

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-Seventh Annual Session

OF THE

Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

East Birmingham Free Will Baptist Church

**4310 North 10th Avenue
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

September 29-30, 1955

OFFICERS

Moderator _____ Elder J. J. Staab
2313 North 33rd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama

Assistant Moderator _____ Elder R. H. Howard
Sterrett, Alabama

Clerk _____ H. A. McSpadden
Route 9, Box 231-F, Birmingham, Alabama

The 78th Session of The Cahaba River Association of The Free Will Baptist will meet with Union Hill Free Will Baptist Church of Vandiver, Alabama, on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1956.

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MINISTERS REPORT

Minister	Churches Pastored	Sermons Preached	Revivals	Baptised	Marriages	Funerals	Money Received	Expenses	Churches Organized	Miles Traveled
D. F. Colley	0	53	1	0	0	0	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	0	1500
M. D. Harper	3	170	5	6	0	1	1260.00	675.00	0	10000
E. L. Isbell	0	36	2	0	0	0	25.00	36.00	0	200
H. O. Walton	0	58	2	0	0	0	75.00		0	
Dave Franks	1	60	3	0	0	0	400.00	400.00	0	1000
Robert Armstrong	1	118	1	2	0	0	366.31		0	5800
Geo. A. LaShum	1	55	0	1	0	0	57.00		0	1600
R. H. Howard	0	38	3	2	2	2	103.27	12.71	0	438
J. W. Marlow	1	131	3	12	2	6	965.00	500.00	0	5000
Nathan Davis	1	186	5	0	2	0	958.95	858.95	0	12000
C. W. Haynes	1	176	4	0	1	0	588.50	350.00	0	10000
Tommie Gooden	0	22	0	0	0	0		Radio Program	1800	
J. J. Staab	1	70	0	0	1	0	95.00			
E. E. Isbell	0	15	0	0	0	0				
J. M. McKay	0	28	0	0	1	2	200.00	60.00	0	3000
Roy Johnson	2	0	0	0	1	1	400.00	600.00	0	6000
Jack Rollins	1	138	5	0	1	1	1488.00	1200.00	0	15618
A. M. Cagle	1	0	2	7	0	4			1	10000
J. F. Scott	0	85	0	0	0	0	1500.00		0	1500
Robert Parker										
Howard Coshatt										
H. H. Blanchard										
R. R. Pratt (Opelika)										

THURSDAY — SEPTEMBER 29, 1955

The 77th Session of The Cahaba River Association of Free Will Baptist assembled with The East Birmingham Free Will Baptist Church at 4310 North 10th Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

THURSDAY NIGHT — 7:00 P.M.

Welcome address by Elder J. J. Staab, Association Moderator.
 Invocation by Elder R. P. Ritch.
 Devotion by Elder Dave Franks.
 Several good songs and hymns were sung.
 Evening message by Elder K. V. Shutes, National Chairman of The Board of Superannuation—Nashville, Tennessee.

Text: Luke 1:1, Jude 1:3.

Subject: Setting forth the things believed by us and contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. A talk on Superannuation for the benefit of aged and retired ministers. An offering was received to support this purpose.

Song: "Home of the Soul."

Benediction.

FRIDAY — 8:30 A.M.

Elder J. J. Staab gave talk from Phillipians, Ch. 2, on the mind of Christ or God and Free Will Baptist.

Invocation by Sister Pearl Byrd.

Song: "Onward Christian Soldiers" led by Elder Robert P. Ritch.

The business of the 77th Annual Session of the Cahaba River Association was called to order by the clerk, with prayer by Elder Geo. A. La Shum.

Church letters called for by the Moderator.

Reading committee appointed letters read by Elder Dave Franks and Sister Billie Rollins.

Church represented and delegates.

North Birmingham: Willie Mae Colley, Ilene Stone.

Mount Pleasant: Blannie Dunkin, Annie Laure Rogers, J. W. Barnett.

Bethel: Charles Boothe, Minnie Pickett, Myrtle Smitherman.

Roanoke—by letter.

East Birmingham: Sister L. B. Farley, Sister C. H. Mason, Sister S. E. Brown.

Shady Grove: Sister Louie Bates, Pearl Hancock, Edna Haskett.

Mt. Olive: Elvie Mae Minor, Leacy Isbell, Lottie Isbell.

Lindburgh: Mae Powell, Christeen Johnson.

Oak Grove: Flora Tubbs, Pearl Byrd.

Fairview: Lewis Walker, Marvin Reed, Evelyn Sollie, Louise Webb, Oleen Reed.

Dilworth: Sister Mitchell, Sister Lively, Sister Pugh, Sister Scott.

Pleasant Valley: by letter.

Union Hill: A. B. Vickers, Austin Parker, Claudie Howard.

Davis Chapel: Beatrice Howard, Mary Helen Adams.

Sylacauga: C. C. Isbell, Earl Conell, Sister Troy Kendrick, Sister Lena Brozell, Sister Lena Harmon.

Opelika: Lizzie Mae Giles.

Letters accepted and delegates seated.

Letters given to Business Committee for future business.

A motion to accept executive committee's report to establish Elder J. J. Staab, Moderator of the 77th Conference as Elder James Pickett, elected moderator, has moved to Pastor church in another association.

Elder R. H. Howard elected Assistant Moderator.

Song "Throw Out the Life Line" as hand of fellowship was given delegates.

Elder W. H. Ryland gave an inspiring talk and interesting report on progress of the Children's Home since its beginning and plans for the future.

The need of the home is for each church to contribute monthly. Tithes and offerings is God's way of financing all His works.

The progress of Free Will Baptist depends entirely on our people.

The program of the Children's Home—Foreign Mission—Home Mission—Superannuation—The College—Sunday School—League—Woman's Auxiliary.

Let's wake up to this fact and be diligent in that that God requires of us.

A collection of \$33.00 was received, \$17.00 donated from annual treasure, total of \$50.00 for Children's Home.

10:30 A.M. Devotion by Elder Dewey Colley while in this life. Man has the freedom of choice, but after this—the judgment.

A special prayer in unison at altar in behalf of request of those that were sick and injured. A testimony service by congregation to the living faith and eternal life in our Lord and Saviour.

11:00 A.M. Elder Raymond Riggs, Chairman of the National Board of Foreign Missions of Nashville, Tennessee.

Brought greetings from Bro. Mooneyham and other staff workers of the board.

Message—Four things God wants us to do about foreign missions.

"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields." John 4:35.

"Pray ye therefore for the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labours into the harvest" Matthew 9:37, 38. "That ye present your bodies a living sacrifice" Romans 12:1, Luke 14:33, Romans 12:13.

"Ye shall be my witnesses" Acts 1:18, Mark 16:15, Isaiah 6:8,

A wonderful message in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And what is required of us who stay at home.

Song "Ready" as those who had dedicated their children and their own lives with bowed heads unto our Lord. A prayer of consecration by Elder Riggs, and he petitioned our heavenly Father for grace and an unction of the spirit to lead us to those who have never heard the gospel.

Announcements by pastor and welcome.

Benediction by J. H. McCullough.

Lunch: A grand spirit of fellowship was enjoyed by all present, as dinner was so graciously served by ladies of the church.

1:00 P.M. Song — "To the Work" led by Sister Rumell Kimbrough.

Prayer by A. L. Harmon.

Report of Committee—see report.

A motion to give Elder Robert P. Ritch, a letter of recommendation to the Vernon Association of The Free Will Baptist as he has been called to pastor a church in that Association. Motion passed unanimously.

A talk by Elder K. V. Shutes, Nat'l Sec. Superannuation on "Care of aged and retired ministers." The purpose of the National Plan.

A motion was passed to suspend in this conference, the rules to elect officers on Saturday A.M. and elect them this Friday P.M.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Executive Board: Elder Jack Rollins, 1 year; Elder Louie Bates, 2 years; Bro. Clarence A. Pickett, 3 years.

Moderator: Elder J. J. Staab.

Assistant Moderator: Elder Jack Rollins.

Clerk: H. A. McSpadden.

Treasurer: Elder M. D. Harper.

Home Mission: Bro. Thurmond Kimbrough, 1 year; Bro. H. W. Grice, 2 years; Elder Dave Franks, 3 years.

Announcements — Benediction.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE

Friday — 7:00 P.M.

Ministers conference.

Song service

Several special songs by the Gamel trio.

Registration by Ministers and Deacons.

Evangelize or Fossilize.

Subject for discussion by Ministers.

Several good discussions on this subject.

New members. Elders Dave Franks, Howard Coshatt, Deacons O. J. Alexander, Mason Giles, Howard Franklin.

Report of Home Mission Board on progress of tent.

Suggested each member of Churches send \$1.00 to Home Missions Board this coming year.

A motion to refer this subject to Home Mission Board.

Election Elder Jack Rollins, Moderator; Elder Dave Franks, Assistant Moderator.

Benediction by Elder Nathan Davis.

"EVANGELIZE OR FOSSILIZE"

A Fossil is a relic of a former condition. Petrified forms. Trees, fish, animals, natural forces have turned them into stone.

Evangelism . . . or soul winning, will keep the soul alive and will also keep the church alive. A failure to save the lost the church cannot survive. Luke 5:1-11.

Ver. 1—The people pressed upon him to hear the words of God. Christ wanted to reach the crowds. Do you? How was he to do it? He entered into Simon's boat and used it as a pulpit. I wonder if he is using your equipment to extend his cause and influence among men.

And he sat down and taught the people.

What a great open air service that must have been. Possibly you have been attracted by the phrase . . . He sat down . . . and taught the people.

Jesus has sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high to continue to teach us through his Church.

Turning from the people to one individual . . . he said to Peter, launch out into the deep . . . Let's look into the things of God deeper and deeper.

Peter said, 'Master we have toiled all night and have taken nothing.' That sad confession is descriptive of the church today. Much toil but not much taking . . .

So many are on the verge of giving up laying down their nets. I wonder if you're having that trouble just now.

Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught . . . are we as deeply consecrated as we should be? Let us surrender our boat, nets, to the God of the whole world.

Peter said nevertheless I will, at Thy word. He that winneth souls is wise. Prov. 11:30, Daniel 12:3, Matt. 4:19.

BY MY SPIRIT. Zach. 4:6.

Salvation does not depend on feeling but facts. John 3:36 and 5:24, 10:28 and John 5:10, 13.

Read Matt. 10:32, Romans 1:16, 10:9 and 10. New life requires food as found in the scriptures. Pa. 119:11, 1st Peter 2:2.

A difference in trying and trusting. Explained 2 Cor. 9:8. An ideal exangelist, 2 Tim. 4:5 (I John 2:15 and Jonah 1:2), Acts 15: 26, 27.

OCTOBER 1, 1955

Saturday — 8:30 A.M.

Song: "Showers of Blessings" led by Elder H. O. Walton.

Devotion by Elder J. J. Staab.

All committees advised to formulate their business and recommendations to conference in accord with rules and regulations of the conference and with prayerful hearts.

Prayer by J. W. Marlow.

Talk on radio evangelism by Elder K. V. Shutes appealed to body to support Elder J. J. Staab in his broadcast over Station WLBS at 6:30 A.M. each Sunday.

Report of Treasurer (see reports).

10:00 A.M. (see Woman's Auxiliary).

11:00 A.M. Song "Here Am I, Send Me."

Devotion by Bro. Eugene Howard.

A good testimony service.
 Song "Wonderful Jesus" led by Bro. J. H. McColough.
 Special "How About Your Heart" by Elder Jack Rollins.
 Message by Bro. Jack Rollins.
 Text: Isaiah 7:11—Emanuel. Matthew 1:23, God With Us.
 Song "Just As I Am."

A special appeal for support of our college at Nashville was made by Elder K. V. Shutes. 169 students enrolled. College is badly in need of additional room to properly house students.

Benediction.

Lunch.

1:00 P.M. Several good hymns were sung as delegates assembled.

Prayer by Elder Howard Coshatt.

A motion to give Bro. Oscar Gamel, a letter of appreciation (or Gold Certificate) for his service as deacon in churches of the Cahaba River Association.

Elder M. D. Harper elected promotional secretary. His duties are to visit all churches in the association, to promote the plans of our association, each church to arrange an appointment and receive offering for expense of Secretary.

Contact Elder M. D. Harper, Route 1, Marvel, Alabama.

Next annual association will assemble with Union Hill Church, Vandiver, Alabama, on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1956, by vote of the body.

Sister Pearl Byrd, C. H. Mason elected State delegates.

Ordaining Council proceeded with Ordination service.

Elder R. E. Wiggins and Bro. Clarence A. Pickett were charged with special duties of their calling and ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands by the council.

Song "Amazing Grace" hand of fellowship given candidates.

A vote of thanks and appreciation to the people of East Birmingham Church for their gracious care and provisions to delegates and a wonderful fellowship.

Thanks and appreciation to Sister Billie Rollins for her gracious assistance and faithfulness as pianist for our association.

Announcements.

Adjournment.

Benediction.

OCTOBER 1, 1955

7:00 P.M.

Thirty minutes of wonderful singing by congregation.

A special prayer of petition was led by Sister Gladys Reeves in behalf of Bro. Jeff Beasley's granddaughter and Bro. McCullough's son-in-law who was injured and others who requested prayer.

Devotion and testimony services led by Bro. Howard Coshatt.

Message by Elder J. W. Marlow. Commented on services to follow. Read covenant and articles of faith setting forth the Bible, the infallible word of God.

Subject: I, your Lord and Master, set the example in memory.

Scripture reading Luke 6:46 and John 13.

Sacrament administered by pastor and deacons of the church.

A glorious spirit of worship in memory of our Lord throughout the whole of the service.

The foot washing service followed in the spirit of meekness. Each one preferring his brother before him realizing the servant is not greater than his Lord.

A very impressive and inspiring service.

Songs: "Amazing Grace" and "Wear a Crown."

Benediction by Bro. Levi Walker.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Saturday, October 1, 1955

The Woman's Auxiliary met with Sister Rumell Kimbrough acting as president, assisted by Sister Mary E. McSpadden.

Letters called for and read and accepted. Delegates seated.

A discussion on an Annual Woman's Auxiliary organized April, 1955, which will meet April, 1956.

The discussion being favorable, a motion was passed to move the business portion of The Woman's Auxiliary from the Annual Cahaba River Association to the Woman's Annual Conference in April.

Sister Louie Bates appointed as President. Sister Pearl Byrd as Secretary and Treasurer. A motion to retain all other officers until April Annual Conference was passed.

A good talk on activities of the coming year and being prepared for conference in April, 1956, by Mrs. Louie Bates.

EAST BIRMINGHAM CHURCH: Delegate, Mrs. Troy Crocker.

Our work has been visiting the sick and sending flowers. Also raising money to pay for the piano and other needs for the church. We meet every other Thursday night.

Mrs. Geneva Edwards, Secretary
 NORTH BIRMINGHAM CHURCH: Delegate, Mrs. Mary McSpadden.

We meet the fourth Wednesday night of each month.

We have bought carpet and a fan for the church. We pay \$10.00 monthly to Building Fund on our new Sunday School rooms. We help buy the song books for the church.

We visited the sick and sent flowers. Gave showers and gifts to different ones of the church and put on plays. We supplied needs for the Homecoming in the church.

Income for the year	\$323.45
Expenses for the year	307.57

Balance	\$ 15.88
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We sent \$3.60 dues to conference.

Mrs. Rummell Kimbrough, President
 Mrs. Betty Jo Frederick, Sec.-Treas.
 SHADY GROVE CHURCH: Delegates, Mrs. Louie Bates, Mrs. Mary Lee Click, and Mrs. Edna Haskett.

Income for year	\$343.96
Paid church insurance	\$ 23.63
Flowers	46.91
Evangelist	40.00
Children's Home	20.00
Paid on church	127.80
Miscellaneous	73.65
Convention Dues	3.00
Balance	\$ 10.96

Mrs. Pearl Hancock, President
 Mrs. Joe Click, Jr., Sec.-Treas.
 Route 2, Adamsville, Alabama
 FAIRVIEW CHURCH: Delegates, Mrs. Becky Harris and Mrs. Oscar Gamel.

We meet twice each month.

INCOME

For quilts	\$ 84.00
Cards, Books and Dues	36.00
Offerings	12.81

Total INCOME	\$132.81
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PAID OUT

For flowers	\$ 30.61
For Fan	22.32
Miscellaneous	53.01

\$105.94	105.94
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Balance	\$ 26.87
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Mrs. Ora McCreless, President
 Mrs. J. D. Lawley, Sec.-Treas.
 New President: Mrs. Louise Webb
 New Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy Goodwin

SYLACAUGA CHURCH: Delegate, Mrs. Troy Kendrick.

Amt brought forward from 1954 \$ 42.36
Income for 1955 782.46

Total Income \$824.82
Amount Paid Out 806.23

Balance \$ 18.59

Visits made to sick	546	Trays carried	80
Hospital calls	402	Cards mailed	\$1.89
Gave to charity	\$276.42	Telephone calls	144
Flowers sent	\$171.70		

Mrs. Adgie Mae Deason, President

Mrs. Ruth Strickland, Sec.-Treas.

North Birmingham Auxiliary \$ 3.60

Sylacauga 3.00

Fairview 2.40

Shady Grove 3.00

East Birmingham

Received from Mrs. Ed. Goodwin 2.40

Total 1954 Dues \$14.40

Mrs. Pearl Byrd, Sec.-Treas.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Standing of the Ministry. We recommend Certificate of Standing for Ministers and Deacons. Reporting for these in person or by letter to Ministers Conference and Certificate. Ask for by Home Churches.

Ordaining Council

We find Bro. Clarence A. Pickett qualified for ordination as Deacon.

We find Elder Robert E. Wiggins in accord with the doctrine of Free Will Baptist and recommend him to be given certificate of ordination.

Elders M. D. Harper, Louie Bates, W. A. Parker, W. N. Hodgins, Ed Goodwin.

Business Committee

1. We recommend that item 3 of 1953 Business Committee report be repealed. Motioned and seconded. Carried.

2. We recommend Home Mission Board have full authority over Home Mission work and funds. Motioned and seconded. Carried.

3. We recommend Pastors of each church receive offering twice each year for home mission in Cahaba River Association. Motioned and seconded. Carried.

4. We recommend Brother Clarence A. Pickett, R. E. Wiggins, Roy Isabell and J. F. Scott to the Ordaining Council for examination.

5. We recommend a letter of appreciation and acknowledgments to his services as Deacon in the Cahaba River Association to Bro. Oscar Gamel. Motioned and seconded. Carried.

6. We acknowledge and appreciate Radio Program by Elder J. J. Staab over Station WLBS, dial 900 at 6:30 A.M. each Sunday in behalf of the message of our Lord and cause of The Free Will Baptist. We urge our people to support this cause with your prayers and offerings. Motioned and seconded. Carried.

7. We recommend a promotional secretary for the Cahaba River Association to promote denomination enterprises in all churches. Each church to make an appointment with and receive offerings for expense of said secretary. Motion passed.

Elder M. D. Harper elected Promotional Secretary.

Address: M. D. Harper, Route 1, Marvel, Alabama

Signed: George A. LaShum, Dave Franks, Pearl Byrd

Devotional Committee

Friday 10:30 A.M.—Devotional services by Elder Dewey F. Colley.

11:00 A.M.—Message by Elder Raymond Riggs.

Saturday 10:30 A.M.—Devotional by Bro. Eugene Howard.

11:00 A.M.—Message by Elder Jack Rollins.

Saturday 6:30 P.M.—Devotional by Elder Howard Coshatt.

7:00 P.M.—Message by Elder J. W. Marlow.

Signed:—J. W. McCollough

H. W. Griel

Mary McSpadden

Temperances

Temperance is one of the graces we are taught to add to our lives in 2nd Peter 1:6. It gives power to avoid the appearances of evil — to abstain from sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world from the sale and use of intoxicating beverages and to preserve our souls into the coming of our Lord.

Signed: I. C. Howard and Charles Boothe.

Deceased

We extend our love and sympathy to the friends and loved ones of these our beloved who have departed this life to be with Christ our Lord: Fairview Church, Bro. Riley Harris and Sister Ludie Harris; Dilworth Church, Sister Nelle Cook; Davis Chapel, Sister Nora McKay; Sylacauga, Bro. Marion Guy; Mt. Pleasant, Bro. J. M. Nichols.

Signed: Mrs. Edna Haskett, Mrs. Ed Goodwin.

Family Religion

Dedicated parents in the home and in teaching and training their children to worship God. Will better enable them to live Godly lives and carry the message of our Lord to them that have never heard.

Willie Ruth Nichols, Ilene Stone and Louise Webb.

Sunday School

Sunday Schools is one of the greatest opportunities of the church to teach God's word and train people how to reverence God with their lives.

We should endeavor to supply our schools with teachers that are dedicated to our Lord and are qualified to teach and urge every member of Sunday School remain for the message of the gospel after Sunday School.

Flora Tubbs, Mrs. Troy Kendrick, Mae Powell and C. H. Mason.

Leagues

Our Leagues should be encouraged as it offers a wonderful course of Christian training and the art of speaking in public to our youth. It is one of the greatest opportunities of our church. Let's not neglect it.

Mrs. Dewey Hancock, J. F. Scott,

Roy Johnson, V. D. Sollie and C. C. Isbell.

MONEY RECEIVED AT CONFERENCE FOR YEAR OF 1955

East Birmingham Church	\$41.12
Opelika	5.00
Sylacauga	25.00
Union Hill	10.00
Davis Chapel	13.05
Dilworth	
Fairview	15.00
Oak Grove	
Lindburgh	5.00
Mt. Olive	
Shady Grove	10.00
North Birmingham	59.86
Mt. Pleasant	15.00
Bethel	5.00
Roanoke	
Ministers	24.00
Deacons	44.00

Total money received \$324.03 several churches failed to put amount on church letters and thus could not be properly accredited.

H. A. McSpadden, Clerk.

Ministers Who Registered

Elder Nathan Davis, Route 11, Box 236, Birmingham, Ala.	\$1.00
Elder M. D. Harper, Route 1, Marvel, Alabama	1.00
Elder Roy Johnson, Route 1, Adamsville, Alabama	1.00
Elder Robt. Armstrong, 50 Georgia Ave., Sylacauga, Ala. 2-4579	1.00
Elder Howard Coshatt	1.00
Elder James M. McKay, Route 1, Sterrett, Alabama	1.00
Elder Ed. Wiggins, 4512 N. 22nd Ave., Sayreton, Ala.	1.00
Elder Dewey F. Colley, 1212 N. 44th Pl., Birmingham, Ala.	1.00
Elder E. E. Isbell, Dunnovant, Alabama	1.00
Elder Jack Rollins, Route 1, Box 200, Adamsville, Ala.	1.00
Elder Geo. A. La Shum, 4313 5th Ave., Wylam, Ph. 57-6035	1.00
Elder C. W. Haynes, 409 Athens Ave., S., B'ham, Ala. 59-6912	1.00
Elder H. H. Blanchard, Route 11, Box 235, Birmingham, Ala.	1.00
Elder Lonnie Goodwin, 2307 1st Ave., N., Leeds, Ala.	1.00
Elder A. M. Cagle, Gardendale, Alabama	1.00
Elder J. M. Dutton	
Elder J. J. Staab, 2313 N. 33rd Ave., Birmingham, Ala.	1.00
Elder J. W. Marlow, 700 W. 24th Ave., B'ham, Ala. 4-3097	1.00
Elder R. H. Howard, Route 1, Sterrett, Alabama	1.00
Elder Dave Franks, 816 79th St., S., Birmingham, Ala.	1.00
Elder E. L. Isbell, Route 1, Sterrett, Alabama	1.00
Elder H. O. Walton, 3924 Fairmont Way, B'ham, Ala. 7-8452	1.00
Elder Robert Parker	
Licensee J. F. Scott, Route 1, Quinton, Alabama	1.00
Licensee P. R. Pratt	1.00
Licensee V. E. Calyvert	1.00

Deacons Who Registered

Henry Pickett	\$1.00	S. W. Brom	1.00
Frank Pickett	1.00	Frank Minor	1.00
Thurmond Kimbrough	1.00	A. E. Franklin	1.00
H. W. Grice	1.00	Artie Frederick	1.00
M. O. Kendrick	1.00	Chester Isbell	1.00
W. N. Hodgins	1.00	Mason Giles	1.00
Cecil Kendrick	1.00	H. T. Rogers	1.00
A. L. Harmon	1.00	J. W. Wise	1.00
Felix Smith	1.00	W. H. McLaughlin	1.00
C. N. Deason	1.00	V. R. Ewin	1.00
E. W. Knight, Sr.	1.00	Ellis Goodwin	1.00
R. L. Pratt	1.00	J. H. McCullough	1.00
Robert Parker	1.00	Lonnie T. Howard	1.00
John L. Parker	1.00	Coy Crocker	1.00
H. A. McSpadden	1.00	Walker Isbell	1.00
Clarence A. Pickett	1.00	Russell Kuykendall	1.00
T. A. Armstrong	1.00	W. H. Powell	1.00
J. O. Gamel	1.00	Curtis Brake	1.00
Albert Pitts	1.00	G. G. King	1.00
Ed Goodwin	1.00	J. L. Garner	1.00
Sollie Vernon	1.00	James Kitchens	1.00
Percy Stokes	1.00	C. F. Creless	1.00
		Norman Shirley	2.00

ASSOCIATION TREASURE

September 30, 1955 Brought forward		\$318.30
October 2, 1954 Children's Home	\$100.00	
October 2, 1954 Rev. R. P. Ritch	25.00	
October 2, 1954 Bro. H. A. McSpadden Salary	25.00	
October 2, 1954 National Association Fees	5.00	
October 2, 1954 State Association Fees	15.00	
October 2, 1954 State Unified Program	26.24	
October 2, 1954 H. A. McSpadden Mailing Exp.	11.50	
January 18, 1955 Johnson Printing Co.	98.88	
January 23, 1955 Davis Chapel Church		2.37
March 28, 1955 Johnson Printing Co.	3.61	
May 22, 1955 Davis Chapel Church		7.13
July 23, 1955 Davis Chapel Church		3.55
	\$310.23	\$331.35
		-310.23
		\$ 21.12

HOME MISSIONS

First Free Will Baptist, Birmingham, Ala.	\$ 55.57
East Birmingham Free Will Baptist Church	42.44
Davis Chapel Church	15.05
Mt. Pleasant Church	6.00
Rev. J. F. Scott	5.00
Rev. R. H. Howard	10.00
Rev. Jack Rollins	10.00
Rev. Dewey Colley	10.00
Bro. Joe Kimbrough	10.00
Sister Mullins	10.00
Rev. J. W. Marlow	10.00
Rev. M. D. Harper	20.00
Rev. J. W. Staab	10.00
Bro. A. M. Roberts	10.00

Amount Received	\$224.06
Brought Forward	518.54

Amount In Treasure \$742.60

PASTORS AND CLERKS

Bethel: Elder Nathan Davis, Pastor
Mrs. Cleve Allen, Clerk, Route 1, Marvel, Alabama
Roanoke: Elder Robert Armstrong, Pastor
Mrs. Martha Knight, Clerk, Rock Mill Rd., Roanoke, Ala.
Mt. Pleasant: Elder M. D. Harper, Pastor
J. W. Barnett, Clerk, Sprott, Alabama
North Birmingham, Elder Jack Rollins, Pastor
Mrs. Mary E. McSpadden, Clerk, Rt. 9, Box 231-F, B'ham, Ala.
Shady Grove: Elder Louie Bates, Pastor
Mrs. Joe Click, Jr., Clerk, Route 2, Adamsville, Alabama

Mt. Olive: Elder Calvin Hanes, Pastor
 Mrs. Lottie Isbell, Clerk, Dunnavant, Alabama
 Lindburgh, Elder Roy Johnson, Pastor
 Mrs. Ruth Brake, Clerk, Route 1, Adamsville, Alabama
 Oak Grove, Elder Dave Franks, Pastor
 Mrs. Flora Tubbs, Clerk, Route 2, Gardendale, Alabama
 Fairview: Elder H. H. Blanchard, Pastor
 Mrs. Ed. Goodwin, Clerk, Route 2, Trussville, Alabama
 Dilworth: Elder Geo. A. LaShum, Pastor
 W. W. Pugh, Clerk
 Pleasant Valley: Elder M. D. Harper, Pastor
 Mrs. Cecil Hodgins, Clerk, Route 1, Chelsea, Alabama
 Davis Chapel: Elder M. D. Harper, Pastor
 Mrs. Willie L. Caudle, Clerk, Route, Sterrett, Alabama
 Union Hill: Elder Robert Parker, Pastor
 Mrs. Hattie Parker, Clerk, Vandiver, Alabama
 Sylacauga: Elder J. M. Dutton, Pastor
 Mrs. Adgie Mae Deason, Clerk, 603 Oakland Ave., Sylacauga
 Opelika: Elder Roy O'Donnell, Pastor, 911 1st Ave., West Point, Ga.
 Mrs. Lizzie Mae Giles, Clerk, 1900 3rd Ave., Opelika, Ala.
 East Birmingham: Elder J. W. Marlow, Pastor
 Mrs. Evelyn Gamble, Clerk

Notice to All Clerks

Please use only Annual Report blanks and fill out complete.

Notice to Ministers

Several ministers failed to make reports and/or filled out incorrectly. It is required by Treatise, for National Records, PLEASE COOPERATE. Clerk.

BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE OF CAHABA RIVER ASSOCIATION

- (1) The clerk or assistant clerk, or the Senior Minister in years, may call the meeting to order and shall have charge until moderator assumes his place.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll all ministers present who are in good standing. If there are questionable characters they shall be referred to an appointed credential committee for advice but not for trial. They may be seated if found worthy, if not they are referred to their church.
- (3) Each meeting shall be opened with scripture reading and prayer.
- (4) By a two-thirds vote any decision of the moderator may be overruled.
- (5) This meeting shall sit with open doors unless it goes into a committee as a whole.
- (6) Any person, not a member of the body shall be allowed to take part in discussion, with moderator's permission, but shall have no vote.
- (7) All members of the body are expected to be present throughout the session unless excused by moderator.
- (8) No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one officer or committeeman if his nomination is elected.
- (9) The moderator must not allow any discussion to be carried on in an unchristian spirit.
- (10) The person who desires to speak, must first rise and address the moderator and when recognized shall proceed.
- (11) The votes on any question must be counted upon request of one-fifth of members present.
- (12) No member shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on the same subject unless given permission by moderator.
- (13) All ministers belonging to this body are required to support all committees and boards elected or appointed by Association, (such as Home Mission Board, Building Committee, etc.).

- (14) This body ordains no one until he has carried license for one year and proved himself worthy of ordination.

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 confirmity 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 Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for Church conference, public worship, and the observances of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the purpose of the Church and 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.

CONSTITUTION

Article I

The Association shall be known as The Cahaba River Association of the Free Will Baptist.

Article II

The Association shall be composed of Ministers, Deacons, and Delegates of different churches forming the same.

Article III

All ministers and churches wishing to become members of this body must willingly submit to the articles of constitution and all rules of same.

Article IV

Each church composing this Association shall be entitled to three (3) delegates of the first one hundred members and one (1) for each additional fifty (50) or fraction thereof.

Article V

This body shall have a standing Credentials Committee composed of three (3) members. Two ordained ministers or deacons and one (1) layman, whose duty shall be to examine all church letters and applications for membership of churches and ministers and make a report of the same to the body.

Article VI

The officers of the Association shall be composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer. They shall be elected by body each year, at the end of each session. The Treasurer shall serve for a term of two (2) years. He shall handle all money of the Association and shall be bonded.

Article VII

The committees of this body shall be composed of standing members to alternate each session. They shall be composed of three to five members each. The committees are as follows: Credentials, Executive, Ordaining Council, Standing of Ministry, Business, Education, Sabbath School, Family Religion, Literature, Resolutions, Temperance, Deceased Members, Home Missions and Auditing. The Ordaining Council and Standing of Ministry to be composed of ordained men. Any committeemen absent for two (2) consecutive years to be filled by new members.

Article VIII

The General Board shall be composed of the officers of the Association and chairman of each committee. The Moderator to be chairman of this board. The duties of this board will be found in our Treatise, page 61, Section No. 3, 4, 5.

Article IX

This Association shall meet on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October of each year.

Article X

Each church shall pay tithes of their income thus: 25 per cent of tithes to Children's Home. 25 per cent of tithes to Annual Association, 25 per cent of tithes to Home Mission, 15 per cent of tithes to Foreign Mission, 10 per cent of tithes to Superannuation.

Article XI

Each minister and deacon belonging to this body shall pay an annual fee of \$1.00.

Article XII

The clerk shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. The Moderator shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. All other expenditures not specified herein shall be by decision of the body.

Article XIII

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

Ministers' Report to Association

No. of Churches Pastored _____ No. of Sermons Preached _____
No. Baptized _____ No. of Funerals Conducted _____ No. of Marriages
Performed _____ No. of Revivals _____ No. of Miles Traveled _____
Amount of Offerings _____ Expense _____
Elder _____
Address _____

TREATISE ARTICLES OF FAITH

Chapter I—The Holy Scriptures

These are the Old and the New Testaments! They are written by holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit and are God's revealed

word to man. They are a sufficient and infallible rule and guide to Salvation and all Christian worship and service.

Chapter II—Being and Attributes of God

The Scriptures teach that there is only one true and living God, who is Spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, independent, good, wise, holy, just, and merciful, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the universe; the Redeemer, Savior, Sanctifier, and Judge of men; and the only proper object of worship.

The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far above the understanding of man—finite beings cannot comprehend Him. There is nothing in the universe that can justly represent Him, for there is none like Him. He is the fountain of all perfection and happiness. He is glorified by the whole creation, and worthy to be loved and served by all intelligence.

Chapter III—Divine Government and Providence

1. God exercises a providential care and superintendence over all His creatures, and governs the world in wisdom and mercy, according to the testimony of His Word.

2. God has endowed man with power of free choice, and governs him by moral laws and motives; and this power of free choice is the exact measure of man's responsibility.

3. All events are present with God from everlasting to everlasting; but His knowledge of them does not in any sense cause them, nor does He decree all events which He knows will occur.

Chapter IV—Creation, Primitive State of Man and His Fall

Section I—Creation

1. OF THE WORLD. God created the world, and all things that it contains, for His own pleasure and glory and the enjoyment of His creatures.

2. OF THE ANGELS. The angels were created by God to glorify Him and obey His commandments. Those who have kept their first estate He employs in ministering blessings to the heirs of salvation and in executing His judgments upon the world.

3. OF MAN. God created man, consisting of a material body and a thinking, rational soul. He was made in the image of God, to glorify his Maker.

Section II—Primitive Man and His Fall

Our first parents, in their original state, were upright. They naturally preferred and desired to obey their Creator, and had no preference or desire to transgress His will until they were influenced and inclined by the tempter to disobey God's commands. Previous to this, the only tendency of their nature was to do righteousness. In consequence of the first transgression, the state under which the posterity of Adam came into the world is so different from that of Adam that they have not that righteousness and purity which Adam had before the fall; they are not willing to obey God, but are inclined to evil. Hence none, by virtue of any natural goodness and mere work of their own; can become the children of God, but they are all dependent for salvation upon the redemption effected, through the blood of Christ, and upon being created anew unto obedience through the operation of the Spirit, both of which are freely provided for every descendent of Adam.

Chapter V—Of Christ

Section I

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, possesses all divine perfections. As He and the Father are one, He in His divine nature, filled all the

offices and performed the works of God to His creatures that have been the subjects of revelations to us. As man, he performed all the duties toward God that we are required to perform, repentance of sin excepted.

His divinity is proved from His titles, His attributes, and His works.

1. **HIS TITLES.** The Bible ascribes to Christ the titles of Savior, Jehovah, Lord of hosts, the first and the last, God, true God, Great God over all, mighty God, and the everlasting Father.

2. **HIS ATTRIBUTES.** He is eternal, unchangeable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, and is to be worshipped.

3. **HIS WORKS.** By Christ the world was created. He preserves, and governs it; He has provided redemption for all men and He will be their final judge.

Section II—The Incarnation of Christ

The Word, which in the beginning was with God and which was God, by whom all things were made condescended to a state of humiliation in being united with human nature and becoming like us, pollution and sin excepted. In this state, as a subject of the law, He was liable to the infirmities of our nature, was tempted as we are, but lived our example, perfect obedience to the divine requirements.

As Christ was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, He is "the Son of man," and as the divine existence is the fountain from which He proceeded, and was the only agency by which He was begotten, He is "the Son of God," being the only begotten of the Father, and the only incarnation of the Divine Being.

Chapter VI—The Atonement and Mediation of Christ

1. **THE ATONEMENT.** As sin cannot be pardoned without a sacrifice, and the blood of beasts could never wash away sin, Christ gave Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and thus made salvation possible for all men. He died for us, suffering in our stead, to make known the righteousness of God, that He might be just in justifying sinners who believe in His Son. Through the redemption effected by Christ salvation is actually enjoyed in this world, and will be enjoyed in the next by all who do not in this life refuse obedience to the known requirements of God. The atonement for sin was necessary. For present and future obedience can no more blot out our past sins than past obedience can remove the guilt of present and future sins. If God pardoned the sins of men without satisfaction for the violation of His law it would follow that transgression might go on with impunity; government would be abrogated, and the obligation of obedience to God would be, in effect, removed.

2. **MEDIATION OF CHRIST.** Our Lord not only died for our sins, but He arose for our justification, and ascended up to heaven, where, as the only Mediator between God and man, He makes intercession for us, until He comes again.

3. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons are only subject to the first death which was brought on by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any one of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin for of such is the Kingdom of God.

Chapter VII—The Holy Spirit

1. The Scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit the acts and attributes of an intelligent being. He guides, knows, moves, gives information, commands, forbids, sends forth, reproves, and can be sinned against.

2. The attributes of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

3. The works of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit; creation, inspiration, giving of life, and sanctification.

4. The apostles assert that the Holy Spirit is Lord and God.

From the foregoing the conclusion is that the Holy Spirit, is in reality God, and one with the Father in divine perfections. It has also been shown that Jesus Christ is God—one with the Father. Then these three: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one God.

The truth of this doctrine is also proved from the fact that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are united in the authority by which believers are baptized; and in the benedictions pronounced by the apostles, which are acts of the highest religious worship.

Chapter VIII—The Gospel Call

The call of the Gospel is co-extensive with the atonement to all men, both by the word and strivings of the Spirit, so that salvation is rendered equally possible to all, and, if any fail of eternal life, the fault is wholly his own.

Chapter IX—Repentance

The repentance which the Gospel requires includes a deep conviction, a penitential sorrow, an open confession, a decided hatred and an entire forsaking all sin. This repentance God has enjoined on all men, and without it in this life the sinner must perish eternally.

Chapter X—Faith

Saving faith is an assent of the mind to the fundamental truths of revelation, an acceptance of the Gospel, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, and a firm confidence and trust in Christ. The fruit of faith is obedience to the Gospel. The power to believe is the gift of God, but believing is an act of the creature, which is required as a condition of pardon, and without which the sinner cannot obtain salvation. All men are required to believe in Christ; and those who yield obedience to this requirement become the children of God by faith.

Chapter XI—Regeneration

As man is a fallen and sinful being, he must be regenerated in order to obtain salvation. This change is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit, whereby the penitent sinner receives new life, becomes a child of God, and is disposed to serve Him. This is called in Scripture being born again — born of the Spirit, being quickened, passing from death unto life, and a partaking of the divine nature.

Chapter XII—Justification and Sanctification

1. **JUSTIFICATION.** Personal justification implies that the person justified has been guilty before God, and in consideration of the atonement of Christ, accepted by faith, the sinner is pardoned and absolved from the guilt of sin and restored to the divine favor. Christ's atonement is the foundation of the sinner's redemption, yet, without repentance and faith, it can never give him justification and peace with God.

2. **SANCTIFICATION** is the continuing of God's grace by which the Christian man constantly grows in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter XIII—Perseverance of the Saints

There are strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerate will persevere unto the end, and be saved, through the power of divine grace which is pledged for their support, but their future obedience and final salvation are neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptations they are in danger of falling; and they ought therefore to watch and pray, lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be lost.

Chapter XIV—The Sabbath

This is one day in seven, which from the creation of the world God has set apart for sacred rest and holy service. Under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week as commemorative of the work of creation, was set apart for the Sabbath. Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by authority of Christ and the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath. On this day all men are required to refrain from secular labor and devote themselves to the worship and service of God.

Chapter XV—The Church

A CHRISTIAN CHURCH is an organized body of believers in Christ, who statedly assemble to worship God, and who sustain the ordinances of the Gospel according to the Scriptures. Believers in Christ are admitted to this church on giving evidence of faith in Christ, obtaining consent of the body, being baptized, and receiving the right hand of fellowship.

The Church of God, or members of the body of Christ, is the whole body of Christians throughout the whole world, and none but the regenerate are its members.

Chapter XVI—Tithing

Both the Old and New Scriptures teach Tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work.

Chapter XVII—The Gospel Ministry

1. QUALIFICATION OF MINISTERS. They must possess good, natural and acquired abilities, deep and ardent piety, be especially called of God to the work, and ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands.

2. DUTIES OF MINISTERS. These are to preach the Word, administer the ordinances of the Gospel, visit their people, and otherwise perform the work of faithful ministers.

Chapter XVIII—Ordinances of the Gospel

1. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM. This is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ, the death of Christ, the death of Christians to the world, the washing of their souls from the pollution of sin, their rising to newness of life, their engagement to serve God, and their resurrection at the last day.

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER. This is a commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins, in the use of bread which He made the emblem of His broken body, and the cup, the emblem of His shed blood, and by it the believer expresses his love for Christ, his faith and hope in Him and pledges to Him perpetual fidelity.

It is the privilege and duty of all who have spiritual union with Christ to commemorate His death; and no man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of His disciples.

3. WASHING THE SAINTS FEET. This is a sacred ordinance, which teaches humility, and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin. It was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ, and called an "example" on the night of His betrayal, and in connection with the institution of the Lord's Supper. It is the duty and happy prerogative of every believer to observe this sacred ordinance.

Chapter XIX—Death

1. DEATH—As a result of sin, all mankind, is subject to the death of the body. The soul does not die with the body; but immedi-

ately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the character here possessed.

Chapter XX—Second Coming of Christ

The Lord Jesus, who ascended on high, and sits at the right hand of God, will come again, to close the Gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world.

Chapter XXI—The Resurrection

The Scriptures teach the resurrection of the bodies of all men, each in its own order; they have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation.

Chapter XXII—The Final Judgment and Final Retribution

1. THE FINAL JUDGMENT. There will be a final judgment, when time and man's probation will close forever. Then all men will be judged according to their works.

2. FINAL RETRIBUTION. Immediately after the final judgment, the righteous will enter into eternal life, and the wicked will go into a state of endless punishment.

NAME OF CHURCH	Members	New Members	No. Baptized	No. Dismissed	No. Deceased	No. Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	No. Ordained Deacons	Church Valuation	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Foreign Mission	Home Mission	Superannuation	Children's Home	College	Auxiliary	League	Sunday School	Unified Program
Pleasant Valley	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	\$4000.00	\$684.00	\$ 65.00				\$ 60.00				30	
Mt. Pleasant	23	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	3500.00	280.00	40.00				100.00					
Mt. Olive	46	0	0	3	1	1	0	3	4000.00	90.00	18.00								40	
Dilworth	48	0	0	0	0	4	1	3		50.00	30.00									
Opelika	20	2	0	1	0	0	0	1		81.50			13.50		12.68				37	
Union Hill	79	4	4	0	0	2	0	3	3000.00	185.00	60.00				5.00				30	
Sylacauga	131	0	0	6	1	1	0	6	16000.00	1232.17	101.00					11			96	218.53
Davis Chapel	39	4	2	0	1	1	0	3	2500.00	399.00	62.00	4.01	12.54	6.02	21.01				32	
Bethel	61	2	0	7	0	2	0	5	7000.00	817.95	86.18				81.46				60	
Oak Grove	50	5	2	4	0	2	1	3	6500.00	235.00	100.00				52.66	12			94	
Shady Grove	71	8	7	1	0	1	0	1	6000.00	754.72	77.39		10.00						100	
Fairview	150	29	17	3	2	4	1	10	6000.00	710.00	100.00				199.00		8	45	89	
Roanoke	18	1	1	2	0	1	0	2		196.31	60.00								20	21.80
East Birmingham	63	28	11	1	0	3	0	7	7500.00	855.00	56.18	78.66	41.12						82	
North Birmingham	59	4	0	5	0	5	0	7	13000.00	1300.00	90.00	36.34	59.36	23.06	177.90	12	42	84		
Lindburgh	10	10	0	0	0	1	0	3		125.00					32.00				36	