



MINUTES
of the
35th ANNUAL SESSION
of the
CENTER ASSOCIATION
of the
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
of
CALIFORNIA

HARMONY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
5372 East Belmont
Fresno, California
May 14-15, 1982

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The next session will convene with the

HARMONY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
5372 East Belmont
Fresno, California
May 13–14, 1983

OFFICERS

Moderator	Tim Rolen
3395 E. Sierra Madre, Apt. F, Fresno 93726	225-4468
Assistant Moderator	Nuel Brown
15401 W. "E" St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Clerk-Treasurer	Donna Van Horn
1241 N. Garden, Apt. B, Fresno 93727	252-9601
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer	Diana Cox
1922 N. Cain, Visalia 93291	625-0355

EXECUTIVE BOARD

James Cox	Five Year Man
1922 N. Cain, Visalia 93291	625-0355
Keith Burden	Four Year Man
5372 E. Belmont, Fresno 93727	251-5630
Lyle Huntley	Three Year Man
106 Rall, Clovis 93612	291-0841
Jim O'Donnell	Two Year Man
4863 E. Normal, Fresno 93703	252-0914
John Smith	One Year Man
5409 Columbia Dr. South, Fresno 93727	251-3138

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Evening Service

1981-82 THEME: THE GREAT EXCHANGE:

All that Christ Is for All that I Need

The Thirty-fifth Annual Session of the Center Association convened with the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church, 5372 East Belmont, Fresno, California, May 14-15, 1982. Congregational singing was led by Mike Eaton, Countryside, with Donna Van Horn, Memorial, at the piano. Prayer by Paul Kennedy, Executive Secretary, California State Association. Assistant Moderator Tim Rolen read I John 5:1-5 and recognized visitors, Wade and Nettie Lou Jernigan, Oklahoma, and members of the Manteca Church. Congregational singing resumed followed with prayer by the Rev. Nuel Brown, Kerman. The Taylor Quartet sang "The Longer I Serve Him" and Bob Taylor sang "I'd Rather Have Jesus." The Rev. Winston Lawless brought the evening message "My Defeats for His Victory."

As a point of information, Assistant Moderator Tim Rolen read a letter of resignation from the Moderator, Rev. Dennis Pettyjohn. The session closed with prayer by Rev. Wade Jernigan. Refreshments were served by the host church.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was called to order by Assistant Moderator Tim Rolen. Singing was directed by Mike Eaton and accompanied by Donna Van Horn, with prayer by Rev. Charles Roam, Selma. Welcome was given by the host pastor, Rev. Keith Burden.

Letters were read and accepted from the churches: Clovis, Community, Countryside, Hanford, Harmony, Memorial, Orange Cove, Parlier, Sanger, Selma and Valley Covenant. Delegates were seated with prayer by Paul Kennedy.

The Rules of Order were read by the Assistant Moderator.

The letter of resignation from Moderator Dennis Pettyjohn was read and accepted.

Committees were appointed as follows:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Obituary</u>
Lyle McCaskill	Mike Eaton	Donna Van Horn	Odessa Nickell
Tom Colvin	Gene Fry	Regina Mills	Juanita Wood
Edwin Graves	Larry Ives	Wanda Eaton	Nancy Little
Orvil Little	Tom Dean	Pauline Combs	

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

California State Association Executive Secretary Paul Kennedy gave a report on the state work.

The following were appointed delegates to the State Association, meeting June 17-19, at Sherwood Forest Free Will Baptist Church, with the remaining seven vacancies to be filled at the meeting with those individuals that are available: Donna Van Horn, Margaret Hyatt, Ed Hyatt, Pat Krebbs, Melanie Krebbs, Tom Dean and Steve Clark.

The Rev. Lyle Huntley gave a report of the Youth Camp, June 21-25, at Sierra Camp. Information is to be mailed to the churches.

The Executive Board report was read and dealt with item by item.

Item I was considered. A motion was made and seconded that due to Rev. Larry Jones' marital status, he not be accepted into the Association. The motion lost.

Item II was read. A motion and second to accept Rev. Jim O'Donnell into the Association for fellowship upon the promise of a letter of good standing from the previous association. Motion carried.

Item III was read and a motion and second that Rev. Charles Roam be accepted into the Association for fellowship upon the promise of a letter of good standing from the previous association. Motion carried.

Item IV was read. Motion and second to receive Rev. Jim Cox into the Association for fellowship upon the promise of a letter of good standing from the previous association. Motion carried.

Benediction by Tim Rolen.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service opened with singing "Look and Live." Prayer by the Rev. Tex Gentry. Dave Taylor gave the offertory prayer. Seventy-eight dollars and twenty cents (\$78.20) was received. Gail Ives and Joyce Parreira, Hanford, sang "He's Coming Back" and "I'll Stand for Jesus."

The Rev. James Ware, Valley Covenant, brought the message "The Best of the Trade" using II Corinthians 8:9 as his text. The congregation then sang "There Is A Name I Love to Hear."

Business was resumed.

Reports of the Resolution, Finance and Registration Committees were read and accepted. (See Reports.) The Obituary Committee report was read and received with prayer by the Rev. Nuel Brown.

Motion and second that Rev. Larry Jones, Orange Cove, be received into the fellowship of this Association. Motion carried.

The Rev. James Cox and Rev. Jim O'Donnell were elected to serve on the Executive Board as five-year member and two-year member, respectively. The Rev. Nuel Brown was elected to serve on the State General Board.

Placement of meetings and speakers as follows:

- ★ First Quarterly Meeting Speaker (Sat.) James Cox
Clovis, August 13-14, 1982 Alternate, Charles Roam
- ★ Second Quarterly Meeting Speaker (Sat.) Nuel Brown
Selma, November 12-13, 1982 Alternate, James Ware

Obituary

We report that God in His infinite Wisdom has called from our midst: Ora Furr, Frank Tripp and Zeth Sasber (Selma), Ray Harless (Hanford), Sam Winters (Memorial), and Sister Morris (Orange Cove).

CENTER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 1981 – May 1, 1982

CASH ON DEPOSIT – May 1, 1981 \$ 714.43

INCOME:

Church Dues \$1,940.00

Offerings \$ 238.62

Total Income \$ 2,178.62

TOTAL INCOME AND CASH ON DEPOSIT \$ 2,893.05

DISBURSEMENTS:

Nuel Brown, Moderator \$ 40.00

Lyle Huntley, Assistant Moderator 25.00

Winnie McLain, Clerk-Treasurer 50.00

Phyllis Fite, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer 20.00

Feeding Fund 400.00

California Christian College 400.00

California State Association Dues 362.50

Clovis Printing Company – 150 minutes 303.70

Bulletins 20.66

Nat'l Assoc of FWB – church letter forms75

New checks 5.63

U. S. Postal Service 30.60

Postal Instant Press – printing 30.68

Envelopes, labels, paper 15.40

Dennis Pettyjohn – Comm. on Fellowship 36.00

Selma FWB Church – RollerTowne balance 49.75

Fresno Bible House – film rental 79.50

Honorariums (\$25.00 each) 75.00

Coy Sanders

Brian Aquafresca

Foundation for Morality and Decency

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 1,945.17

CASH ON DEPOSIT – May 1, 1982 \$ 947.88

MINISTERS' ROLL

Brown, Nuel	15401 W. E St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Burden, Keith	5372 E. Belmont, Fresno 93727	251-5630
Colvin, Duane	17790 E. Lone Oak Rd., Sanger 93657	787-2728
Cox, James H. Jr.	1922 N. Cain, Visalia 93291	625-0355
Cravens, Jack	11621 Pierce Dr., Lamont 93241	(805) 845-1683
Fox, Dave	176 W. National, Clovis 93612	292-4527
Huntley, Lyle E.	106 Rall, Clovis 93612	291-0841
Jones, Larry	669-4th St., Orange Cove 93646	626-7491
O'Donnell, James	4863 E. Normal, Fresno 93703	252-0914
Ramsey, Lee	349 S. Shasta, Kerman 93630	846-7679
Roam, Charles P.	9559 S. McCall, Selma 93662	896-7495
Rolen, Lonnie	2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Rolen, Tim	3395 E. Sierra Madre, Apt. F, Fresno 93726	225-4468
Rowlette, Tom	128 W. Vine, Visalia 93277 (retired)	732-3830
Scroggins, O. D.	765-2nd St., Parlier 93648	646-2837
Smith, John Jr.	5409 Columbia Dr. South, Fresno 93727	251-3138
Smith, Richard	5630 E. Huntington, Fresno 93727	252-4574
Ware, James A.	505 W. Pico, Clovis 93612	292-2842
Wilkinson, Claude	2809 Nebraska, Selma 93662	896-3421
Wood, J. Clinton	316 W. Myrtle St., Hanford 93230	584-4060

Licensed

Dean, Thomas	12323 E. Dinuba, Selma 93662	896-7958
Montanez, Tony Jr.	4762 E. Lowe, Fresno 93702	251-9032
Tripp, Steven	2032 Whitson, Selma 93662	896-3584

STATISTICAL REPORT – January 1, 1981 – December 31, 1981

CHURCHES	Clovis	Community	Countryside	Hanford	Harmony	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	Valley Covenant	TOTAL
Members Added	16	4	11	8	19	6	0	1	2	4	29	100
Members Lost	2	0	2	1	8	10	14	1	1	4	—	43
Total Membership	145	100	42	29	212	70	22	15	48	74	29	786
Ordained Ministers	2	3	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	20
Licensed Ministers	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	6
Deacons	5	5	5	0	4	3	0	2	2	5	0	31
S. S. Enrollment	95	112	40	43	165	65	—	18	60	60	31	689
∞ Average Attendance	85	67	31	45	114	56	—	12	35	57	31	533
CTS Enrollment	0	0	0	0	100	35	0	0	0	0	0	135
Average Attendance	0	0	0	0	72	30	0	0	0	0	0	102
Woman's Auxiliary												
Enrollment	12	17	0	7	20	13	0	0	6	0	0	75
Average Attendance	10	12	0	9	18	13	0	0	3	0	0	65
Master's Men												
Enrollment	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Average Attendance	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Prayer Meetings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Average Attendance	60	30	—	32	72	30	10	6	20	20	12	272
Parsonages	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Value of Churches												
& Parsonages	326,000	155,000	17,000	—	310,000	400,000	55,000	—	50,000	140,000	—	1,453,000

FINANCIAL REPORT – January 1, 1981 – December 31, 1981

CHURCHES	Clovis	Community	Countryside	Hanford	Harmony	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	Valley Covenant	TOTAL
Total Income	134,070	38,152	23,745	16,573	58,125	39,186	—	2,942	5,160	43,952	7,748	369,653
Total												
Expenditures	120,264	38,351	9,867	19,985	62,738	39,272	—	2,929	6,508	14,920	6,824	321,658
Pastor's Salary	16,500	11,900	3,615	6,510	19,265	8,885	—	1,575	1,800	13,000	1,050	84,100
Other Staff												
Salaries	1,100	1,800	—	—	—	720	—	—	—	1,920	—	5,540
Building & Repair	54,536	3,529	2,123	—	565	—	—	486	—	—	—	61,239
Debt Retirement	38,996	3,015	2,522	—	15,925	6,600	—	—	—	—	—	67,058
Miscellaneous	5,323	14,140	—	10,318	21,065	19,790	—	578	4,708	—	5,035	80,957
Total Local												
Expenditures	116,455	34,384	8,260	16,828	56,820	35,995	—	2,639	6,508	14,920	6,085	298,894
Outside												
Expenditures												
Cooperative Plan	588	1,505	1,607	1,795	3,480	—	—	290	—	—	369	9,634
Foreign Missions	—	515	—	515	801	986	—	—	—	—	185	3,002
Home Missions	72	150	—	192	512	196	—	—	—	—	—	1,122
Designated												
Ministries	3,149	1,797	—	655	1,125	2,095	—	—	—	—	185	9,006
Total Outside												
Expenditures	3,809	3,967	1,607	3,157	5,918	3,277	—	290	—	—	739	22,764

CENTER ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MINUTES

The Center Association Woman's Auxiliary Convention met at the Hanford Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 6, 1982. Debe Taylor, Harmony, presided as president, and the theme was "Anatomy of Prayer," with II Chronicles 7:14 used as a reference.

The convention began with the congregation singing "Whisper A Prayer," directed by Donna Van Horn, Memorial, accompanied by Deanna Wilbanks, Harmony. Pam Wood, Harmony, led the opening prayer. A welcome to the Hanford Church was given by Donna Arellano.

The minutes of the October 3, 1981 convention were read and accepted. The letters of Clovis, Hanford, Harmony, Kerman, and Memorial local auxiliaries were also read and accepted. The treasurer's report was distributed and accepted as typed.

As a point of information, President Debe Taylor reported that the October convention speaker, Dortha Null, had been contacted regarding the Free Will Baptist stand on the Holy Spirit, and that as of this date, no reply had been received. The president stated that the issue may be considered closed.

Placement of conventions was set as follows:

October 2, 1982 — Clovis Church

March 6, 1983 — Kerman Church

A motion was made to raise the annual dues to \$3.00, \$1.50 per member per meeting (a raise of 50¢ per member per meeting). Motion carried.

June Rolen, State Auxiliary President, gave a report on the state convention to be held April 2-3, 1982 at Memorial Church in Fresno. Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart, National Fieldworker, will be the speaker.

The congregation was led in singing "Tell It To Jesus." President Taylor introduced the program theme, "Anatomy of Prayer," presented by the district officers. The first topic was "Feet of Prayer," given by Barbara Blankenship, Kerman, followed with "Hands of Prayer," presented by Sheryl Vanderburg, Harmony. Gail Ives and Joyce Parreira, Hanford, sang "It's A Privilege," and the congregation was led in singing "I Must Tell Jesus." Lois Miller, Kerman, led in prayer.

The topic "Lips of Prayer," was given by Minnie Lacefield, Harmony, and the "Eyes of Prayer," by Winnie McLain, Memorial. The congregation sang "What A Friend," and Kathryn Clark, Memorial, prayed, dismissing the convention for break time and refreshments.

Following break, Donna Van Horn led the congregation in singing a verse of "Have Faith in God." Clinton Wood, Hanford pastor, led in prayer, and the offering was received. The congregation sang "I Need Thee Every Hour."

"Mind of Prayer" was presented by President Debe Taylor, followed with Nancy Little, Clovis, and her topic, "Shoulder of Prayer."

Sandra Dunn and Angela Maynard, Harmony, sang "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Connie Bomar, Clovis, presented "Backbone of Prayer," and the final topic, "Heart of Prayer," was given by Juanita Wood, Hanford.

Donna Van Horn sang "The Lord's Prayer" to close the program. The dismissal prayer and blessing on the noon meal was offered by Jackie Huntley, Clovis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debe Taylor, President
Sheryl Vanderburg, Secretary

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 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 scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, 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 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 seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle 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 Schools, 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.

NOTES