

**The
California State
Association
of
Free Will Baptist**

1945

**Proceedings of the
2nd. Annual Session**

**Convened at
Porterville Church**

MINUTES
OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF
CALIFORNIA

HELD WITH
Porterville Church, Porterville, California

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. J. L. Waltman, Turlock, Calif.
Ass't. Mod., Eld. V. L. Wilson, Lindsay, Calif.
Clerk, Winnie McLain, Kerman, Calif.
Ass't. Clerk, Bertha Evans, Porterville, Calif.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eld. J. E. Yandell (chairman), Rt. 2, Box 285A, Firebaugh, Calif.
Eld. D. J. Rowlett (clerk), Rt. 1, Box 629, Exeter, Calif.
Eld. W. A. Huddleston, P. O. Box 61, Firebaugh, Calif.
Bro. Alvin Long, 224 Calif. St., Porterville, Calif.
Bro. H. H. Fry, 348 Westwood, Lindsay, Calif.

The next annual session to be held with the Kerman Church, Kerman, Calif. on Thursday night before the first Sunday in May, 1946.

PROCEEDINGS

The second annual session of the First Free Will Baptist Association of California convened with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Porterville, California, May 3-4-5, 1945.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Service opened with singing by congregation. Prayer by Eld. W. A. Huddleston. Devotional service led by Bro. Lon. Brewer. Prayer by Bro. Quincey Moore, after which two inspiring messages were brought by Eld. J. L. Waltman and Eld. D. J. Rowlett.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. E. V. Crippen.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Service opened with singing by congregation. Prayer by Eld. A. B. Talbert. The Moderator read 1 Corinthians 13 for the devotional. Prayer by Eld. John Montgomery. Moderator read the Constitution and By-Laws, after which he called the conference in session.

Letters from the following churches were read, accepted and delegates seated as follows: Turlock, Porterville and Firebaugh.

Two petitionary letters from Kerman and Lindsay churches were read, accepted and delegates seated.

A song was sung and the right hand of Christian fellowship was given the delegates.

Eld. J. L. Waltman was elected Moderator, Eld. V. L. Wilson, Ass't. Moderator; Winnie McLain, Clerk and Treas., and Bertha Evans, Ass't. Clerk.

Visiting brethren, Elders Frank Linton, A. B. Talbert and E. A. O'Donnell were invited to sit in council.

Moderator was given power to appoint committees.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Pulpit Committee—Eld. J. R. Evans, Sisters Zella Ramsey, Joyce Gibbons and Viola Tilden.

Resolution Committee—Eld. Emmett Clagg, Eld. J. E. Phillips and Bro. J. A. Roberts.

Credential Committee (was elected)—Eld. George McLain, Eld. J. E. Yandell, Eld. J. R. Evans, Eld. J. E. Phillips and Bro. Alvin Long.

Executive Board (was elected)—Eld. J. E. Yandell

(chairman), Eld. D. J. Rowlett (clerk), Bro. H. H. Fry, Eld. W. A. Huddleston and Bro. Alvin Long.

Obituary Committee—Sister Naomi Huddleston, Sister Blanche Montgomery and Sister Ossie Middleton.

Home Mission Committee—Eld. John Montgomery, Sis. J. L. Waltman and Sis. J. E. Phillips.

Finance Committee—Sister Opal Fry, Sister Thelma Wilson, and Sister Zella Ramsey.

Sunday School Committee—Bro. J. A. Roberts, Eld. Ralph Geiger, and Sister Belle Long.

Pulpit committee reported that Eld. Frank Linton followed by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell would preach at the eleven o'clock service.

Eld. Ralph Geiger was elected statistician.

Adjourned until afternoon session.

Dismissed in prayer by Eld. George McLain.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Singing was led by Eld. Ralph Geiger. Prayer by Bro. J. A. Roberts.

A standing vote of thanks was given retiring officers. Eld. Frank Linton brought an inspiring message on, "Might and Power of God." His text was Zechariah 4:6. Eld. E. A. O'Donnell concluded the service preaching on "God's tactics to get Attention of His People."

After the good messages an old-fashioned handshake was enjoyed by all. After much shouting Eld. V. L. Wilson dismissed in prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Service opened with singing led by Eld. Ralph Geiger.

Eld. J. L. Waltman read 1 Peter 2:1-11 for devotional. Prayer by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell.

Letter from Winters church was read, accepted, and delegates seated.

Temperance committee was appointed as follows: Sis. Della Constant, Sis. W. L. Livingston, and Sis. W. A. Huddleston.

Publication Committee—Bro. Lon Brewer, Eld. C. D. Finley, and Eld. John Montgomery.

Education Committee—Eld. G. H. Constant, Eld. Melvin Talbert, and Bro. Jim Gullet.

Motion carried that the association approve and accept the work of the league rally and league board.

Eld. and Sis. C. D. Finley were seated as delegates. Bro. C. R. Piland, General Baptist, Bro. and Sis. Whitaker, Primitive Baptist, Bro. and Sis. E. V. Crippen and Sis. Jim Gullet with other visitors were invited to sit in council.

Report of the credential committee was read and accepted.

Reports of Obituary and Finance committee were read and accepted.

Second report of credential committee was read and accepted.

Bro. C. R. Piland gave a report of the Ocean View General Baptist Church.

Pulpit committee reported that Eld. E. A. O'Donnell would lead the song service at night service, Eld. W. A. Huddleston lead the devotional and Eld. J. E. Yandell followed by Eld. George McLain would preach.

Resolution No. 1 was read and accepted.

Second report of credential committee was read and accepted.

Report of Home Mission committee was read and accepted.

Electing a Home Missionary was tabled.

Adjourned until Saturday morning session. Dismissed by Bro. Jim Gullet.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Singing was led by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell.

Brothers Lee Ramsey, Rodney Kemp, and J. W. Hall of Kerman Church and Brother W. I. Cook of Firebaugh church were ordained as deacons. Eld. J. L. Waltman gave the charge with all ordained ministers and deacons participating. Prayer led by Eld. George McLain.

Special songs were sung by Eld. John Montgomery, and Porterville Church quartett. After which Eld. W. A. Huddleston led the devotional service.

An offering was given for the Porterville Church.

Eld. E. A. O'Donnell and daughter, Mary Florence Downs sang a special, "Where Could I Go."

Eld. J. E. Yandell brought the message using for his text Jer. 18:1-6 and Job 14:14-15. Eld. George McLain concluded the service.

Dismissed by Eld. G. H. Constant.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with singing led by Eld. Ralph Geiger. Eld. J. L. Waltman read 1 John 2:1-17 for the devotional. Prayer by Eld. V. L. Wilson.

Minutes were read and approved.

Reports of Temperance and education committee were read and accepted.

Motion carried that the next annual session of the association be held with Kerman church and also the first quarterly meeting.

Resolution No. 2 was read and accepted.

Pulpit committee reported that Eld. Ralph Geiger would lead the song service and Eld. V. L. Wilson would preach with Eld. John Montgomery concluding at the eleven o'clock service.

Eld. John Montgomery was elected to preach the introductory message at the next association with Eld. J. R. Evans as alternate. Eld. J. E. Phillips was elected to preach the introductory message at the quarterly meeting with Eld. Emmett Clagg as alternate.

Adjourned until 1 P. M.

Dismissed by Eld. J. L. Waltman.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened with singing led by Eld. Ralph Geiger. Prayer by Eld. M. M. Talbert.

Special song was sung by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell and Dorothy Clagg.

Eld. V. L. Wilson brought a very inspiring message. His text was Mat. 5:20.

Eld. John Montgomery concluded the service.

Dismissed by Eld. C. D. Finley.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing led by Eld. Ralph Geiger.

Moderator read Jer. 6:16 for the devotional. Prayer by Eld. Truman Huddleston.

Reports of Sunday School and Finance committees were read and accepted.

Bro. Brady Miller was ordained a deacon of Firebaugh church with Eld. J. L. Waltman giving the charge. All ordained ministers and deacons participated. Eld. J. E. Yandell led the prayer.

Pulpit committee reported that Sis. Mary Long would lead the song service, Sis. Gertie Crippen the devotional service, Eld. C. D. Finley would preach followed by Eld. M. M. Talbert at the night service.

Report of publication committee was read and accepted.

Motion carried that a vote of thanks be given the Porterville church for their kindness and hospitality during the association.

Eld. Frank Linton of Tunas, Missouri made a talk on the Foreign Mission work in Cuba.

The league board reported that the league rally was organized and that the next rally would be held with the Kerman Church the third Sunday in July.

Motion carried that the Moderator, clerk and assistant clerk be paid \$5.00 per day while in session.

Adjourned until next session.

After a song and handshake dismissed by Eld. V. L. Wilson.

Eld. J. L. Waltman, Moderator
Winnie McLain, Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution No 1—Be it resolved, that wives(who are Free Will Baptists) of ministers and deacons be acting delegates at annual and quarterly sessions of this association.

No. 2 Be it resolved, that this association adopt the revised treatise as approved by the National Association.

Credential—We, your committee, recommend the ordination of Bro. Lee Ramsey, Bro. Rodney Kemp and Bro. J. W. Hall of the Kerman Church and Bro. I. W. Cook and Bro. Brady Miller of Firebaugh Church as deacons.

We further report that we have examined Bro. W. L. Livingston of the Unity Church and find him worthy of being licensed to preach.

Obituary Committee—We, your committee, report that there has been no deaths in any of the churches.

Home Mission—Knowing how God has blessed the efforts of the Free Will Baptist Home Mission Workers, we, your committee, recommend that this association elect a field missionary for the extension of the work

in California.

Finance—We, your committee, report that \$54.93 paid in plus balance of \$8.35 left in treasury last year making a total of \$63.28.

Sunday School—We, your committee, recommend that each church maintain a Sunday School and that each teacher and officer be members of the Free Will Baptist Church, if possible and also that each church use Free Will Baptist Literature.

Eld. T. N. Huddleston, P. O. Box 1123, Merced, Calif.

Eld. Frank Linton, Tunas, Missouri

Eld. C. D. Finley

Publication—We, your committee, recommend 150 minutes be printed and equally divided among the churches.

Education—We, your committee, report that we do believe in education. We believe in the leadership of the Holy Spirit. "Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth."

Temperance—We, your committee, recommend as follows: that we be temperate in all things and abstain from all intoxicants, all worldly amusements, and shun the very appearance of evil. Be temperate in conversation, in anger and be patient with all men. Scripture 2 Cor. 16:17, 1 Thess. 5:22, 1 Peter 2:11, 2 Peter 1:6, 1 Cor. 9:25, Gal. 5:23, Titus 2:2, and Gal. 3:8.

ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS

Eld. V. L. Wilson, Lindsay, Calif.

Eld. D. J. Rowlett, Rt. 1, Box 629, Exeter, Calif.

Eld. J. E. Phillips, 1207 N. 4th St. Porterville, Calif.

Eld. W. A. Huddleston, P. O. Box 61, Firebaugh, Calif.

Eld. Ralph Geiger, 150 California St. Porterville, Calif.

Eld. Geo. W. McLain, P. O. Box 423, Kerman, Calif.

Eld. E. A. O'Donnell, 835 Via Wanda, N. Long Beach, Cal.

Eld. J. L. Waltman, 617 Vermont Ave., Turlock, Calif.

Eld. J. E. Yandell, Rt. 2, Box 285A., Firebaugh, Calif.

Eld. G. H. Constant, Box 433, Winters, Calif.

Eld. A. B. Talbert, 617 Vermont Ave., Turlock, Calif.

Eld. M. M. Talbert, P. O. Box 131, Shafter, Calif.

Eld. J. R. Evans, 1032 W. Putnam, Porterville, Calif.
Eld. W. L. Livingston, Rt. 1, Box 404, Lindsay, Calif.
Eld. J. H. Montgomery, P. O. Box 787, Turlock, Calif.
Eld. E. R. Clagg, Porterville, California

DEACONS

Bro. Alvin Long, 224 Calif., Porterville, Calif.
Bro. James Gullet, 321 South D., Porterville, Calif.
Bro. Lee Ramsey, Box 303, Kerman, Calif.
Bro. W. I. Cook, Rt. 2, Box 279, Firebaugh, Calif.
Bro. Rodney Kemp, Rt. 2, Box 324B, Kerman, Calif.
Bro. H. H. Stout, P. O. Box 833, Lindsay, Calif.
Bro. Frank Winn, P. O. Box 243, Porterville, Calif.
Bro. Elmer D. Jones, 4302 20th St., San Francisco, Calif.
Bro. J. A. Roberts, Box 123, Ceres, Calif.
Bro. J. W. Hall, Box 355, Kerman, Calif.
Bro. Brady Miller, Box 693, Firebaugh, Calif.

CHURCH CLERKS

Sis. Elsie Kemp, Rt. 2, Box 324B, Kerman, Calif.
Sis. Viola Tilden, P. O. Box 292, Lindsay, Calif.
Sis. Della Constant, P. O. Box 533, Winters, Calif.
Eld. Ralph Geiger, 150 California St., Porterville, Calif.
Sis. Joyce Gibbons, P. O. Box 581, Firebaugh, Calif.
Sis. G. H. Harris, 532 Flower St., Turlock, Calif.

DELEGATES

Sis. L. E. Waltman, 617 Vermont, Turlock, Calif.
Sis. J. H. Montgomery, P. O. Box 787, Turlock, Calif.
Sis. Ossie Middleton, Rt. 1, Box 574A, Kerman, Calif.
Sis. J. W. Hall, P. O. Box 355, Kerman, Calif.
Sis. Violet Daniel, Rt. 1, Box 297, Huntington Beach, Cal.
Bro. H. H. Fry, 348 Westwood, Lindsay, Calif.
Bro. Lon Brewer

STATISTICAL REPORT

| Churches | Number of Members | Average Attendance in S. S. . . | Value of Property | Paid Pastor | Paid Evangelist |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Kerman | 65 | 1 83 | \$3,500.00 | \$400.00 | \$126.00 |
| Porterville | 66 | 7 65 | 4,000.00 | | |
| Turlock | 43 | 4 | | 105.00 | 77.00 |
| Winters | 8 | 2 20 | | | |
| Firebaugh | 27 | 3 | | 150.00 | |
| Unity | 16 | 2 35 | | | |