

MINUTES
of the
Sixty - Second Annual Session
of the
Cahaba Free Will Baptist
ASSOCIATION

Convened With

MT. ZION CHURCH

Pell City, Alabama

OCTOBER 4, 5 AND 6, 1940



OFFICERS :

MODERATOR Elder J. F. Williams
Route 8, Box 425-A, Birmingham, Ala.

ASST. MODERATOR Elder H. M. Black
3405 28th Place N., Birmingham, Ala.

CLERK & TREASURER Mrs. A. R. Harper, Boothton, Ala.

ASS'T. CLERK Mrs. L. W. Kendrick, Maylene, Ala.



The next session of this Association will convene
with Mt. Pleasant Church, Sprott, Ala., on
Thursday night before the first Sunday
in October, 1941 at 7:30 P. M.

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY—7:30 P. M.

The sixty-second annual session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association convened with Mt. Zion Church, Pell City, Alabama.

The service was opened by singing "This World Is Not My Home." Prayer by Elder C. R. Allen. A spiritual test meeting was conducted by Bro. Allen followed by a wonderful message by Elder J. F. Williams. Scripture reading Psalms 15.

Benediction by Elder Lyman Ogle.

FRIDAY--8:00 A. M.

The house was called to order by the clerk and after making a few remarks the meeting was turned over to the Moderator, Elder J. E. Hodgens, who conducted the devotional. Scripture reading 2nd Chronicles 7:14-18. Prayer by Elder J. F. Williams.

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

UNION GROVE—Bros. A. J. Cox, J. D. Isbell and Sisters Lizzie Welden and Inez Welden.

PLEASANT VALLEY—Bro. W. B. Shirley.

CLARA'S CHAPEL—Bro. Perry McDaniel.

BETHEL—Bro. R. H. Dennis.

BELVIEW—Sister Lois Gore and Bro. A. L. Parker.

PROVIDENCE—Not represented.

MT. OLIVE—Bro. Frank Minor.

MT. ZION—Bros. E. M. Barber, James McCullough and Arlis Rich.

MT. PLEASANT—Bros. J. W. Barnett and R. S. Duncan.

LIBERTY—Elder R. H. Howard.

RYANS—Sister Lexie M. Kendrick.

HEPSABAH—Bro. W. H. McLaughlin.

MARY'S CHAPEL—Bro. Roland Dean.

BIRMINGHAM—Sister Susie B. Thomas.

SYLACAUGA—Bro. Leslie Pinson, Sisters Ressie Sims and Lena Braswell.

BROWN'S CHAPEL—Bros. W. F. Johnson, Arthur Johnson.

DAVIS CHAPEL—Bros. C. G. Howard, Monroe McKay and Virgie Mae Howard.

The moderator then appointed the following committees:

READING—Sister Lexie M. Kendrick and Bro. W. F. Johnson.

CREDENTIAL—Bros. Roland Dean, Leslie Pinson and C. M. Barber.

The letters from the various churches were read and adopted. The following were appointed as Devotional Committee:

Bro. W. B. Shirley, Roland Dean and J. W. Barnett.

The body by motion, went into the election of officers. Elder J. F. Williams was elected Moderator with Elder H. M. Black as assistant. Sister Fannie Harper was re-elected Clerk with Sister Lexie M. Kendrick as Assistant.

The doors of the Association were opened for reception of new Churches. A petition for re-instatement was received from Oak Grove Church, which was, by motion, accepted.

A petition for membership from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Talladega was received, and by motion, accepted.

By motion the body was adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

FRIDAY—11:00 A. M.

The message was brought in great power by Elder C. R. Allen. Scripture reading St. John 13:34. Subject, Love.

Benediction by Elder J. E. Hodgins.

FRIDAY—1:30 P. M.

After singing and prayer by Elder J. E. Hodgins the house was called to order to resume the transaction of business.

The following committees were appointed:

BUSINESS—Bros. J. M. Shirley, H. M. Black and W. H. Lawrence.

ORDAINING COUNCIL—Elders J. E. Hodgins, W. H. Ryland, L. N. Barber, R. H. Howard and C. R. Allen.

STANDING OF THE MINISTRY—Bros. Roland Dean, W. F. Johnston, C. G. Howard, J. M. Shirley and J. A. Cox.

RESOLUTIONS—Bros. W. B. Shirley, Leslie Pinson, Earl Isbell and J. D. Isbell.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—Sisters Lexie M. Kendrick, Lena Braswell, Lizzie Welden and Monroe McKay.

EDUCATION—Bro. Frank Minor, Sisters Ressie Sims, Lois Gore and Inez Welden.

FAMILY RELIGION—Bros. J. D. Kilburn, A. J. Cox, C. M. Barber.

TEMPERANCE—Bros. Arthur Johnston, G. W. Hollis, Lonnie Parker, James Cline and J. J. Staab.

DECEASED MEMBERS—Bros. Jesse Drummons, R. H. Dennis and Sid Duncan.

LITERATURE—Bros. L. L. Davis, Roland Dean, Lymon Ogle and Sister Susie B. Thomas.

AUDITING—Bros. W. H. Ryland and Arthur Johnston.

By motion the Ordaining Council gave Bro. Horace Wright a public examination as to some points of doctrine in question

(concerning the Resurrection). Bro. Wright explained his views on this question to the satisfaction of all concerned and his license were renewed for twelve months.

Reports from the Business and Auditing Committees were rendered and by motion accepted.

Homes were assigned to delegates and visitors after which the body adjourned until Saturday 8 a. m.

Benediction by Elder W. H. Lawrence.

SATURDAY—8:00 A. M.

The house was called to order by the Clerk.

Devotional was conducted by Elder H. M. Black. Scripture reading John 14:16. Prayer.

The moderator then took charge and business was resumed.

The committee on the Standing of the Ministry asked for an explanation of the duties of this committee. The moderator asked Elder W. H. Ryland to give this charge, which he did in an able and charming manner.

The following committees read their reports which were accepted: Family Religion, Literature, Deceased Members, Temperance, Education and the Ordaining Council.

The Resolutions Committee rendered their report, all of which was accepted except Item 2.

Bro. H. A. McSpadden was appointed on the Executive Committee to take the place of Bro. J. E. Harkins, who retires.

Business was adjourned for the Ordination service.

The following were ordained by request of their respective churches:

Ministers—Elder Earl E. Isbell, of Mt. Olive Church; Elder James Cline of Mt. Zion Church.

Deacons—Bro. J. J. Rich and Bro. C. M. Barber of Mt. Zion Church; and Bro. Steve Gore of Belview Church. At the close of this service the benediction was pronounced by Elder J. E. Hodgins.

SATURDAY—11:00 A. M.

The message was brought by Elder W. H. Ryland. Subject, "What Will You Do With Jesus?" Truly this was a great message of inspiration and worthy of our prayerful consideration.

SATURDAY—1:30 P. M.

The house was called to order for transaction of business Devotional conducted by Elder J. F. Williams. Scripture reading Matt. 7:1-13.

The chairman of the Home Mission Board made a report which was by motion accepted.

The moderator appointed the following as delegates to the State Conference which convenes with Friendship Church, Pell City, Ala., on Thursday night before the second Sunday in November, 1940: Sister Susie B. Thomas, Bros. L. V. Pinson, W. B. Shirley, R. H. Dennis, Sister Lois Gore and J. W. Barnett.

Interesting talks and suggestions for the good of the Association were made by Bro. J. F. Williams, R. H. Howard, L. W. Kendrick and R. H. Dennis.

A letter from Liberty Association was read and by motion accepted.

The moderator, in behalf of the body, extended thanks and appreciation to Elder W. H. Lawrence, corresponding messenger from Flint River Association for his aid and cooperation in the deliberations of this session.

By motion, a Certificate of Standing was granted Bro. E. W. Williams, who, because of his failing health is not permitted to be active in the ministerial work.

The committee on the Standing of the Ministry rendered their report which was accepted.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to Mt. Zion Church and community for their kindness and hospitality to the members of this body while among them.

Benediction by Elder J. D. Kilburn.

SATURDAY NIGHT—6:30

The Devotional was conducted by Bro. Leslie Pinson. The Holy Ghost came and filled the house and many were made to shout the praises of God.

The message was brought by Elder W. H. Lawrence. Scripture reading St. John 13. Text, St. John 13:17. He was followed by Elder W. F. Isbell, after which the ordinance of the Lord's supper and feet-washing were observed.

SUNDAY—10:00 A. M.

Sunday School conducted by Elder H. E. Hewitt.

11:00 A. M.—The message was brought by Elder W. F. Isbell. Text, Daniel 7:18.

This service brought to a close one of which we feel to be the best and most harmonious sessions of the Cahaba River Association that we have had for several years. Truly, God is a great God and works in a great way.

MRS. A. R. HARPER, Clerk.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The sixty-second annual session of the Ministers Conference of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association met with Mt.

Zion Church.

The conference was called to order by the Clerk.

In the absence of the moderator, Elder Lyman Ogle took charge and conducted the devotional. Scripture reading Romans 12. Prayer by Bro. Ogle.

The conference went into the election of officers. Elder J. F. Williams was elected moderator with Elder H. M. Black assistant. Bro. G. W. Hollis was re-elected clerk.

The moderator called for Peace and Fellowship of the Body which was found to be good.

The doors of the conference were opened for reception of ministers. Elders James Cline, J. S. Howell, H. G. Mitchell, L. V. Pinion, C. R. Allen, Earl E. Isbell, J. E. Drummons, W. H. Ryland, Wiley Barber and J. C. Fuller presented themselves and by motion were accepted.

The roll of ministers was called as follows:

ELDER J. D. OSBORN

No churches pastored	None
No. Sermons preached	52
No. miles traveled	200
Expense of ministerial work	\$15.00
Amount received	\$29.00

J. J. STAAB

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	56
No. revivals	1
No. marriages performed	1
No. members received by letter	4
No. members baptized	1
No. miles traveled	1625
Expense of ministerial work	\$25.00
Amount received	\$100.00

D. J. EAST

No. churches pastored	None
No. Sermons preached	48
No. marriages performed	4
Amount received	\$25.00
Expense of ministerial work	\$15.85

EARL E. ISBELL

No. churches pastored	None
No. revivals held	2
No. sermons preached	12

LYMAN OGLE

No. churches pastored	3
No. sermons preached	201

No. miles traveled	3920
No. marriages performed	4
No. funerals conducted	3
Amount received	\$208.00
Expenses	87.50

L. N. BARBER

No. churches pastored	None
No. sermons preached	41
No. revivals held	2
No. miles traveled	1140
Expense of ministerial work	\$15.75
Amount received	\$25.00

H. M. BLACK

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	78
No. funerals conducted	2
No. marriages performed	2
No. revivals held	2
No. miles traveled	2035
Amount received	\$174.62
Expense of ministerial work	\$57.65

J. D. KILBURN

No. churches pastored	None
No. sermons preached	87
No. baptized	16
No. marriages performed	2
No. revivals	2
No. miles traveled	736
Amount received	\$57.60
Expenses	\$18.20

R. H. HOWARD

No. churches pastored	None
No. sermons preached	63
No. funerals	3
No. revivals	5
No. miles traveled	1210
Amount received	\$54.82
Expenses	\$14.30

C. R. ALLEN

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	685
No. revivals	10
No. marriages	3
No. funerals	4
No. miles traveled	2067

Amount received	\$196.00
Expenses	\$55.00

HORACE WRIGHT

No. churches pastored	None
No. sermons preached	35
No. revivals	1
No. miles traveled	100
Amount received	\$8.00
Expenses	\$6.00

J. F. WILLIAMS

No. churches pastored	1 (full time)
No. sermons preached	150
No. revivals	3
No. miles traveled	8000
Amount received	\$214.00
Expenses	\$93.00

W. H. LAWRENCE

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	135
No. baptized	2
No. funerals	1
No. marriages	7
No. revivals	3
No. miles traveled	5352
Amount received	\$131.50
Expenses	\$54.00

J. E. HODGENS

No. churches pastored	2
No. sermons preached	83
No. revivals	7
No. baptized	4
No. funerals	14
Amount received	\$108.80

D. L. BAKER	Absent
HENRY MITCHELL	No Report
W. H. RYLAND	No Report
L. V. PINSON	No Report
W. F. ISBELL	No Report
JAMES CLINE	No Report
WILEY BARBER	No Report
H. E. HEWITT	No Report
J. E. DRUMMONS	No Report
J. S. HOWELL	No Report
J. C. FULLER	No Report
E. L. ISBELL	Absent
E. W. WILKERSON	Absent

R. E. DRUMMONS Absent

L. L. DAVIS

No. churches pastored 1
No. revivals 2
No. sermons preached 35
No. miles traveled 900
Amount received \$15.00

Interesting discussions on the subject "Promoting the Gospel" were brought by Elders J. E. Hodgins, R. H. Howard, W. H. Lawrence and James Cline, after which the conference adjourned to meet with Mt. Pleasant Church, near Sprott, Perry County Alabama, on Friday night before the first Sunday in October, 1941.

Benediction by Elder H. M. Black.

J. F. WILLIAMS, Moderator
G. W. HOLLIS, Clerk

MINISTERIAL ROLL (Ordained Ministers)

Elder D. L. Baker, Sylacauga, Ala., Rt. 2.
Elder J. E. Hodgins, Chelsea, Ala.
Elder J. F. Williams, Rt. 8, Box 425-A, Birmingham, Ala.
Elder W. F. Isbell, Irondale, Ala., Rt. 1.
Elder J. D. Kilburn, Eden, Ala.
Elder H. M. Black, 3405, 28th Place No., Birmingham, Ala.
Elder R. H. Howard, Sterrett, Ala.
Elder J. J. Staab, 2313 N. 33rd Ave., Birmingham, Ala.
Elder Lyman Ogle, 53 Georgia Ave., Sylacauga, Ala.
Elder L. N. Barber, Pell City, Ala.
Elder H. E. Hewitt, Pell City, Ala.
Elder D. J. East, Sylacauga Rt. 2, Ala.
Elder J. D. Osborn, Sylacauga, Ala.
Elder Earl E. Isbell, Dunnavant, Ala.
Elder James Cline, Pell City, Ala.
Elder C. R. Allen, 3710 5th Ct. North, Birmingham, Ala.
Elder W. H. Lawrence, Sylacauga, Ala.
Elder W. H. Ryland, Margaret, Ala.
Elder Harry Mitchell, address not given.
Elder J. S. Howell, Talladega, Ala.

LICENTIATES

Elder L. V. P'inson, Sylacauga, Ala.
Elder J. E. Drummons, Pell City, Ala.
Elder Wiley Barber, address not given.
Elder Henry Mitchell, Boothton, Ala.
Elder J. C. Fuller, Talladega, Ala.
Elder Horace Wright, Pell City, Ala.
Elder Millard Garner, Maylene, Ala.

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Elder Johnny Baxley, Sylacauga, Ala.

Elder G. W. Robertson, Pell City, Ala.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

H. A. McSpadden, Birmingham, Ala.; M. H. Guy, Sylacauga, Ala.; H. M. Black, chairman, 3405 28th Pl. N. Birmingham, Ala.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

STANDING OF THE MINISTRY

We, your committee on the Standing of the Ministry, submit the following report:

PART 1—We have investigated the christian character and work of the following named ministers and recommend that they be given certificates of standing for twelve months:

Elders R. H. Howard, H. M. Black, J. J. Staab, D. J. East, J. D. Kilburn, L. N. Barber, J. D. Osborn, C. R. Allen, Lyman Ogle and Hubert Hewitt.

PART 2—We recommend that this association withdraw fellowship from Elder L. L. Davis and ask for return of his Credentials from this Body, charging that he misrepresents the Bible and opposes this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

ROLAND DEAN, Chairman, W. F. Johnston, C. G. Howard, A. J. Cox and J. M. Shirley.

BUSINESS

We, your committee on Business submit the following report:

1. We recommend that Bro. James Cline be examined, and if found worthy, that he be ordained to the full function of the ministry.

2. We recommend that Bro. Johnnp Baxley be examined as to his call to the ministry, and if found worthy, grant him license for twelve months.

3. We recommend that Bro. Millard Garner's license be extended for twelve months.

4. We recommend the examination of the following brethren for deacons and if found worthy that they be ordained: Bros. J. J. Rich and C. M. Barber of Mt. Zion Church and Bro. Hodge Patterson of the First F. W. B. Church of Talladega.

5. We recommend that the Ordaining Council examine Bro. Horace Wright on the points of doctrine in question.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

We, your Ordaining Council, submit the following report:

1. We have examined Bro. Horace Wright and found him to be sound in the doctrine. We, therefore, recommend a renewal of

Nine

his license for twelve months.

2. We have examined the following named brethren and recommend for ordination to the full function of the ministry: Bros. James Cline and Earl Isbell.

For exchange of credentials: Bros. Harry G. Mitchell and W. H. Ryland.

For License: Bros: Johnny Baxley, and Geo. W. Robertson.

For Deacons: Bros. Steve Gore, C. M. Barber, J. J. Rich.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. HODGENS, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee on Resolutions recommend:

1st. That paragraph No. 1 in our last minute be retained, which reads as follows: "Be it resolved that no man be ordained to the full function of the ministry until he is able to define and to defend the Free Will Baptist doctrine."

2nd. Be it resolved that hereafter the ordination of all ministers be referred to the annual association. (Rejected)

3rd. We recommend that any committee who shall be appointed to examine a minister as to his calling, be able to define and defend our doctrine as set forth in our treatise.

4th. We recommend that a permanent form be drawn up to govern the ministers' conference.

Respectfully submitted,
W. B. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

HOME MISSIONS

Balance on hand from 1939	\$7.65
Ryans Church	2.00

Amount on hand	\$9.65
Amount paid out	7.00

Balance on hand	\$2.65
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DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your committee on Deceased Members submit the following report:

We find that God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to call from our number Elder J. C. Hollingsworth of Bethel Church; Sister Allie Harper of Clara's Chapel; Bro. S. B. Rogers and Sister Annie Hopper of Mt. Pleasant and Sister Ida Isbell of Union Hill.

It is sad to give up those whom we love so dearly, but we must bow in humble submission to God's will.

We extend to the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy, commend-

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ing them to the tender mercies of a loving God.

Respectfully submitted,
J. E. DRUMMOND, Chairman.

FAMILY RELIGION

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

We recommend that fathers and mothers live their religion daily before their children and neighbors.

We also recommend the family altar which will be instrumental in saving our children.

Respectfully submitted
J. D. KILBURN, Chairman.

LITERATURE

We, your committee on Literature submit the following report.

We recommend that parents provide wholesome literature for their children to read and keep unwholesome literature out of their hands.

We also recommend that they teach them the Bible, and encourage the reading of Bible literature.

Respectfully submitted,
L. L. DAVIS, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance submit the following report:

The Bible teaches that we should be temperate in all things. Let us be careful to protect the affairs of home, church and daily life, and to avoid the appearance of evil; to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, and to abstain from the sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Respectfully submitted,
ARTHUR JOHNSTON, Chairman.

EDUCATION

We, your committee on Education submit the following report:

Train a child up in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. We should be careful what we teach, for the things taught a child from its babyhood to school age are a great part of its education. Parents should live in a way that is pleasing to God and be careful what they say and do in the presence of our children. It is hard now to teach our children right because so many of our school teachers are teaching contrary to God's teaching.

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Then let us be very careful of what we say and do. We should have more prayer and Bible reading in our homes as an aid in training our children.

Respectfully submitted,
FRANK MINOR, Chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report:

We find that most of our churches have Sabbath Schools. We believe the foundation of a spiritual life is laid at home. There is no successful substitute for home training.

The second step in spiritual training is in the Sabbath School. If we fail in this, we are neglecting the foundation of the church, which is the training of our children.

We do not believe that any church can hold Christ up to a lost world as it should without a Sabbath School.

We therefore, urge our churches to put special stress upon this work and that every parent and church worker put forth his best efforts in attending and working in the Sabbath School.

Respectfully submitted,
LEXIE M. KENDRICK, Chairman.

CLERK'S REPORT—1939-'40 —AMOUNT PAID IN—

Mt. Olive	\$1.00
Elder Lee Hanks	1.00
Liberty	1.00
Pleasant Valley	5.00
Belview	1.20
Providence	2.10
Ryans	4.00
Mary's Chapel	1.00
Clara's Chapel	2.00
Brown's Chapel	1.00
Mt. Pleasant	2.00
Sylacauga	1.20
Union Hill	1.90
Bethel	2.00
Mt. Zion	3.50
State Conference fund returned	7.25

Total amount \$37.15

—AMOUNT PAID OUT—

Printing	\$23.20
Paid Clerk	10.00
Mailing expenses	2.60

Twelve

Amount paid out \$35.80

Collected \$37.15

Paid out \$35.80

Balance on hand \$ 1.35

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. A. R. HARPER, Clerk and Treasurer.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

We, your Auditing Committee, find this report correct.

Respectfully submitted,
W. H. RYLAND, Chairman.

FIRST DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

To the messengers and delegates composing the sixty-second annual session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association: Greeting: Since last session we have ordained five ministers, ordained four deacons, given license to three ministers and organized one church.

We have in our district seven churches and ten ordained ministers.

We ask that you examine Bro. Horace Wright and if found worthy renew his license for twelve months.

ELDER J. F. WILLIAMS, Moderator.
G. W. HOLLIS, Clerk.

SECOND DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

To the sixty-second annual session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association: Greetings: We are sending as delegates Bros. J. M. Shirley, W. B. Shirley and J. W. Barnett, whom we deem worthy to sit with you in your deliberations.

We have six churches in this district and three ordained ministers: Elders T. J. Adair, J. E. Hodgens and L. L. Davis.

Pray for us that we may do more to advance the Kingdom work in the coming year.

ELDER LYMON OGLE, Moderator.
MRS. ROBBIE LITTLEFIELD, Clerk.

FOURTH DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

To the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association, Greeting: The statistics of our district quarterly conference are as follows:

No. churches	4
No. ordained ministers	5

Thirteen

No. ministers licensed this year 2
No. deacons ordained this year 1

BRO. W. F. JOHNSTON, Moderator.
LESLIE PINSON, Clerk.

**Letter from a Church to a Quarterly Meeting, Yearly
Meeting of Association**

To the of
Free Will Baptists when convened with the
..... Church at

....., 19.....

We send as delegates, our beloved brethren:.....

.....
whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

State of Religion

Members received this year

No. baptized No. dismissed

No. died Total membership

Condition of prayer meeting

Condition of Sunday School

Average number of pupils

No. of officers; No. of teachers

Paid pastor \$.....; Paid evangelist \$.....

Missions: Home \$.....; Foreign \$.....

For Building and Repairs \$.....

For Education \$.....; Publication \$.....

Amount enclosed for minutes \$.....

Pastor's name

Pastor's address

Names and addresses of ministers belonging to our church:
.....
.....

Done by order of Church
assembled in conference this day of, 19.....

..... Moderator

..... Clerk

Clerk's address

Remarks:

Ministers' Annual Report to the Association

No. churches Pastored; No. sermons preached;

No. baptized; No. funerals conducted; No. marriages

performed; No. revivals assisted in; No miles trav-

eled; Amt. of offerings received \$.....; Expense

of m'nisterial work \$.....

Remarks:

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 Ghost, 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 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 for 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. **PERSEVERENCE**—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 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 into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.—John 5:29, revised version; Matt. 25:46.

16. **WAR**—War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the teachings of the New Testament, therefore, we are opposed to war.

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 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 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 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 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 may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of education 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 until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

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Statistical Table - 1940

Churches	No. Members	Received by Letter	Received by Baptism	No. Dismissed	No. Died	Clerks and Addresses	Pastors
Pleasant Valley	115	4	0	2	0	Miss Mable Shirley, Chelsea, Ala.	J. E. Hodgens
Union Hill	74	0	4	0	1	W. C. Walker, Sterrett, Ala.	Lyman Ogle
Clara's Chapel	47	8	0	2	1	R. L. Littlefield, Jr., Boothton, Ala.	Lyman Ogle
Bethel	65	3	3	0	1	Miss Josie Pickett, Marvel, Ala. Rt. 1	J. E. Hodgens
Belview	63	7	3	2	0	Mardis Minor, Leeds, Ala.	W. H. Ryland
Providence						Not represented	
Mt. Zion	70	6	1	2	0	G. W. Hoilis, Pell City, Ala., Box 11	J. J. Staab
Liberty						H. C. Cash, Lawley, Ala.	R. H. Howard
Ryans	24	0	0	2	0	L. W. Kendrick, Maylene, Ala.	J. E. Hodgens
Mary's Chapel	16	0	0	0	0	J. P. Sexton, Brookwood, Ala.	T. J. Adair
Birmingham	29	7	0	1	0	H. A. McSpadden, address not given	H. M. Black
Sylacauga	57	3	7	2	0	L. V. Pinson, Sylacauga, Ala.	J. F. Williams
Mt. Pleasant	37		1	1	2	J. W. Barnett, Sprott, Ala.	T. J. Adair
Brown's Chapel	16	0	2	0	1	Duaine Culver, Sylacauga, Ala.	
Davis Chapel	24	1	0	0	0	Willie Caudle, Sterrett, Ala.	
Mt. Olive	42	1	1	0	0	Lottie Isbell, Dunnivant, Ala.	
Oak Grove						Miss Flora Long, Birmingham Rt. 7	Harry L. Mitchell
Talladega	24	8	16	0	0	Odis Blackwood, Talladega, Ala.	John S. Howell
Hepsabah	19	0	5	0	0	Elise Goodwin, address not given.	W. H. Ryland, Margaret