

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

1946

**Proceedings of The
3rd Annual Session**

**Convened at
Kerman Church**

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

OF

CALIFORNIA

HELD WITH

Kerman Church, Kerman, California

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. J. L. Waltman, Turlock, California

Ass't Moderator, Eld. H. E. Dixon, Turlock, California

Clerk & Treas., Winnie McLain, Kerman, California

Ass't Clerk & treas., Bertha Evans, Porterville, California

Statistician, Eld. Ralph Geiger, Porterville, California

State Evangelist, Eld. George McLain, Kerman, California

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eld. H. E. Dixon, (Chairman, 5 years), Rt. 1, Box 612, Turlock, California

Eld. George McLain (4 years), Box 423, Kerman, California

Eld. J. R. Evans, (Clerk-3 years), 1032 Putnam, Porterville, California

Eld. Earl Jenson (2 years), 1415 Tucker, Selma, California

Bro. Noble Barlow (1 year), 1415 Tucker, Selma, California

The next annual session will be held with the Turlock Church, Landers and "C" Streets, Turlock, California on Thursday night before the first Sunday in May, 1947.

RULES OF ORDER

1. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator or in their absence the oldest minister present shall call the Association into conference.
2. Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.
3. Five members from two or more churches shall constitute a quorum. A less number may adjourn until such quorum is present.
4. Visiting brethren are invited to seats as advisory members.
5. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.
7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.
9. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit.
10. The ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds majority membership voting.
11. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been discussed in its own church.
12. At each Association arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional exercises each day.

PROCEEDINGS

The third annual session of the First Free Will Baptist Association of California convened with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kerman, California, May 2-4, 1946.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Service opened with singing by congregation. Elder George McLain, Bro. W. I. Cook, Bro. J. W. Hall and Bro. Noble Barlow were appointed on the Pulpit Committee. Prayer by Elder Earl Jenson, Bro. C. R. Piland led the devotional service. He read 1 Cor. 2:9 for a Scripture lesson. Prayer by Sister Lucy Hall.

Elder John Montgomery brought an inspiring message. His subject was "Son Remember." Text Luke 16:25.

Dismissed by Elder H. E. Dixon.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Service opened with singing led by Elder Ralph Geiger. The Moderator, Elder J. L. Waltman read Phil. 2:1-24 for a scripture lesson. Prayer by Elder G. H. Constant.

Letters from the following churches were read, accepted and delegates seated as follows: Turlock, Fowler, Firebaugh, Porterville, and Kerman. Oral report of Winters church was given by Elder G. H. Constant.

The hand of Christian fellowship was given the delegates.

Officers were elected as follows:

Moderator, Elder J. L. Waltman

Ass't Moderator, Elder H. E. Dixon

Clerk & Treas., Winnie McLain

Ass't Clerk & Treas., Bertha Evans

Executive Board, Eld. H. E. Dixon (5 years), Elder George McLain (4 years), Elder J. R. Evans (3 years), Elder Earl Jenson (2 years), Bro. Noble Barlow (1 year).

Motion carried that only one member be elected each year on the executive board.

Lindsey Church letter was read, accepted and delegates seated.

Pulpit Committee reported that Elder Ralph Geiger followed by Elder G. H. Constant would preach at the eleven o'clock service and Elder J. R. Evans followed by Elder H. E. Dixon at the night service.

Motion carried that the executive board (new) would be the examining council on all occasions.

Elder Ralph Geiger was elected statistician.

Motion carried that Moderator be given power to appoint committees. Committees were appointed as follows:

Resolution - Elder T. N. Huddleston, Bro. Elmer Jones and Bro. Lee Ramsey.

Temperance - Sister Goldie Jensen, Sister H. G. Harris, and Sister T. N. Huddleston.

Home Mission - Sister J. L. Waltman, Sister G. H. Constant, and Sister Josie Wickware.

Obituary - Sister W. A. Huddleston, Sister Mae Wash, and Bro. Clifford Giles.

Publication - Brother Bennett Hatcher, Sister Euphie Muse, and Brother Archie Owens.

Finance - Brother Jim Gullet, Brother H. G. Harris, and Sister Ora Hupp.

Sunday School - Sister Judd Pierce, Sister Gertrude Graham, and Sister W. I. Cook.

Education - Elder Norman Cathey, Sister Charlotte Groves, and Brother Argyle Wickware.

Rules of order were read by the Moderator.

Visiting brethren were seated in Council.

Adjourned until afternoon session.

Dismissed by Brother Jim Gullet.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service opened with singing led by Elder George McLain. Prayer by Brother J. A. Roberts.

Elder Ralph Geiger brought the message. His subject was "Christian Duties and Responsibilities." Text Gal. 5:13. Elder G. H. Constant concluded the service using the scripture 2 Tim. 4.

Hand of appreciation for their good messages was given Elder John Montgomery, Elder Ralph Geiger, and Elder G. H. Constant. There was much rejoicing and shouting.

Dismissed by Brother J. Q. Moore.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing. Elder J. L. Waltman read James 3 for the Scripture lesson. Prayer by Brother J. A. Roberts.

Elder Ralph Geiger, statistician, read his report. It was accepted.

Elder D. J. Rowlett, clerk of the executive board, reported the executive board had no report.

Elder J. L. Waltman reported incorporation proceedings had not been completed.

Report of Clerk and Treasurer was read and accepted.

Postscript to Turlock's Church letter was read and accepted. (a request that Brother R. L. Groves be licensed to preach.)

Reports of Publication, Temperance and Home Mission Committees were read and accepted.

Executive board reported that Elder W. L. Livingston was found worthy of ordination.

Brother W. L. Livingston was ordained with Elder J. L. Waltman giving the charge and all ordained ministers and deacons participating. Elder J. R. Evans, Elder George McLain and Elder H. E. Dixon were the ordaining council. Prayer by Elder George McLain.

Sister Pat McLain and Sister Charlotte Groves, accompanied by Sister Euphie Muse sang a special song dedicated to all the elder ministers.

Elder R. Farris, Missionary Baptist minister, was welcomed.

Motion carried that a committee be elected to compile By-Laws for Home Mission Work. (Elder J. L. Waltman, John Montgomery, and Elder Ralph Geiger were nominated).

Elder V. L. Wilson surrendered his credentials as he does not believe the Free Will Baptist Treatise in so far as it teaches a general resurrection.

Discussion about Elder John Montgomery being a member of the Association after being given a letter of dismissal from the Turlock Church was discontinued until later.

Adjourned until Friday morning session.

Dismissed by Elder W. L. Livingston.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Service opened with singing led by Elder Ralph Geiger. United prayer by all ministers' wives was led by Sister Bertha Evans. Special song was sung by Brother Lee Ramsey, Sister Roena Ramsey, and Sister Elva Binion. Devotional service was led by Elder George McLain. Sister Wanda Wilson, Sister Reona Ramsey, and Brother Lee Ramsey sang a special, "If We Never Meet Again."

Elder J. R. Evans brought the message. His subject was "Building for Heaven." Scripture Mat. 16. Elder H. E. Dixon concluded the service. One soul was saved.

Dismissed by Elder Norman Cathey.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with singing led by Elder Ralph Geiger. The Moderator read 1 Cor. 13 for the Scripture lesson. Prayer by Brother H. G. Harris.

Moderator declared Elder John Montgomery a member of the Association.

Minutes of previous sessions were read and approved.

Motion carried that the association ask that each county clerk give a tax exemption statement to each church in order that incorporation proceedings might be completed.

Elder John Montgomery, Elder J. L. Waltman and Elder Ralph Geiger were elected to compile by-laws for Home Mission Work.

Pulpit Committee reported that Brother Lonnie Brewer followed by Elder Earl Jenson would preach at eleven o'clock service.

Reports of Sunday School, Obituary, and Education Committees were read, accepted, and Committees dismissed.

Motion carried that the next annual session of the association be held with the Turlock Church.

Motion carried that the first quarterly meeting be held with the Fowler Church.

Elder Norman Cathey was elected to preach the introductory message at the quarterly meeting and Elder J. R. Evans as alternate.

Motion carried that one of the executive board be elected treasurer of all funds except minute money. Elder H. E. Dixon was elected treasurer (1 year) and Elder J. R. Evans assistant.

Adjourned until afternoon session.

Dismissed by Elder John Tripp.

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

Service opened with singing. Prayer by Brother Judd Pierce.

Brother Lonnie Brewer brought the message using for a subject "Prayer": Scripture Mat. 6. Elder Earl Jenson concluded the service.

Hand of appreciation for their good messages was given Brother Lonnie Brewer, Elder Earl Jenson, Elder J. R. Evans, and Elder H. E. Dixon. There was much rejoicing.

Dismissed until afternoon session.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing led by Elder Ralph Geiger. Moderator read 1 Tim. 6:1-14 for the Scripture lesson. Prayer by Brother J. Q. Moore.

Minutes of morning session were read and approved.

Motion carried that Elder J. L. Waltman finish incorporation proceedings.

Examining Council reported that Brother Lonnie Brewer, Brother Sherman Reese, Brother R. L. Grove, and Brother J. F. Swift were worthy of license to preach the gospel.

Sister Goldie Jenson was appointed to assist the Clerk as the Assistant Clerk was absent.

An offering of One Hundred Sixty-Three Dollars (\$163.00) was paid into the tabernacle fund.

Resolution No. 2 was read and accepted. (State Evangelist).

Elder George McLain was elected State Evangelist.

Motion carried that the evangelist be paid fifty dollars (\$50.00) above the expense of setting up the tabernacle for each revival.

Report of finance committee was read, accepted and committee discharged.

Motion was carried that the rules of order be printed in the front of the minutes and the church covenant in the back.

Sister Evans requested that her five dollars per day be paid to the clerk.

Pulpit committee reported that Elder Norman Cathey followed by Elder J. L. Waltman would bring the message at night service and that Elder W. A. Huddleston would lead the devotional service.

Elder George McLain gave the primary charge to Brother Sherman Reese, Brother Lonnie Brewer, Brother J. F. Swift,

and Brother R. L. Groves. Congregation shook hands with them wishing them God's Speed.

Motion carried that corresponding delegates be sent to the National Association. Elder J. L. Waltman, Elder George McLain, and Brother J. Q. Moore were elected delegates.

Minutes were read and approved.

Moderator thanked the Kerman Church for its hospitality.

Brother Lonnie Brewer announced the next league rally would be held with the Kerman Church the third Sunday in July.

Adjourned until next session.

Dismissed by Elder George McLain.

Eld. J. L. Waltman, Moderator

Winnie McLain, Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution No. 1— Be it resolved, that this Association request all churches not to grant letters of dismissal by the request of members, only grant letters of dismissal by the request of the church with whom a member unites.

No. 2—Be it resolved that this Association put an evangelist in the field and finance him.

Mome Mission—Seeing the great need of Home Mission work and feeling that God is depending on us as Free Will Baptists to carry the gospel to the poor, and we recommend that every church organize a Home Mission.

Publication—We, your committee, recommend 300 minutes to be printed and divided among the churches according to membership.

Education—We, your committee, believe in education and think we should study the Word of God to show ourselves approved as the Scriptures teach.

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 and anger and be patient with all men. Scripture 1 Thes. 5:22, 1 Peter 2:11, 2 Peter 1; 6, 1 Cor. 9:25, Gal. 5:23, Titus 2:2, and Gal. 3:8.

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 Sunday School use Free Will Baptist literature.

Obituary—We, your committee, report that Lindsey Church had one death, Brother Livingston and Porterville one death, Brother Tip Odell.

Finance—We, your committee report that \$65.00 was received in minute fund; \$6.55 for By-Laws; \$25.00 for feeding fund; tithes \$1.58 from Lindsey Church; and \$22.00 from Firebaugh Church. Total \$120.13.

Clerk and Treasurers Report—Received (May 3, 1945-May 2, 1946) Minute Fund and By-Laws \$65.73, Church Extension \$60.00, Tithes from Turlock Church \$23.62, Tithes from Kerman Church \$47.62, Tabernacle fund \$388.00. Total \$584.97.

Paid Out—Moderator, \$10.00, Clerk \$10.00, Ass't Clerk \$10.00, printing of minutes, stamps and paper. \$11.43. Total paid out \$41.43. Balance in Treasury \$543. 54.

ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS

- Eld. N. H. Cathey, P. O. Box 16, Corcoran, Calif.
- Eld. Noble Barlow, 1415 Tucker, Selma, Calif.
- Eld. Earl Jenson, 1415 Tucker, Selma, Calif.
- Eld. H. E. Dixon, Rt. 1, Box 612, Turlock, Calif.
- Eld. T. N. Huddleston, P. O. Box 1123, Merced, Calif.
- Eld. George McLain, P. O. Box 423, Kerman, Calif.
- Eld. J. R. Evans, 1032 W. Putnam, Porterville, Calif.
- Eld. J. E. Montgomery, P. O. Box 7877, Turlock, Calif.
- Eld. J. L. Waltman, P. O. Box 804, Turlock, Calif.
- Eld. Ralph Geiger, 150 California, Porterville, Calif.
- Eld. R. L. Groves, Modesto, Calif.
- Eld. W. L. Livingston, Rt. 1, Box 404, Lindsey, Calif.
- Eld. Emmett R. Clagg, 307 Chess Terrace, Porterville, Calif.
- Eld. W. A. Huddleston, P. O. Box 61, Firebaugh, Calif.
- Eld. John Trikk, Firebaugh, Calif.
- Eld. R. M. Hollins, Rt. 7, Box 189, Fresno, Calif.
- Eld. L. C. Florence, 2036 Norwalk, Delano, Calif.
- Eld. D. J. Rowlett, Rt. 1, Box 629, Exeter, Calif.
- Eld. E. N. Owens, Rt. 1, Box 46, Lindsey, Calif.
- Eld. J. F. Swift, Gen. Del., Modesto, Calif.
- Eld. Lonnie Brewer, Kerman, Calif.
- Eld. E. M. Gray, Rt. 2, Box 539, Sanger, Calif.

DEACONS

Bro. Jim Gullett, 321 S. G. St. Porterville, Calif.
Bro. J. A. Roberts, P. O. Box 123, Ceres, Calif.
Bro. Lee Ramsey, P. O. Box 303, Kerman, Calif.
Bro. H. G. Harris, P. O. Box 981, Turlock, Calif.
Bro. W. J. Cook, Rt. 2, Box 279, Firebaugh, Calif.
Bro. Elmer Jones, P. O. Box 1266, Porterville, Calif.
Bro. Jess Rolen, Kerman, Calif.
Bro. Rodney R. Kemp, Rt. 2, Box 324-B, Kerman, Calif.
Bro. J. W. Hall, Kerman, Calif.
Bro. C. R. Piland, Santa Anna, Calif.
Bro. J. Q. Moore, Rt. 4, Box 1636, Stockton, Calif.
Bro. Tom Priest, Box 123, Ares, Calif.
Bro. Judd Pierce, Firebaugh, Calif.

CHURCH CLERKS AND DELEGATES

Bro. Argyle Wickware, Rt. 2, Box 220, Chowchilla, Calif.
Sis. Josie Wickware, Rt. 2, Box 220-X, Chowchilla, Calif.
Sis. Ruby Brewer, Rt. 1, Box 599, Kerman, Calif.
Sis. Charlotte Groves, Rt. 1, Box 355-A, Modesto, Calif.
Sis. Euphia Muse, Box 462, Firebaugh, Calif.
Bro. Archie Owens, Rt. 1, Box 46, Lindsay, Calif.
Sis. H. G. Harris, P. O. Box 981, Turlock, Calif.
Sis. Della Constant, P. O. Box 533, Winters, Calif.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adopted the Word as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one 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 all things honest in the sight of all men.'

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public

worship, and the observance of the ordinance of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all 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 to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and 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.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sabbath schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world.

STATISTICIANS REPORT APRIL, 1945—APRIL, 1946

Churches	Membership	Paid Pastor	Value of Church Property	Paid for Evangelistic Work	Paid for literature
Firebaugh	46	\$780.00	\$5,000.00	\$200.00	\$47.28
Turlock	50	944.00	6,000.00	94.82	41.72
Winters	11		117.00		15.00
Fowler	31	108.00	100.00	28.00	6.00
Lindsay	16	300.00	12.00	37.50	73.20
Porterville	85	730.00	9,000.00	370.06	52.00
Kerman	151	2,080.00	15,000.00	230.32	70.00
Total 7	390	4,942.00	35,229.00	960.70	305.20