

MINUTES

of the

Sixty-fifth Annual Session

of the

Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association

Convened With

SYLACAUGA CHURCH

Sylacauga, Alabama

October 1 and 2, 1943

OFFICERS

MODERATOR ELDER HARRY L. MITCHELL
1720—8th Ave. No., Birmingham, Ala.

ASS'T. MODERATOR ELDER L. V. PINSON
30 Millhaven St., Sylacauga, Ala.

CLERK-TREASURER W. F. JOHNSTON
30 Millhaven St., Sylacauga, Ala.

ASS'T. CLERK GRADY COLLINS
26 Twin St., Sylacauga, Ala.

The next session of the association will convene
with Bethel Church, at Marvel, Ala., Rt 1,
on Thursday night before the first Sunday
in October 1944 at 7:30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS

The sixty-fifth annual session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association met with the First Free Will Baptist Church at Sylacauga, Ala., on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October at 7:30 o'clock.

The service was opened by singing the hymn, "There Is A Fountain."

Prayer by Bro. Dewey Isabell and Elder J. F. Williams.

Devotional was conducted by Elder John C. Baxley.

The message was brought by Elder K. V. Shutes. Scripture reading Matthew 28-19-20. Subject, "The Great Commission."

Benediction by Elder J. E. Hodgens.

FRIDAY, 9:00 A. M.

After singing a hymn the clerk called the Association to order, after which Elder H. L. Mitchell lead in prayer. The Moderator then took charge and read a portion of the bible from Act 2-14-17. They called upon Elder K. V. Shutes to lead in prayer.

The body then proceeded with business.

The roll of churches as follows:

MT. PLEASANT—By Letter.

UNION HILL—Bro. I. C. Howard.

CLARA CHAPEL—Bro. R. T. Poole.

BELVIEW—Rev. M. E. Jones, Velma Jones, Loruna Isabell and Alton Lee.

MT. ZION—Bro. G. W. Hollis and Bro. J. E. Drummonds.

LIBERTY—By Letter.

RYANS—By Letter.

BETHEL—Bro. Cecil Allen.

BIRMINGHAM—Sister Mary McSpadden.

SYLACAUGA—Bro. M. H. Guy, Arthur Johnston and Sister Lena Brazzell.

PLEASANT VALLEY—Bro. B. E. Martin.

DAVIS CHAPEL—By Letter.

MT. OLIVE—Sister Sarah Isabell.

SHADY GROVE—By Letter.

TALLADEGA—Sister Susie Freeman and Bro. Alfred Lakey.

FAIRVIEW—Bro. John L. Poe and Bro. W. H. McLaughlin.

Elder J. F. Williams and Bro. J. C. Howard were appointed to the credential committee.

Elder L. V. Pinson was appointed reading committee.

The letters were read and accepted and delegates seated.

Moved and Seconded that Elder K. V. Shutes be accepted as delegate and be given a voice in association.

A test of fellowship was called for by Elder J. E. Hodgens and was found to be very good.

The Moderator then appointed a Devotional Committee as follows: Bro. Frank Minor, Sister Freeman, with Deacons of home church.

The Moderator then called for the election of Moderator: Elder H. L. Mitchell was re-elected as Moderator with Elder L. V. Pinson as assistant.

Moved and Seconded that Bro. W. F. Johnston he retained as clerk.

Bro. Grady Collins was elected as assistant clerk.

The Devotional made a partial report at this time. Elder Harry L. Mitchell to preach at 11:00 a.m.

Elder K. V. Shutes made a talk on the orphan home and took an offering for the home which amounted to \$65.60.

The body adjourned until 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 11:00 A. M.

After a short period of singing Elder J. F. Williams lead in prayer.

Elder Harry L. Mitchell brought the message. Scripture reading Malachi, 3-8. Benediction by Elder J. E. Hodgens.

FRIDAY, 1:30 P. M.

The house was called to order by the clerk. Devotional was conducted by Elder J. E. Hodgens. Scripture reading, 133 Psalms. Prayer by Bro. Cecil Allen and Maxwell Harper.

The Moderator took charge and read the By Laws. Then appointed the following committees:

STANDING OF MINISTRY—BROS. H. A. McSpadden, J. F. Williams, Alton Lee, C. O. Goodman and H. M. Black.

BUSINESS—Bros. J. E. Drummonds, J. D. Kilburn, Alford Lakey, I. C. Howard and A. J. Cox.

ORDAINING COUNCIL—Bro J. E. Hodgens, B. E. Martin, John C. Baxley, Grady Collins and W. H. McLaughlin.

SABBATH SCHOOL—Sister Sarah Isabell and Mary McSpadden.

EDUCATION—Sister Jesse Isabell and Lorena Isabell.

FAMILY RELIGION—Sister Avelry Jones and Susie Freeman.

TEMPERANCE—Bro. M. H. Guy and Maxwell Harper.

LITERATURE—Sister Dessie Collins and Bro. Cecil Allen.

RESOLUTIONS—Bro. R. E. Collins and Frank Minor.

DECEASED MEMBERS—Earl E. Isabell and J. L. Poe.

AUDITING—Bro. L. V. Pinson, G. W. Hollis and Sister Lena Braswell.

The Moderator turned the meeting over to the Ladies Auxiliary for the next hour.

The ladies gave their report and made some fine talks on their work:

BELVIEW—

No. of members.....	16
Amount of money raised for Home Missions.....	\$11.75
Amount of money raised for Foreign Missions.....	\$2.12
Ministerial Relief	\$2.12
Convention dues	\$.50
Miscellaneous purposes	\$19.65
Total amount paid out.....	\$31.40
Amount in treasury	\$2.80

SYLACAUGA—

Amount in treasury.....	\$473.45
Made visits to see sick.....	335
Trays to sick	43
Flowers to sick	21
Orphan's home	\$20.00
Give on building expense	\$155.00
Paid for cloth and etc.....	\$177.79
Paid as Love Offering.....	\$23.00
Flowers to sick.....	\$29.22
Personal charity	\$79.56
Total paid out for year.....	\$437.53
Jehodiah Chest	\$7.35
Penny a day bank	\$6.01
Balance in treasury.....	\$28.60

FAIRVIEW—

Amount for entire year.....	\$103.75
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The Auxiliary has made many visits to the sick carrying things they need.

MRS. DELIA SMITH, Sec.-Treas.

The devotional committee gave a report at this time. Bro. J. E. Drummonds to preach at 7:30 p.m.

A partial report of resolutions committee was given and accepted. (See report.)

Moved and Seconded that body adjourn until 8:30 Saturday morning.

Benediction by Elder L. V. Pinson.

SATURDAY, 8:30 P. M.

After song service the house was called to order by the clerk. Elder L. V. Pinson lead in prayer.

Devotional was conducted by Elder Maxwell Harper.

The Moderator asked the committee to have their report ready and called for them.

The Moderator asked the Ordaining Council to finish the Ordination of Bro. Dewey Isabell, which was performed at this time.

The Devotional Committee made a report. Bro. C. O. Goodman to preach and Bro. Earl E. Isabell to conduct devotional at 11 a.m.

Bro. Dewey Isabell was called upon to make a statement.

The Business Committee gave their report and was accepted.

The committee on Home Mission gave their report and was accepted.

The body then adjourned until 1:30.

SATURDAY, 11:00 A. M.

The body came together and sang a hymn after which Elder Earl E. Isabell conducted devotional service.

Elder C. O. Goodman brought the message. Scripture reading, Matthew, 25.

Benediction by Elder H. L. Mitchell.

SATURDAY, 1:30 P. M.

The house came to order and after a song Bro. Roland Dean conducted devotional.

The Moderator read a letter from Liberty Church and Bro. J. V. Keeton, after which a special prayer was offered for Bro. Keeton, who is sick. Prayer was lead by Elder L. V. Pinson and C. O. Goodman.

Reports of committee were given as follows:

STANDING OF MINISTRY—Accepted.

RESOLUTIONS—Accepted.

SABBATH SCHOOL—Accepted.

TEMPERANCE—Accepted.

LITERATURE—Accepted.

DECEASED MEMBERS—Accepted.

EDUCATION—Accepted.

AUDITION—Accepted.

The Moderator called for report of Executives Committee. Bro. H. A. McSpadden was retained as Executives Committee.

A special offering was taken for association which amounted to \$38.52. State Association, \$10.00. Total \$48.52.

The Moderator appointed Bro. H. A. McSpadden and Bro. Dewey Isabell as delegates to State Association.

It was voted that the association go to Bethel Church at Marvell, Ala., Rt. 1.

Final report of Devotional Committee was given. Elder H. M. Black to preach, assisted by Elder H. L. Mitchell at 7:00 p.m., Saturday.

It was voted that the ministers and deacons have a meeting at Birmingham Church on the 30th day of October, at 2:00 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the clerk's pay be raised to \$25.00.

Moved and Seconded that this body adjourn to meet with Bethel Church on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, at 7:30 p.m., 1944.

Benediction by Clerk.

SATURDAY, 7:00 P. M.

The body met together after singing several hymns. Elder H. M. Black brought the message. Scripture reading,, First Corinthians, 3-11, after which the Ordinance of Communion and feet washing was observed.

SECTION 11**Minister's Conference**

The sixty fifth annual session of the Minister's Conference of the Cahaba Free Will Baptist Association met with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sylacauga, October 1, 7:30 p.m., 1943.

House was called to order by Clerk. The Moderator then took charge. Reading the 28th chapter of Matthew, 11-20 verse.

By motion the body went into the election of officers. A motion and second was offered to retain the same officers: Elder L. V. Pinson, Moderator; Elder J. S. Howell as assistant.

H. A. McSpadden, Clerk; G. W. Hollis, assistant clerk.

An opportunity was given for new membership.

A test of fellowship was made. All ministers and deacons present taking part. A very warm demonstration of Brotherly Love and the presence of The Holy Spirit was evidenced.

A motion and second to adjourn. After which Elder J. E. Drummonds brought the message for the evening. Subject taken from Malachi, 3-1-12.

Benediction by Elder W. C. Howell.

ELDER L. V. PINSON, Moderator.

BRO. H. A. McSPADDEN, Clerk.

MINISTER'S REPORT**HARRY L. MITCHELL—**

No. of churches pastored.....	3
No. sermons	133
No. baptized	3
No. Funerals	19
No. marriages	8
No. Revivals	3
No. miles traveled	7,460
Amount offerings	\$307.23

W. O. McDONALD—

No. sermons preached	24
No. revivals	1
Amount offering	\$12.00
No. of miles traveled	60

JOHN C. BAXLEY—

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	115
No. baptized	1
No. funeral	1
No. marriages	4
No. revivals	4
No. miles traveled	1,624
Amount of offering	\$125.00
Expense	\$45.00

L. N. BARBER—

No. of sermons preached	8
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L. V. PINSON

No. sermons preached	99
No. churches pastored	1
No. funeral	1
No. revivals	2
Amount of offering	\$375.00

C. O. GOODWIN—

Ass't. pastor church	1
Sermons preached	69
No. funerals	4
Miles traveled	800
Amount of offering	\$9.25
Expense	\$44.43
No. marriages	1
No. revivals	2

J. D. KILLBURN—

No. sermons preached	21
No. funeral	1

J. E. DRUMMOND—

No. churches pastored	1
No. revivals	6
No. sermons preached	75
Amount offering	\$58.23

H. M. BLACK—

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	35
No. baptized	4
No. revivals	1
No. miles traveled	1,150
Amount of offering	\$42.22
Expense	\$19.25

R. H. HOWARD—

No. sermons preached	17
No. marriages	1
No. miles traveled	58

W. C. HOWELL—

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	56
No. baptized	1
No. funerals	2
No. revivals	2
No. miles traveled	963
Amount of offering	\$53.63
Expense	\$20.50

J. F. WILLIAMS—

No. of churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	24
No. funerals	2
No. miles traveled	600
Amount of offering	\$27.45
Expense	\$4.20

MAXWELL HARPER—

No. sermons preached	35
No. miles traveled	95
Amount of offering	\$18.00
Expense	\$9.45

EARL E. ISABELL—

No. of sermons preached	22
No. revivals	2
No. baptized	2
No. funerals	2

J. E. HODGENS—

No. sermons preached	109
Amount of offering	\$407.28
No. miles traveled	4,980
No. revivals	6
No. funerals	6
Expense	\$108.48

M. E. JONES—

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	32
No. funerals	2
No. miles traveled	400
Amount of offering	\$80.87
Expense	\$25.00

JOHN S. HOWELL—

No. sermons preached	43
No. funerals	1
No. marriages	1
No. revivals	2
No. miles traveled	60
Amount of offering	\$2.00
Expense	\$3.00

J. J. STAAB—

No. sermons preached	124
No. revivals	2
No. funerals	3
No. marriages	3
No. miles traveled	1,137
Amount of offering	\$260.00
Expense	\$20.00

J. C. FULLER—

No. sermons preached	195
No. marriages	4
No. funerals	4
No. revivals	3
Amount of offering	\$85.20

D. L. BAKER—

No. of revivals	2
(Sickness)	

MINISTERIAL ROLL

Elder J. E. Hodgens, Chelsea, Ala.
 Elder J. F. Williams, Route 8, Box 425A, Birmingham, Ala.
 Elder D. L. Baker, Sylacauga, Ala., Route 2.
 Elder C. O. Goodwin, Munford, Ala., Route 2.
 Elder L. V. Pinson, 30 Millhaven St., Sylacauga, Ala.
 Elder Earl E. Isabell, Dunnavant, Ala.
 Elder Harry L. Mitchell, 1720 8th Ave., No. Birmingham, Ala.
 Elder John C. Baxley, 12 Village St., Sylacauga, Ala.
 Elder Maxwell Harper, Marvelle, Ala.
 Elder W. C. Howell, 513 Isbell Circle, Talladega, Ala.
 Elder John S. Howell, 427 Williams Ave., Talladega, Ala.
 Elder J. D. Kilburn, Munford, Ala., R.F.D.
 Elder H. M. Black, Adamsville, Ala.
 Elder J. E. Drummonds, Trussville, Ala., Route 2.
 Elder R. H. Howard, Vandever, Ala.
 Elder J. J. Staab, 2313 33rd Ave., No. Birmingham, Ala.
 Elder C. R. Allen, 3710 5th Ct., Birmingham, Ala.
 Elder H. W. Smith, Lawley, Ala., Route 1.
 Elder H. E. Hewitt, Pell City, Ala.
 Elder W. H. Ryland, Margaret, Ala.
 Elder J. C. Fuller, Bon Air, Ala.
 Elder J. M. McCay, Sterrets, Ala.
 Elder M. E. Jones, Leeds, Ala.
 Elder L. N. Barber, Pell City, Ala.
 Elder W. O. McDonald, Rt. 8, Box 700, Birmingham, Ala.
 Elder W. H. Lawrence
 Elder Roy Pickett, Marvelle, Ala.
 Elder J. D. Hobson, 3401 28th Place, Birmingham, Ala.

EXECUTIVES COMMITTEE

Bro. H. A. McSpadden, Sayreton, Ala.
 Bro. Grady Collins, 26 Twin St., Sylacauga, Ala.
 Bro. L. W. Kendrick, chairman, Maylene, Ala.

SECTION III**Report of Committees****STANDING OF MINISTRY**

We, your committee on Standing of Ministry, recommend that all certificates of standing of ministers who fail to report to conference, either by letter or by presence, be withheld by clerk until he receives their report, also that certificate of standing of Deacon be withheld until requested by churches.

Section 2. We recommend that the following ministers be given certificate of standing when requested by churches of which they are members: Elders C. O. Goodwin, L. V. Pinson, Earl E. Isabell, H. L. Mitchell, John C. Baxley, Maxwell Harper, W. C. Howell, J. S. Howell, J. D. Kilburn, H. M. Black, J. E. Drummonds, R. H. Howard and J. J. Staab

We recommend that the following ministers be given certificate of standing when they send their yearly report to clerk of this conference: Elders C. R. Allen, H. W. Smith, H. E. Hewitt, W. H. Ryland, J. C. Fuller, J. M. McCay.

We recommend that the clerk write Elder D. L. Baker for yearly report.

We recommend that certificate of standing of the following ministers be withheld until especially requested by churches of which they are members: Elders M. E. Jones, L. N. Barber, W. O. McDonald, W. H. Lawrence, Roy Pickett, J. D. Hobson.

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. McSPADDEN, Chairman.

J. F. Williams, H. M. Black, C. O. Goodwin, Alton Lee.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

We, your committee, recommend that the association will convene with Fairview Church next session.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. J. E. Drummonds, I. C. Howard, J. D. Kilburn,
 Jack Cox and Alford Lacky.

EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education, believe we should have the Bible taught as a special subject in our own grammar and high schools along with the other subjects. We also recommend that our Sunday School Teachers and the leaders of our churches study the Bible and insist on our members studying the word of God, because the truth shall set us free. We need to pray for more knowledge and grace, so we can teach God's word as he would have us to.

Respectfully submitted,

Sisters Jesse Isbell and Lorena Isbell.

SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your Sunday School Committee, insist that all children from the youngest to the oldest, attend Sunday School every Sunday, and stay and hear the Gospel preached. We believe in attending church regular and having prayer in the home in training a child in a way it should go, so that when it is old it will not depart from it.

Respectfully submitted,
Sisters Sarah Isabell, Mary McSpadden.

EXECUTIVES

We, the Executives Committee, appointed Elder J. E. Hodgins to fill the unexpired term of Elder W. H. Lawrence at Bethel Church.

Respectfully submitted,
BRO. H. A. McSPADDEN.

FAMILY RELIGION

We, your Committee on Family Religion, report the following: We believe in reading the Bible more, teaching the children more about the Bible. Live our religion every day, that our light will shine; have more family altar in the home.

Respectfully submitted,
Sisters Audry Jones and Susie Freeman.

LITERATURE

We, as your Committee on Literature, believe that the Bible should be taught to children in school as well as in homes and in churches. Parents should be careful in having unwholesome literature. We believe that we should back up and use our Free Will Baptist Literature.

Respectfully submitted,
SISTER DESSIE COLLINS.

RESOLUTION

We, your Resolution Committee, submit the following report:

1. Resolved that each minister submit a written report of their work at each session of the association without any discussion.
2. Resolved that each church pay in their Home Missions funds.
3. Resolved that the association give the Sunday School and League time enough to report their work at each session.

Respectfully submitted,
R. E. Collins, Frank Minor.

TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report. The Bible teaches us to be temperate in all things and at all times, so let us practice temperance. We recommend that we teach our children temperance.

To be temperate we must abstain from all that is evil.

Respectfully submitted,
Bros. M. H. Guy and Maxwell Harper.

DECEASED MEMBERS

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

Since our last session the following names of members have passed away: Mt. Olive, Bro. Dave Owens; Davis Chapel, Sister Magria Ellin McCay; Sylacauga, Sister Mary Hewett; Clara Chapel, Bro. Archer Smitherman; Liberty, Bro. H. J. Terry, Bro. H. L. Smith.

Respectfully submitted,
Bros. Earl E. Isabell, John L. Poe.

HOME MISSIONS

Balance on hand.....	\$14.50
Mt. Pleasant	1.00
Mt. Zion	3.00
Davis Chapel	3.10

Total.....\$21.60

Respectfully submitted,
M. M. DAVIS, Chairman,
WILL HODGENS,
G. W. HOLLIS, Treasurer.

AUDITING

We, your Auditing Committee, have examined the treasurer's report and find at the close of the last session we,

Had on hand	\$58.35
Expenditures	58.04

Balance at the beginning of this session..... .31

Respectfully submitted,
BRO. L. V. PINSON,
G. W. HOLLIS,
SISTER LEVA BRASWELL.

TREASURER'S REPORT—1942-1943

Amt. pd. in for Minutes and clerical expense..	\$58.35
Expenditures:	
Printing of 500 Minutes	40.00
Paid to Clerk	10.00
National Association expense	5.00
Supplies	2.40
Paid to Sister Harper64

Total.....\$58.04

Balance in treasury.....\$.31

**REPORT OF DISTRICT QUARTERLY CONFERENCE
FOURTH DISTRICT**

No. of churches in District.....	3
No. of Ordained Ministers.....	5

ELDER L. V. PINSON, Moderator,
GRADY COLLINS, Clerk.

To the.....of Free Will Baptists when convened with
the.....Church at19.....,
we send as delegate our beloved Brethern.....
....., whom we pray you to receive to sit with you
in your deliberations. General condition of church: No. services
.....; Sermons.....; League.....; Auxiliary
.....; Sunday School.....; No. of officers.....;
No. Teachers.....; No. Pupils.....; Revivals.....;
New members.....; No. Baptized.....; Members
dismissed.....; No. deceased.....; Name of de-
ceased.....; Total membership.....;
Amount paid pastor.....; Amount paid Evangelist.....
.....; Amount paid orphanage.....; Missions:
Home....., Foreign.....; Education.....;
Publication.....; Minutes and conference expense
.....; Name and address of pastor.....
.....; Name and address of minis-
ters belonging to our church.....
.....; Property
valuation.....; Repairs.....

We request Certificate of Standing for the following ministers:

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.....
.....
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Deacons

.....

request..... Done by order of.....

.....Church19.....

..... Moderator

..... Clerk

Clerk's address.....

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 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 things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special arts 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 condition 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 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 ordi-

nances 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 communication with God.

15. RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION —The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done 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 of 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 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 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 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.

Statistical Table -- 1943

Churches	No. Members	Received By Letter	Received By Baptism	No. Dismissed	No. Died	Clerk's Names and Addresses	Pastors
Pleasant Valley	25	0	4	0	1	C. S. Kendrick, Chelsea, Ala.	H. M. Black
Fairview	33	5	6	0	0	W. H. McLaughlin, Margaret, Ala.	W. H. Ryland
Belview	40	5	4	4	0	Mardis Minor, Leeds, Ala.	W. H. Ryland
Union Hill	72	0	1	2	0	W. C. Walker, Sterret, Ala., Rt. 2.	J. E. Hodgins
Birmingham	36	4	0	0	0	H. L. Thomas, Birmingham, Ala.	J. J. Staab
Clara Chapel	11	0	0	2	1	Robbie Littlefield, Boothton, Ala.	H. L. Mitchell
Mt. Zion	61	2	0	3	0	G. W. Hollis, Pell City, Ala.	J. E. Drummonds
Ryans	25	1	3	0	0	L. W. Kendrick, Maylene, Ala.	H. L. Mitchell
Davis Chapel	35	1	1	1	1	Willie Lou Caudle, Sterret, Ala.	J. C. Baxley
Talladega	45	9	6	2	0	Vera Howell, Talladega, Ala.	W. C. Howell
Mt. Pleasant	30	0	0	0	1	J. W. Barnett, Spratt, Ala.	J. E. Hodgins
Sylacauga	50	3	0	13	1	Arthur Johnston, Sylacauga, Ala.	L. V. Pinson
Liberty	36	0	0	0	1	Dorothy Keeton, Lawley, Ala.	J. E. Hodgins
Bethel	61	0	0	0	0	Minnie Picket, Marvel, Ala.	J. E. Hodgins
Mt. Olive	41	1	2	0	1	Lottie K. Isbell, Dunnavant, Ala.	J. E. Drummonds
Shady Grove	52	0	0	3	0	Mrs. Joe Click, Jr.	H. L. Mitchell