



**MINUTES**  
of the  
**33rd ANNUAL SESSION**  
of the  
**CENTER ASSOCIATION**  
of  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
of  
**CALIFORNIA**

**MEMORIAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

4141 North Millbrook  
Fresno, California  
May 16-17, 1980

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The next session will convene with the

**KERMAN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

789 South Second Street

Kerman, California

May 15–16, 1981

## OFFICERS

Moderator—Nuel Brown . . . . .	846-8228
15401 W. “E” Street, Kerman, CA. 93630	
Assistant Moderator—Lyle Huntley . . . . .	291-0841
106 Rall, Clovis, CA. 93612	
Clerk-Treasurer—Winnie McLain . . . . .	251-7700
1229 N. Garden, Apt. A, Fresno, CA. 93727	
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer—Phyllis Fite . . . . .	299-7833
1745 Fordham, Clovis, CA. 93612	

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lyle Huntley, 5 years . . . . .	291-0841
106 Rall, Clovis, CA. 93612	
Dennis Pettyjohn, 4 years . . . . .	896-7495
9559 South McCall, Selma, CA. 93662	
Wade T. Jernigan, 3 years . . . . .	292-7449
4412 North Maple, Fresno, CA. 93726	
Nuel Brown, 2 years . . . . .	846-8228
15401 W. “E” Street, Kerman, CA. 93630	
Ted Wilbanks, 1 year . . . . .	252-1171
160 South Bush, Fresno, CA. 93727	

# PROCEEDINGS

## Friday Evening Service

Theme: "Rejoicing in the Lord" Psalms 118:24

The Thirty-Third Annual Session of the Center Association convened with the Memorial Church, 4141 North Millbrook, Fresno, California, May 16–17, 1980. Singing was directed by Ernie Miller, Kerman, accompanied by Donna Van Horn, Memorial, followed with prayer by Rev. Nuel Brown, Kerman. After offeratory prayer by Rev. Cecil Thurman, Memorial, an offering of sixty seven dollars and fifty seven cents (\$67.57) was received. After the Hanford Trio sang several songs, Rev. Wade Jernigan, Executive Secretary, brought the message – "The Rejoicing Man" using Psalm 1.

Benediction by Rev. Lyle Huntley, Clovis.

## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was called to order by the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Lonnie L. Rolen, Memorial. Singing was directed by Stan Barron, Harmony, accompanied by Donna Van Horn. Prayer by Rev. Keith Burden, Locust Grove, Oklahoma. Rev. Nuel Brown was appointed to assist the Assistant Moderator as the Moderator was absent. Rev. Richard Smith brought the devotion using Psalms 118:14. Welcome was given by the host pastor, Lonnie L. Rolen, and he introduced Rev. Keith Burden, Locust Grove, Oklahoma.

Letters were read from the following churches: Clovis, Community, Countryside, Hanford, Memorial, Orange Cove, Parlier, Sanger and Selma. Harmony delegates were accepted without a letter. Delegates were seated with prayer by Rev. Nuel Brown.

Committees were appointed as follows:

### Resolution

Dennis Pettyjohn  
Mike Eaton  
Gene Fry

### Registration

Phyllis Fite  
Lyle McCaskill  
Maynard Holt

### Finance

Wanda Miller  
Glenn Matson  
Linda Grimes

### Obituary

Sheryl Vanderburg  
Tom Colvin  
Joe Winters

The annual report of the Treasurer was read and accepted (See Reports.)

Dr. Daniel Parker gave a report of California Christian College and Rev. Lyle Huntley reported about plans for the youth camp at Camp Sierra, June 23–27.

Rev. Lyle Huntley was elected five year member of the Executive Board and Rev. Nuel Brown was elected to serve on the State General Board.

Delegates appointed to the State Association were Gene Fry, E. T. Hyatt, Glenn Matson, Steve Melton, Russell Stephens, Sheryl Vanderburg, Mike Eaton, Dewey Dixon, Linda Grimes, Martin Hamrick, Donna Van Horn, Tom Jennings and Ernie Miller.

Benediction by Rev. Dennis Pettyjohn.

ELEVEN O’CLOCK SERVICE

Service opened with singing led by Stan Barron accompanied by Donna Van Horn. After offeratory prayer, an offering of one hundred fourteen dollars and thirteen cents (\$114.13) was received.

Donna Van Horn sang “Praise the Lord”. Then Rev. Nuel Brown brought the message – “Rejoicing Always” using Ephesians 4:4.

Business was resumed with the placement of the meetings as follows:

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| First Quarterly Meeting . . . . .  | Speaker—Richard Smith                |
| Clovis, August 16, 1980            | Alternate—Jim Ware                   |
| Second Quarterly Meeting . . . . . | Speaker—E. T. Hyatt                  |
| Selma, November 15, 1980           | Alternate—Dennis Pettyjohn           |
| Third Quarterly Meeting . . . . .  | Speaker—Wade T. Jernigan             |
| Hanford, February 14, 1981         | Alternate—Duane Colvin               |
| Annual Session . . . . .           | Speaker(Fri. night)—Dennis Pettyjohn |
| Kerman, May 15-16, 1981            | Alternate—Lonnie L. Rolen            |
|                                    | Speaker (Sat. morning)—John Smith    |
|                                    | Alternate—Lyle Huntley               |

Reports of the Resolution, Finance and Registration Committees were read and accepted. (See reports.) Report of the Obituary Committee was read and accepted, followed with prayer by Jess Rolen. (See reports.)

Officers were elected as follows:

- |                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Moderator . . . . .                 | Nuel Brown    |
| Assistant Moderator . . . . .       | Lyle Huntley  |
| Clerk-Treasurer . . . . .           | Winnie McLain |
| Assistant Clerk-Treasurer . . . . . | Phyllis Fite  |

Benediction and blessing on the noon meal was given by Rev. Horace Gentry.

Moderator—Ted Wilbanks  
Clerk—Winnie McLain

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution

We Recommend:

- 1. That the Moderator, on behalf of the association, write a letter of appreciation to Dr. Daniel Parker for his years of labor and dedication as Dean of Student Affairs and President of California Christian College.
- 2. That all churches in the association be encouraged to support the cooperative plan.
- 3. That the host church be given a standing vote of thanks.

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 dues:

Members through 40	. . . . .	\$35.00
Members 41 through 75	. . . . .	\$40.00
Members over 75	. . . . .	\$45.00
- 6. That 150 minutes be printed.

Registration

There were 16 ministers and 101 others registered making a total of 117.

Obituary

We report that God has called seven from our midst – Neil Ives, Peggy Moser and Rev. Roy Purdue, Hanford; Sallie Freeman, Kerman; Eunice Smith, Orange Cove; Virgie Condley, Parlier, Ben Young, Selma.

## CENTER ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 1979 — May 1, 1980

**CASH ON DEPOSIT — May 1, 1979 . . . . . \$860.45**

#### **INCOME:**

Church Dues . . . . . \$ 1530.00

Offerings . . . . . \$ 216.55

California Christian College Library . . \$ 400.00

Refund on Youth Camp Deposit . . . \$ 100.00

Total Income . . . . . \$ 2246.55      \$2246.55

**TOTAL INCOME AND CASH ON DEPOSIT . . . . . \$3107.00**

#### **DISBURSEMENTS:**

Ted Wilbanks, Moderator . . . . . \$ 40.00

Lonnie Rolen, Assistant Moderator . . . \$ 25.00

Winnie McLain, Clerk-Treasurer . . . . \$ 50.00

Phyllis Fite, Assistant Clerk . . . . . \$ 20.00

Feeding Fund . . . . . \$ 400.00

California Christian College . . . . . \$ 400.00

California Christian College Library . . \$ 400.00

State Association Dues . . . . . \$ 621.00

Loan to Youth Camp . . . . . \$ 100.00

Clovis Printing Company — 150 Minutes . \$ 271.34

Fresno Bible House — Bulletins . . . . \$ 14.86

U. S. Postal Service — Stamps . . . . . \$ 10.80

Memorial Church — Stencils, Paper, etc. \$ 10.00

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS . . . . . \$ 2363.00      \$2363.00**

**CASH ON DEPOSIT — May 1, 1980 . . . . . \$744.00**

Winnie McLain, Treasurer



## MINISTER'S ROLL

Brown, Nuel	15401 W. "E" St., Kerman, CA. 93630	846-8228
Burgess, Bill	1085 Hume Ave., Hanford, CA. 93230	582-6388
Colvin, Duane	17790 E. Lone Oak Rd., Sanger, CA. 93657	875-8738
Cox, James	4868 E. Geary, Fresno, CA. 93727	251-7234
Eilts, Kenneth R.	4889 E. Tulare, Fresno, CA. 93702	255-1968
Huntley, Lyle E.	106 Rall, Clovis, CA. 93612	291-0841
Jernigan, Wade T.	4412 N. Maple, Fresno, CA. 93726	292-7449
Lawless, Winston	9170 E. Sierra, Clovis, CA. 93612	298-7191
Parker, Daniel	4864 E. Normal, Fresno, CA. 93703	252-2544
Pettyjohn, Dennis	9559 S. McCall, Selma, CA. 93662	896-7495
Pierce, Bob	27242 Ave. 13, Madera, CA. 93637	673-1038
Porter, Cecil	Reedley, CA. 93654	
Ramsey, Lee	349 S. Shasta, Kerman, CA. 93630	846-7679
Rolen, Lonnie L.	2913 E. Northdale, Fresno, CA. 93726	229-2203
Rolen, Tim McLain	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
Thurman, Cecil	6077 N. Calaveras, Fresno, CA. 93727	439-0542
Ware, James	669 Fourth St., Orange Cove, CA. 93646	626-7210
Wilbanks, Ted	160 S. Bush, Fresno, CA. 93727	252-1171
Wood, Clinton	9038 Tollhouse Rd., Clovis, CA. 93612	298-4850



# STATISTICAL REPORT — January 1, 1979—December 31, 1979

Churches	Clovis	Community	Countryside	Hanford	Harmony	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	TOTAL
Members Added	21	13	8	13	13	15	1	0	1	6	91
Members Lost	4	1	0	2	14	26	11	3	0	6	67
Total Membership	101	98	35	27	98	159	18	22	35	63	656
Ordained Ministers	2	3	1	1	3	6	1	1	1	1	20
Licensed Ministers	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Deacons	5	6	5	0	3	3			2	5	29
∞ Sunday School Enrollment	101	95	35		100	81	50	18	40	71	591
Average Attendance	62	75	27	40	80	79		15	35	51	464
CTS Enrollment					50	77					127
Average Attendance					40	32					72
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment	12	16		9	15	13			5	8	78
Average Attendance	12	12		8	12	12			5	5	66
Master's Men Enrollment				4		12					16
Average Attendance				4		10					14
Prayer Meetings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Average Attendance	50	30	20	7		40		7	15	25	194
Parsonages		1					1			1	3
Value of Churches & Parsonages	155,000	12,196	50,000	154,000	200,000	55,000	40,000	50,000			716,196

# FINANCIAL REPORT – January 1, 1979–December 31, 1979

Churches	Clovis	Community	Countryside	Hanford	Harmony	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	TOTAL
Total Income	\$58,421	33,441	19,585	17,951	47,976	51,425	8,936	2,430	3,700	32,188	276,053
Local Expenditures	27,467	37,130	16,622	15,145	44,834	40,639	8,341	3,907	2,834	27,974	224,893
Pastor's Salary	11,900	10,846	3,140	5,300	8,160	16,047	4,800	1,560	1,800	6,969	70,522
Other Staff Salaries	1,700	1,880				6,125					9,705
Building and Repair		692	12,196						1,034	4,593	18,515
Debt Retirement	1,177	2,085			18,103	6,600	1,200				29,165
Miscellaneous	12,690	21,627	1,286	9,845	18,571	11,867	2,341	2,347	1,281	16,412	98,267
Total Local Expenditures	27,467	37,130	16,622	15,145	44,834	40,639	8,341	3,907	2,834	27,974	224,893
Outside Expenditures											
Cooperative Plan	2,493	1,271	1,289	1,472		4,022	474	174		549	11,744
Foreign Missions		167		698	1,220	2,628	221			764	5,698
Home Missions	2,126	397		336	1,356	709				707	5,631
Retirement & Ins. Bd.			26								26
Designated District or State Ministries	1,690	650	1,258	514	2,435	4,404				1,225	12,176
Total Outside Expenditures	6,309	2,485	2,573	3,020	5,011	11,768	695	174		3,245	35,275

# WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

## MINUTES

The Center District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met at the Clovis Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 1, 1980 with Debe Taylor presiding. The theme was "His Hand is Stretched Out Still", Isaiah 5:25c.

Connie Bomar led the congregation in singing "Nail Scarred Hands" accompanied by Deanna Wilbanks. The convention was welcomed by Nancy Little.

Alice Royster led in prayer after which the congregation sang "He Leadeth Me".

Dottie Wright, District Secreatry, read the minutes from the October 6, 1979 meeting. The minutes were approved as read. She also read the minutes of the Executive Committee which met on February 5, 1980. These minutes were accepted as read.

Minnie Lacefield, District Treasurer, read the Treasurer's Report which was approved as read.

The following committees were appointed by the president:

### Resolution

Becky Pettyjohn, Chairman  
Gail Ives  
Nancy Little  
Alice Royster  
Alma Stiggins  
Katherine Clark

### Placement

Barbara Blankenship, Chairman  
June Rolen  
Pauline Combs  
Linda McCaskill  
Dottie Wright

### Finance

Minnie Lacefield, Chairman  
Donna Arrelano  
Georgia Reynolds  
Phyllis Fite  
Suzanne Barron  
Norma Dixon

### Registration

Jackie Huntley, Chairman  
Deanna Wilbanks  
Ronnie Grijalva  
Bernice Osburn  
Peggy Moore

At this time June Rolen gave a report on the State Auxiliary Convention which will be held at Visalia First Church on March 28 and 29, 1980. She also reported on the National Convention which will be held in Anaheim on July 21 and 22, 1980, the theme being "Blessed to be Blessed".

Break time and refreshments were then enjoyed by all and the Committees had the opportunity to meet. After break time, Secretary Dottie Wright then read the letters from the various auxiliaries which were approved as read.

At this time the Committee Reports were read and accepted. (See Committee Reports).

The worship service was begun by singing "God Leads Us Along" and then the Convention Offering was received. "Thank You for the Valley" was sung by Georgia Reynolds and Barbara Blankenship.

The following topics were presented:

"His Hand is Stretched Out Still . . .  
in illness" by Phyllis Fite  
in trials" by Becky Pettyjohn  
in tragedy" by Gail Ives

After prayer and the blessing on the noon meal, we were dismissed to have lunch prepared by the host church.

Dottie Wright, Secretary  
Debe Taylor, President

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Resolution

We recommend that we give the host church a standing vote of thanks in appreciation of their hospitality.

### Placement

We recommend that the October 4, 1980 meeting be held at the Selma Free Will Baptist Church.

We recommend that the March 7, 1981 meeting be held at the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Fresno.

### 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 District give a love offering of \$50.00 to Martha and Mary Campers, former missionaries to India.

### Registration

52 present.

# 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.