



MINUTES
of the
27th Annual Session
of the
CENTER ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
of
CALIFORNIA

Convened at the
Memorial Free Will Baptist Church
4141 North Millbrook Avenue
Fresno, California

May 17-18, 1974

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The next session will convene with the

HARMONY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

5732 E. Belmont Avenue

Fresno, California

May 16-17, 1975

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OFFICERS

Moderator - Jack L. Williams	
4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-7234
Assistant Moderator - Nuel Brown	
15401 West "E" St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Clerk-Treasurer - Winnie McLain	
2303 N. Second St., Fresno 93703	485-9727
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer - Mary Kelton	
744 W. Clinton, Fresno 93705	229-0833

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Charles Harris	5 years
4091 N. Duke, Fresno 93727	291-3839
Wade T. Jernigan	4 years
4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-9639
Lonnie L. Rolen	3 years
2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Nuel Brown	2 years
15401 West "E" St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Meryl Erickson	1 year
1001 Sylmar, Clovis 93612	299-3203

PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Session of the Center Association convened at the Memorial Church, Fresno, California, May 17-18, 1974. The service opened with congregational singing. Prayer by the Rev. Leonard Rial. The Kerman quartet sang "Holy Hills of Heaven Called Me" and "Why Me". Mrs. Janis Williams sang "He, The Pearly Gates Will Open". Prayer by the Rev. Dale Vanderburg. The Rev. Nuel Brown brought the message on "The Church" using Matthew 16:13-18. Benediction by the Rev. Ben Bush.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was called to order by the Moderator, the Rev. Jack Williams. The session opened with congregational singing followed with prayer by the Rev. Larry Hampton. Mr. Stan Barron brought the devotion on "The Christian Policeman".

The welcome was given by the host pastor, the Rev. Lonnie Rolen.

Letters from the following churches were read and delegates seated: Calwa, Clovis, Hanford, Harmony, Kerman, Madera, Memorial, Neighborhood, Orange Cove, Sanger and Selma. Parlier delegates were seated without a letter as it was lost in the mail.

Rules of order were read by the Assistant Moderator, the Rev. Nuel Brown.

The Rev. S. W. Goossen was welcomed as a visitor.

The Moderator and Assistant Moderator appointed the following committees:

Pulpit

Bill Stiggins
Gary Wright
Marshall Wroten

Resolution

Baxter Ramsey
N. V. Gibson
Art Maynard

Finance

Delmer Sharp
Charlema Burkhart
Jess Rolen

Obituary

Shirley Vanderburg
Betty Watson

The annual report of the Treasurer was read and accepted.

The Rev. S. W. Goossen, instructor in the Missions Department, gave a report of California Christian College.

Delegates elected to the State Association were: Sandra Jones, Susan and Robert Hoppie, Gary and Dottie Wright, Royce and Gladys Stevens, Charlema Burkhart, Loyd and Eva Kelley, and Porter Clark. Motion carried that the Moderator have power to appoint the remainder of the delegates.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The service opened with singing followed with prayer by Mr. Gene Grimes. Mr. George Rogers brought the devotion on "The Care and Feeding of Young Married Couples in the Local Church".

The Rev. Vern Gunnels was nominated to serve on the State General Board.

Reports of the Resolution and Finance Committees were read and accepted. (See reports.)

The report of the Obituary Committee was read and accepted followed with silent prayer in memory of those whom the Lord had called. (See reports.)

The report of the Executive Board was read and adopted item by item. (See reports.) The Rev. Charles Harris was elected to serve on the Executive Board.

Motion carried to retain the same officers for the next year.

Dr. Wade Jernigan gave a report of the financial needs of California Christian College.

A standing vote of thanks was given the host church.

There were 17 ministers registered and 85 others including the delegates.

Benediction by the Rev. Jack Williams

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE:

We recommend:

1. That the feeding fund be \$100.00 for the annual session and \$75.00 for each quarterly meeting.
2. That an offering be received at the morning worship hour at each session.
3. That \$45.00 per quarter be given to California Christian College.
4. That one minute for every five members be printed.
5. That the churches send to each session the following amount according to membership:

Members through 40 ----	\$20.00
41 - 75 ----	\$25.00
Over 75 ---	\$30.00

6. That the money be disbursed as follows:

Feeding	\$325.00
State Association dues	25¢ per member
Minutes	\$200.00
Moderator	\$ 10.00
Assistant Moderator	\$ 5.00
Clerk-Treasurer	\$ 25.00
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer . . .	\$ 10.00
Printing of Programs	\$ 12.00
California Christian College .	\$180.00

RESOLUTION

Recommendation to State Association -- Be it resolved that the Center Association of Free Will Baptists recommend to the California State Association that it be recommended to the National Association that no local church be permitted to represent directly to the National. In cases where there is a single local church in a state that church should be encouraged to unite with the nearest association that holds membership in the National, following the example of the Anchorage, Alaska, church that has united with the Northwest Association.

OBITUARY

We report that God has called six of our brothers and sisters -- two from Calwa, one from Kerman, one from Parlier, one from Orange Cove, one from Selma.

We recommend a moment of silent prayer in memory of them.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Board met at the State CTS Rally, April 27, 1974 and examined Dennis Pettyjohn and found him sound in doctrine and Christian character and recommended him for ordination.

The Board met at the Association, May 18, 1974 and recommended Darwin Kelton for ordination and Robert Hoppie for renewal of his license, and Michael Allen for license.

**CENTER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
May 3, 1973 - May 1, 1974**

Cash on Deposit - May 1, 1973		\$ 132.02
Income:		
Church Dues	\$ 925.00	
Offerings	173.46	
Special Offering for Hanford	<u>174.18</u>	<u>1,272.64</u>
Total Income and Cash on Deposit		\$ 1,404.66
Disbursements:		
Food Fund	\$ 150.00	
Rev. Jack Williams (Moderator)	10.00	
Rev. Nuel Brown (Asst. Moderator)	5.00	
Mrs. Mary Kelton (Clerk-Treasurer)	25.00	
Miss Sandi Jones (Assistant Clerk)	10.00	
State Association Dues	192.75	
Minutes (200)	148.40	
California Christian College	280.00	
(includes special gift of \$100.00)		
Printing of Checks	2.50	
Bulletins, Stamps, Supplies	24.20	
Hanford Church (Taxes)	174.18	
Bible Book & Church Supply Store	3.00	
(Ordination Certificates)-	<u> </u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>1,025.03</u>
Cash on Deposit - May 1, 1974		<u><u>\$ 379.63</u></u>

MINISTER'S ROLL

Brown, Nuel	15401 West "E" St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Bush, Ben	2018 S. Maple, Fresno 93702	485-5187
Colvin, Duane E.	17790 E. Lone Oak Rd., Sanger 93657	787-2728
Erickson, Meryl	1001 Sylmar, Clovis 93612	299-3203
Freeman, Joy	15177 "B" St., Kerman 93630	
Gunnels, Vern	10681 S. Highland, Selma 93662	896-3394
Hampton, Larry D.	4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-6471
Harris, Charles	4091 N. Duke, Fresno 93727	291-3839
Jernigan, Wade T.	4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-9639
Maynard, Art	15603 Watson Ave., Madera 93637	673-5004
Mooneyham, Joe	2841-151 Fowler Rd., Ceres 95307	
Ramsey, G. B.	1418 Evergreen, Selma 93662	896-5935
Ramsey, Lee	349 S. Shasta, Kerman 93630	846-7679
Rial, Leonard	669 4th St., Orange Cove 93646	626-4250
Rolen, Lonnie L.	2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Scroggins, O. D.	765 Second St., Parlier 93648	646-2837
Thurman, Cecil	6077 N. Calaveras, Fresno 93704	439-0542
Vanderburg, Dale	114 E. Ivy, Hanford 93230	584-6758
Watson, Jerry	4415 Damsen Lane, Visalia 93277	732-7856
Williams, Jack L.	4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-7234
Winters, Sam	1485 E. Fremont, Fresno 93710	431-2679

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STATISTICAL REPORT

Churches	Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Madera	Memorial	Neighborhood	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	Total
Membership	23	64	21	108	213	48	174	69	20	32	33	55	860
Resident Members	23	39	21	108	116	40	144	68	20	32	19	51	681
Non-Resident Mem.	0	25	0	0	97	8	30	1			14	4	179
Members Added	11	26	13	8	14	10	31	2					115
Members Lost	0	9	0	10	4	5	14	3	9	1		21	76
Members Deceased	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	6
Ordained Ministers	1	2	1	1	4	1	5	1	1	5	1	1	24
Licensed Ministers	3	8	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	18
Deacons	0	6	1	5	4	3	6	1	0	2	1	4	33
Sunday School Enroll.	34	54	67	350	114	50	150	72	20		45	136	1092
Average Sunday School Attendance	23	45	52	215	94	55	111	52	15		19	85	766
C.T.S. Enrollment	16	21	40		54	20	85	23					259
C.T.S. Avg. Attendance	11	18	38		42	18	66	18					211
Woman's Auxiliary Membership		16			12		24	9				13	74
Master's Men Mem.								5					5

FINANCIAL REPORT

Churches	Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Madera	Memorial	Neighbor- hood	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	Total
Total Giving in the Churches	\$3,970	\$11,962	\$7,725	\$32,570	16,588	\$6,762	\$33,505	\$7,084	\$2,679	\$2,862	\$2,234	\$19,361	\$147,302
Building Fund		17,950		130,000			3,900	12,000					162,950
Total Income	3,970	29,912	7,725	162,570	16,588	6,762	37,405	19,084	2,679	2,862	2,234	19,361	310,252
<u>Spent for Local Causes</u>													
Pastor's Salary	1,300	3,410	4,255	7,200	6,610	2,050	9,716	1,500	1,503	1,530	840	5,200	45,114
Other Staff Salaries		360			600	125	938					360	2,383
Property, Building, Repair	78	23,756	75	126,630	3,362	2,092	10,948	3,897	1,200	316	618	896	173,868
Miscellaneous	416	1,358	1,948	9,327	3,680	2,344	9,247	2,883		779	610	6,278	38,870
Total Local Expenditures	1,794	28,884	6,278	143,157	14,252	6,611	30,849	8,280	2,703	2,625	2,068	12,734	160,235
<u>Spent for Outside Causes</u>													
Cooperative Plan			657				2,548						3,205
Foreign Missions	18	232	261	1,085	496		905	85		17		273	3,372
Home Missions	51	302	101	500	360	58	431	35		10		278	2,126
Colleges	517		353	942	293	200	3,242	150	372	16		850	6,935
Other	60	665	76	513	105		215	80				100	1,814
Total Outside Expend.	646	1,199	1,448	3,040	1,254	258	7,341	350	372	43		1,501	17,452
Value of all Church Property	40,000	100,000	12,000	175,000	97,000	17,000	175,000	35,000	21,000	20,000	13,500	52,000	757,500

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

MINUTES

The Annual Session of the Center Association Woman's Auxiliary Convention met with the Neighborhood Free Will Baptist Church on March 3, 1974, using "Sounds Of Love" as the theme. Mrs. June Rolan presided as President.

The convention opened with the congregation singing "Wonderful Story of Love" under the direction of Mrs. Janis Williams, with Mrs. Margie Kennedy at the piano. Prayer was led by Mrs. Elnora Gibson. Greetings and Devotional was given by Mrs. Betty Watson.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

Credentials

Mary Kelton
Elnora Gibson
Geneva Hatcher
Lydeen York
Ann Pearson
Peggy Kennedy

Resolution

Betty Watson
Elnora Gibson
Geneva Hatcher
Nettie Lou Jernigan
Cynthia Cooley
Margie Kennedy

Registration

Cheryl Rogers
Onema Erickson
Lizzie Stiggins
Kay Hampton
Viola Friend
Delma Gunnels

Finance

Marge Winters
Onema Erickson
Alma Stiggins
Sandy Jones
Shirley Irving
Vern McCullar

Prayer by Mrs. Geneva Hatcher. A film, "Sounds Of Love," was enjoyed by all the women.

Committee Reports were read and accepted. (See reports.)

The congregation sang "Love Lifted Me" directed by Mrs. Janis Williams, accompanied by Mrs. Margie Kennedy. Prayer offered by Mrs. Lizzie Stiggins.

Mrs. Phyliss Fite sang "The Love of God".

Mrs. Kay Hampton spoke on the topic "Making Known the Sounds of Love".

Benediction and blessing on the noon meal offered by Mrs. Mary Kelton.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

1. We resolve that our district meetings continue to meet on the first Saturday in March and October.
2. We resolve that the Neighborhood Woman's Auxiliary be given a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. We recommend that each local Auxiliary represent with \$2.00 per member to be paid \$1.00 per member at each convention.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

There were 33 members present, with 2 visitors - total present 35.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

We, the Credential Committee, have examined the reports of the Neighborhood, Selma, Clovis, Kerman, and Memorial Auxiliaries' Letters and find the reports in order and all dues paid.

Monthly Meetings of the local Auxiliaries are as follows:

Clovis	Last Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Kerman	Second Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Memorial	Second Monday	7:30 p.m.
Neighborhood	Third Tuesday	10:00 a.m.
Selma	First Monday	7:00 p.m.

Placement of the Conventions for the next year are as follows:

FIRST CONVENTION

Kerman Free Will Baptist Church
2nd and C Street, Kerman
October 5, 1974

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Memorial Free Will Baptist Church
4141 North Millbrook Avenue, Fresno
March 1, 1975

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CENTER ASSOCIATION C.T.S. MINUTES

The Center Association C.T.S. Rally convened with the Clovis Free Will Baptist Church on March 16, 1974. The congregation opened with singing "I Know Whom I Have Believed" led by Darwin Kelton, accompanied by Vicki Jernigan, piano, and Sandy Taylor, organ. Prayer by Rev. Jerry Watson. Romans 8:14 was the text from which President Tim Rolen gave his devotion.

The reading of the letters, minutes from the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were read and accepted. A motion was made for the President to appoint the finance and resolution committees.

Finance:

1. Brenda York, Memorial (Chairman)
2. Mary Kelton, Clovis
3. Susie Irving, Goshen

Resolution:

1. Dan Taylor, Memorial (Chairman)
2. Scott Kelton, Clovis
3. Cindy McClatchy, Goshen

Nominating:

1. Dave Taylor, Memorial (Chairman)
2. Mark Kelton, Clovis
3. Gary Watson, Goshen
4. Heidi Little, Memorial

Competitive activities were led by Cheryl Rogers. The Memorial Tic Tac Toe team: Heidi Little, Tricia Loflin, Vicki Jernigan, and Greg Story, played a mock team of Mark Kelton, Dennis Fletcher, Verla Jernigan and Sandy Taylor. The Memorial team was the winner. The Memorial Bible Bowl team: Dan Taylor, Phil Taylor, and Brenda York, played a mock team consisting of Mark Kelton, Dennis Fletcher, Verla Jernigan, and Tim Rolen. Memorial, again, was the victor. We were dismissed in prayer for a break by George Rogers.

We met back again with the congregation singing "He Hideth My Soul". Prayer by Rev. Larry Hampton. Committee reports were read and accepted (see reports). A motion was made that Tim Rolen's name be placed in nomination for State C.T.S. President by writing this nomination in the letter.

The Nominating committee report was read and officers were elected as follows:

President Dan Taylor
Vice-President Mark Kelton

Secretary-Treasurer	Debe Taylor
Corresponding Secretary	Susie Irving
Song Director	Scott Kelton
Pianist	Greg Story
Competitive Activities Director	Shirley Irving
Sponsors.	Rev. and Mrs. Larry Hampton

Our two C.T.S. rallies will be: September 21, 1974, at Memorial at 6:30 p.m., and March 15, 1975, at Goshen at 6:30 p.m.

The congregation began the worship hour with singing "Bring Them In" and "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" led by the newly-elected song director, Scott Kelton, accompanied by Greg Story.

The inspiring message for the rally was brought by Darwin Kelton. Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Meryl Ericson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTION

1. Be it resolved that programs be sent to all the churches two weeks in advance.
2. Be it resolved that the host church supply refreshments during the break.
3. Be it resolved that an offering be taken.

FINANCE

1. We recommend that \$15.00 be given for dues for each rally.
2. We recommend that medals be purchased for the winners of the annual meeting.
3. We recommend that \$15.00 be given to California Christian College.
4. We recommend \$5.00 be given to the speaker of each rally.

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 sit as advisory members.
5. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
6. If any propositions 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 over-ruled by a two-thirds majority membership voting.
11. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been discussed at its own church.
12. At each Association arrangement shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent -- devotional services -- each day.

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 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 the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." We will not forsake 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, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday School and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of Peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.