

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**SECOND ANNUAL SESSION**  
of the  
**CENTER ASSOCIATION**  
of  
**CALIFORNIA**

Held With  
Orange Cove Church, Orange Cove, California  
March 17 & 18, 1949

## OFFICERS

Moderator	- - - - -	Eld. Earl Jenson Selma, Calif.
Assistant Moderator	- - - - -	Eld. Orbin Doss Kerman, Calif.
Clerk	- - - - -	Gelda Jenson Selma, Calif.
Assistant Clerk	- - - - -	Sylvia Barlow Fowler, Calif.
Treasurer	- - - - -	Eld. Lloyd Talley P. O. Box 171, Orange Cove, Calif.

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Elder Lester Davis, Selma, Calif.	- - - - -	5 yrs.
Elder Earl Jenson, Selma, Calif.	- - - - -	4 yrs.
Elder Orbin Doss, Kerman, Calif.	- - - - -	3 yrs.
Elder Noble Barlow, Fowler, Calif.	- - - - -	2 yrs.
Elder Lloyd Talley, Orange Cove, Calif.	- - - - -	1 yr.

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The next annual session will be held with the Selma Church, Selma, Calif., on Thursday night before the third Sunday in March, 1950. Elder Orbin Doss will bring the introductory message, Elder Delmar Scroggins, Alternate.

## PROCEEDINGS

The second annual session of the Center Association of the Free Will Baptists of California convened with the Orange Cove Church, Orange Cove, Calif., March 17 and 18, 1949.

### THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Services opened with singing by congregation.

Prayer by Bro. John Hall.

Rev. Earl Jenson was elected to bring the message, Elder Winston Lawless to lead the devotional service.

Special singing by the Free Will Baptist Quartet.

Rev. Jenson read Psalms 107; Text: Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so.

After the message an altar call was made and a precious soul was saved.

Services were turned to the good pastor, Rev. J. R. Evans, for placing of delegates.

Dismissed by Rev. Truman Huddleston.

### FRIDAY MORNING SERVICES

Services were opened with singing by the congregation.

Rev. R. M. Hollin called the house to order, being the oldest minister present.

Scripture reading: Ephesians 4.

All ministers present were called into the altar for united prayer.

Letters from the following churches were read, accepted and delegates seated as follows: Sanger, Parlier, Selma, Hanford and Kerman.

The right hand of Christian Fellowship was given the delegates.

Officers were elected as follows:

Moderator, Rev. Earl Jenson.

Assistant Moderator, Rev. Orbin Doss.

Clerk, Gelda Jenson.

Assistant Clerk, Sylvia Barlow.

Visiting brethren were invited to sit in council.

Rules of Order were read.

Motion carried that Moderator be given power to appoint all committees.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Devotional: Rev. J. R. Evans, Bro. Lee Ramsey, Bro. Monroe Winters, Bro. Claud Wilkinson, Bro. Elmer Baker.

Business: Bro. Delmar Spain, Bro. Delmar Scroggins, Bro. Joe Whittenburg, Bro. Bridges, Bro. Lambert.

Temperance: Sis. Jessie Hollin, Sis. Lee Ramsey, Bro. Buchanan, Bro. J. Jordan, Jr., Bro. Burgess.

Obituary: Sis. Genie Clay, Bro. Bill Robertson, Sis. Scroggins, Bro. Cecil Morris, Sis. Turner, Sis. Talley.

Publication: Sis. Baker, Bro. Rush, Bro. Riley Hollin, Bro. Henry Scroggins, Sis. Bertha Evans.

Finance: Bro. J. W. Hall, Bro. Ed Humphrey, Bro. Sutton, Sis. Smith, Sis. Sam Winters.

Home Mission: Bro. Clifford Giles, Bro. Mounts, Sis. Rush, Sis. Joe Whittenburg.

Sunday School: Sis. Buchanan, Sis. McCowan, Bro. J. M. Rolon, Sis. Gladys Massengale and Bro. McAlester.

Devotional Committee reported that Rev. Delmar Scroggins, would preach at the eleven o'clock service.

Rev. Orbin Doss was elected to take Rev. McLain's place on the Executive Board.

Rev. Lester Davis was elected to take the expiring members place on the Board.

Rev. Lloyd Talley was elected as Association Treasurer.

Regular move we adjourn business until afternoon: dismissed by Bro. J. M. Rolon.

## FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service opened with singing by congregation.

Prayer by Rev. H. E. Dixon of Arvin.

Special number in song by the Free Will Baptist Quartet—"And the Walls Came Tumbling Down."

Rev. Delmar Scroggins, Parlier, brought the message.

Scripture reading: James 5:16-21. Subject: The Prevailing Prayer.

After a very good message, an old fashioned hand shake was enjoyed by all.

Pastor J. R. Evans announced lunch would be served at the church.

Dismissed by Bro. Lambert.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing by the congregation.

Scripture reading by Rev. Lester Davis: I Peter; 4.

Prayer by Rev. L. C. Florence.

Letter from the Orange Cove Church was read, accepted and the delegates were seated.

Report of Obituary Committee was read and accepted. After a moment of silence in memory of the deceased, Rev. Orbin Doss led our minds in a word of prayer.

Reports of the Publication, Home Mission, Sunday School, Temperance and Finance committees were read and accepted. (See Reports).

Reports from the Devotional Committee: Rev. Orbin Doss to bring the evening message and Rev. H. E. Dixon to lead the devotional services.

Report from the Executive Board read and accepted. (See Reports).

Business and Resolution committee reports read and accepted. (See Reports).

Report from the Women's Auxiliary of Kerman read and accepted. (See Reports).

The first quarterly meeting was placed at Kerman. Rev. Lester Davis was elected to bring the introductory message; Rev. Lloyd Talley, Alternate.

The second quarterly meeting was placed at Parlier. Rev. P. E. Lambert was elected to bring the introductory message; Rev. J. R. Evans, Alternate.

The third quarterly meeting was placed at Hanford. Rev. J. R. Evans was elected to bring the introductory message; Rev. Cecil Morris, Alternate.

The Annual session of the Association was placed at Selma. Rev. Orbin Doss was elected to bring the introductory message; Rev. Delmar Scroggins, Alternate.

Delegates elected to represent us in the State Association when it convenes with the Porterville Church are as follows: Bro. Cecil Morris, Bro. Clifford Giles, Bro. Burgess, Sis. Scantling, Bro. Mount, Bro. Winnie Jordan, Jr., and Bro. Robertson. Alternates, Bro. Sutton, Sis. Shen, Bro. Henry Scroggins, Sis. Smith, Bro. McAlister, Bro. Ed. Humphrey and Bro. Claud Wilkinson.

Motion carried we dismiss all committees.

Motion carried we adjourn until we meet for ordination services at 6:45.

Rev. Bill Mize and Rev. W. I. Cook were ordained as ministers. Rev. Earl Jenson gave the charge. Prayer by Rev. Lester Davis, concluded by Rev. Emmett Gray.

Rev. Orbin Doss extended thanks to the women of the church for the good food and wonderful hospitality shown during the conference.

Regular move we adjourn until next annual session at Selma on Thursday night before the third Sunday in March, 1950.

Dismissed by Rev. Bill Mize.

Rev. Earl Jenson, Moderator  
Gelda Jenson, Clerk.

## FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

A special song was rendered by the Scroggins family, "Old Daniel Prayed."

Devotional services were conducted by Rev. H. E. Dixon.

A special song was given by the Free Will Baptist Quartet.

Rev. Orbin Doss brought the message. Scripture reading: Romans 12:1-6. Subject; Prayer: Text: Heb. 11:6.

A wonderful message was enjoyed by all. An altar call was made and a precious soul found its way to the Lord. There was much shouting and rejoicing.

Dismissed by Bro. Gullett.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Business and Resolution Committee—

No. 1—Be it resolved that this association sponsor the Massengale and Scroggins quartet on the radio program and it be called the Free Will Baptist Quartet.

No. 2—Be it resolved that the Executive Board work out a financial plan for the financing of the quartet and have the contract made with them.

### Obituary Report—

We, your committee, report that God in His infinite wisdom, has called Sis. Lue Vena Ramsey and Sis. Della Dotson from our midst during the past year.

### Publication Committee—

We, your committee, recommend that our pastors encourage their members to subscribe to and read at least one of our church papers. We recommend the following papers, as we have no California paper at present:

"The Small Voice" published at Shawnee, Oklahoma.

"The Evangel" published by Eld. N. P. Gates, Hazel Park, Mich.

"The Free Will Baptist," Ayden, N. C.

We recommend that we as far as possible, use our own denominational literature.

### Home Mission Committee—

We, your committee, report we find all Home Missions in good working order and doing a splendid work in the reaching of the lost, and helping the needy.

We suggest that all missions change their name to Auxiliary, in order for us to be recognized in our National Convention.

### Sunday School Committee—

We, your committee, recommend that each Sunday School have an Officers' and Teachers' meeting at least once a month; also, each church have a training course for its officers and teachers once a year.



## Auxiliary Report—

The Women's Auxiliary of Kerman to the Central Association, convening with the Orange Cove church; The Auxiliary held 24 meetings with an average enrollment of 15 and an average attendance of 9. Each lesson was based on better Christian living and prepared in advance. Much good was done this year by the Auxiliary in caring for the poor and needy in our community and attending to the church interests.

## Temperance Committee—

We, your committee, report that we should be free from intoxicating drinks and that any member found guilty must make acknowledgment to the church: I Cor. 6: 17: I Thes. 5:22: I Peter 2; 11: II Peter 1;6: I Cor. 9;25: Gal. 5;23: Titus 2;2 and Gal. 3;8.

We also urge that our members abstain from breaking the Sabbath by doing such things as hunting, fishing and indulging in ungodly conversations and seek to strengthen the weak, living such lives before the world that sinners can see Christ in them.

## Executive Board Report—

We, your committee, report having examined Bro. W. I. Cook, and Bro. J. A. Mize and find them worthy of ordination as Free Will Baptist ministers.

We also recommend that Bro. Joe Whittenburg, Bro. Ed Humphrey, Bro. Henry Scroggins, Bro. Delbert Spain, Bro. Cecil Morris, and Bro. P. E. Lambert be granted ministers' licenses.

## Finance Committee—

We, your committee, report: \$86.25 was received. \$36.00 Minute Money, \$30.00 Feeding Fund, \$20.25 Tithe money sent in by the Selma and Parlier churches.

We recommend we increase our Minutes to 250 and our Expense money to \$10.00 per church.

## Treasury Report—

Money Received during year .....	\$198.00
Expenses .....	142.72
Balance in treasury .....	55.28
Money received this meeting	
Minute Money .....	36.00
Expense Money .....	30.00
Tithes .....	20.25
Total .....	86.25
Paid to Orange Cove church .....	30.00
Balance this meeting .....	56.25
Balance carried over .....	55.28
Total in Treasury .....	111.53

## MINISTERS ROLL

Rev. Lloyd Talley, P. O. Box 171, Orange Cove, Calif.  
Rev. Earl Jenson, Selma, Calif.  
Rev. O. H. Doss, Kerman, Calif.  
Rev. Delmar Scroggins, P. O. Box 131, Parlier, Calif.  
Rev. J. R. Evans, Orange Cove, Calif.  
Rev. Wm. R. Morris, Rt. 2, Box 222, Selma, Calif.  
Rev. Noble Barlow, Selma, Calif.  
Rev. Lester Davis, P. O. Box 21, Selma, Calif.  
Rev. Sanford J. Massengale, Selma, Calif.  
Rev. J. E. Bridges, Orange Cove, Calif.  
Rev. W. I. Cook, Rt. 1, Box 179, Laton, Calif.  
Rev. Emmett Gray, Selma, Calif.  
Rev. R. M. Hollin, Fresno, Calif.

## VISITING MINISTERS

Rev. Emmett Clagg, Porterville, Calif.  
Rev. C. D. Findley, Porterville, Calif.  
Rev. Jessie C. Owens, Porterville, Calif.  
Rev. H. E. Dixon, Arvin, Calif.  
Rev. L. C. Florence, Delano, Calif.  
Rev. F. A. McCage, Modesto, Calif.  
Rev. T. R. Kamplain, Farmersville, Calif.

## DEACONS ROLL

Bro. J. W. Hall, Kerman, Calif.  
Bro. J. M. Whittenburg, Selma, Calif.  
Bro. Andrew Winters, Parlier, Calif.  
Bro. Elmer Baker, Sanger, Calif.  
Bro. Lee Ramsey, Kerman, Calif.  
Bro. J. M. Rolen, Kerman, Calif.

## 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 appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the 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 Scripture, secret prayer, family devotion, and social worship, and by self denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances 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 bonds 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 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 School, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world.

## RULES OF ORDER

1. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator or in their absence the oldest minister present shall call the Association to 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 time as a quorum is present.

4. Visiting brethren are invited to seat as advisory members.

5. Those who speak shall rise 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 at its own church.

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

## STATISTICAL REPORT

Church	Pastor	Mem- bership	Re- ceived	Dis- missed	De- ceased	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Bldg. Exp.	Value of Property
Parlier	Noble Barlow	46	15	none	none	\$ 158.78	\$ 30.94	none	none
Kerman	Orbin Doss	143	17	4	2	2585.00	220.00	\$5952.59	\$30,000
Selma	Earl Jenson	133	28	18	none	2600.00	280.00	1070.57	12,000
Sanger	Wm. R. Morris	33	13	2	none	120.00			
Hanford	Lester Davis								
Orange Cove	J. R. Evans	136	18	3	none	1760.00	81.00	.	5,000
		491	91	27	2	7223.78	611.94	7023.16	47,000