

*R. P. Ritch*

# MINUTES

— OF THE —

## FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

— OF THE —

### CAHABA RIVER

### Free Will Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

### Liberty Church

LAWLEY, BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA

October 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th

# 1931

### OFFICERS

J. E. HODGENS.....	Moderator
E. W. WILKINSON.....	Assistant Moderator
L. W. KENDRICK.....	Clerk and Treasurer

The next Session of this Association will be held with Pleasant Valley Church, Chelsea, Shelby County, Alabama, beginning on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1932, at 7:30 P. M.

The Banner Print Shop, Clanton, Ala.

## PROCEEDINGS

The Fifty-Third Annual Session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association convened with Liberty Church, Bibb County, Alabama, on October 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1931.

### FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Sermon by Rev. R. E. Drummons, reading Cor. 6:26; James 4:2-3. Followed by Rev. A. B. Lee.

The Moderator appointed R. W. Wiggins, J. M. Shirley and H. C. Cash to serve on the Credential Committee.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The house was called to order by the Clerk. Prayer by Rev. J. R. Weaver. Devotional services conducted by Rev. J. E. Hodgens, reading first Psalms. Prayer by Rev. Eddie Wilkinson; followed by song.

By motion the body went into the election of a Moderator; Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and Assistant Clerk, which resulted in election of Rev. J. E. Hodgens for Moderator, Rev. Eddie Wilkinson, Assistant Moderator; L. W. Kendrick, Clerk, and Napoleon Polk, Assistant Clerk.

The body was declared ready for business, and visiting brethren invited to seats.

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

Pleasant Valley—W. B. Shirley, Lexie M. Kendrick, Cecil Kendrick.

Union Hill—J. W. Isabel, Austin Parker, G. D. B. Isabel, Marlin Isabel.

Meadows Chapel—Not represented.

Claras Chapel—Sam Scott, Mary Lou Scott, Forrest Davis, Maud Harper, Sam Peoples, Flossie Peoples.

Bethel—John Pickett, Charlie Thompson J. W. Boothe.

Providence—J. H. Harris, H. P. Harris.

Mount Zion—J. A. Jones, Robert Rich, Leroy Smith, Napoleon Polk, Mabelle Ledlow, Myrtle Hollis, Lucile Jones, Zella Smith.

Mount Olive—Sam Joiner, Garvin Isabel.

Liberty—H. C. Cash, Clemmon Smith.

Mount Pleasant—S. T. Rogers, C. C. Stone, Annie Barnett, Julia Nichols.



Hepsebah—Joe Warnick, Ed Graves, Tommie Glass.

Bellview—David Davis, Mardis Minor.

Pleasant Grove—D. J. O'Donald, W. I. Brigman, Ruby Brigman.

Pilgrim Rest—Not represented.

The doors of the Association were opened for the reception of new churches. No petitions were presented.

The Credential Committee made its report, which was accepted.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Reading—David Davis, Napoleon Polk.

Devotional—G. W. Hollis, Ben Rogers, W. I. Brigman, with deacons of Liberty Church.

Business—G. W. Hollis, D. J. O'Donald, F. B. Rogers, John Pickett.

Family Religion—Lexie M. Kendrick, Mabelle Ledlow, Annie Barnett, Mrs. H. P. Harris.

Sabbath Schools—Myrtle Hollis, Robert Rich, J. W. Boothe, Mrs. Maud Harper, Mrs. Julia Nichols, Mrs. Zella Smith.

Literature—Tom Glass, Cecil Kendrick, Sam Scott.

Temperance—David Davis, W. I. Brigman, Joe Warnick, Sam Joiner, Clemmon Smith.

Education—W. B. Shirley, J. A. Jones, Ruby Brigman, H. C. Cash.

Deceased Members—Mardis Minor, Leroy Smith, Rev. Eldon Drummons, J. H. Harris.

Standing of the Ministry—R. W. Wiggins, J. M. Shirley, H. T. Smith.

Resolutions—Forrest Davis, Sam Peoples, Charlie Thompson, Garvin Isabel.

The body was adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

#### 11:0 O'Clock Service

Sermon by Rev. W. F. Isabel; reading Job, second chapter. Text, Job 1:6. Followed by Rev. Lige Isabel.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The house was called to order by the Assistant Clerk. Song, No. 114, "Gospel Waves." Devotional service conducted by Rev. Eddie Wilkinson, reading Psalms 133. Prayer by Rev. Eldon Drummons.

The Business Committee made a partial report, which was accepted.

An Ordaining and Examining Council was appointed by the Moderator to examine Brothers Forrest Davis, H. T. Smith and Elnor Kitchens as to their calling to the ministry. Also Brother Sam Scott for a deacon for Clara's Chapel Church. The members of the Council were Revs. Eddie Wilkinson, W. F. Isabel, and Lige Isabel. The ordination to take place after 11:00 o'clock service Sunday.

The report on Deceased Members was accepted and the committee discharged.

Bro. J. R. Kennamer presented a petition for the restoration of Pilgrim Rest, Blocton and Mary's Chapel churches to the Association. By motion the Association empowered the Moderator to go into question with Bro. Kennamer. After a careful discussion on the question it was turned down.

The body was adjourned until Monday, 8 o'clock a. m.

#### SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Prayer services conducted by Bro. Forrest Davis. The spirit of God was fully demonstrated in these services.

At 11:00 o'clock, sermon by Rev. Eddie Wilkinson, reading Hebrews 2:6, and Titus 2:11-12.

#### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

A ladies prayer meeting was held at 4 o'clock, conducted by Sister Clara Franklin.

#### SUNDAY NIGHT SESSION

Communion and feet washing conducted by Rev. J. E. Hodgens, reading Mark 8:38.

#### MONDAY MORNING SESSION

House was called to order by the Clerk at 8 o'clock. Devotional services were conducted by the Moderator, reading Matthew, fifth chapter. Prayer by Rev. A. W. Kendrick.

The minutes were read, and after some corrections were adopted.

An Auditing Committee was appointed by the Moderator to examine the Clerk's associational records. Bros. W. I. Brigman, Ed Graves, and Johnnie Boothe were appointed.

By motion the body granted license to A. B. Lee, L. N. Barber and Eldon Drummons for one year.



A partial report from the Business Committee was accepted as follows: This report was a consideration in change of time of sitting of the Association. After careful consideration the body voted to meet on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October instead of Friday night.

The following reports were called for, and committees discharged: Standing of the Ministry, Family Religion, Sabbath Schools, Temperance, Literature, Education, Home Missions, Auditing Committee, Resolutions. (See reports).

The special committee appointed at last session of the Association to examine Revs. L. L. Davis and L. M. Davis on points of doctrine made its report, finding Rev. L. M. Davis in good standing and accord, but found that Rev. L. L. Davis differed on one point of doctrine. This report was then turned over to Committee on Standing of the Ministry.

By motion a blank form is to be inserted in the minutes for ministers' reports to the Association.

The Clerk was ordered to have 450 minutes printed.

Brother R. W. Wiggins read to the Association a letter telling of the origination of the Free Will Baptist faith.

After discussion the Association granted Brother Wiggins the privilege of having this letter printed in pamphlet form for distribution, but the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association has not adopted this as their rules of faith and practice.

By motion the next session of the Association will be held with Pleasant Valley Church, four miles west of Chelsea, Alabama, on the A. B. & C. Railroad, beginning on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1932. The Association adjourned by prayer.

J. E. HODGENS, Moderator.

L. W. KENDRICK, Clerk.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE

W. B. Shirley ..... Route 1, Chelsea, Ala.  
J. H. Harris ..... Route 1, Marvel, Ala.  
J. B. Harris ..... Route 2, Trussville, Ala.

#### MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The Fifty-Third Annual Session of the Ministers' Conference convened with Liberty Church, Lawley, Bibb County, Alabama, on Saturday night before the first Sunday in October, 1931.

The house was called to order by the Clerk. The former Moderator being absent, Rev. Eddie Wilkinson was elected Moderator, and G. W. Hollis was re-elected Clerk.

After visiting brethren were invited to seats the doors of the Conference were opened for reception of new ministers. Revs. A. B. Lee, R. E. Drummons, Forrest Davis, E. N. Kitchens, and H. T. Smith were united with the Conference in full fellowship.

The ministerial roll was called and their reports received as follows:

A. W. Kendrick—Present; sermons preached, 96; miles traveled, 816; expenses, \$57.00; received, \$93.45, baptized 8; married couples, 5; assisted in 4 revivals; pastored 3 churches.

A. J. Davis—By letter; pastored 1 church; assisted in 3 revivals; received \$47.00.

J. E. Hodgins—Present; miles traveled, 1,286; funerals conducted, 3; assisted in 3 revivals; baptized 45; sermons preached, 103; received \$159.89; paid out \$10.50.

W. F. Isabel—Present; sermons preached, 36; pastored 1 church; baptized 3; received \$10.00.

H. T. Perkins—Present; sermons preached 17; miles traveled, 200; received \$5.00; assisted in 1 revival.

H. F. Harden—By letter; miles traveled, 270; sermons preached, 22; expenses, \$9.65; assisted in 1 revival.

L. L. Davis—Present; miles traveled, 500; sermons preached, 33; held 2 revivals; held one regular monthly appointment.

L. M. Davis—Present; no report.

E. W. Wilkins—Present; miles traveled, 700; sermons preached, 30; funerals conducted, 5; married 1 couple; assisted one pastor in baptizing 45; collections, \$20.20; expenses, \$13.00; pastored 1 church.

L. N. Barber—By letter; sermons preached, 30; miles traveled, 729; received \$2.90; paid out \$9.00.

W. B. Hollis—By letter; miles traveled, 200; sermons preached, 13; assisted in 2 revivals; received \$10.74; expenses, \$5.00.

R. H. Howard—By letter; sermons preached, 27; married 2 couples; miles traveled, 107; assisted in 2 revivals; received \$2.65.



## MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATION

Miles travelled ----- expenses -----  
 Collections ----- Sermons preached -----  
 Baptized ----- Married couples -----  
 Assisted in revivals ----- churches pastored -----  
 ----- funerals conducted -----

## Remarks

## MINISTERIAL ROLL

J. E. Hodgens (ordained) ----- Eden, Ala.  
 R. E. Drummond, (license) ----- Pell City, Ala.  
 A. B. Lee, (license) ----- Pell City, Ala.  
 R. H. Howard, (ordained) ----- Vandiver, Ala.  
 E. L. Isbell, (ordained) ----- Dunnavant, Ala.  
 T. J. Finch, (ordained) ----- Rte. 1, Pell City, Ala.  
 E. W. Wilkinson, (ordained) ----- Pell City, Ala.  
 L. N. Barber, (license) ----- Pell City, Ala.  
 W. B. Hollis, (ordained) ----- Rte., 1, Pell City, Ala.  
 H. F. Harden, (ordained) ----- P. O. Box 7, Girard, Ala.  
 H. T. Perkins, (ordained) ----- Pell City, Ala.  
 W. F. Isbell, (ordained) ----- Dunnavant, Ala.  
 A. J. Davis, (ordained) ----- Leeds, Ala.  
 A. W. Kendrick, (ordained) ----- Boothton, Ala.  
 Forest Davis, (license) ----- Boothton, Ala.  
 H. T. Smith, (license) ----- Rte., 1, Lawley, Ala.  
 Elnor Kitchens, (license) ----- Benoit, Ala.  
 L. M. Davis, (ordained) ----- Rte. 1, Chelsea, Ala.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

## REPORT ON FAMILY RELIGION

We, your committee on Family Religion, submit the following:

We believe the greatest heartfelt religion begins in the home. The stepping stones to greater and more noble foundations of true religion begin with the teaching of our children around the fire-side of our homes. Christ has said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there will I be in their midst." So let us manifest in our homes, in the presence of God and our children, this religion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us not forget that God, our children and our fellowmen are closely watching our daily life. So let us ever be ready to plant a seed of God's love in the hearts of our little children. That same day it may spring forth and grow, that we may ever be happy for what we have done. We know the Bible says train a child up in the way it shall go, and when it is old it will not depart from it.

Respectfully submitted,

LEXIE M. KENDRICK, Chairman.

## REPORT ON EDUCATION

Our education is a great thing if it is based on the Bible, and sound principles. We advise all our members to study and ponder the Bible, the greatest of all books. The Bible says, "Get knowledge, get wisdom, and in all our getting, get understanding." Any professional man can tell you why he holds to his profession. Can we tell why we are "Free Will Baptists?"

W. B. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

## REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your committee, find only one church which has no Sabbath School. We covenant ourselves to study God's word, and we find no better place to do this than in the Sabbath School. Here we can study and teach the Bible to the young boys and girls. We urge everyone to devote more time and study to the Sabbath School, thereby exalting the cause of Christ. May the God of peace satisfy us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MYRTLE HOLLIS, Chairman.

## REPORT ON 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 submitted,

DAVID DAVIS, Chairman.



**REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS**

After a careful examination of the church letters, we find four of our beloved members have passed away since the last session of this Association.

Sisters Lula Parker, Dora Wright and Geneva Peters, and Brother Jim Owens. We extend our profound sympathies to the families of these, our Brothers and Sisters.

Respectfully Submitted  
MARDIS MINOR, Chairman.

**REPORT ON LITERATURE**

We, your committee, submit the following:

We know our young people's minds and hearts are going to be filled with something, let it be good or bad. We believe in order to have them pure, and win their souls for God, we must put before them wholesome Christian literature. By this, and Christian teaching and conduct, they are brought up in the way God will be pleased with. We recommend Free Will Baptist literature for our homes and churches.

Respectfully Submitted  
TOMMIE GLASS, Chairman.

**REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS**

We, your committee on Resolutions, recommend that the same be adopted, printed for last year, which are as follows:

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 50 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. The 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.

FORREST DAVIS, Chairman.

**REPORT ON HOME MISSION TREASURY**

Balance on hand from 1930	\$30.75
Received from Pell City Bank	16.72
Mount Zion Church	13.00
Mount Pleasant	2.65
Pleasant Grove	.75
Belview	4.00
Liberty	1.50
Pleasant Valley	5.50
Clarke Chapel	7.55
Bethel	2.00

Total \$84.42

**Disbursements**

Paid out for gas and oil	\$ 3.00
Balance on hand	\$81.42

Total \$84.42

G. W. HOLLIS, Treasurer.

**REPORT ON 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:

A. W. Kendrick, A. J. Davis, J. E. Hodgins, W. F. Isabel, H. T. Perkins, H. F. Harden, E. W. Wilkinson, W. B. Hollis, R. H. Howard, E. L. Isabel, T. J. Finch, L. M. Davis, L. N. Barber, R. E. Drummons, and A. B. Lee.

We also recommend to this body that it demand Brother L. L. Davis to surrender all his papers in regard to his ministry to this body.

Respectfully Submitted  
R. W. WIGGINS, Chairman.

**REPORT ON AUDITING**

We, your committee on Auditing, submit the following report:

We have examined the Associational Treasurer's report and after some corrections submit the following:

**Receipts**

On hand from 1929	\$21.30
Total collected from each church in 1930 as follows:	
Bethel	3.00
Liberty	2.50
Pleasant Valley	3.00
Mount Zion	5.00



Hepsabah .....	1.50
Mount Pleasant .....	1.50
Union Hill .....	1.36
Mount Olive .....	1.75
Providence .....	2.00
Claras Chapel .....	5.00
Bell View .....	1.60
Pilgrim Rest .....	
Pleasant Grove .....	

Total .....\$49.51

#### Disbursements

Four hundred minutes printed .....	\$30.00
Paid Clerk .....	10.00
Mailing manuscript to press .....	.24
Mailing out minutes to churches .....	1.00
Balance on hand .....	8.27

Total .....\$49.51

L. W. KENDRICK, Clerk and Treasurer  
W. I. BRIGMAN, Chairman of Committee.

### 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 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 renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin 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 believes 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 employment 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 adopting 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 Savior, 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 reprove 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 of 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.



# STATISTICS OF THE CAHABA RIVER FREE WILL B APTIST ASSOCIATION—1931

Churches	Clerks and 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.....	J. E. Hodgens.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	96
Union Hill.....	W. C. Walker ..... Vandiver, Ala.	Shelby.....	E. L. Isabel.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62
Clara's Chapel.....	Clara Franklin ..... Boothton, Ala.	Shelby.....	A. W. Kendrick.....	8	4	3	.....	.....	110
Bethel.....	T. J. Pickett ..... R. 1, Marvel, Ala.	Shelby.....	A. W. Kendrick.....	.....	.....	3	.....	1	71
Bellevue.....	Mardis Minor ..... Leeds, Ala.	Jefferson.....	J. E. Hodgens.....	10	2	1	2	.....	45
Providence.....	Jake Parker .... R. 1, Dunnivant, Ala.	Shelby.....	H. T. Perkins.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Mount Zion.....	G. W. Hollis ..... Pell City, Ala.	St. Clair.....	J. E. Hodgens.....	45	36	.....	13	2	209
Mount Olive.....	Frank Minor ..... Dunnivant, Ala.	Shelby.....	E. W. Wilkinson.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	60
Mount Pleasant.....	J. W. Barnett ..... Sprott, Ala.	Perry.....	R. H. Howard.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	56
Hepsebah.....	H. E. Hewett .. R. 2, Trussville, Ala.	St. Clair.....	A. J. Davis.....	4	13	.....	.....	.....	54
Liberty.....	Earnest Terry ..... Lawley, Ala.	Perry.....	W. M. Chadwick.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	33
Pleasant Grove.....	D. J. O'Donald ..... Ashville, Ala.	.....	H. T. Perkins.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	24
Totals .....	.....	.....	.....	72	57	13	15	4	870



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