



MINUTES
of the
40th ANNUAL SESSION
of the
CENTER ASSOCIATION
of the
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
of
CALIFORNIA

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
789 So. 2nd Street
Kerman, California

May 8, 9, 1987

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The next session will convene with the

MEMORIAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
4141 North Millbrook
Fresno, California

May 13-14, 1988

OFFICERS

Moderator Horace Gentry
63 No. Osmun, Clovis 93612

Assistant Moderator Edward Johns
11565 Echo Lane, Hanford, CA. 93230

Clerk-Treasurer Linda Johnson
669 4th St., Orange Cove 93646

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Sue Hamrick
5879 E. Ramona, Fresno 93727

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Cecil Spurlock Five Year Man
9220 E. Shaw, Clovis 93612 298-8370

David Molter Four Year Man
15401 W. "E" Street, Kerman 93630 846-8228

Edward Johns Three Year Man
11565 Echo Lane, Hanford 93230 583-1560

Lonnie Rolen Two Year Man
2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726 229-2203

Gary Johnson One Year Man
669 4th St., Orange Cove 93646 626-7037

PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

The 40th Annual Session of the Center Association convened with the First Free Will Baptist Church, 789 So. 2nd Street, Kerman, California, May 8, 9, 1987. Moderator Horace Gentry opened the Friday night session. Congregational singing was led by Arlie Miller. An altar of Prayer was led by Nuel Brown. Special music was presented by Host Church, Barbara Blankenship and Kerman Quartet. The message was given by Brother Heze Maynard from Matthew 19: 23-26 entitled "How Big is Your God." Benediction was led by Brother David Molter. We dismissed to Social Hall for refreshments and fellowship.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session opened with congregational singing "Wonderful Grace of Jesus" led by Arlie Miller, followed by an altar of Prayer. Welcome by Brother David Molter, Pastor of Kerman Church. Devotion was given by Brother Virgil Stewart, Fresno First, from I John 2:28 "We Shall See Him as He is."

Letters were read and accepted from the following churches: Memorial, Harmony, Kerman, Countryside, Parlier, Orange Cove, Hanford, Selma, Clovis, Fresno First and Sanger. Delegates were seated by Moderator. Visitors were acknowledge, Brother Murray from New Mexico, Brother Wade Jernigan, Oklahoma.

Minutes read and approved. Treasurer's report, Quarterly and Annual read and accepted.

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Brother Nuel Brown thanked Quarterly meeting for financial support for traveling expenses for Executive Secretary office. Brother Brown reported on churches in the State: Baldwin Park is now without a Pastor. Antioch: church is reported growing. Countryside Church: has a new Pastor Dan Minkler from out of State. Brother Brown reported the State Financial Books closed showing an increase. Roll Call Sunday, Churches showed an increase of 529 over last year's attendance. Churches reported 32 people saved on that day. Brother Gentry was presented a pen in appreciation for his help in gathering totals on Roll Call Sunday. Goals are being set now for the next year. More churches are supporting the Cooperative Plan. Goal for next year is 90% of the churches supporting. Report accepted as information.

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE: Brother McAlister reported that California Christian Colleges' remodeling and clean up is progressing and should be in good order by August in time for School opening. Brother McAlister requested we pray for accreditation status for the College. We were informed of two problem areas: Tax Exemption and Insurance. Tax Exemption is being worked on and Insurance is now in effect.

The Cafeteria has been remodeled. A new commercial stove and refrigerator have been purchased. Money for the stove was donated several years ago by the Woman's Auxiliary. The need for outside giving was emphasized. Ladies have been asked to help supply kitchen and cafeteria items.

The next seminar on the Masters Program will be held by Brother Thompson from Arizona, on Pastoral Preaching.

REPORTS:

Brother Tim Rolen gave a report on the plan for remodeling the upstairs Administration Offices. May Wood is in charge of the project. Request for donations of \$25.00, the renovation can be completed for \$1,000.00. Motion made and carried to donate \$100.00 for this project.

Sister June Rolen reported on "Pass the Torch," the need is for \$3,000,000. for Free Will Baptist Bible College over the next 3 years.

COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION: Virgil Little, Lonnie Rolen, Heze Maynard, Melvin Trotte.

FINANCE: Marty Hamrick, Linda Johnson, Arlie Miller, Virgil Stewart.

OBITUARY: Mamie Kennedy, Slyvia Jimmeyer, Cynthia Scroggins, Zella Ramsey.

REGISTRATION: Evelyn Smith, Norma Dixon, Bonnie Colvin, Violet Reel.

PLACEMENT: Tim Rolen, Duane Colvin, Charles Roam, Gene Frye.

Reports of the Executive, Placement, Resolution, Registration and Finance Committee were read and accepted. (See Committee Reports). The Obituary Report was received and a moment of silent prayer was led by Rev. Wade Jernigan.

OFFICERS WERE ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

MODERATOR..... Edward Johns, Hanford
ASSISTANT MODERATOR..... David Molter, Kerman
CLERK-TREASURER..... Donna Molter, Kerman
ASSISTANT CLERK-TREASURER.... Sue Hamrick, Fresno First

Motion carried to elect Brother Tim Rolen as Five Year Man and Brother Duane Colvin as Two Year Man on Executive Board.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The morning Worship Service opened with congregational singing led by Arlie Miller. Brother Duane Colvin led us in prayer. Offering received in the amount of \$73.79. Special Music: Sister Singleton, Fresno First; Barbara Blankenship, Kerman; and Brother Hank Murray, New Mexico. Morning message by Tim Rolen from Colossians 1:15-20 "Preemience of Christ." Benediction and blessing on the noon meal were offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that a three man committee be appointed to schedule a work day for California Christian College. Appointed: Charles Roam, Tex Gentry and Gary Johnson.

Be it resolved that we give Kerman Free Will Baptist Church a standing vote of thanks for hosting this annual meeting of the Center Association.

PLACEMENT:

Fresno First..... August 7-8, 1987

Hanford..... November 13-14, 1987

Sanger..... February 12-13, 1988

Memorial..... May 13-14, 1988

EXECUTIVE:

The Executive Board recommends that Brother Heze Maynard be accepted for Ordination as a Free Will Baptist Minister. The Executive Board received the credentials of Antonio Montanez voluntarily, he has left Free Will Baptist.

REGISTRATION:

The Registration Committee for the May 9th Annual Meeting submits the following: Ordained Ministers 10, Delegates 44, Visitors 3, making a total of 57.

OBITUARY:

We report that God in His infinite wisdom has called from our midst:

Vernon Johnson--Memorial
Charles Arnwine--Kerman
Lee Johnson--Kerman
Earl Watts--Orange Cove
Allie Stone--Hanford

FINANCE:

Recommend:

1. That the Host Church of each quarterly meeting be paid \$175.00 for providing the food for the meeting.
2. That 150 annual minutes be professionally printed.
3. That the Officers be paid honorariums in the amount of:
Moderator \$50.00; Assistant Moderator \$35.00; Clerk-Treasurer \$60.00; Assistant Clerk-Treasurer \$45.00.
4. Due to expenses incurred this time of the year we recommend that the Finances be evaluated at the next Quarterly meeting and outside giving be designated then.
5. We recommend that the Church dues remain the same:

Members 1-40.....	\$50.00
Members 41-74.....	\$55.00
Members 75-100.....	\$60.00
Members over 100.....	\$65.00

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Center Association of Free Will Baptists

May 1, 1986 - May 1, 1987

CASH ON DEPOSIT - May 1, 1986.....\$1,036.78

Income:

Church Dues \$2,615.00

Offerings 299.04

Total Income 2,914.04 2,914.04

TOTAL CASH ON HAND \$3,950.82

Disbursements:

Lunch (Quarterlies) \$ 675.00

Officers Fees: 190.00

Horace Gentry - \$50.00

Nuel Brown - \$35.00

Linda Johnson - \$60.00

Sue Hamrick - \$45.00

National Association Dues 110.00

State Association Dues 687.00

Printing Services & Supplies 52.15

Clovis Printing 344.50

(Minute Books)

Hanford FWB Church 450.00

(Love Offering)

Calif. State Office 150.00

(Furniture)

Rev. Nuel Brown 101.19

(Exec. Travel Expense)

Postmaster -- Stamps 22.00

Bank Service Charge 2.40

Total Disbursements \$2,784.24 \$2,784.24

TOTAL CASH ON HAND - May 1, 1987.....\$1,166.58

Youth Camp Savings Fund \$484.36

Interest - 6/30/86 6.68

Interest - 9/30/86 6.85

Interest - 12/31/86 6.95

Interest - 3/31/87 6.27

Total Fund \$511.11

Linda Johnson
Treasurer

STATISTICAL REPORT -- January 1, 1986 through December 31, 1986

CHURCHES	Clovis	Countryside	Fresno	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Memorial	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	TOTAL
Members Added	9	0	14	---	13	3	5	8	2	10	20	84
Members Lost	23	7	6	---	11	2	6	5	2	2	0	64
Total Membership	73	40	114	---	134	84	60	40	11	49	127	732
Baptisms	8	1	14	21	0	0	2	12	1	9	14	82
Ordained Ministers	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	1	1	1	1	18
Licensed Ministers	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Deacons	4	5	5	1	3	7	2	0	0	1	5	33
S.S. Enrollment	74	---	78	98	113	75	80	45	18	35	179	865
Average Attendance	61	17	57	72	84	55	61	42	14	25	175	663
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment	10	0	8	0	19	17	21	0	0	6	0	81
Average Attendance	8	0	6	0	17	12	16	0	0	3	0	62
Master's Men Enrollment	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	12
Average Attendance	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9
Parsonages	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	4
Value of Church and Parsonage	---	125,000	350,000.	86,000.	500,000.	155,000.	450,000.	125,000.	50,000.	150,000.	350,000.	2,341,000.
Total Income	67,480.	25,594.	28,000.	23,101.	45,592.	38,169.	58,377.	19,007.	3,231.	6,506.	-----	315,000.

MINISTER'S ROLL

Brown, Nuel -- 150 S. First St., Kerman	846-6447
Colvin, Duane -- 17790 E. Lone Oak Rd., Sanger	787-2728
Corbin, Glenn -- 19984 W. Central Ave., Kerman	846-5622
Fox, David -- 141 S. Minnewawa, Fresno	456-0850
Gentry, Horace -- 63 N. Osmun, Clovis	298-0581
Johns, Edward -- 11565 Echo Lane, Hanford	583-1560
Johnson, Gary -- 669 4th St., Orange Cove	626-7037
McAllister, Jim -- 370 N. Oranewood, Fresno	255-7211
Molter, David -- 15401 W. "E" St., Kerman	846-8228
Peaslee, Peter -- 4108 N. Kathy Ave., Fresno	225-4468
Ramsey, Lee -- 349 S. Shasta Ave., Kerman	846-7679
Roam, Charles -- 9559 S. McCall, Selma	787-2728
Rolen, Lonnie -- 2913 E. Northdale, Fresno	229-2203
Rolen, Tim -- 4545 N. Bond, Fresno	225-4468
Scroggins, Delmar -- 765 2nd St., Parlier	646-8228
Smith, Richard -- 5046 W. Donner, Fresno	275-4569
Spurlock, Cecil -- 9220 E. Shaw, Clovis	298-8370
Wood, Clinton -- 8668 Tollhouse, Clovis	298-1126

LICENSED

Clark, Steve -- 3203 E. Madison, Fresno	
Maynard, Heze -- 1047 N. Fulton, Apt. #15, Fresno	233-8103
McClelland, Jim -- 1422 Gary Street, Selma	891-0606
Palomo, Patrick -- 1405 Rodgas Rd., Hanford	584-1915

CENTER DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The annual session of the Center District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met at the Memorial Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 7, 1987. The theme, "Spring Cleaning," was adapted from Psalm 51:10. Vice President Lori Rolen conducted registration.

The convention opened with the singing of "All For Jesus," directed by Donna Molter, Kerman, and accompanied by Deanna Wilbanks, Harmony. Dottie Wright, Harmony, led in prayer, followed with a skit "The Price Is Right."

Secretary Yolanda Peaslee, Memorial, read the letters of Clovis, Harmony, Kerman and Memorial auxiliaries and they were accepted as information. The minutes of the September 27, 1986 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Janet Matson, Clovis, gave the treasurers report, and it was accepted as read.

The president appointed the following committees:

REGISTRATION:

Lori Rolen, Chairman, Jerry Spurlock, Debbie Fox, Lois Miller.

FINANCE:

Janet Matson, Chairman, Deanna Wilbanks, Donna Molter, Cleo Doss.

PLACEMENT:

Yolanda Peaslee, Chairman, Mamie Kennedy, Alice Royster, Frances Arnwine.

RESOLUTION:

Connie Bomar, Chairman, Dottie Wright, Alma Stiggins, Evelyn Smith.

The following were elected to serve on the nominating committee: Janice Rolen, Chairman, Nancy Little, Peggy Moore, Helen McAlister.

Sheryl Vanderburg, Harmony, gave a report on the up coming State convention. The theme for this convention will be "Think On These Things."

Verla gave a report about the Eunice Edwards scholarship fund adopted by the WNAC. A state project will be discussed at the state meeting with a monetary goal set for the California auxiliaries. Verla opened the floor for discussion on a fund raising project for our district to raise funds for the scholarship.

Motion carried to have a Craft Fair with a committee to be made up of one person from each auxiliary. Motion carried that any fees to be paid to enter a craft show not to exceed \$100.00. The convention was dismissed for a break.

When the convention resumed the congregation sang “The Cleansing Wave.” Reports from the Registration, Finance, Placement and Resolution committees were read and accepted (see Committee Reports).

The report of the Nominating Committee was read and officers were elected for the 1987-89 term as follows:

President	Verla Fletcher 4890 E. Pine, Fresno, CA 93727	454-8201
Vice President	Lori Rolen 4545 N. Bond, Fresno, CA 93726	225-4468
Secretary	Yolanda Peaslee 4108 N. Katy, Fresno, CA 93722	275-6577
Treasurer	Janet Matson 3156 Terry, Clovis, CA 93612	291-7218
Mission Action	Janice Rolen 4186 N. Warren, Fresno, CA 93705	224-6007
Mission Study	Connie Bomar 1099 N. Sylmar #269, Clovis, CA 93612	299-7144
Mission Prayer	Dottie Wright 2376 Attucks Ave., Fresno, CA	441-1728
Field Worker	Donna Molter 15401 W. “E” St., Kerman, CA 93630	846-8228

The congregation then sang “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” followed with the offering being taken and prayer led by Jerry Spurlock, Clovis. Special music was provided by Stacia Hawkins, Harmony.

Our guest speaker was Brenda Watson, Memorial, who spoke on the convention theme “Spring Cleaning.”

The benediction and thanks on the meal was led by Brenda Watson.

Respectfully submitted,
Yolanda Peaslee, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REGISTRATION - We the registration committee report that Kerman had 8 registered; Harmony, 10; Clovis, 9; Memorial, 20; and 2 visitors for a total registered of 49.

FINANCE - We recommend that the dues remain at \$3.00 per member.

PLACEMENT - We recommend that Memorial host the September 26, 1987 meeting, and that Harmony host the March 5, 1988 meeting.

RESOLUTION - Standing vote of thanks to all the host churches, Kerman, Memorial, Harmony and Clovis for their great lunches and hospitality during the past 2 years. A vote of thanks to the current officers for their service and talents which they have devoted to our district during the past two years. Be it resolved to be supportive to the incoming officers as they face the challenging task of leadership for the next two years.

Notes

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.