
Minutes
OF THE
Eleventh Annual Session
OF THE
California State
Association
OF
Free Will Baptists



When Convened With The
Calwa Free Will Baptist Church
CALWA, CALIFORNIA
June 16-18, 1954

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The next session will be held at Arvin Church, Orange and California Streets, Arvin, California, on Wednesday night after the second Sunday in June 1955. (June 15-17).

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. Winston Lawless, 10681 Highland Ave., Selma, Calif.

Ass't. Moderator, Rev. Dean Moore, 1718 Lincoln Ave., Richmond, Calif.

Clerk and Treasurer, Pat McLain, Midland, Calif.

Ass't. Clerk and Treasurer, Johnnie Jenkins, P. O. Box 123, Ceres, Calif.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. O. H. Doss, (5 years), General Delivery, Ceres, Calif.

Rev. F. A. McCage, (4 years), 15 Laguinta Road, Salinas, Calif.

Rev. Dean Moore, (3 years), 1718 Lincoln Ave., Richmond, Calif.

Rev. Lester Davis, (2 years), P. O. Box 479, Hughson, Calif.

Rev. H. E. Dixon, (1 year), 21818 Devlin, Artesia, Calif.

MISSION BOARD

Rev. Wade Jernigan, (5 years), P. O. Box 61, Kerman, Calif.

Rev. Earl Jenson, (4 years), Landers & "C" Sts., Turlock, Calif.

Rev. Wiley Gregory, (3 years), 5906 Ludell St., Bell Gardens, Calif.

Rev. J. L. Waltman, (2 years), 667 Eighth St., Turlock, Calif.

Rev. Winston Lawless, (1 year), 10681 Highland Ave., Selma, Calif.

LEAGUE BOARD

Delmer Priest, (5 years), 836 Ventura, Richmond, Calif.

Rev. Wiley Gregory, (4 years), 5906 Ludell St., Bell Gardens, Calif.

Rev. Joe Mooneyham, (3 years), 535 West Second St., Tulare, Calif.

Carl Young, (2 years), 1520 Mill St., Selma, Calif.

Rev. Lee Ramsey, (1 year), Route 2, Box 336-AA, Kerman, Calif.

Proceedings

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The Eleventh Annual Session of the California State Association of Free Will Baptists opened with singing "What A Gathering That Will Be," led by Archie Reynolds, Kerman, accompanied by June Rolen, Kerman.

Rev. Winston Lawless, Selma, called the house to order.

Prayer by Rev. A. E. Woolery, Porterville.

Special Singing by Kerman Quartet, Scroggins Duet and Rev. A. B. Talbert.

Prayer by Rev. George McLain, Kerman.

Rev. Wade Jernigan, Kerman, brought the introductory message, using "Lord Save Us, We Perish," Matthew 8:25, as his text.

Homes were assigned delegates by host pastor.

Benediction by Rev. Joe Mooneyham, Visalia.

THURSDAY MORNING

Services opened by singing "Steal Away and Pray," led by Wm. J. Rush, Kerman, accompanied by Mary Moore, Richmond.

House called to order by Moderator, Rev. Ralph Hampton, Concord.

Rev. Arville Woolery, Porterville, read I Peter 4:1-7 for scripture reading.

Prayer by Rev. F. A. McCage, Salinas.

Letters were read, accepted, and delegates seated from Southern, Golden Gate, West Coast and Center Associations.

Pulpit committee was appointed as follows: Finney Berry, Delmer Priest, Elijah Wheeler, Pete Ussery and Rodney Kemp.

The following officers were elected:

Moderator—Rev. Winston Lawless

Ass't. Moderator—Rev. Dean Moore

Clerk and Treasurer—Mrs. Pat McLain

Ass't. Clerk and Treasurer—Mrs. Johnnie Jenkins

Motion carried to give retiring officers a standing vote of thanks.

Motion carried that a Committee on Committees be elected. Those elected were Wade Jernigan, Earl Jenson, Truman Huddleston, Cecil Fassio, and Lester Davis.

The following visitors were invited to sit in council as advisory members: Leo Hoover, Progressive Association, Oklahoma; Rev. A. B. Talbert, First Mission Association, Oklahoma;

Rev. Will Bean, First Oklahoma Association, Oklahoma; Rev. George McLain, First Arizona Association, Arizona.

Pulpit committee reported that Rev. Bob Maxwell, Santa Paula, would preach at eleven o'clock service.

Motion carried that business adjourn until 1:30 P.M.

Dismissed by Rev. Will Bean.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service opened with singing "Victory In Jesus," led by Rev. Delmer Scroggins, Parlier, accompanied by June Rolen.

Prayer by Pete Conner, Richmond.

A quartet composed of Wade Jernigan, Lonnie McAlister, Delmer Scroggins, and Jerry Dudley sang "I Need The Prayers of Those I Love." Rev. Will Bean sang "A Poor Wayfaring Pilgrim."

Rev. Bob Maxwell brought the message using I Samuel 15:22 as his text and "It Is Better To Obey Than To Sacrifice" as his subject.

A handshake was given Rev. Wade Jernigan and Rev. Bob Maxwell.

Dismissed by Rev. O. H. Doss, Modesto.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing "Away Over Yonder," led by Rev. Jerry Dudley, Tulare, accompanied by June Rolen.

Rev. O. H. Doss read Ephesians 2:1-11 for the scripture reading.

Prayer by Rev. Cecil Thurman, North Fresno.

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Dudley sang "The Pearly White City."

Report of Committee on Committees was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. O. H. Doss would preach at the evening service.

An oral report of the Northside Free Will Baptist Church, Phoenix, Arizona, was given by Rev. George McLain.

Reports of League and Publication Committees were read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Report of Obituary Committee was read and a moment of silent prayer was given, followed with prayer by Rev. Wade Jernigan.

Report of Auxiliary Committee was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Report of State Centralization Treasurer was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Reports of Sunday School and Temperance Committees were read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The next association was placed at Arvin Church, Orange and California Avenues, Arvin, Calif., June 15-17, 1955. Rev. Ralph Hampton, Concord, was elected to bring the introductory message and Rev. C. R. Fassio, Orange Cove, as alternate.

Motion carried that state officers write a letter to National Publication Board, expressing the desire for graded series Sunday School literature.

Resolutions Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were read and accepted. (See Reports.)

The resolution committee recommended that each subordinate association work out a plan to help with the expenses of their delegation to the State Association. Carried.

Motion carried to adjourn until 9:30 A.M. Friday.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE

Services opened with singing "I Would Not Be Denied" led by Rev. Joe Mooneyham, accompanied by Darrel Freeman, Kerman. Prayer by Rev. Wiley Gregory.

An hour of congregational and special singing was enjoyed.

Rev. O. H. Doss brought the message using as his subject "Three Appearances of Christ," scripture Hebrew 9:24-28.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Dean Moore.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with singing "O I Want To See Him," led by Wm. J. Rush, accompanied by Charlotte Groves, North Fresno.

Rev. Sam Winters, North Fresno, read Job 1:6 for the scripture reading. Prayer by Rev. Will Bean.

Report of Executive Board was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Rev. O. H. Doss was elected by acclamation to 5 year term on Executive Board.

Report of Finance Committee was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Pulpit Committee reported that Ronald Winkle, Richmond, and Rev. Guy Hutsell, Manteca, would speak at the 11 O'clock service.

An itemized financial report of Mission Board was read by Rev. Winston Lawless, treasurer, and accepted.

Rev. Wade Jernigan was elected on the Mission Board. (5 years.)

A motion carried that office of Rev. J. R. Evans on Mission Board be declared vacant. Rev. Wiley Gregory was elected in his place. (3 years.)

Rev. Joe Mooneyham was elected as State Mission Director. Resolution No. 4 was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Motion carried that state clerk serve as state treasurer.

Motion carried that Moderator appoint delegates to National Association. Those appointed were Mae Mooneyham, Pete Conner, Mary Moore, Tommy Wall, Jewel Wall, Lucille Boyle and Francis Boyle.

Motion carried that this state send no money to National Home Mission Board until money for five new churches has been received. (At such time state will resume allocation.)

Motion carried that a recommendation be inserted in the letter to National Association that Rev. Dean Moore be elected to serve on National General Board.

Motion carried that the state treasurer, Mission Board treasurer, and centralization treasurer be bonded. Motion carried that the bonds be financed out of each respective treasury.

Resolutions Nos. 5 and 6 were read and accepted. See Reports.)

Adjournment until next session.

Dismissed by Rev. Delmer Scroggins, Parlier.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Services opened by singing "Revive Us Again," led by Wm. J. Rush, accompanied by Mary Moore.

Prayer by Rev. Norman Cathey, Hanford.

Ronald Winkle, Richmond, student at Free Will Baptist College, spoke about the college. Rev. Guy Hutsell brought the message using Luke 6:46 as his scripture.

Benediction by Rev. J. E. Bridges, Orange Cove.

Committee Reports

Committee on Committees

Resolution

F. A. McCage
O. H. Doss
Wiley Gregory
Cecil Thurman
J. E. Bridges

Sunday School

Francis Boyle
Vida Fry
Tommy Wall
Florene Sharp
Byrl Brakebill

Finance

Delmer Priest
Herman Hupp
H. E. Dixon
Rodney Kemp
Lee Ramsey

League

Ralph Hampton
Bud Jenkins
Jerry Dudley

Temperance

Kelly Adkins
Virgil McIntosh
Rosalie McKibbins
Bertie Rial
Edith Russell

Publication

Mary Moore
Joe Hupp
Lucille Boyle
Jewel Wall

Obituary

Daisy Stack
Golda Jensen
Marion Oglesby
Virgie Woolery

Auxiliary

Zella Ramsey
Cleo Doss
Pearl Davis
Goldie Priest
Betty Gregory

Resolution Committee

1. Be it resolved that in order to relieve the church of the expense of the State Association, each person attending shall care for himself.

2. Be it resolved that the host church shall receive no funds from the state treasury for entertaining the State Association.

3. Be it resolved that this body elect a State Mission Director, (not a member of State Mission Board) and recommend him to the National Home Mission Board.

4. Be it resolved that this association recommend that each subordinate association give its support to a pastor of one of the churches in the subordinate association to contact each church in the promoting of the centralization fund. We recommend the following ministers: Rev. Dean Moore, Golden Gate Association; Rev. Wade Jernigan, Center Association; Rev. Jerry Dudley, Southern Association; Rev. Wiley Gregory, West Coast Association.

5. Be it resolved that a rising vote of thanks be extended

to the Calwa Church for the hospitality and provisions during the association.

6. Be it resolved that Lee Ramsey, Herman Hupp, Finney Berry and Bob Maxwell serve as program committee and that programs be distributed two weeks before the State Association.

Sunday School Committee

1. We recommend that each church adopt and use the six point record system.

2. We recommend the exclusive use of Free Will Baptist literature and that all officers and teachers be members of a Free Will Baptist Church. We further recommend that pastors and teachers cooperate to create more interest in Sunday School.

3. We recommend that each church set aside one day each year as Sunday School Rally Day to promote Sunday Schools.

Finance Committee

1. We recommend that the associations send the following amounts to the State Association in 1955: Golden Gate, \$105.00; Center, \$90.00; Southern, \$80.00; West Coast, \$70.00.

2. We recommend that \$220.00 be given to this host church for expense of the setting of this association, \$25.00 be paid the clerk, \$10.00 be paid to assistant clerk, and \$15.00 be paid to Moderator.

3. We recommend that 1,000 minutes be printed and the clerk send the minutes to each pastor according to membership.

4. We recommend that \$30.00 be sent to the National Association for minutes.

League Committee

We report there are 29 leagues in the state with 4 district conventions. The Southern League Convention's growth has necessitated the division into two conventions, Southern No. 1 and Southern No. 2. We ask that the State League Convention minutes be printed in the State Association minutes for which we send \$40.00.

Temperance Committee

We wish to report as follows: Our first consideration is to search our own lives as to our influence on others, abstaining from all worldly amusements and sinful habits, always looking for our own faults that might offend our fellowman and looking for the good in our brothers and sisters in Christ, being temperate in all things.

Publication Committee

We recommend that each pastor urge each family to sub-

scribe for the "California Free Will Baptist" and other denominational publications.

We recommend that 1,000 minutes of this session be printed.

We recommend that each church have a reporter that will report by the sixth of each month to the "California Free Will Baptist."

Obituary Committee

We report that the Lord has called eight members from our midst, Southern, 2; Golden Gate, 2; West Coast, 3; Center, 1.

Auxiliary Committee

We report there are twelve auxiliaries in the state. We ask that the Auxiliary Convention minutes be printed in the State Association Minutes for which we send \$40.00.

We recommend that the Auxiliary Manual be taught in each church by some capable person.

We recommend that the State Woman's Auxiliary officers of each association be responsible for the organization of the district conventions.

Executive Board

The State Executive Board met at Salinas, California, Sept. 29, 1953 to formulate plans for paying \$700.00 attorney fees in the lawsuit of Walter George vs. Amos Fagan. The total amount of \$700.00 was borrowed from the Vallejo Mission funds and was to have been paid in full by April 1, 1954. The Board recommended the following means of raising said amount: Churches having a membership under 75 pay \$20.00 and those having a membership over 75 pay \$30.00. Only \$420.00 was received from this means.

The Board met June 17, 1954 at Calwa and in checking found a debt of \$280.00. A further check revealed the following churches had failed to comply with the Board's request: Hughson, Stockton, Chowchilla, Firebaugh, Campbell, Selma, Sanger, Calwa Hanford Porterville, Corcoran, Santa Paula, Bell Gardens, Artesia, Long Beach, and Oxnard. Several of the pastors of the above mentioned churches have been contacted and have vouched for their churches. We trust these churches will give this matter their immediate attention.

Treasurer's Report 1953-'54

Receipts: Center Assoc., \$120.00; Golden Gate Assoc., \$135.00; Southern Assoc., \$110.00; West Coast Assoc., \$100.00; State Auxiliary Convention, \$40.00; State League Convention,

\$40.00. Total received \$545.00. Balance 1952 \$181.09, Grand Total \$726.09.

Disbursements: Moderator, \$15.00; Clerk, \$25.00; Kerman (Host Church), \$140.00; Programs for 1953 Session, \$5.00; National Association, \$30.00; Kerman News (1000 Minutes), \$152.23; Executive Board travel expense (4c per mile) to O. H. Doss, \$10.80, Lester Davis, \$26.80, Eual Gorman, \$26.80, and Dean Moore, \$9.12. Total disbursements, \$440.75. **Balance June 16, 1954, \$285.34.**

June Rolen, Treasurer.

State Centralization Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 15, 1953 \$ 577.62
Amount received this year 891.87

Total in treasury \$1469.49

Dean Moore, Treasurer.

Mission Board Financial Report

Total amount received for 1954, \$2289.09. Amount brought forward from 1953, \$1095.68. Total \$3384.77.

Expenses: Stationery and supplies, \$61.10; Postage, \$17.00; Pacific Telephone Co., \$46.83; Sunday School literature, \$79.50; National Home Missions, \$569.75; National Foreign Missions, \$569.75; J. L. Waltman, work at National City, \$25.00, Reedley, \$100.00, Lancaster, \$70.00 Modesto, \$50.00, and Mileage, \$115.96; L. L. Davis, work at Long Beach, \$115.00; Joe Mooneyham, at Visalia, \$115.00, and Mileage, \$14.40; Guy Hutsell and Neal Moore, work at Manteca, \$100.00; W. M. Johnson and O. J. Mount, work at Clovis, \$125.00; Earl Jensen, mileage, \$69.76; Winston Lawless, mileage, \$22.88; Cecil Thurman and Orville Thurman, work at Wasco, \$125.00; Johnnie Priest, work at Rodeo, \$100.00; Cecil Thurman, work in North Fresno, \$100.00; Finney Berry, work in National City, \$90.00. Total paid out, \$2681.93. Balance June 1, 1954, \$702.84.

LETTERS FROM ASSOCIATIONS

Golden Gate Association

To the State Association when convened with Calwa Church, Calwa, California.

We send as delegates Tommy Wall, Jewel Wall, Francis Boyle, Lucille Boyle, Kelly Adkin, Bertie Rial, Edith Russell, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Number of churches, 15; membership, 1,011; state of religion, good; deceased, 2; Prayer Meetings, 15; Sunday Schools, 15; average attendance, 910; Leagues, 9; Auxiliaries 5; paid Pastors, \$23,456.47; Evangelists, \$1154.68; Missions, \$1119.74; Buildings and repairs \$10,059.71; value of church property, \$235,020.00; Ordained Ministers, 33; Licensed Ministers, 16; Deacons, 42. We send as expense money, \$155.00.

Richmond asks for the next State Association in 1955.

Ralph Hampton, Moderator
Mae Graham, Clerk
143 Eighth St., Turlock, Calif.

Southern Association

To The State Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Calwa Church, Calwa, California.

We send as our delegates Trudy Tilden, Betty Anderson, Vida Fry, Rosalie McKibbin, Della White, Ann Scott, and Lena Zachary; alternates Jess Puett, Betty Fry, Eva Bonner, Tice Womack, Viola Tilden, Dovie Blair and Jodie Lotta whom we pray you will receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, Good; Churches, 11; membership, 565; number received, 136; number dismissed, 75; number deceased, 2; Sunday Schools, good; Number of Leagues, 10; Number of Auxiliaries, 2; amount paid pastors, \$15,392.57; amount for evangelistic, \$839.43; amount building and repairs, \$17,977.14; Missions, \$523.29; amount for education and publication, \$910.31; Ordained Ministers, 31. Enclosed for minutes and expenses, \$130.00.

A. E. Woolery, Moderator
Lester Kyle, Clerk.

Center Association

To the State Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Calwa Church, Calwa, California.

We send as delegates our beloved brethren and sisters

Ruby Jones, Carl Young, Evelyn Holt, Florene Sharp, Elo Guy, Virgil McIntosh, Marion Oglesby; Alternates, Agnes Kerr, Lon Martin, Edith Pillow, Helen Kisner, Alene Smith, Homer Kline, and Robert Furr, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion, Good; members received this year, 92; number baptized, 30; number dismissed by letter, 147; number deceased, 1; resident members, 499; non-resident members, 43; total membership, 542; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday School, good; average number of pupils, 441; number of officers, 25; league membership, 85; number of Auxiliaries and Y. P. A.'s, 5; value of Church property, \$115,590.00; amount paid pastors, \$13,774.45; amount for evangelistic work, \$506.21; amount for buildings and repairs, \$8,450.70; amount for incidentals, \$1,330.46; amount for Foreign Missions, \$8.76; amount for Home Missions, \$509.04; amount for education, \$112.96; amount for publications, \$427.03; amount enclosed for minutes and expenses, \$140.00. The Center Association received 3 new churches this year which gives a total of 10.

Winston Lawless, Moderator
Fern McAlister, Clerk
P. O. Box 84, Kerman, Calif.

West Coast Association

To the California State Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Calwa Church at Calwa, California, June 16, 1954.

We send as delegates our beloved Brethren Beryl Brakebill, Bob McClish, Sis. Daisy Stack, Sis. Bush, Sis. Medcalf, Sis. Hessie Best and Sis. Henthorne, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

State of Religion, Good; members received this year, 213; baptized, 59; dismissed, 47; died, 3; total membership, 442; condition of Prayer Meeting, good; condition of Sunday Schools, good; average number of pupils, 397; number of officers, 24; number of teachers, 42; paid pastors, \$9800.60; paid evangelists, \$1048.25; Home Mission, \$753.42; building and repairs, \$8635.41; education, \$160.00; publication, \$101.56; amount enclosed for minutes and expenses, \$120.00; ordained Ministers, 13; licensed Ministers, 2; deacons, 23; new churches, 4; dismissed, 2 churches; total churches, 8.

We request the next state association to meet with Arvin Church, Arvin, California.

Don Bias, Moderator
Chester S. Burgess, Clerk.

MINISTERS ROLL

Will Bean, (Mission Association), Oklahoma.
Finney C. Berry, 2556 S. Cedar, Calwa, Calif.
Arthur Billows, Route 2, Box 441, Oxnard Calif.
J. E. Bridges, General Delivery, Orosi, Calif.
Marvin Bryant, 11541 E. Florence, Norwalk, Calif.
N. H. Cathey, P. O. Box 513, Corcoran, Calif.
Ira Condley, 1418 E. Street, Reedley, Calif.
John Cross, Route 1, Orange Cove, Calif.
Lester Davis P. O. Box 479, Ceres, Calif.
H. E. Dixon, 21818 Devlin, Artesia,, Calif.
O. H. Doss, General Delivery, Ceres, Calif.
Jerry Dudley, P. O. Box 81, Tulare, Calif.
C. R. Fassio, General Delivery, Orange Cove, Calif.
Joy Freeman, P. O. Box 37, Kerman, Calif.
Eual Gorman, 21822 Devlin, Artesia, Calif.
Wiley Gregory, 5906 Ludell Street, Bell Gardens, Calif.
R. L. Groves, 2530 S. 9th St., Calwa, Calif.
R. C. Hampton, 2859 Avon Avenue, Concord, Calif.
Riley Hollins, 3114 S. Fruit, Fresno, Calif.
T. N. Huddleston, P. O. Box 2, Merced, Calif.
Herman Hupp, P. O. Box 479, Hughson, Calif.
G. E. Hutsell, Route 1, Box 444, Manteca, Calif.
Earl Jenson, Landers & "C" Sts., Turlock, Calif.
Wade Jernigan, P. O. Box 61, Kerman, Calif.
Winston Lawless, 10681 Highland Ave., Selma, Calif.
Bob Maxwell, Santa Paula, Calif.
Lonnie McAlister, P. O. Box 84, Kerman, Calif.
F. A. McCage, 15 Laguinta Rr., Salinas, Calif.
George W. McLain, P. O. Box 138, Kerman, Calif.
Joe Mooneyham, 535 W. Second St., Tulare, Calif.
Dean Moore, 1718 Lincoln Ave., Richmond, Calif.
Ray Morris, 1332 Alta Way, Hanford, Calif.
G. B. Ramsey, 1404 Tucker, Selma, Calif.
Lee Ramsey, Route 2, Box 336-AA, Kerman, Calif.
Leroy Richardson, 2140 N. Fresno, Fresno, Calif.
O. D. Scroggins, 2477 Shaft St., Selma, Calif.
Estell Sweeten, P. O. Box 899, Turlock, Calif.
A. B. Tolbert, Claremore, Oklahoma.
Lloyd Talley, P. O. Box 171, Orange Cove, Calif.
Cecil Thurman, 4030 Burns St., Calwa, Calif.
J. L. Waltman, 667 Eighth St., Turlock, Calif.
C. E. Wilkinson, 2803 Wright Street, Selma, Calif.
A. E. Woolrey, 251 Sierra View, Porterville, Calif.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF SUBORDINATE ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATIONS	Golden Gate	Center	Southern	West Coast	Total
Churches	15	10	11	8	44
Ministers	33	27	31	13	104
Members	1011	542	556	442	2560
No. of Sunday Schools	15	10	11	8	44
No. of Leagues	9	6	10	6	31
No. of Auxiliaries	5	5	2	1	13
Paid Pastors	\$23,456.47	\$13,774.45	\$15,392.57	\$9,800.00	\$62,424.08
Paid Evangelists	1,154.68	506.21	839.93	1,048.25	3,549.07
Paid Home Missions	1,119.74	509.04	523.29	753.42	2,905.49
Value of Church Property	\$235,020.00	\$115,590.00	\$63,477.00	\$62,635.00	\$476,712.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southern Association meets at Shafter, California, May 5-6, 1955.

West Coast Association meets at Arvin, Calif., on Thursday night before second Sunday in May, 1955.

Center Association meets at Kerman, Calif., May 12-13, 1955.

Golden Gate Association meets at Turlock, Calif., on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in May, 1955.

STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION

The fifth annual session of the California State League Convention met in Odd Fellows Hall, Selma, California, May 1-2, 1954.

President Jerry Dudley called the house to order.

Services opened by singing "To The Work," led by Mary Sue Lindsey, Kerman, with Morna Poe, Richmond, pianist.

Prayer by Harold Talley, Orange Cove.

Devotional, John 4:35-38, was read by Francis Boyle, Turlock.

Welcome address was given by Rev. Roy B. Weaklin, President of Selma Christian Alliance, and response was by Clinton Wood, Richmond.

Letters from Center and Southern Conventions were read and accepted.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted by motion.

Letter from Golden Gate Convention was read and accepted.

Motion carried that West Coast Convention be seated pending arrival of letter.

Motion carried that President appoint committees. They were appointed as follows:

Pulpit

Mickey Davenport, Richmond
J. B. Lawless, Selma
Betty Fry, Tulare
Margie Tuggle, Santa Paula
Rosie Carpenter, Porterville

Resolution

Clinton Wood, Richmond
Dois McAlister, Kerman
Terry Lewis, Porterville
J. B. Smith Jr., Arvin
Reba Kirk, Modesto

Registration

Lucille Boyle, Turlock
Glenn Smith, Calwa
Kathy Ham, Exeter

Finance

Jenelle Billows, Oxnard
Max McCarty, Sanger
Lowell Moore, Tulare
Bob Brown, Campbell
Mary Swindell, Concord

The next convention will convene April 30th-May 1st, 1955, with Tulare Church, 237 South "A" Street, Tulare, California. Rev. Wade Jernigan was elected to bring the introductory message and Rev. Joe Mooneyham as alternate.

Pulpit Committee reported Rev. Wade Jernigan, Modesto, would bring the evening message and Rev. Dean Moore, Richmond, would bring the Sunday morning message.

Dismissed by Buford Smith, Bakersfield.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Services opened by singing "I Want To Be A Worker."
Prayer by Bob Brown, Campbell.

Bakersfield Quartet sang "My Lord Keeps A Record."

Rev. O. H. Doss, Kerman, brought the message using as his subject, "The Important Look," Psalms 121:1-2.

Motion carried to enter business.

Motion carried that programs formerly scheduled for afternoon be presented in the evening service and the evening speaker be placed on afternoon program.

Benediction by Clinton Wood.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing "Oh How I Love Jesus" and "Rescue the Perishing." Prayer by William Tuggle Jr., Santa Paula.

Resolution No. 1 was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Finance Committee report was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Resolutions No. 2 and 3 were read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Oral report was given by Chairman of the State League Board.

Motion carried that Dinkey Creek Camp information be returned to Center Convention.

Motion carried that Sword Drill Winner be sent to National League Convention on year said convention meets.

Motion carried that state league officers select a suitable award for Sword Drill Winner on the year the National Convention does not meet.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissed by Lonnie Rolen.

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Services opened by singing "Tell Me The Story."

Prayer by Cecil Fassio, Turlock.

Solo, "I Don't Know About Tomorrow," by Betty Fry, Tulare.

Kerman Quartet sang "Swing Low Sweet Chariot."

Rev. Wade Jernigan, Modesto, brought the message using John 4:34 as his scripture.

Invitation was given and one soul saved.

Benediction by Rev. Lee Ramsey, Exeter.

SATURDAY EVENING

Services opened by singing "Jesus Saves."

Prayer by Rev. Cecil Thurman, Fresno.

Solo, "Take My Hand Precious Lord," was sung by Judy Pyle, Exeter.

Richmond Quartet sang "I'm Free Again" and "Beyond the Sunset."

Santa Paula representing West Coast Convention presented "I Made Christ's Cross."

Congregation sang "I Shall Not Be Moved," led by Arlie Miller, pianist Morna Poe.

Intermediate Sword Drill was led by Johnnie Jenkins, Modesto. Janice McDonald, Modesto, received a loving cup as winner, and Baxter Long, Santa Paula, received a Bible as second place award, and Ollie Shropshire, Selma, received a New Testament as third place award.

Richmond League representing Golden Gate Convention presented "Hidden Gold."

Kerman Quartet sang "With The Millions We'll Sing."
Benediction.

SUNDAY MORNING

Services opened by singing "Onward Free Will Baptist Leaguers," led by Mary Sue Lindsey, pianist Betty Fry, Tulare.

Prayer by Bud Jenkins, Modesto.

Devotional, John 14:1-7, was read by Frank Hoffman, Richmond.

Officers were elected as follows:

Sponsor—Bub Jenkins, P. O. Box 123, Ceres, Calif.

President—Clinton Wood, 412 Fourth Street, Rodeo, Calif.

Vice-President—J. B. Lawless, 10681 Highland Ave., Selma, Calif.

Recording Secretary—June Rolen, Midland, Calif.

Corresponding Secretary—Johnnie Jenkins, P. O. Box 123, Ceres, Calif.

Treasurer—Lowell Moore, P. O. Box 782, Tulare, Calif.

Chorister—Margie Tuggle, 220 South Fourth St., Santa Paula, Calif.

Pianist—Betty Fry, Route 2, Box 326, Tulare, Calif.

Sword Drill Leader—Mary Sue Lindsey, P. O. Box 99, Kerman, Calif.

Motion carried that league board be elected to serve as follows:

Delmer Priest, 836 Ventura, Richmond, Calif. (5 years.)

Rev. Wiley Gregory, 5906 Ludell Street, Bell Gardens, Calif. (4 years.)

Rev. Joe Mooneyham, 535 West Second St., Tulare, Calif. (2 years.)

Carl Young, 1520 Mill St., Selma, Calif. (2 years.)

Rev. Lee Ramsey, Route 2, Box 336-AA, Kerman, Calif. (1 year.)

Officers were installed by Rev. Joe Mooneyham using

Isaiah 54:2 as his scripture. Prayer of consecration was offered by Rev. Wiley Gregory.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Services opened by singing "Praise Him, Praise Him."

Prayer by Coy Priest, Richmond.

Special singing by Kerman Quartet, Bakersfield Quartet, Tulare Gospel Harmonettes, and a solo by Glenda Purser.

Rev. Dean Moore, Richmond, brought the message using "Look Upon the Cross" as his subject.

Benediction by Jerry Carr, Farmersville.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing "To The Work" led by Clinton Wood, pianist Morna Poe.

Tulare representing Southern Convention presented "In The Edge of Darkness."

A mixed quartet sang "Meet Me There."

Registration committee report was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Calwa League representing Center Convention presented "Lead Me To The Cross."

Program banner was won by Tulare League.

Benediction by Rev. Ralph Hampton, Concord.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution Committee

1. Be it resolved that each subordinate conventional secretary send letter to state secretary at least one week before state convention.

2. Be it resolved that State League Convention programs be mailed to each league president prior to the state convention.

3. Be it resolved that a standing vote of thanks be given Selma Church for their kind hospitality.

Finance Committee

1. We recommend that each subordinate league convention send \$100.00 to State Convention, \$75.00 for convention expenses and \$25.00 for host church.

2. We recommend that \$40.00 be paid to State Association for printing of minutes.

Registration Committee

We report 26 leagues represented and 492 registered.

Jerry Dudley, President.

June Rolen, Recording Secretary.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The sixth session of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention met with the Calwa Church June 16, 1954, at 10:00 A.M. The convention was called to order by the president, Goldie Priest.

Opened by singing "I Am Thine O Lord," led by Ruth Walker, Modesto, accompanied by June Rolen, Kerman.

Prayer by Rev. Finney Berry, Calwa.

Scripture reading, Matthew 25:14, was read by Mary Young, Selma. Prayer by Lois Miller, Kerman.

Welcome was given by Margaret Berry, Calwa, and response by Cleo Doss, Modesto.

Visiting women were welcomed.

Ministers and deacons were welcomed.

Petitionary letters were read and accepted from Concord, North Fresno, Tulare, Orange Cove, Porterville, and Artesia.

The president was given power to appoint committees. They were appointed as follows:

Registration

Margaret Berry
Sue Martin
Bertha Spurlock
Tressie Murphy

Resolution

Allyne Lawless
Mary Moore
Florene Sharp
Alice Hylton

Finance

Golda Jenson
Mary Hector
Mary Hammer
Lettie McFarland
Helen Kisner

Obituary

Evelyn Adkins
Alma Coppedge
Teddie Thurman
Ruth Hart

Mrs. Priest, the president, brought her message on "His Command and Our Task," I John 5:4 and Eph. 6:10-18.

Prayer by Rev. Winston Lawless, Selma.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened with singing led by Ruth Walker. Prayer by Gladys Stevens, Kerman.

Special songs were "I Just Steal Away and Pray" by Kerman Quartet, "Hand in Hand with Jesus" by Modesto Trio, and "All to Jesus I Surrender" by Patti McLain, Selma.

Francis Boyle, Bell Gardens, brought the message on the them "His Command and My Task," text John 4:35-38.

Resolution No. 1 was read and adopted. (See Reports.)

The nominating committee was elected as follows: Opal Wilbanks, Cleo Doss, Lois Miller, Mary Moore and Patti McLain.

Rev. Berry, host pastor, announced arrangements for lunch.

Benediction by Rev. Cecil Thurman, Fresno.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing, followed with prayer by Rev. George McLain, Kerman.

Reports of officers were given as follows:

Enlistment—Allyne Lawless.

Christian Education—Gladys Stevens.

Study Course—Zella Ramsey.

Program & Publicity—Ella Mae Foster.

Personal Service—Ruth Walker.

Secretary-Treasurer—Winne McLain.

Resolution No. 2 was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Finance Committee report was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Obituary Committee report was read, accepted and body stood in silent prayer, then audible prayer by Johnnie Jenkins.

Nominating Committee report was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Resolution No. 3 was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

June Rolen was elected assistant recording secretary.

Resolution No. 4 was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

An offering was given for the centralization fund.

President was given power to appoint delegates to National Convention. Those appointed were Mary Moore, Lorena Martin, Lucille Boyle, Reba Kirk, and Nettie Lou Jernigan.

Prayer by Golda Jenson, Turlock.

Officers were installed by Patti McLain.

Registration Committee report was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

A standing vote of thanks was given to retiring officers.

A standing vote of thanks was given to Calwa Church for its hospitality.

Minutes were read and approved.

Handshake was given.

Benediction by Rev. Wade Jernigan, Kerman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Registration Committee

We wish to give the following report. There were 10 ministers, 3 deacons, and 65 auxiliary members present, making a total of 78.

Resolution Committee

1. Be it resolved that the body elect a nominating committee.

2. Be it resolved that the convention be divided into associational districts with one annual meeting.

3. Be it resolved that vice-president and enlistment chair-

man offices be combined and the corresponding secretary and recording secretary be combined.

4. Be it resolved that each person attending auxiliary convention provide own lunch.

Finance Committee

We report \$50.00 was received for host church and \$41.30 received for dues, total \$91.30.

1. We recommend that \$40.00 be paid for printing of minutes.

2. We recommend that an offering be taken for centralization fund.

Obituary Committee

We report 1 death, Ollie Fry of the Porterville Church.

Nominating Committee

We nominate the following for officers for next year.

President—Zella Ramsey, Route 2, Box 336-AA, Kerman, Calif.

Enlistment—Ella Mae Foster, P. O. Box 675, Empire, Calif.

Youth Chairman—Johnnie Jenkins, P. O. Box 123, Ceres, Calif.

Mission Chairman—Goldie Priest, 836 Ventura, Richmond, Calif.

Program & Publicity Chairman—Patti McLain, Midland, Calif.

Secretary-Treasurer—Winnie McLain, P. O. Box 138, Kerman, Calif.

Personal Service—Lettie McFarland, Tulare, Calif.

Goldie Priest, President.

Winnie McLain, Recording Secretary.

BY-LAWS OF HOME MISSION BOARD

1. The board shall be composed of five members including a secretary, treasurer and their tenure of office shall be one to five years.

2. All moneys for missions shall be sent through this board.

3. Requests for financial aid shall be made in writing to the board and after investigation, money shall be granted in such cases as merits support. There must be an opportunity to establish a church to merit such aid.

4. Not less than three members of this board can make a decision.

5. This board shall appoint a representative in each subordinate association to raise funds for missions.

6. The treasurer shall give an official receipt for funds received.

7. The treasurer shall give a financial report at each regular session of the association.

8. These By-laws may be amended at any regular session of the state association by a majority vote of members present.

9. All moneys shall be distributed as follows: 25 percent paid to Foreign Missions, 25 percent to National Home Missions and 50 percent will remain the the state treasury to be used for home missions in California.

Order Of Business

1. Introductory sermon.
 2. House called to order by Moderator.
 3. Letters called for, read and received.
 4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of delegates.
 5. Election of officers.
 6. Petitionary letters called for.
 7. Reading rules of order.
 8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
 9. Appointment of committees.
 10. Unfinished business.
 11. New business.
 12. Report of committees.
 13. Miscellaneous business.
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BY-LAWS

1. The Moderator or assistant Moderator or in their absence the oldest minister (in the work) present shall call the association into conference.

2. Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.

3. Fourteen members from two or more associations 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 rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections 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 vote taken.

7. Motion 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 discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit.

10. The ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds majority of members voting.

11. No question from any association shall come under the consideration of the association unless it has first been discussed in its own association.

12. At each Association arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional exercises each day.

13. The State Association shall have no power to fill vacancies in the delegation from any composite body.

CONSTITUTION

Preamble: From long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist Denomination, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as an association of churches and to preserve and maintain correspondence and coordination with us, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better denominational government.

Article 1

This organization shall be known as the State Association of Free Will Baptists of the State of California.

Article 2

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of our churches and associated bodies of this state and to devise and execute measures of expanding our work in the cause of Christ in broader fields.

Article 3

The state association shall have the right to settle any appointed or elected by the subordinate association they represent and all ordained Free Will Baptist ministers, their wives, all ordained Free Will Baptist deacons and their wives.

Article 4

Representation to the state association is to be by subordinate associations. Each subordinate association shall be entitled to seven delegates to be selected from the laity.

Article 5

The state association shall have the right to settle any and all questions of discipline doctrine or practice, that may properly come before it from any of the bodies composing this organization or act upon an appeal that may be made by any church or individual which is a component part of this body. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent body or bodies making such appeal from the lower to the next higher body.

Article 6

Officers. The officers of this state association shall consist of a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk and treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the opening of each setting of the state association.

Section 2. Committees as necessary shall be appointed by

the Moderator unless otherwise provided for and shall hold office until work is completed or their successors are appointed.

Article 7

The executive board shall be composed of five members. Each member shall be an ordained minister in good standing in the state association and their terms of tenure shall be as follows:

- (1) one for one year.
- (1) one for two years.
- (1) one for three years.
- (1) one for four years.
- (1) one for five years.

Succession to office thereafter shall be determined as order requires.

Article 8

The state association shall hold its meetings annually. The date and place to be decided upon at each previous meeting of said state association.

Article 9

Should necessity arise which calls and requires immediate action, the State Executive Board shall convene upon call of its chairman and shall take whatever action it deems necessary in the best interests of the cause of Christ. The action however shall not conflict with the purpose and edicts of the Constitution as set forth in the preceding articles.

Article 10

This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of the state association by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting. All proposed alterations or amendments shall be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

Article 11

No minister will be received into this association who cannot obtain a recommendation from the association from which he comes, and that said association be a member of the state or national association, and that he obtain a recommendation from the California State Minister's Conference before he is allowed to pastor a church in California.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adopted the Word of God 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 appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations to 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 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 to promote the success of the churches 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 Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the conversion of the world.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE**—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God and are an 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 Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. **CHRIST**—Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature, truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit, all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD**—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **SINFULNESS OF MAN**—Man was created innocent, but

by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His Posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to 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 affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved commitment 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 is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the domination of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. 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 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 of the Water of Life freely.

12. PERSEVERANCE—All believers in Christ, who through grace, preserve in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. TITHING—God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament: Jesus endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:33) and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (I Cor. 16:2.)

15. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."