



MINUTES
of the
29th Annual Session
of the
CENTER ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
of
CALIFORNIA

Hanford Free Will Baptist Church
126 West Myrtle Street
Hanford, California
May 21-22, 1976

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Officers	2
Executive Board	2
Proceedings	3
Reports—Committees, Executive Board and Treasurer	5
Minister's Roll	7
Statistical Report of Churches	8
Financial Report of Churches	9
Woman's Auxiliary Minutes	10
C.T.S. Minutes	12
Constitution	13
Rules of Order	15
Church Covenant	16

The next session will convene with the
MEMORIAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
4141 North Millbrook
Fresno, California
Phone (209) 227-9527
May 20-21, 1977

OFFICERS

Moderator — Bill Johnson	
546 W. Swift, Clovis 93612	292-4587
Assistant Moderator — Lonnie L. Rolen	
2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Clerk-Treasurer — Winnie McLain	
2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer — Phyllis Fite	
5734 E. Ashlan, Fresno 93727	291-5753

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dale Vanderburg	5 years
1000 W. Davis, Hanford 93230	584-6758
Vern Gunnels, Jr.	4 years
2603 "B" Street, Selma 93662	896-3144
Richard Horner	3 years
15401 West "E" Street, Kerman 93630	846-8228
Wade T. Jernigan	2 years
4863 E. Floradora, Fresno 93727	251-9639
Lonnie L. Rolen	1 year
2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Evening Service

The 29th annual session of the Center Association convened at the Hanford Church, 126 West Myrtle Street, Hanford, California, May 21-22, 1976. The service opened with singing followed with prayer by Mr. Jerry Tackett. A duet from Hanford Church sang "Tears Will Never Stain the Streets of the City" and a trio from Hanford sang "The Potter and the Clay". The Rev. Jack L. Williams, Moderator, brought the message on "Homecoming" using Mark 6:1-6. Benediction by the Rev. Richard Horner.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was called to order by the Moderator, Jack L. Williams. The session opened with singing followed with prayer by the Rev. Kenneth Eilts. The Rev. Bill Johnson brought the devotion using 1 Corinthians 15: 57-58.

The welcome was given by the host pastor, the Rev. Dale Vanderburg, followed with united prayer.

Letters were read and delegates seated from the following churches: Calwa, Clovis, Hanford, Harmony, Kerman, Memorial, Orange Cove, Parlier, Sanger and Selma. A petitionary letter from the American Church of Selma was read and the church was accepted into the association and the delegates were seated.

Rules of order were read by the Assistant Moderator, Vern Gunnels, Jr.

The following committees were appointed:

Resolution

Bob Thomas
O. D. Scroggins
Jerry Tackett

Finance

Gene Fry
Rick Vanderburg
Winnie McLain

Obituary

Elsie Kemp
Sue Hoppie

The annual report of the treasurer was read and accepted.

Dr. Daniel Parker gave a report of California Christian College.

The Rev. Richard Horner gave a report of the youth camp to be held at Hartland, June 21-25.

The Rev. Dale Vanderburg was elected five year member of the executive board.

The Rev. Lonnie L. Rolen was nominated to serve on the State General Board.

Delegates elected to the State Association were Tim Rolen and Bob Hoppie. The moderator was given power to appoint the remainder of the delegates at the State Association.

Rick Vanderburg, State President, gave a report of the State C.T.S. Youth Conference.

The session adjourned for committee meetings with benediction by Mr. Stuart Oller.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The service opened with singing followed with offertory prayer by the Rev. Vern Gunnels, Jr. An offering of forty dollars and sixteen cents (\$40.16) was received.

The Rev. and Mrs. Dale Vanderburg sang "Thanks to Calvary" and Rick and Becky Vanderburg sang "My Greatest Friendship". The Rev. Richard Horner brought the message using 2 Timothy 1:12.

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

The report of the Obituary Committee was read and accepted. (See reports) After a moment of silent prayer, the Rev. Lonnie L. Rolen led in prayer.

The report of the Executive Board was read and accepted. (See reports)

Placement of the meetings and speakers were as follows:

First Quarterly Meeting . . .	Speaker — Gordon Bradshaw
Selma, August 14, 1976	Alternate — Lonnie L. Rolen
Second Quarterly Meeting . . .	Speaker — Dr. Daniel Parker
Calwa, November 20, 1976	Alternate — Nuel Brown
Third Quarterly Meeting . . .	Speaker — Tim Rolen
Clovis, February 19, 1977	Alternate — Lyle Huntley
Annual Session	Speaker (Fri. Night)—Stuart Oller
Memorial, May 20-21, 1977	Speaker (Sat. morning)—Bill Johnson

Officers were elected as follows:

Moderator — Bill Johnson

Assistant Moderator — Lonnie L. Rolen
Clerk-Treasurer — Winnie McLain
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer — Phyllis Fite

Motion carried to give the retiring moderator a vote of thanks.
Benediction by Mr. Doyle Royster.

Moderator — Jack L. Williams
Clerk — Winnie McLain

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

We recommend:

1. That the host church of quarterly meetings be paid \$75.00 and the host church for the Annual session be paid \$100.00 for feeding.
2. That the Moderator be paid \$40.00, Assistant Moderator \$25.00, Clerk-Treasurer \$50.00 and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer \$20.00.
3. That California Christian College be given \$75.00 per quarter.
4. That an offering be received at the morning worship hour at each session.
5. That the churches send the following amount to each session:

Members through 40 . . .	\$20.00
Members 41 through 75 . .	\$25.00
Members over 75	\$30.00
6. That one minute for every six members be printed.

Resolution

1. Be it resolved that the Executive Committee re-evaluate the standards and use extreme scrutiny in licensing of men who are not biblically qualified to be ordained.
2. Be it resolved that the pastors encourage their churches to support every phase of the Free Will Baptist work including the cooperative program.
3. Be it resolved that a standing vote of thanks be given the host church for their gracious hospitality.

Obituary

We report that God has called the following from our midst: Jim Stiggins from Kerman; Lucille York, C. C. Bonds and Mary Smith from Memorial; Minnie McKinney from Orange Cove; Delbert Spain from Parlier; Opal Whittenburg from Selma.

Executive Board Report

The board met with and organized the American Free Will Baptist Church of Selma February 26, 1976. The board met April 8, 1976 at California Christian College to examine Les Scroggins for ordination. After extensive questioning he was recommended for ordination. The board met May 22, 1976 with Bob Hoppie, Richard Smith, Tim Rolen and Stuart Ollen and recommend the renewal of their license. Rev. Bill Johnson was accepted with full privileges effective today.

Clerk — Vern Gunnels, Jr.

CENTER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 1975 — May 1, 1976

CASH ON DEPOSIT — May 1, 1975 **\$ 605.53**

INCOME:

Church Dues	\$1060.00	
Offerings	<u>\$ 191.54</u>	
Total Income	\$1251.54	<u>\$1251.54</u>
TOTAL INCOME AND CASH ON DEPOSIT		\$1857.07

DISBURSEMENTS:

Jack Williams, Moderator	\$ 40.00	
Nuel Brown, Assistant Moderator	25.00	
Winnie McLain, Clerk-Treasurer	50.00	
Mary Kelton, Assistant Clerk	20.00	
Feeding Fund	325.00	
California Christian College	210.00	
State Association Dues	244.00	
Pacific Printing Press—175 Minutes	212.00	
Operation Partnership	50.00	
Memorial Church—Stencils, Paper	20.00	
Clerk's Supplies	2.00	
U. S. Postal Service—Stamps	9.98	
Fresno Bible House—Bulletins	17.08	
California Christian College (Minister's Questionnaire)	6.68	
National Sunday School Department (Letter Forms)	<u>3.96</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$1235.70	<u>\$1235.70</u>

CASH ON DEPOSIT — May 1, 1976 **\$ 621.37**

Winnie McLain, Treasurer

MINISTER'S ROLL

Bradshaw, Gordon	3185 S. Highland, Selma 93662	896-3394
Brown, Nuel	E. Rialto, Fresno 93726	
Colvin, Duane	17790 E. Lone Oak Rd., Sanger 93657	787-2728
Eilts, Kenneth	2018 S. Maple, Fresno 93702	485-5187
Freeman, Joy	15191 West 'B' St., Kerman 93630	846-8378
Gunnels, Vern, Jr.	2603 'B' Street, Selma 93662	896-3144
Horner, Richard	15401 West 'E' St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Huntley, Lyle E.	669 Fourth St., Orange Cove 93646	626-4250
Jernigan, Wade T.	4863 E. Floradora, Fresno 93727	251-9639
Johnson, Bill	546 W. Swift, Clovis 93612	292-4587
Mooneyham, Joe	2841-151 Fowler Rd., Ceres 95307	
Parker, Daniel	4864 E. Normal, Fresno 93703	252-2544
Porter, Cecil	1090 E. Dinuba Ave., Reedley 93654	
Ramsey, G. B.	1418 Evergreen, Selma 93662	896-5935
Ramsey, Lee	349 S. Shasta, Kerman 93630	846-7679
Rolen, Lonnie L.	2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Scroggins, O. D.	765 Second St., Parlier 93648	646-2837
Taylor, Bob	3395 E. Garland, Fresno 93726	229-3464
Thomas, Bob	4881 E. University, Fresno 93703	251-6471
Thurman, Cecil	6077 N. Calaveras, Fresno 93704	439-0542
Vanderburg, Dale	1000 W. Davis, Hanford 93230	584-6758
Williams, Jack L.	4881 E. University, Fresno 93703	251-7234
Winters, Sam	1485 E. Fremont, Fresno 93710	
Wood, L. K.	1625 South 'O' Street, Tulare 93274	

STATISTICAL REPORT

Churches	Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	TOTAL
Membership	23	84	30	64	91	186	28	23	32	91	652
Members—Resident	18	84	26	58	83	160		5	18	79	531
Members—Non Resident	5		4	6	8	26		18	14	12	93
Members Added	6	32	7	20	8	33	13				119
Members Lost	11	12	6	14	8	20	5				76
Members Deceased	0										
Ordained Ministers	1	2	1	1	3	8	1		1	1	19
Licensed Ministers	3	4	0	2	0	2	0		0	1	12
Sunday School Enrollment	16	102	65		110	145	32	25	45	162	702
Average Attendance	20	79	60	156	84	110	20	24	22	120	695
C.T.S. Enrollment	16	43	35	50	0	102	0	0	0	0	246
Average Attendance	18	45	32	104	0	75	0	0	0	0	274
Woman's Aux. Membership	0	7	24	0	16	31	0	0	0	13	91
Master's Men Membership	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Prayer Meetings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Parsonages	1				1					1	3

FINANCIAL REPORT

Churches	Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	TOTAL
Total Offerings Received	\$6,118	\$27,479	\$21,684	\$41,300	\$21,595	\$43,310	\$2,480	\$2,739	\$1,882	\$29,235	\$118,176
Pastors' Salaries	1,135	9,596	6,607	12,000	7,280	11,056			1,200	6,500	55,374
Building and Repair	2,688	8,487	25,600	19,678	3,097	8,360			280	500	68,690
Miscellaneous	3,036	9,408	5,752	28,600	8,825	11,108			551	11,312	78,592
Total Local Expenditures	6,859	27,491	37,959	40,000	21,595	30,524	2,334	2,209	2,031	18,312	189,314
Cooperative Plan		2,365	1,574			3,433					7,372
Foreign Missions	436	162	558		541	1,815				820	4,332
Home Missions	20	858	1,260		195	751			60	820	3,964
Colleges	28	551	696		140	4,853			50	1,240	7,558
State and National Projects						386				820	1,206
Total Outside Expenditures	484	3,936	4,088	2,350	876	11,238			110	3,700	24,432
Value of Church Property	97,000	160,000	81,000	125,000	155,000	175,000	21,000	20,000	15,000	37,000	886,000

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

MINUTES

The Annual Session of the Center Association Woman's Auxiliary Convention met with the Memorial Free Will Baptist Church on March 6, 1976, using "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, There Is Liberty" as their Theme. Mrs. June Rolen presided as President.

The convention opened with the congregation singing "America" under the direction of Mrs. Marge Winters, with Mrs. Debe Taylor at the piano. Pledges were given to the American Flag, Christian Flag and the Bible. The Invocation was offered by Mrs. Joyce Horner. Greetings to the Convention was given by Mrs. Carol Studebaker. Mrs. Nettie Lou Jernigan gave the Devotional.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

Reports of the Local Auxiliaries were read and accepted.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

<u>Registration</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
Maxine Jones	Marge Winters	Sue Hoppie
Florene Sharp	Minnie Lacefield	Charlene Burkhart
Veronica Greajalva	Shirley Vanderburg	Phylis Fite
Geneva Hatcher	Joyce Horner	Barbara Blackenship

The congregation sang "Amazing Grace" directed by Mrs. Marge Winters, accompanied by Mrs. Debe Taylor. Prayer was offered by Mrs. Florene Sharp. A film, "Sing Glory Hallelujah" was viewed by the women.

The Committee Reports were read and accepted.

Prayer offered by Mrs. Shirley Vanderburg.

Sharing Time given by the following women:

"Church in the School House"	Winnie McLain
"Church Under a Brush Arbor"	Eula Mae Yocham
"Circuit Riding Preachers"	Lura Brooks
"Contributions by Women"	Joyce Horner
	Cheryl Rogers
	Sue Hoppie
	Shirley Vanderburg

The congregation sang "America the Beautiful". The convention closed with an altar of prayer led by Mrs. Judy Eilts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution Committee

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

Finance Committee

1. We recommend that our District Auxiliary purchase a dress as a love gift for Mrs. Cleo Pursell to be presented at the State Convention.
2. 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 53 members present, with 2 visitors — total present 55.
Placement of the Conventions for the coming year are as follows:

FIRST CONVENTION

Kerman Free Will Baptist Church
2nd and C Street, Kerman
October 2, 1976

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hanford Free Will Baptist Church
130 W. Myrtle Avenue, Hanford
March 5, 1977

Monthly Meetings of the local Auxiliaries are as follows:

Clovis	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Hanford	First Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
Kerman	Second Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Memorial	Second Monday	7:30 p.m.

CENTER DISTRICT C.T.S. RALLY

The Center District C.T.S. Rally convened with the Clovis Free Will Baptist Church on March 20, 1976. The rally was opened by Randy Vanderburg, president, and with prayer by Herb Parker. The congregation entered into the song service led by Greg Story, accompanied by Delilah Scott, at the piano, and Pam Johnson, at the organ.

The business session was entered into with the reading of the letters and the treasurer's report. Both were approved and accepted as read. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. The president was then given the power by the body to appoint the committees.

Competitive activities were led by Shirley Vanderburg, quiz leader. This was the first year that Center Association entertained a Music and Arts Festival. The first activity was Bible Memorization, with Deah Scott as sole competitor. The Hanford Bible Bowl Team, composed of Randy Vanderburg, Patrita Arellano, and Sandy Olivera, played a "mock" team. In the Music and Arts Festival, Becky Vanderburg sang "I Know A Man Who Can" as a solo. We were dismissed for a break by Rev. Dale Vanderburg.

When the session convened after the break, the committee reports were read. The Finance Committee made a motion that each church give 50¢ per member to the State Rally; that we send \$25.00 to the Keltons as a love gift; and that we give \$15.00 to the host church. The Resolution Committee resolved that we give the host church a standing vote of thanks; that we elect officers for a two-year period; and that the officers meet three times a year to plan the rallies. The Nominating Committee placed the following names in nomination for officers of the rally:

President — Greg Story
Vice President — Donnie Lacefield
Recording Secretary — Donnett Olsen
Treasurer — Pam Johnson
Corresponding Secretary — Debbie Allen
Pianist — Delilah Scott
Song Director — Randy Vanderburg
Quiz Leader — Shirley Vanderburg
Sponsors — Dennis and Verla Fletcher

The Nominating Committee report was voted on office-by-office, all were elected by acclamation.

The congregation then entered into the worship hour. The message was presented by Rev. Jack L. Williams. The rally was dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully,
Vicki Jernigan, Recording Secretary
Randy Vanderburg, President

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE:

From long experience, we, 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 among us, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better denominational government.

ARTICLE I

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

ARTICLE II

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

ARTICLE III

The Center Association shall consist of three delegates duly appointed or elected by the church they represent. Standing delegates shall be Church Clerks and all ordained Free Will Baptist ministers, their wives, and ordained Free Will Baptist deacons, their wives and all unmarried widows of deceased ordained members. Standing delegates must be members of good standing in a local church of Center Association.

ARTICLE IV

Each church shall represent with a letter all of its statistical information called for by this Association and listing all of the delegates representing them by name. Letters are requested to be sent if delegation cannot be present and representation fee cannot be met.

ARTICLE V

The Center 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 churches composing this organization, or act upon an appeal that may be made by any member of a member church who feels he has been unjustly charged. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the person or body making such appeal.

ARTICLE VI

The Center Association shall hold one meeting annually and three meetings quarterly. Dates and places to be selected at annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICERS – The officers of the Center Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the conclusion of each setting of the annual association.

ARTICLE VIII

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD shall be composed of five members. Each member shall be an ordained minister in good standing in the Center 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 eyars
- (1) One for five years

Succession to office thereafter shall be determined as order required.

ARTICLE IX

Should necessity arise which calls for and requires immediate action, the Executive Board of this Association shall convene upon call of its chairman and shall take whatever action it deems necessary in the best interest 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 X

The Executive Board will not recommend to license or ordain any minister who does not believe or practice all of our doctrine.

ARTICLE XI

COMMITTEES – Committees as necessary shall be appointed by the Moderator unless otherwise provided for and shall hold office until their work is completed or their successors are appointed.

ARTICLE XII

There shall be a representative of Sunday School, C.T.S. Convention, Woman's Auxiliary Convention and Masters Men to report quarterly to the Association of the progress of the work.

ARTICLE XIII

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

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.