



MINUTES
of the
32nd ANNUAL SESSION
of the
CENTER ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
of
CALIFORNIA

CLOVIS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
6642 N. Peach Avenue
Clovis, California
May 18-19, 1979

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The next session will convene with the
MEMORIAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
4141 North Millbrook Avenue
Fresno, California
May 16-17, 1980

OFFICERS

Moderator—Ted Willbanks	252-1171
160 South Bush, Fresno, CA. 93727	
Assistant Moderator—Lonnie L. Rolen	229-2203
2913 East Northdale, Fresno, CA. 93726	
Clerk-Treasurer—Winnie McLain	251-7700
1229 North Garden, Apt. A, Fresno, CA. 93727	
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer—Phyllis Fite	299-7833
1745 Fordham, Clovis, CA. 93612	

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dennis Pettyjohn, 5 years	896-7495
9559 South McCall, Selma, CA. 93662	
Wade T. Jernigan, 4 years	292-7449
4412 North Maple, Fresno, CA. 93726	
Nuel Brown, 3 years	846-8228
15401 West “E” Street, Kerman, CA. 93630	
Ted Wilbanks, 2 years	252-1171
160 South Bush, Fresno, CA. 93727	
Lyle Huntley, 1 year	299-0841
106 Rall, Clovis, CA. 93612	

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Evening Service

Theme: "Stewardship Enriches Life" Romans 4:8

The Thirty-Second Annual Session of the Center Association convened with the Clovis Free Will Baptist Church, 6642 North Peach Avenue, Clovis, California, May 18-19, 1979. Singing was directed by Herbert Parker accompanied by Deloris Hamrick. Prayer by the Rev. Ted Wilbanks. The Kerman Quartet sang "Going Home" and "Jesus Will Outshine Them All", Ted Wilbanks sang "How Great Thou Art", Robert Bryant sang "Praise the Lord He Never Changes" and Marty Hamrick sang "Learning to Learn". The Rev. Nuel Brown brought the message on "Stewardship of Time" using Luke 16:1-3 Benediction.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was called to order by the Moderator, the Rev. Lonnie L. Rolen. Singing was directed by Herbert Parker accompanied by Barbara Blankenship followed with prayer by Dr. Daniel Parker.

David Molter brought the devotion using Genesis 15:2, Genesis 44, Matthew 28, Luke 16 and IPeter 4:10.

Welcome was given by the host pastor the Rev. Lyle Huntley.

Letters were read from the following churches: Clovis, Hanford, Harmony, Kerman, Memorial, Orange Cove, Parlier, Sanger and Selma. A petitionary letter from Countryside Church, Visalia, was read and the church was accepted into the association. Delegates were seated with prayer by the Rev. Nuel Brown, Assistant Moderator. Rules of Order were read by the Rev. Nuel Brown.

Motion carried that the moderator appoint the committees. The following were appointed:

Resolution

Delmar Scroggins
Glen Matson
David Molter

Registration

Phyllis Fite
Bob Bryant
Manual Holt

Finance

Winnie McLain
Arlie Miller
Norma Dixon

Obituary

Sandra Jones
Elva Scroggins
James Barnhart

The annual treasurer's report was read and accepted. (See Reports)

Dr. Daniel Parker gave a report of California Christian College (summer school, finance, work on the buildings).

After discussion about a youth camp at Camp Sierra, motion carried to have the camp June 18-22 with the pastors serving as a board to set up rules and regulations for this year and later present them to the association for approval.

The Rev. Dennis Pettyjohn was elected five year member of the executive board and the Rev. Lyle Huntly was elected to serve on the State General Board.

The moderator was given power to appoint the delegates to the State Association.

Benediction by Bob Welch.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Services opened with singing followed with offertory prayer by Gene Fry. An offering of fifty eight dollars and seventy cents (\$58.70) was received.

The Kerman Quartet sang "The Man on the Middle Cross" and "Thank You Lord for Your Blessings". Then the Rev. Ted Wilbanks, Harmony brought the message on "Stewardship of Talents" using Matthew 25:14-30.

The Rev. Lyle Huntly gave an oral report of the Executive Board.

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

Motion carried that the Association give one hundred dollars (100.00) to the Youth Camp.

Report of the Obituary Committee was read and accepted followed with prayer by Jerry Fite. (See Reports).

Placement and speakers for next year are as follows:

First Quarterly Meeting	Speaker—Dennis Pettyjohn
Harmony, August 18, 1979	Alternate—Lyle Huntly

Second Quarterly Meeting	Speaker—Lonnie L. Rolen
Kerman, November 17, 1979	Alternate—Ted Wilbanks

Third Quarterly Meeting	Speaker—Bill Burgess
Sanger, February 16, 1980	Alternate—Duane Colvin

Annual Session	Speaker (Fri. Night)—Wade T. Jernigan
Memorial, May 16-17, 1980	Alternate—James Ware
	Speaker (Sat. Morning)—James Cox
	Alternate—Nuel Brown

Officers were elected as follows:

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

The Clovis Church was given a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality.

The Association was adjourned.

Benediction and blessing on the noon meal was given by the Rev. Lyle Huntley.

Moderator—Lonnie L. Rolen
Clerk—Winnie McLain

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution

We Recommend:

- 1. That all pastors and churches support the cooperative plan.
- 2. That the host church be given a standing vote of thanks.
- 3. That the clerk send the host church a letter of appreciation.
- 4. That an informative letter be sent to each church regarding plans and progress of the Association.

Finance

We Recommend:

- 1. That the host church of each meeting 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 \$100.00 per quarter.
- 4. That an offering be received at the morning worship hour at each session.
- 5. That the churches send the following for dues:

Members through 40	\$35.00
Members 41 through 75	\$40.00
Members over 75	\$45.00
- 6. That one minute for every six members be printed.

Registration

There were 10 ministers and 74 others registred.

Obituary

We report that God has called eight from our midst—Eva Guinn, New Hope; Joy Freeman, Elza Hall; R.C. Morgan and Lova Oaks, Kerman; Lola Henry, Memorial; Florence Johns, Parlier; Braxton Jones, Sanger.

CENTER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 1978 — May 1, 1979

CASH ON DEPOSIT — May 1, 1978 \$ 767.62

INCOME:

Church Dues \$ 1425.00

Offerings \$ 247.81

Center District Auxiliary Convention . \$ 25.00

California Christian College Banquet . \$ 2425.00

Total Income \$ 4122.81 \$ 4122.81

TOTAL INCOME AND CASH ON DEPOSIT \$ 4890.43

DISBURSEMENTS:

Lonnie L. Rolen, Moderator \$ 40.00

Winston Lawless, Assistant Moderator . \$ 25.00

Winnie McLain, Clerk \$ 50.00

Phyllis Fite, Assistant Clerk \$ 20.00

State Association Dues \$ 350.50

Feeding Fund \$ 450.00

California Christian College \$ 375.00

Expense for banquet for CCC \$ 372.18

California State Association \$ 2052.82
(Proceeds from banquet for CCC)

Clovis Printing Co. — 150 Minutes . . \$ 252.05

Clerk's Supplies \$ 4.87

Bulletins \$ 14.31

U.S. Postal Service — Stamps \$ 13.25

Memorial Church — stencils, paper, etc. \$ 10.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 4029.98 \$ 4029.98

CASH ON DEPOSIT — May 1, 1979 \$ 860.45

Winnie McLain, Treasurer

MINISTER'S ROLL

Brown, Nuel	15401 W. "E" St., Kerman, CA. 93630	846-8228
Burgess, Bill	4161 E. Lewis, Fresno, CA. 93702	268-5479
Colvin, Duane	17790 E. Lone Oak Rd., Sanger, CA. 93657	787-2728
Cox, James	4863 E. Normal, Fresno, CA. 93703	251-7234
Eilts, Kenneth	1480 W. Madele, Fresno, CA. 93711	
Huntley, Lyle	106 Rall, Clovis, CA. 93612	299-0841
Jernigan, Wade T.	4412 N. Maple, Fresno, CA. 93726	292-7449
Lawless, Winston	9170 E. Sierra, Clovis, CA. 93612	298-7191
Mooneyham, Joe	2841 Fowler Rd., No 151, Ceres, CA. 95307	
Parker, Daniel	4864 E. Normal, Fresno, CA. 93703	252-2544
Pettyjohn, Dennis	9559 S. McCall, Selma, CA. 93662	896-7495
Porter, Cecil	Reedley, CA.	
Ramsey, Lee	349 S. Shasta, Kerman, CA. 93630	846-7679
Rolen, Lonnie L.	2913 E. Northdale, Fresno, CA. 93726	229-2203
Rolen, Tim	3395 E. Sierra Madre, Apt. A, Fresno, CA. 93726	225-4468
Scroggins, O.D.	765 Second St., Parlier, CA. 93648	646-2837
Smith, Richard	775 S. Second St., Kerman, CA. 93630	846-6712
Taylor, Bob	3395 E. Garland, Fresno, CA. 93726	229-3464
Thurman, Cecil	6077 N. Calaveras, Fresno, CA. 93704	439-0542
Wilbanks, Ted	160 S. Bush, Fresno, CA. 93727	252-1171
Winters, Sam	1485 E. Fremont, Fresno, CA. 93710	431-2679
Wood, Clinton	9038 Tollhouse Rd., Clovis CA. 93612	298-4850

STATISTICAL REPORT — January 1, 1978—Dec. 31, 1978

Churches	New Hope Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	TOTAL
Members Added	5	7	0	14	2	13	5	3		2	51
Members Lost	17	11		12	3	23	0	0		15	81
Total Membership	18	92	16	95	87	161	26	21	38	67	621
Ordained Ministers	1	2	0	4	2	9	0	2	1	1	22
Licensed Ministers	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	9
Deacons	0	5	0	5	4	6		2	2	5	29
Sunday School Enrollment	20	104	30	142	95	115	38	25		143	712
∞ Average Attendance	25	82	30	97	72	91	30	18	25	60	530
CTS Enrollment	0	0	0	50	0	77	0	0	0	0	127
Average Attendance	0	0	0	40	0	41	0	0	0	0	81
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment	0	12	7	15	20	21	0	0	0	13	88
Average Attendance	0	12	6	10	15	18	0	0	0	10	71
Master's Men Enrollment	0	0	4	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	23
Average Attendance	0	0	4	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	19
Prayer Meetings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Average Attendance	10	40	5	40	25	70	28	6	12	20	256
Parsonages	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	4
Value of Churches & Parsonages	35,000	272,000	120,000	154,000	155,000	200,000	47,000	20,000	50,000	220,000	1,273,000

Note: New Hope (Calwa) Church disbanded January, 1979

FINANCIAL REPORT - January 1, 1978-December 31, 1978

Churches	New Hope Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	TOTAL
Total Income	59,550	26,250	19,995	45,051	32,618	54,507	10,666	2,560	3,100	43,425	297,722
Local Expenditures											
Pastors Salary	5,938	6,820	4,825	10,248	10,010	14,819	2,650	1,590	1,400	8,024	66,324
Other Staff Salaries		810		550		6,114	196				7,670
Building and Repair		2,000		598	676			50	1,200	8,347	12,871
Debt Retirement		3,605		15,793	10,756	6,600	1,976				38,730
Miscellaneous	6,406	10,808	10,109	14,059	11,356	13,407	4,279	935		16,006	87,365
Total Local Expenditures	12,344	24,043	14,934	41,248	32,798	40,940	9,101	2,575	5,800	32,377	216,160
Outside Expenditures											
Cooperative Plan	580	1,296	1,821		262	4,356	860				9,175
Foreign Missions	655			585	248	3,656	430	30		1,794	7,398
Home Missions and Church Extension		519	888		194	473		113		783	2,970
Designated District or State Ministries	692	827			1,164	1,364					4,047
Calif. Christian College	30,275	740	903		381	3,162	430		300	1,737	37,928
Total Outside Expenditures	5,802	3,382	3,612	585	2,249	13,011	1,720	143	300	4,314	61,518

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

MINUTES

The Annual Session of Center District Auxiliary Convention met at the Memorial Church March 3, 1979 with Cheryl Rogers, President, presiding. The theme was "Tell Me Again Lord, I Forget".

Greetings and welcome were presented by Cindy Moore, Memorial Vice-President. Connie Bomar led the congregation in singing accompanied by Deanna Wilbanks followed with prayer by Opal Wilbanks. Auxiliaries were recognized and the minutes of the October 7, 1978 meeting were read and approved. Letters from the Auxiliaries were read.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

Registration

Debe Taylor
Sue Hoppie
Gail Ives
Kaye Wilbanks
Yvonne Brown
Cindy Moore
Pat Combs

Resolution

Jackie Fisher
Ronnie Grijalva
Deanna Wilbanks
Barbara Blankenship
Winnie McLain
Becky Pettyjohn

Finance

Minnie Lacefield
Donna Arrelano
Opal Wilbanks
Geneva Hatcher
Phyllis Fite
Gay Scroggins

Nominating

Alice Royster
Jackie Huntley
Fostine Burgess
Virginia Blair
Sandi Jones
Mary Hill

June Rolen, State President, gave a report on the State Convention to be held at South Union Church, Bakersfield, April 7, 1979.

Motion carried that Sandi Jones serve on the State Nominating Committee.

The October 6, 1979 Convention will be held at Kerman Church and the Annual Convention March 1, 1980 at the Clovis Church.

Fostine Burgess shared her burden for the Evangel Home. It was recommended that the Resolution Committee act on this information.

The offering was received followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Following the break, the committee reports were read and accepted.
(see reports)

Officers were elected as follows:

President	Cheryl Rogers
Vice-President	Debe Taylor
Secretary	Dottie Wright
Treasurer	Minnie Lacefield
Field Worker	Jackie Fisher
Mission Study Chairman	Donna Arrelano
Mission Prayer Chairman	Becky Pettyjohn
Mission Action Chairman	Virginia Blair

Geneva Hatcher prayed the prayer of dedication for the new officers.

Sandi Jones sang "Tell Me the Old Story". The Rev. James Cox, Dean of California Christian College, brought the message.

President, Cheryl Rogers
Secretary, Dottie Wright

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REGISTRATION

Harmony 9, Hanford 6, Selma 5, Clovis 9, Kerman 5, Memorial 15, Visitors 10, Ministers 3, making a total of 62.

FINANCE

We recommend that each auxiliary represent with \$2.00 per member to be paid \$1.00 per member at each convention. We recommend that the speaker be paid \$25.00.

RESOLUTION

- 1. We recommend that each auxiliary send \$15.00 for linens for the missionary room at CCC to be purchased by Mrs. Parker.
- 2. We recommend that each auxiliary have one Friday night service per quarter at the Evangel Home.
- 3. We recommend that the host church be given a standing vote of thanks.

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 years
- (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.