

25

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session

OF THE

CENTER ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTIST

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CONVENED AT THE CAMP GROUND  
AUGUST 14-16, 1947

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OFFICERS

Moderator ----- Rev. F. M. Wood
Ass't. Moderator ----- Rev. Scott W. Jones
Clerk ----- V. Hunt
Ass't. Clerk and Treasurer ----- Fred Barker

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The next meeting of Center Association will be held  
at the Camp Ground 9 mile NW of Ada on Highway  
13., Thursday Night, before 3rd Sunday in Aug., 1948

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of delegates.
5. Election of officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading rules of order (By-Laws).
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New Business.
12. Reports of committees.
13. Miscellaneous Business.

## LETTER OF DISMISSION

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a  
member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist Church at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and as such we recommend him  
(or her) to the fellowship of God's people, and is dismissed from us  
when united with another church

Done in Church Conference this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, P. O. \_\_\_\_\_  
County, Oklahoma.

\_\_\_\_\_, Pastor  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

## PROCEEDINGS

The Fifty-fourth Annual Session of the Center Association of Free Will Baptist convened at the Camp Ground, August 14, 15, and 16, 1947.

### FRIDAY MORNING

Met at 9 o'clock, Rev. F. M. Wood, Moderator in charge. Singing conducted by Fred Barker. Scripture Reading; 1st Chapter of James. Prayer by Bro. Munkus.

Letters received from the following churches:

Ada, Delegates as follows: Sisters Effie O'Donnell, Oleta Pate and Valeta Hileman.

Bebbee, Delegates as follows: Bro. H. C. Hood and Sisters Oma Hood and Exie Haskins.

Stratford, Represented by letter only.

McGee, Represented by Bro. and Sister Masters, & Bro. and Sister Henry.

Cedar Grove, Delegates as follows: Bro. Roberts West and Sister Winnie Price.

Oakman, Delegates as follows: Sisters Geneva Cecil, Francis Bandy and Flora Carter.

Gaar Corner, Delegates as follows: Bro Ted Cox, Sister Anna Belle Farley and Sister Anna Hunt.

Happyland, Delegates as follows: Sister Bonnie Price, Rena Burris and Mallie Lamb.

Sulphur, Delegate sas follows: Bro. Ernest Howeth, Sister Bertha Louther, and Sister Murley Palmer.

Non, Delegates as follows: Brother Gilbert Priest and Lonnie Willington.

The right hand of fellowship given.

Election of Officers resulted as follows:

Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. F. M. Wood

Ass't Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Scott W. Jones

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ V. Hunt

Ass't. Clerk & Treas. \_\_\_\_\_ Fred Barker

Rules of Order read by Moderator.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Pulpit Committee: Bro. John Masters, Bro. Ed West, Sister Ted Pate.

Resolution: Rev. Earlin Haskins, Bro. G. O. Palmer, Bro. Fred Barker.

Obituary: Sis. Edna Buckelew, Sis. Estelle Cox, Sis. Mallie Lamb.  
Temperance: Bro. Ed Price. Sis. Bertha Louthier, Valeta Hileman.  
Home Missions: Sis. Anna Hunt, Sis. Exie Haskins, Sis. Winnie Price.

League: Sis. Geneva Cecil, Sis. Effie O'Donnell, Bro. Cecil McKenzie.

Sunday School: Sis. Flora Carter, Rev. J. F. Hoper, Sis. Irene Collins.

Meeting adjourned until 1 o'clock. Dismissed by Rev. E. A. O'Donnell.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Moderator in Charge. After singing led by Bro. Dal Thompson, Scripture reading was read (1st Chap. of Psalms) by Rev. Scott W. Jones.

Prayer by Rev. Fred Hooper

Treasurer's Report made by Fred Barker.

Motion carried to receive the report.

Auditing Committee appointed as follows Dal Thompson, Earlin Haskins, Rev. E. A. O'Donnell, Lois Lamb.

Bro. G. O. Palmer elected to succeed himself as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Committee appointed to revise the Ministers Directory as follows: Bro. Walter Dighton, Bro. Ed Price, and Bro. G. O. Palmer.

Motion carried to have a dedication service to be held at 2 o'clock p. m. Saturday to be conducted by Rev. E. A. O'Donnell.

Rev. B. C. Munks reports on the Progress of the First Oklahoma Association.

Thirty Minutes recess called for committee work.

Sunday School Committee reports. Report accepted.

Obituary Committee Reports. Report accepted.

Committee on League Work reports. Report accepted.

Collection of \$66.70 taken to make up the deficit in building fund.

Pledges in the amount of \$580.00 taken for erection of dormitory.

Meeting adjourned. Dismissed by Rev. Earlin Haskins.

#### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Met with Moderator, Rev. F. M. Wood in charge. Scripture Reading, Romans, 12th. Chapter.

Report of Womens Auxiliary given. Report accepted.

Motion carried to have 5th. Sunday Meetings held on Friday night and Saturday before each 5th Sunday.

Placing of 5th Sunday Meetings as follows: 1st, Happyland; 2nd Oakman; 3rd, Gaar Corner; 4th, Cedar Grove.

Motion carried to begin Camp Meeting 10 days before the meeting of the Association. Rev. E. A. Campbell and Rev. Scott W. Jones selected to conduct the same.

Delegates elected to the State Association as follows: Sister Valeta Hileman, Oleta Pate, Lois Lamb and Effie O'Donnell.

Motion carried to send \$10.00 as Minute Money to State Association.

Motion carried to send \$5.00 to the National Association.

Committee selected to arrange Program for the Youth Camp as follows: E. A. O'Donnell, Lois Lamb, Virgie Chandler, F. M. Wood. Bertha Barker and Dessie Light.

Rev. Merle Wilson selected to preach the introductory sermon at the next association.

Rev. Cecil McKinsey selected to preach the memorial sermon at the next association.

Meeting adjourned until 1 o'clock. Dismissed by Rev. J. E. Hooper.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Rev. Earlin Haskins.

#### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

Met at 1 o'clock, Moderator F. M. Wood in charge. Singing conducted by Ted Cox. Devotional service conducted by Rev. Scott W. Jones, Scripture reading 1st Chapter of James.

Prayer by Rev. Merle Wilson.

Bro. Williams reports from Hopewell Association No. 2.

Bro. Weatherman, Supt. of Orphan's Home, reports.

Motion carried to have 300 minute sprinted.

Bro. E. A. O'Donnell conducts the dedication service at 2 o'clock, which was a wonderful spiritual service. Motion carried to transfer all money not used from General Fund to Camp Ground Fund.

Corresponding delegates appointed as follows: Earlin Haskins, J. F. Hooper to Dibble Association; W. A. Hearon and Bro. Palmer to Hopewell No. 2; Bro. and Sis. E. A. O'Donnell to First Oklahoma Association; Ed Price and Ed West to Eureka Association.

Motion made to carry the association over to Sunday noon next year.

We adjourn to meet again Thursday night before the 3rd Sunday in August, 1948.

### RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1—Be it resolved that this body establish plans for a Youth Camp at the Camp Ground in 1948.

Signed,

Resolution Committee,  
EARLIN HASKINS.

Report Accepted:

### TEMPERANCE

We your Committee on Temperance recommend that all church members abstain from all intoxicating drink. We also recommend that our minister preach on Temperance at least four times a year. We suggest for Scripture Study I Cor 9:25; Prov. 20:1-23-31.

Report Accepted:

### OBITUARY

We find that since our last annual meeting, God has seen fit to call from us the following members:

From Cedar Grove: Bro. Tom West; Sister J. K. Scroggins.

From Oakman: Sister Grant Scroggins and Grant Scroggins.

Non: Bro. Dan Wellington.

Stratford: Bro. Shinn.

Sulphur: Rev. Williams and Bro. Leming.

Stratford: Sister Fannie Haning.

We know our loss is Heaven's gain.

Edna Buckelen.

Mollie Lamb.

Estell Cox.

Report Accepted:

### REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE

After a careful audit of the books of Bro. Fred Barker, Treasurer, we, the Auditing Committee recommend to the Resolution Committee that the books are in good shape.

Committee,

J. D. THOMPSON,  
EARLIN HASKINS,  
E. A. O'DONNELL,  
LOIS LAMB.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, find all churches reporting to have Sunday Schools. We recommend that all members try hard to increase the attendance.

Signed by COMMITTEE

### REPORTS FROM EACH CHURCH IS AS FOLLOWS:

| Church      | Supt.            | Av. Att. | Sec'y.          | Lit.   |
|-------------|------------------|----------|-----------------|--------|
| Gaar Corner | Ted Cox          | 50       | Nina Marie Hunt | Union  |
| Ada         | John Wood        | 132      | Nora Dighton    | F.W.B. |
| McGee       | David Jenkins    | 30       | Ova Doke        | F.W.B. |
| Sulphur     | Bro. D. E. Clark | 60       | Emma Palmer     | F.W.B. |
| Stratford   | A. M. Newton     | 45       | Annis Turner    | F.W.B. |
| Cedar Grove | Clarence Baulch  | 75       | Virgie Chandler | F.W.B. |
| Non         | Claude Chism     | 40       | Ruby Wellington | F.W.B. |
| Wilson      | Rev. Gurley      | 50       | Eva Stone       | Union  |
| Oakman      | Jesse S. Duvall  | 65       | Bonnie Bryan    | Union  |
| Happyland   | Arthur Lamb      | 65       | Eloise Britt    | F.W.B. |
| Bebee       | H. C. Hood       | 35       | Elwanda Haggard | Union  |

Report Accepted.

### LEAGUE WORK

We, your Committee on League Work beg to report that we have six active Leagues in our association, an increase of three Leagues over last year. There are approximately 146 League members active in the six churches, an increase of 40 members over last year. Officers for the ensuing year are: President, Virgil Hunt; Vice-President, Earl Collins; Secretary, Geneva Cecil; Sponsor, Mrs. Effie Wood.

We, your Committee in Leagues urge every church in our association to organize a league. We believe that the training of our young people in our Leagues is of great importance to the church.

C. E. MCKENZIE,  
GENEVA CECIL,  
EFFIE O'DONNELL.

### STATISTICAL REPORT OF LEAGUE RALLIES FOR 1947

This is an avrage of 3 meetings of the League Rally--Present were:

|                            | Feb. | May | Aug. |
|----------------------------|------|-----|------|
| Under 18 years of Age      | 83   | 64  | 88   |
| Professed Christians       | 23   | 12  | 44   |
| Between 18-30 Years of Age | 18   | 18  | 23   |
| Professed Christians       | 12   | 13  | 19   |
| Adult Members              | 54   | 84  | 58   |
| TOTAL PRESENT              | 155  | 166 | 144  |

### REPORT OF WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Your committee on Women's Auxiliary recommends that work more earnestly in our local Auxiliary, and to continue to organize new Auxiliaries whenever possible. Furthermore, to encourage our youth in League Work and that we always stand ready and willing to assist our pastors in every way possible.

ANNA HUNT,  
EXIE HASKINS.

Report Accepted.

## REPORT OF W. V. WOOD

Pastored Garr Corner Church full time. Conducted 5 revivals, witnessed 34 Conversions; Conducted 12 funerals; Baptized 21 Converts; Rec. \$1,225.00. Have accepted Shawnee Church for the ensuing year and ask the people of this association to pray for me, that I will do the things that God would have me do.

## MINISTER'S DIRECTORY

Bro. E. A. O'Donnell, 420 S. Ash, Ada, Okla.  
Bro. J. W. Ragland, 631 W. 4th, Ada, Okla.  
Bro. F. M. Wood, 816 N. Cherry, Ada, Okla.  
Bro. J. G. Stone, Ada, Okla.  
Bro. Scott Jones, Rt. 3, Ada, Okla.  
Bro. Murl Wilson, Rt. 3, Ada, Okla.  
Bro. Cecil McKenzie, Rt. 2, Sasakwa, Okla.  
Bro. W. A. Hearn, Sulphur.  
Bro. W. L. Dunlap, Sulphur.  
Bro. J. P. Lewis, Sulphur.  
J. N. Caton, 511 W. 8th, Ada, Okla.  
J. T. Caton, Allen, Okla.  
H. H. Parson.  
Sister Edna Ucklew, Rt. 1, Stratford.  
Don Burch, Rt 1, Stratford.  
Earlin Haskins, Ada, Okla.

## RULES GOVERNING THE CAMP GROUND PROPERTY

No. 1. No camping will be allowed on west side of Brook that runs across property.

No. 2. No person or persons will be allowed to take up residence, permanent or temporary, on the property, unless by special permission of the Board of Trustees.

No. 3. Lots shall be located and numbered beginning with Lot 1, on east side of Brook where it comes into property on north side and numbered eastward consecutively to the NE corner of property thence southward still consecutively along east side of property to the SE corner of said property, said lots shall be 40 ft. square. A plat of same shall be kept by Board of Trustees also a record of the disposal of lots.

No. 4. Any Freewill Baptist belonging to any Church in our association may build a cabin on this property subject to the following regulations:

- a. No cabin or permanent camp shall be built on any part of the property except on lots mentioned in Rule No. 3.
- b. No person may build a cabin or permanent camp without getting written permission from the Board of Trustees.



c. No person shall have the right to move any cabin or permanent camp off the property at any time or for any purpose.

d. If and when the owner of a cabin or permanent camp shall move out of the State of Oklahoma, he shall offer for sale said cabin or permanent camp and if not sold within one year from the date of his departure to some person who is a member of some church in the Center Association it shall become the property of the Association or he may give it to the association or to some person, if such person is a member of some church in the Center Association.

No. 5. All other matter shall be regulated by the Board of Trustees.

### FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

\_\_\_\_\_ County, Oklahoma

We, the Free Will Baptist Church of God, at \_\_\_\_\_  
to the Center Association, composed of Free Will Baptists, assembled  
with \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

We send as delegates from our Church \_\_\_\_\_  
whom we pray you will receive to sit with you, and aid in your  
Godly deliberations.

Follow with complete church statement.

Done in church conference \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

### RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting the meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer by the moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

2. Those who speak shall rise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

3. No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.

4. When a motion has been made and seconded, the moderator shall ask, "Any discussion or remarks?" If none, the question shall be disposed of as usual.

5. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless ordered by the party making the motion.

7. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the moderator.

8. All questions shall be decided by the majority of members present.

9. No member shall be absent while in session without leave of the moderator, and if so his name shall be left off the minutes.

10. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if necessary before the close of the association.

11. Arrangements shall be made at each session of the association for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.

12. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organizations of the body.

13. Alteration may be made in these rules at any regular session.

## CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we the members of the Center Association, being regularly baptized upon the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, we do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better associational government.

ARTICLE I. Membership. This association is composed of ordained ministers and deacons with delegates chosen by the different churches in our union not exceeding three delegates from each church, who upon presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

ARTICLE II. Letters from each church to express their number of fellowship, the number of ordained and licentiate preachers and their post office address; the number of members received upon confession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration, or denominational choice, and the number dismissed by letter, excluded or died since last association.

ARTICLE III. Name. The members have chosen and convened to be denominated the Center Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the sundry church in Okalhoma.

ARTICLE IV Officers. The association shal have a Moderator,

Clerk and Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ARTICLE V. New Churches. New constituted churches may be admitted into the association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if, upon examination they may be received into the association, and given the right hand of fellowship.

ARTICLE VI. Questions. No question from any church shall come under consideration of the association except it has first been discussed in its own church.

ARTICLE VII. Motions. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, unless it be withdrawn by the person making it.

ARTICLE VIII. Minutes. The association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at discretion of the association.

ARTICLE XI. Clerk. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the association in a book to be kept by the association for that purpose.

ARTICLE X. Signation. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the moderator and clerk, before the close of the association.

ARTICLE EXI. Amendments. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a two-thirds majority of the members present.

Amendment No. 1. Each ordained minister shall be a member of a church in the bounds of the association, and he shall hold his letter for a period of three months when opportunities afford him, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly or yearly meetings.

Amendment No. 2. The meeting date of this association shall be Thursday night before the third Sunday in August in each year.

#### ARTICLE—ARTICLES OF FAITH

We believe in the true living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and these are equal in divine essence, power and glory. Romans 1:20; John 1:1.

#### ARTICLE II—THE BIBLE

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21.

#### ARTICLE III—THE FALL

Section E. We believe God created Man and gave him holy com-

mandments, whereby we should live holy, but the man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice.

Section 2. Being partakes of the sinful nature attained by the fall.

Section 3. And that man is unable to save himself with his own power; but we see Jesus, by the suffering death, crowned with glory, that He by the grave of God, tasted death for every man. Gen. 1:31; Hebrews 2:9.

#### ARTICLE IV—PARDON

Section 1. We believe that Christ by His death, suffering and resurrection, purchased our pardon.

Section 2. And offers it freely to all mankind upon the principle of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Section 3. He now commands all men everywhere to repent therefore he sayeth "Look unto me and be saved all the ends of the earth for I am God and there is none else." Matt. 4:17; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:21, 17:30.

#### ARTICLE V—REGENERATION

We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3 Rom. 5:1-13.

#### ARTICLE VI—INFANTS

We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the mercies of the Son of God. Jonah 4-11; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16.

#### ARTICLE VII—APOSTASY

We believe all Christians should perservere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life. "For blssed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates of that city." Rev. 22:14; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 12:14-28; James 5:19-20.

#### ARTICLE VIII—BAPTISM MODE

We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life showed His humble example to His children, and bids us walk therein. Matt. 3:16; 28-19; John 3:22; Rom. 6:4-5. Latin to plunge, to submerge, baptizo; Greek, to dip, baptisma; Greek, a dipping. Bapt- iton; Greek, to wash, to dip.

#### ARTICLE IX—MINISTRY CAL

We believe that God, in His Goodness, displays His power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servant by the

teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His blessed word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. Eph. 2:7; Rev. 22:17.

#### ARTICLE X—COMMANDMENTS

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the saint's feet, and keeping the Lord's Day doly, and to abstain from all worldly lust and carnal cares, and to assemble ourselves together, in an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldiers of the cross to march onward in the army of the Lord. Matt. 26:26-29;; John 13:2-17; I Tim. 1:9-10; Luke 22:7-20.

#### ARTICLE XI—BAPTISMAL RIGHT

Section 1. We believe that none have the right to baptism, only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2 And none have the right to administer the same only those who are called God and have come under hands of the persbytery of elders.

Section 3. And we shall receive none other. Mathew. 3:13-17; Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23.

#### ARTICLE XII—LORD'S SUPPER—DUTY

We believe it the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and it is the duty of the pastor of the church, when sitting the Lord's Supper and washing the saint's feet, to invite all Christians. I Cor. 11:27-28.

#### ARTICLE XIII—WOMAN'S PRIVILEGE

We believe the Bible teaches woman's privilege to preach the gospel. Judges 4:4; Romans 16:12; Acts 21:9; II Kings 22:14; Acts 2:17-18.

#### ARTICLE XVI FORNICATION

We believe that nothing but death and fornication gives a lawful right to a second marriage, and a second marriage under divorce for any other cause than fornication is a sin as contained in Matt. 19:3-11. 5:32; Luke 16:18; Mark 10:11-12; Romans 7:1-2; Proverbs 4:19-20; I Cor. 7:10-11; Mal. 2:14-17.

#### ARTICLE XV—RESURRECTION

Section 1. We believe in the resurrection of all the death, both just and unjust.

Section 2. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God.

Section 3. And the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25:31-32; I Cor. 15:42-45; II Thess. 1:4-11; Rev. 20:10; Job 19:26.

## 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 use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligationst 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 forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinance 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 bond 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 enterprise 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 Sabbath schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

