Board.

The house discussed the question of adding an article on feet washing to the articles of Faith, printed in our minutes, which was adopted, and the clerk was authorized to add it.

By motion Walnut Springs Church was discontinued from the roll.

The body voted for the next session of the Association to be held with Liberty Church, 5 miles West of Lawley, Ala., Station on M. & O. R. R., Bibb county.

The body voted for clerk to draw \$10.00 from treasury for his work.

The body voted to have 400 copies of minutes of this session printed.

The body voted unanimous thanks to Pell City and Mount Zion Church for their kind hospitality while among them.

Standing Committee

J. H. Harris, Marvel, Ala., Route 1.

J. B. Harris, Trussville, Ala., Route 2.

T. W. Jones, Centerville, Ala., Route 5.

Ministers' Conference

The 52nd Annual Session of the Ministers' Conference of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association was called to order by the clerk at Mount Zion Church, Pell City, Ala., on Saturday night, October 4, 1930, at 8:00 o'clock.

Devotional services were conducted by the moderator, Rev. T. J. Finch, reading eighth Psalm. After prayer, the body went into the election of a permanent moderator and clerk, which resulted in the election of Rev. T. J. Finch, moderator, and Bro. W. G. Hollis, clerk. The moderator then invited visiting ministers to seats in the Conference. The doors of the Ministers' Conference were opened for new members. The ministerial roll was called and their reports received at follows:

A. W. Kendrick, present; miles traveled 700; sermons preached 52; baptized 7; married couples 2; funeral services 2; total expenses \$35.00; total collected \$26.40.

A. J. Davis, present; sermons 20; assisted in two revivals; total collections \$14.00.

J. E. Hodgins, present; miles traveled 3070; sermons preached 121; funeral services 3; assisted in five revivals; baptized 3; total expenses \$92.14; total collections \$316.29.

W. F. Isabel, present; miles traveled 280; sermons preached 6; total expenses \$9.00; total collections \$10.00.

H. T. Perkins, present; miles traveled 6076; sermons preached 86; assisted in three revivals; baptized 6; funeral services 3; total expenses \$136.45; total collections \$245.44.

W. R. Parker, absent.

H. F. Harden, present; sermons preached 17; assisted in two revivals.

L. L. Davis, present; no report.

L. M. Davis, present; no report.

E. D. Wilkinson, present; miles traveled 300; sermons preached 20; married, one couple; funeral services 1; total expenses \$6.00; total collections \$10.00.

W. B. Hollis, present; miles traveled 414; sermons preached 26; assisted in three revivals; baptized 2; total expenses \$12.42; total collections \$7.75.

R. H. Howard, present; miles traveled 235; sermons preached 28; assisted in three revivals; total expenses, none; total collections \$8.69.

E. L. Isabel, present; miles traveled 1194; sermons preached 64; assisted in two revivals; funeral services 1; baptized 15; married one couple; total expenses \$38.20; total collections \$38.94.

T. J. Finch, present; miles traveled 707; sermons preached 51; assisted in three revivals; baptized 3; funeral services 2; total expenses \$15.69; total collections \$67.73.

W. M. Chadwick, by letter; sermons preached 10; funeral services 4; married one couple.

After an interesting and heart-felt discussion of subject, "The Best Way to Promote the Gospel," the Conference was adjourned to meet with Liberty Church, Lawley, Ala., Bibb county, on Saturday night before the first Sunday in October, 1931.

REV. T. J. FINCH, Moderator.

G. W. HOLLIS, Clerk.

Reports of Committees

Family Religion.—The great author of Christian Religion said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness," Christ for our example, let us follow Him and be ever ready to defend His cause and let our light shine that others may see our work that they are of the Lord. Let us teach our children in our homes that we are on the Lord's side and show by our faith that we will live this religion three hundred sixty-five days in the year. We are taught if we have faith in Him we will never die, for Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live."

Respectfully submitted,

ANNIE BARNETT, Chairman.

Sabbath Schools.—We find that two churches have no Sabbath schools. As we have covenanted ourselves to study God's Word, we find no better place than in a Sabbath school. We urge that each Church have a Sabbath school by the next Association. We suggest that we patronize our own press. As Paul of old said, "I am what I am." We know we have a great work to do and if you know these things happy are ye if ye do them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. HOLLIS, Chairman.

Literature.—Realizing that our sons' and daughters' minds and characters are made up largely from the literature they read: Therefore, we recommend that all parents examine carefully the literature brought into the home. Then we can expect to see a great change in the way many of them are pursuing.

Parents let us rid our homes of bad literature and encourage the use of good. For the best results we recommend the Free Will Baptist literature at home and in the Churches.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM HENSON, Chairman.

Temperance.—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,

MARDIS MINOR, Chairman.

Education.—The Bible says, "Get knowledge, get wisdom, and with all

our getting, get understanding." We are very sorry to find today there are many people who cannot tell why they are a Christian, much less, why they are a Baptist or Methodist; meet a lawyer and he can tell you why he is a lawyer; a merchant can tell you why he is a merchant; a doctor can tell why he is a doctor. Can you tell why you are a Free Will Baptist? We advise our ministers to study to rightly divide the Gospel, that all may get their portion in due season.

Respectfully,

H. F. HARDEN, Chairman.

Deceased Members.—After careful examination of the letters we find that six of our beloved members have passed away since last Association. Bros. J. W. Baker, J. W. Sprue'l, Armstrong, Barney Henson, T. W. Jones, and I. T. Johnson. We extend our sympathies to the families of these, our brothers and sisters.

Respectfully,

J. W. ISABEL, Chairman.

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

We recommend that this body bring into question Bros. L. M. Davis and L. L. Davis, concerning their standing on points of doctrine.

Respectfully,

W. A. BISHOP, Chairman.

Receipts

Home Missions.—Balance on hand from 1929	\$83.50
Mount Zion Church	21.75
Hepsebah Church	5.00
Liberty Church	4.00
Mount Pleasant Church	6.00
Bellview Church	6.00
Total collections and on hand	\$125.25

Disbursements

Lost in Pell City Bank	\$ 83.50
Paid to Rev. J. E. Hodgins	10.00
Paid to Rev. Eddie Wilkinson	5.00
Balance on hand	26.75
Total	\$125.25

G. W. HOLLIS, Clerk.

Report of the Associational Treasurer

Maylene, Ala., October 1, 1930.

Receipts

On hand from 1928	\$38.32
Collected in 1929	29.10
Total collected	\$67.42

Paid Out

Having minutes printed	\$35.00
Mailing manuscript and minutes out	1.12
Paid to clerk	10.00
Total paid out	\$46.12
Total in treasury at this date	21.30
Total	\$67.42

LAWRENCE W. KENDRICK, Clerk.

Resolutions

We, your Committee on Resolutions, submit the following:

1. Be it resolved, That each minister submit a written report of his year's work to be printed in the minutes.
2. That each member of each Church of this Association pay 5 cents into the Home Mission Treasury, and that the collection be looked after by the Deacons of each Church.
3. That we tender the Almighty God our thanks for his manifest presence in our midst in this session.

That we tender our thanks to the good sisters of this Church and community for their hospitality while we were with them, and that we pray the blessings of God to rest upon each of them.

We further resolve that our resolutions be carried out to the letter, for God has said that his first invitation was free to accept, but they refused to come. Then He sent His servants out to compel them to come that His house might be filled. We have been waiting for the first to come and the house is yet unfilled, so we are sending out the third call for our house must be financed.

Respectfully,

A. J. DAVIS, Chairman.

(NOTE FROM THE CLERK)

Deacons and ministers: See to it that the above resolutions are carried out, and that we can prove it at our next Association by our works.

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, feet washing, 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 promise, 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 sacred 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 ---	C. S. Kendrick -----	Chelsea, Ala. -----	Shelby -----	Not Called -----						98
Union Hill -----	W. C. Walker -----	Vandiver, Ala. ---	Shelby -----	J. E. Hudgens ---	3				1	62
Clara's Chapel ---	Clara Franklin -----	Boothton, Ala. ---	Shelby -----	A. W. Kendrick -	7	3	2			100
Bethel -----	T. J. Pickett -----	Marvel, R. 1, Ala.-	Shelby -----	T. J. Finch -----	2	3				75
Bellevue -----	Viola McLaughlin ---	Leeds, Ala. -----	Jefferson -----	J. E. Hudgens ---		1			2	25
Providence -----	Ollie Harris -----	Dunnavant, Ala. R1	Shelby -----	W. F. Isabel ---	3			2		50
Mount Zion -----	E. C. Brown -----	Pell City, Ala. ---	St. Clair -----	J. E. Hudgens ---	7	12	7	2	1	130
Mount Olive -----	Frank Minor -----	Dunnavant, Ala. ---	Shelby -----	E. D. Wilkinson .	12		2			57
Mount Pleasant ---	J. W. Barnett -----	Sprott, Ala. -----	Perry -----	E. L. Isabel -----			2		2	60
Hepsabah -----	Riley Harris -----	Trussville, Ala. R2	St. Clair -----	A. J. Davis -----	2	5	8			34
Liberty -----	J. M. Lankford -----	Lawley, Ala. -----	Perry -----	J. E. Hudgens ---		1	2			31
Pilgrim Rest -----	Jim Harris -----	Aldrich, Ala -----	Shelby -----	Not Called -----						
Pleasant Grove ---	D. J. O'Donald -----	Ashville, Ala. -----								